

DOHA: MANGAL BHAVAN AMANAGAL HARI DRAVAHU SO  
DASRATH AJAR BEHARI.....

**NARRATOR:** *"Who ever reads the story of Ram", writes poet Valmiki at the start of Ramayan "will surely be free from all sins and will attain heavenly bliss."*

*Ram-Leela is a spiritual play. It tells about Ram's physical journey across the Indian subcontinent and his spiritual journey from Godhood to manhood and back to Godhood. The story of Ram is a story of righteousness where the sense of duty overpowers individual desire.*

*King Dashrath of Ayodhya had three wives, Kaushalya, Sumitra, and Kaikeyi. He had four sons, Ram, Bharat, Lakshman and Shatrughan. The king and his subjects were living happily, until Muni Vishwamitra asked the king to send two of his sons to the forest to protect the holy people from the demons. King Dashrath fulfilled Vishwamitra's desire hesitatingly and sent Ram & Lakshman with him.*

*While there, Ram learned how to be a king and the arts of war and peace. Vishwamitra also taught Ram "Dharm" - the truth that guides the universe. At the age of thirteen, Ram learned all the mantras to summon celestial weapons, and weapons that were invisible and invincible.*

*Dipawali is a festival which celebrates the victory of Ram over Demons and his return to Ayodhya from exile. This story of Ram will be presented to you today. It consists of 5 parts:*

*SITA'S WEDDING  
RAM'S EXILE  
THE KIDNAPPING OF SITA  
RAM'S VICTORY & finally  
THE CORONATION OF RAM*

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(OPEN CURTAIN)

SITA'S WEDDING – PART ONE

**NARRATOR:** *Muni Vishwamitra visited Mithila with Ram and Lakshman for the engagement of King Janak's daughter, Sita. Many kings from other kingdoms were also present.*

(EVERYBODY SAYS – RAJA JANAK KI JAI)

**JANAK:** Swagatam, Welcome! Thank you all for coming to my daughter's engagement! Whoever can string Lord Shiva's bow will wed my daughter, Sita.

**NARRATOR:** *Many kings who were there tried - but they could not even lift the bow.*

(People attempted to string the bow.)

**JANAK:** Sighed..... I'm sure there's no one left on Earth to meet my challenge. My daughter must NOT be destined to get married.

**LAKSHMAN:** You're insulting us! I can crush this bow like a mushroom.

**RAM:** Lakshman, calm down.

**VISHWAMITRA:** Ram, go and try to make King Janak happy.

(Ram accepts Vishwamitra's blessings and went over to the bow.)

**JANAK'S WIFE:** Muni Vishwamitra, why are you insulting us? How can a young prince like Ram lift this large bow?

(Ram lifted the bow, started to pull the string, but the bow snapped in two.)

(EVERYONE: SIYA VAR RAM CHANDRA KI JAI - 3 TIMES)

(Sita puts a flower garland on Ram's neck).

DOHA: JAY DHUNI BANDI MANGAL.....

**NARRATOR:** *Sage Parashuram, a devotee of Shiv, heard the thundering noise of the breaking of the Shiv's Bow and came to Janak's Court angrily.*

(Parashuram Enters)

**JANAK**: Sage Parashuram, Welcome to Mithila.

**PARASHURAM**: Ayushmaan bhava! Long live the king!

(Sita touches Parashuram's feet.)

**PARASHURAM**: (angrily) Sada sukhi raho! Be happy forever. Who has broken the bow?

**RAM**: One of your devotees.

**PARASHURAM**: None of my devotees would do this. Who ever did it should get up, or else I'll kill everyone!

**LAKSHMAN**: (smiles) We have broken many bows, but nobody got this angry before.

**PRASHURAM**: Be quiet – this is Lord Shiv's bow!

**LAKSHMAN**: To us, all the bows are the same.

**PARASHURAM**: (rushes at Lakshman with an axe) I've killed many Kshatriyas before, it's your turn!

(Parashuram rushes towards Lakshman.)

**LAKSHMAN**: Get your axe away from me. You're a holy man, so I'm sparing you.

**VISHWAMITRA**: Parashuram, Forgive him.

**RAM**: Pardon him, he's just a child.

(Lakshman smiles.)

**LAKSHMAN**: Control your anger. The bow is already broken.

**PARASHURAM**: I will have to kill you both now.

**RAM**: (bends forward, exposing his neck) Do as you wish! My Dharam does not allow me to disobey a holy man's wishes.

**PARASHURAM**: I am pleased with your righteousness; please accept this bow of Vishnu as a gift.

(Ram draws the arrow and it flies.)

