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# LUV AND KUSH

RAMAYANA

THE INVINCIBLE TWINS  
OF RAMA AND SITA



**WHEN SHRI RAM SENT SITAJI WITH LAKSHMAN TO THE FOREST, LAKSHMAN ARRIVED AT VALMIKI RISHI'S ASHRAM ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER TAMASA.**

**HERE SITAJI GAVE BIRTH TO TWINS NAMED LAV AND KUSH.**



**VALMIKI RISHI TAUGHT BOTH OF THEM THE SHASTRAS AND THE ART OF USING WEAPONS. A KNOWLEDGE OF WEAPONS WAS A MUST FOR ALL KSHATRIYAS, ESPECIALLY THE SONS OF A KING.**

MEANWHILE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER GOMTI, SHRI RAM BEGAN AN ASHWAMEDH YAGNA. TO PERFORM THE YAGNA RITUALS SHRI RAM NEEDED SITAJI. IN HER ABSENCE, HE PLACED A GOLDEN MURTI OF SITAJI NEXT TO HIM IN THE YAGNA. IT WAS A RITUAL TRADITION THAT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION AND FRUITS OF THE YAGNA SHRI RAM HAD TO SEND A FINE HORSE ALL OVER THE LAND. WHOEVER TIED THE HORSE WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT WITH THE ARMY ACCOMPANYING IT. IF HE WON, THEN HE COULD HAVE THE HORSE OWNER'S KINGDOM.

SHRI RAM'S BEAUTIFUL STALLION  
TROTTED INTO VALMIKI RISHI'S  
ASHRAM. THE RISHI WAS NOT  
PRESENT. KUSH WAS IN THE FOREST  
COLLECTING FIREWOOD. LAV SAW THE  
HORSE. HIS EYES TWINKLED AT THE  
SIGHT OF SUCH A BEAUTIFUL ANIMAL.  
HE HAD SEEN MANY ANIMALS IN THE  
FOREST, BUT NEVER SUCH A FINE  
CREATURE. GURUJI HAD DESCRIBED A  
HORSE TO BOTH BOYS. FROM THIS  
LAV WAS CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS  
A HORSE. HE THEN READ THE WORDS  
ON THE GOLDEN MEDALLION SHINING  
ON THE HORSE'S FOREHEAD:  
"WHOEVER DOES NOT ACCEPT  
AYODHYA'S REGENT AS HIS KING  
SHOULD TIE THIS HORSE AND FIGHT  
WITH ITS ARMY."

**LAV BURST INTO LAUGHTER. HE THOUGHT,**

**THIS HORSE HAS COME  
TO DISTURB THE  
FREEDOM OF GURUJI'S  
ASHRAM. WELL! LET ME  
SEE HOW STRONG HE IS.**



**HE THEN GRABBED THE HORSE'S REINS  
FIRMLY AND IN AN INSTANT TIED THEM TO  
A NEARBY TREE.**

**JUST THEN, SHRI RAM'S ARMY REACHED  
THE ASHRAM, LED BY SHATRUGHNA. THE  
SOLDIERS SAW LAV WITH THE HORSE AND  
DISMOUNTED. THEY APPROACHED LAV. "O  
LITTLE ONE! THIS IS NOT A GAME. ONE  
WHO TIES THIS HORSE HAS TO FIGHT WITH  
US. YOU ARE JUST A KID. SET THE HORSE  
FREE. WE WON'T DO YOU ANY HARM."**

LAV ANSWERED COURAGEOUSLY,

I HAVE TIED IT KNOWING  
WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BE  
DONE. THIS IS A RISHI'S  
ASHRAM. NOBODY CAN  
RUIN ITS FREEDOM. I AM  
READY TO FIGHT!



HE THEN STRUNG AN ARROW ON HIS BOW.

THE SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY, TOO,  
WERE READY WITH THEIR BOWS.  
BEFORE THEY COULD SHOOT OFF A  
SINGLE ARROW, LAV SHOT AN ARROW  
KNOWN AS JRUMBHKA STRA AT THEM.  
THEY FELL DOWN IN A HEAP IN DEEP  
SLEEP! FAR AWAY, SHATRUGHNA, THE  
COMMANDER, SAW THE LITTLE CHILD'S  
AWESOME ARCHERY AND WAS  
DUMBOUNDED. HE JUST STARED AT  
THE CHILD, NOT KNOWING HOW TO  
DEAL WITH HIM. HE WAS SUDDENLY  
FILLED WITH AWE AND ADMIRATION  
FOR LAV. HE APPROACHED LAV.  
"O YOUNG CHILD! I AM IMMENSELY  
IMPRESSED BY YOUR ARCHERY. I AM  
SO PLEASED THAT I FORGIVE YOUR  
ATTACK ON MY SOLDIERS. SO NOW  
RELEASE THE HORSE."

