

A Perspective of Moral Values

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Abstract—This paper discusses the importance of moral values of Ramayana in today's world. The development of moral values is very essential in our human life. This paper further explains the meaning of morality and why we need the implementation of values which are discussed in Ramayana in our contemporary life?

1. INTRODUCTION

Ramayana was regarded as an important epic of Indian Mythology. It is relevant always because it focuses on many aspects of moral values of life. First we should understand the meaning of moral values. Moral values are regarded as the standards of good and evil which govern an individual's choices and behaviour. When we are able to distinguish between rightness and wrongness then our values are called moral. The development of moral values leads to good life. Moral values are derived from society and self.

Ramayana specially focuses on the story of Lord Rama. The story of Rama teaches us different values which pertain to individual, family and society. It is our necessities to understand the duties of the individual, the family and the society. The modern society must follow those values that are contained in Ramayana.

Values

Now, I discuss various values which are as follows:

Firstly, Ramayana discusses pure love and bonding between siblings. In today's world, we observe more disputes between brothers, no unity is found. To overcome this difficulty, it is necessary to discuss Ramayana's values of love, compassion and togetherness in our surroundings.

We all know that Rama, Laksman and Bharat give up their materialistic luxury life's for the sake of other brother's life. It only showed love and compassion among brothers. In today's scenario it is necessary to encourage our children to spend time with their siblings, and stand up for each other whenever some require any help.

Secondly, Ramayana discusses differences between Good and Evil. The main purpose of moral values is to inspired children to choose right over wrong. We can give the example of

Bharat who was awarded the honour of ruling kingdom of Ayodhya but his sense of justice and love for brother would not permit him to do what most others would greedily do. He came to know that his mother Kaikeyi unjustly managed to get Rama banished from Ayodhya.

He left everything immediately and went into the forest to look for Rama. He was regarded as fair and just human being. His devotion to his brother was true. When Rama refused to return to Ayodhya before completing his 14 years in exile, Bharat placed Rama's footwear on the throne and ruled Ayodhya in the name of Rama until he returned to Ayodhya. This value teaches us that there are many things in our life which is extremely desirable, but the manner of attaining it must be right and fair. It should not hurt anyone. We as an individual must differentiate between rightness and wrongness of an action.

Thirdly, Ramayana discusses the importance of a promise. A promise is necessary moral value of an individual. These days people do promises but also forget it. Through discussing Ramayana's example of promise there is a hope to overcome today's scenario. It has been said that Kaikeyi, the queen of Ayodhya, and wife of King Dashrath had been granted two boons when she had saved his life on the battlefield. The day before Dashrath was to retire and crown his eldest son Rama as king, Kaikeyi demanded that Dashrath grant her the boons promised to her.

Her first desire was that Rama should be exiled to the forest for fourteen years, and the second, that her son, Bharat, be crowned as King. Dashrath was naturally heartbroken at the prospect of having to send his son into exile for fourteen years, but he reminded that honouring one's word is considered as the highest duty.

He didn't want that Rama should leave, but Rama reminded his father of the value of a promise given and left Ayodhya to keep his father's word. When Bharat begged Rama to return to Ayodhya, Rama once again reminded Bharat that he could not and would not dishonour his father by breaking the promise he had made to Kaikeyi. Rama would have disregarded his father's promise, but he didn't do that. This lesson tells us that

not to break the promise and commitment which we have made to anyone. It also showed affection for parents.

Fourthly, Ramayana highlights the fact that avoids bad advice given by anyone. Do not follow anyone's advice without pondering it. Kaikeyi, the youngest queen, was a good woman but she was manipulated by her maid servant who was evil person. That maid poisoned her mind and forced her to send Rama into exile and crowned Bharat as a king. The maid ruined Kaikeyi's life. She lost her beloved husband and her son Bharat. Her son scolded her badly for her action.

This is a very important lesson for everyone. It teaches us many things such as to be careful against vicious advice and wrong company, be vigilant in order to avoid being misled, be firm in thinking, question and analyse every possibility of the consequences of the actions. These are regarded as essential qualities which are need to be developed in a human being.

Conclusion

We have already talked about the various ideals of values which are necessary to be developed in the mind of our children from the beginning of his/her childhood. **Retell our children the story of Ramayana because it instructs in them the code of right and ethical behaviour. The story of Ramayana enriches our lives. It also moulds our children to become the leaders of tomorrow which are imbued with long lasting traditional and cultural foundation.**

References

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