**PARASHURAM**: I'm very sorry! I wasn't able to recognize you as Vishnu. Forgive me please!

**RAM**: (Bows down to Parashuram)

(EVERYONE: SIYA VAR RAM CHANDRA KI JAI - 3 TIMES)

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(CLOSE CURTAIN)

## RAM'S EXILE – PART TWO

### SCENE 1

(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR**: *King Dashrath announced that he would make Ram the king. Everybody is happy about it, except Manthara, the hunchback dwarf servant of Kaikeyi.*

**MANTHARA**: Kaikeyi ! Kaikeyi! Your husband doesn't love you! He's making Ram the king and your son will be merely a subordinate to Ram.

**NARRATOR**: *It took a long time for Manthara to convince the queen because Kaikeyi loved Ram like her own son, she thought Ram would be a good king.*

**MANTHARA**: You will be a slave, and I will be a servant to a slave! Ram will kill your son!

**KAIKEYI**: Ram will never become the king.

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

## (OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR**: *On the evening that Ram was going to become the king, King Dashrath found Kaikeyi depressed and sad, in a dark room.*

**DASHRATH**: I've been looking for you everywhere and why do you look so sad.

**KAIKEYI**: I can't help but be sad.

**DASHRATH**: Tell me, what can I do for you?

**KAIKEYI**: Do you remember when you promised to grant me 2 wishes?

**DASHRATH**: Yes, I remember and I will honor my promise.

**KAIKEYI**: This is the time; I want you to fulfill those 2 wishes now. Exile Ram for fourteen years, and make Bharat the king.

**DASHRATH**: Kaikeyi! Don't do this – I can coronate Bharat as the king but don't send Ram away for 14 years.

**KAIKEYI**: You promised. I want both or none. It's your choice.

**DASHRATH**: As a Raghuvanshi I will honor my promise.

(Ram enters)

**RAM**: Mata Shri - Why is everyone so sad?

**KAIKEYI**: Dear Ram, you have been asked to go to forest for 14 years and Bharat will be the king of Ayodhya and this has made your father so sad.

**RAM**: One has to obey his father. It's the most important Dharm.

(Lakshman enters)

**LAKSHMAN**: (very angry) How can you give up the crown? You deserve it.

**RAM**: (smiling) It's my Dharm to obey my father.

(Sita enters)

**NARRATOR:** *When Ram told Sita he was going to the forest, she didn't cry or get angry. She just refused to stay behind.*

**SITA:** Your destiny is my destiny; wherever you will go, I shall follow.

**RAM:** That's impossible. The jungle is no place for a princess; it's full of beasts and demons.

**SITA:** As a wife, it's my dharma to be with you, wherever you may go.

**RAM:** (sighs) Okay, you can come with me.

**DASHRATH:** Ram, as a Kshatriya and first born, you deserve to be the king. Why don't you forcefully take the throne?

**RAM:** To fulfill a raghuvanshi's promise, I will gladly go to the forest.  
(Ram, Sita, and Lakshman bid goodbye to their parents and left to live in the Forest.)

DOHA: RAGHU KUL REET SADA CHALI AAYEE, PRAN JAYE PAR  
VACHAN NAHIN JAYEE..... (NEERA AND SAI GANESH)

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

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## KIDNAPPING OF SITA – PART 3

SCENE 1

(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR:** *Not long after Ram set up camp by a river in the middle of a forest, he was visited by a demon. Her name was Surpanakha. She immediately fell in love with both the princes of Ayodhya.*

**SURPANAKHA:** Hello young man, you are so handsome. Would you marry me?

**RAM:** No I can not, I'm already married.

**SURPANAKHA:** Forget her. I'm can be a better wife than any woman.

**RAM**: Marriage is forever. Pursue my brother, if you wish.

**SURPANAKHA**: Hello! Why didn't I look at you before? You are really cute; will you marry me? Your brother is very arrogant.

**LAKSHMAN**: I'm sorry, this is not possible. I am a servant and if you marry me, you will become one too. But you should become my brother's second wife.