**JUST THEN KUSH ARRIVED. HE STOOD NEXT TO LAV AND ASKED, "WHO ARE YOU TO BESTOW FORGIVENESS ON US?" SHATRUGHNA COULD NOT BEAR KUSH'S SARCASTIC REMARK. SO HE TOLD THE TWINS TO PREPARE TO FIGHT. BOTH TWINS READIED THEIR BOWS AND STOOD FIRMLY IN THE CENTRE OF THE FIELD.**

**FROM HIS ARMY, SHATRUGHNA ORDERED SUGRIV AND HANUMAN TO DEFEAT THE KIDS.**

**HANUMAN LENGTHENED HIS TAIL AND WRAPPED IT AROUND LAV. KUSH RUSHED TO FREE HIM. SUGRIV UPROOTED A HUGE TREE WITH WHICH HE STOPPED KUSH. BUT BY THIS TIME, LAV SET HIMSELF FREE AND PUNCHED HANUMAN IN THE CHEST, KNOCKING HIM UNCONSCIOUS!**

**THIS BOOSTED KUSH WHO PICKED UP SUGRIV WITH THE TREE AND THUMPED HIM ON THE GROUND. HE, TOO, FELL UNCONSCIOUS! BOTH BROTHERS THEN GRABBED HANUMAN'S TAIL AND DRAGGED HIM TO THE ASHRAM, TO SHOW THEIR BRAVERY TO SITAJI.**



**WHEN SITAJI SAW THE BOYS, SHE RECOGNIZED  
HANUMAN.**

**O DEAR  
ONES! WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?**



**SHE ASKED HORRIFIED. LAV ANSWERED  
JOYFULLY.**

**O MOTHER! THIS MONKEY  
ARRIVED WITH A BIG ARMY AND  
THIS HORSE. I TIED THE HORSE.  
THEN THE ARMY COMMANDER  
ORDERED HIM TO FIGHT. SO WE  
FOUGHT IN RETURN. THEY TRIED  
HARD TO FRIGHTEN US. MOTHER,  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DID?  
THEY UPOOTED A MASSIVE TREE  
TO SHOW US THEIR STRENGTH.  
THEN THEY RUSHED WITH IT TO  
FIGHT WITH US. BUT THE TREE  
REMAINED IN HIS HAND AND WE  
SHOWED THEM ONE OR TWO  
THINGS!**



BEAMED LAV, WINKING AT KUSH. KUSH NODDED IN AGREEMENT. SITAJI FELL INTO DEEP THOUGHT AND INSTANTLY REALIZED THAT THE STALLION BELONGED TO NONE OTHER THAN SHRI RAM. SO SHE SAID TO THE BOYS, "THIS HORSE BELONGS TO YOUR FATHER. THIS IS HANUMANJI. HE IS YOUR FATHER'S SEVAK. RELEASE HIM, AS WELL AS THE HORSE."

"BUT MOTHER!" PLEADED LAV. "WE ONLY BEHAVED ACCORDING TO OUR KSHATRIYA DHARMA (DUTY). WE WERE CHALLENGED SO WE GAVE A FIGHT. IF THEY DON'T WISH TO FIGHT NOW, THEY CAN HAVE THE HORSE BACK."

JUST THEN VALMIKI RISHI RETURNED. SITAJI NARRATED THE EVENTS. VALMIKI THEN TOOK LAV AND KUSH TO THE STALLION AND BY THEIR HANDS RETURNED IT TO THE ARMY. THE ARMY HAPPILY MARCHED ON.

**VALMIKI TAUGHT THE TWINS THE  
RAMAYAN BY HEART. HE THEN SENT  
THEM TO AYODHYA. IN THIS SACRED  
CITY, THEY STROLLED THROUGH THE  
STREETS DELIGHTFULLY SINGING THE  
RAMAYAN!**

**SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY AND  
AMAZING PHENOMENON WAS NOTED  
BY THE CITIZENS. THEY REPORTED THIS  
TO SHRI RAM. HE SUMMONED THE KIDS  
TO HIS PALACE AND REQUESTED THEM  
TO SING THE WHOLE RAMAYAN. HE  
WAS OVERJOYED TO HEAR THEM. JUST  
THEN VALMIKI ENTERED THE PALACE  
AND REVEALED THE TWINS'S IDENTITY.  
REALIZING THAT LAV AND KUSH WERE  
SITA'S TWINS, SHRI RAM HUGGED THEM  
AND SAID, "I SHALL NOW CALL YOUR  
MOTHER HERE, TOO." VALMIKI WENT  
OFF TO BRING SITAJI.**