**SURPANAKHA**: (jumped on Sita) Then I will have to kill his first wife.

**RAM**: Never joke with ignorant people.

**NARRATOR**: *Lakshman cut off Surpanakha's ears and nose.*

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

SCENE 2

(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR**: *Surpanakha ran away to her brothers, Khara and Dhushan. They went to fight with Ram and both were killed in battle, along with the rest of their army. She then ran to her brother, Ravan.*

(Surpanakha enters)

**SURPANAKHA**: Duhai Ho – Raja Ravan ki duhai ho! Brother! Brother! Save me! Save me, please!

**RAVAN**: What happened? Who did this to you?

**SURPANAKHA**: The 2 princes of Ayodhya! I was trying to bring Sita to you - but Ram and Lakshman cut off my ears and nose!

**RAVAN**: I will teach them a lesson.

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

SCENE 3

Pg 8

(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR:** *A magical deer was roaming around Ram's cottage.*

**SITA:** Look! This golden deer is so shiny, glittery and beautiful!

**LAKSHMAN:** I don't believe in golden deer. It's just not possible! I think it's a demon.

**SITA:** It's adorable.

**RAM:** What you see can be untrue. If it's a deer - I'll capture it. If it is a demon - I will kill it. (Looks at Lakshman) Be careful. Don't leave Sita alone. I'll be back soon.

**NARRATOR:** *When Ram went closer, the deer started to run and Ram followed.*

\*Background Sound (**RAM**)\* Lakshmana! Help! Save me, save me! I'm going to die!

**SITA:** Go help your brother - he is calling for your help?

**LAKSHMAN:** It's a trick and cannot be real! It can be a demon - they can change forms whenever they desire. My brother would never cry for help.

\*Background Sound (**RAM**)\* Help me pleeeaaassee!!

**SITA:** Save my husband right now, or else I will go.

**LAKSHMAN:** I am supposed to stay and protect you. You will not go anywhere.

**SITA:** (grabs a knife) Go, or else I'll kill myself. GO NOW!

**LAKSHMAN:** Okay, okay. I'm going. Don't cross the sacred line, it will protect you! (He draws a line.)

**NARRATOR:** *Lakshman had no choice. He drew the sacred line and went off to find his brother.*

(CLOSE CURTAIN)



(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR**: *Ravan went to Sita, dressed as a holy man.*

**RAVAN**: BHIKSHAM DEHI MATA.....Do you have any food for me? Please? I am very hungry.

**SITA**: (gets some food) Yes, one minute.

(PAUSE)

**SITA**: Please accept these fruits.

**NARRATOR**: *But, when Ravan went to get the fruit, he couldn't get past the magic line. Every time he tried, he was pushed behind the line by a magical force. He became angry.*

**RAVAN**: I will not take your food. You need to come here to give it to me.

**SITA**: I can't do that. Please understand!

**RAVAN**: You have no respect for a holy man. I'll get food somewhere else.

**SITA**: Okay, please don't leave!

**NARRATOR**: *As soon as Sita stepped out, Ravan dragged her away. Sita cried for help, but no one heard, except Jatayu, the king of birds. Jatayu was very weak and old. He tried to follow them, but he couldn't keep up with Ravan.*

*(JATAYU ENTERS STAGE & LOOKS AROUND, WHILE NARRATOR SAYS ABOVE LINES)*

**JATAYU**: Stop!

**RAVAN**: No! Mwa.....hahaha! You can't stop me!

**JATAYU**: Stop or I'll bite your arms off!

**RAVAN**: You can't do anything to me & I will cut-off your wings!!!!

**JATAYU**: (fell on the ground) RAM! RAM! RAM!

(RAVAN LEAVES THE STAGE WITH SITA AND RAM & LAKSHMAN ENTER)

**RAM**: who has done this to you?

**JATAYU**: Ravan has kidnapped Sita. Sorry, I could not save her.

DOHA: KARTI VILAP JATI NAYA NITA.....

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

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## RAM'S VICTORY – PART 4

SCENE 1

(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR**: *Sita was kept captive in Ravan's kingdom in his famous Ashok Vatika, which was full of Ashok trees. Ravan's wife, Mandodari tries to tell Ravan that he is wrong.*

**RAVAN**: If you accept my proposal then I'll make you my senior queen.

**SITA**: (looks down) Don't you feel any shame? You have kidnapped me because you're scared of my husband.

**RAVAN**: (gets angry) Don't insult me. Either you marry me or you die.

**SITA**: I will go to my husband or I will die.

**NARRATOR**: *Ravan rushes towards Sita in anger, to kill her – but is stopped by his wife, Queen Mandodari.*

**MANDODARI**: It's a sin to kill a faithful married woman.

**RAVAN**: If you don't change your mind in a month, I will kill you!

\*Ravan Exits\*

(Hanuman throws a ring to Sita; she picks it up and looks at it.)

**HANUMAN**: I am the messenger of Ram. Can you identify this ring?

**SITA**: Does Ram miss me?

**HANUMAN**: He's very sad, and misses you a lot. I can take you back, but I don't have permission. If you wait, Ram will be here soon. He will destroy the demons and take you with him.

**SITA**: How can he conquer the demons with just monkeys helping him?

**HANUMAN**: His kindness makes everything possible. Could you please give me something so I can prove that I met you?

**SITA**: (gives bracelet) Take this. Tell him if he's not here in a month, I will not be alive.

EVERYBODY – BAJRANG-BALI KI JAI (3 TIMES)

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

DOHA: MUKH PRASANNA TAN TEJ VIRAJA.....

SCENE 2

(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR**: *Hanuman purposely destroyed Ravan's gardens and was summoned to Ravan.*

**RAVAN**: Who are you, and why did you destroy my garden?

**HANUMAN**: I am the messenger of Ram, whose wife you have kidnapped. I was eating fruits and your guards attacked me - so I attacked back. Ravan, I suggest you return Sita and Ram will forgive you - otherwise face the consequences!!

**RAVAN**: Your death is near; I don't need anyone's advice or command.

**VIBHISHAN**: Brother Ravan, killing a messenger is not correct.

**RAVAN**: Okay, burn his tail and let him go!

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

SCENE 3

(OPEN CURTAIN)

**NARRATOR:** *Hanuman narrated Sita's message to Ram.....BIG PAUSE.....  
Ram came to Lanka with his army of monkeys & fought a fierce battle. Vibhishan,  
Ravan's brother, reveals the secret to kill Ravan and Ravan is killed.*

(Ram and Ravan fight on the stage. Ram kills Ravan.)

**\*Background Sound\*** Ram Chandra Ki Jai  
Lakshman Ki  
Sita Mata Ki Jai  
Bajrang-bali Ki Jai

(CLOSE CURTAIN)

DOHA: AVAT DEKHI LOG SAB KRIPASINDHU BHAGWAN.....

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CORONATION OF RAM – PART 5

(OPEN CURTAIN)

(Vishwamitra put a tilak on Ram, Sita and Lakshman and crowns Ram.)

**NARRATOR:** *Vanquishing the demons, Ram, Lakshman, Sita & Hanuman returned  
victorious to Ayodhya, after 14 years of exile. The entire kingdom of Ayodhya celebrated  
Ram's return. It was a dark new moon night. The citizens of Ayodhya lit Ghee lamps to  
show Ram the way. Since then this festival of lights is celebrated every year as  
DIPAWALI.*

Rama was coronated and he ruled as an ideal king for many many years !!!!!!!!

(BHAJAN by Neeraja and Aarti by Mr. and Mrs. Singh)

WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE ACTORS TO YOU BY THEIR NAMES.....

**NARRATOR:**

- RAM - J.P. SINGH
- SITA - GITANJALI SINGH
- LAKSHMAN - VIPUL GUPTA
- HANUMAN - RAJIV KULKARNI
- RAVAN - AJAY SINGH
- BHARAT - SANJEEV PANDYA
- MADHAVI - VIASHALLI PANDYA
- MANDODARI - SHAILAZA SINGH
- JANAK - UPENDRA SHARMA
- SUNAINA - PARUL SHARMA
- RAM'S MOTHER "KAUSHALYA" - SWADESH NARULA
- LAKSHMAN'S MOTHER "SUMITRA" - PREM GUPTA
- DASIRATH - TALIT KAR
- KAIKEYI - MONICA KAR
- VISHWAMITRA - PRADEEP CHALLIYIL
- PARSHURAM - MUTHOO KUMAR
- MANTHARA - RENUKA KULKARNI
- SURPANAKHA - RUCHI PHARASI
- JATAYU - MICHAEL EISNER
- VIBHISHAN - VIRAM BEDI
- DEER - PRANAV SHARMA
- OTHER KINGS AT JANAK'S DARBAR- STUDENTS
- VOICE - NEERAJA DESHPANDE
- HARMONIUM - SAI GANESH
- TABLA - VIVEK DESHPANDE
- DIRECTOR& SCRIPT - UPENDRA AND PARUL SHARMA
- GUIDANCE - RADHA NAYAR, SWADESH NARULA.....

**Radhya:** And the NARRATORS were SOONEETA & MICHAEL EISNER  
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR FRIENDS WHO HELPED US PUT  
THIS PLAY TOGETHER.