

Exemplary Hanuman and Three categories of emissaries

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Lord Sri Rama mentions about three categories of emissaries, while applauding an exemplary work carried out by Hanuman in successfully locating the whereabouts of Seetha Devi. As we are aware Hanuman and other groups of Vanaras were entrusted with the task of search operation in all four directions as Ravana, the abductor, could have hidden Seetha Devi in any part of the world or in the nether regions etc due to his unassailable prowess amongst the devas, the demons and the human beings. In other words, they were on a mission in an unchartered territory.

Every master who chooses and sends a person on an important errand always ensure that the chosen person is powerful, brave, intellect, quick to responds after proper assessment on the site. That person should be committed to the task, extremely loyal to his master in completing the assignment and brings glory to his master. In this context, Sri Rama's sayings merit discussion.

The first category consists of persons entrusted with a highly difficult task does the assignments with zeal and right aptitude. In addition, they tend to collect supplemental and incremental inputs in tune with the main task. Such a thinking and an act by them would enable his master to properly evaluate the ground situations based on additional inputs collected by his servants. These people are undoubtedly the supreme one. यो हि भृत्यो नियुक्तः सन् भर्त्रा कर्मणि दुष्करे ॥ कुर्यात्तदुनुरागेण तमहुः पुरुषोत्तमम् | 6-1-7.

The second category is those in spite having endowed with qualifications, capability and aptitude limits their sphere of activity only to the extent as mentioned to them. They do not exert to their full potential which is normally expected from them by their master. This category of emissaries is known as mediocre one. यो नियुक्तः परम् कार्यम् न कुर्यान्नरुपतेः प्रियम् ॥ भृत्यो युक्तः समर्थश्च तमाहुर्मध्यम् नरम् | 6-1-8.

The third category is those who despite being capable do a sloppy work which neither benefits the master nor befits their ability. These are the most despicable one. नियुक्तो नृपतेः कार्यम् न कुर्याद्यः समाहितः ॥ भृत्यो युक्तः समर्थश्च तमाहुः पुरुषमम् | 6-1-9.

In all the above three categories what matters is the personal attribute of the emissary to match his valour and knowledge to the tasks with zeal which stands out in his execution. एवम् विधाय स्वबलम् सदृशम् विक्रमस्य च ॥ 6-1-6. This was done by Hanuman.

Let us now dwell into the reasons behind the extra ordinary praises made by Sri Rama. कृतम् हनुमता कार्यम् सुमहद्भुवि दुर्लभम् | मनसापि यदन्येन न शक्यम् धरणीतले || 6-1-2. Sri Rama clearly states that Hanuman had done an exemplary work of arduous in nature which by itself is very much difficult for others even to dream leave alone doing it.

The sargas namely from 65 to 68 in the Sundara Kanda mentions about the informative reporting by Hanuman by which Sri Rama, Lakshmana and Maharaja Sugriva had , after a long time, felt a sense of comforts and solace.

At the outset, it may be noted that Hanuman could have just submitted that he had seen Seetha Devi in flesh and blood at Lanka as predicted by Sampati. This information of her being alive is itself a great news to his master. However, true to his immense capacity, he narrated the first-hand information in more useful and appreciable manner.

Hanuman with full understanding of play of human passions and tendencies elaborately informed the highly commendable conduct of Seetha Devi. He spoke about her impeccable character and the tenacity by which she is maintaining her modesty and chastity even in the extreme extenuating conditions created by the monster Ravana. Her unwavering commitment, love and affection towards Sri Rama was portrayed with such nicety which left not only Rama but other Vanaras to sympathise with the conditions of her. It made an impact on all to avenge the cruelty met to her by Ravana. Though the stellar conduct of Seetha in such hostile atmosphere is not new to Sri Rama but the importance given by Hanuman had enhanced the reputation and esteem of dynasty of Kosala and Mithila kingdom. This satisfied Sri Rama too.

Hanuman, then, faithfully recounted what was conveyed to him by Seetha. Here one can note with wonder that the report by Hanuman is verbatim and there is neither an addition nor exclusion. Besides, Hanuman was specially instructed by Seetha to keep up the tempo of injustice done by Ravana flaming in the heart of Sri Rama lest Sri Rama in His pure good-natured form forgive the cruel Ravana through his narration. नित्यम् उत्साह युक्ताः च वाचः श्रुत्वा मया ईरिताः | वर्धिष्यते दाशरथेः पौरुषम् मत् अवाप्तये || मत् संदेश युता वाचः त्वत्तः श्रुत्वा एव राघवः | पराक्रम विधिम् वीरो विधिवत् सम्विधास्यति || 5-39-11 and 12. Hanuman succeeded in that regard too.

Thirdly, for any successful invasion to the enemy country, it is essential to collect essential military intelligent inputs which Hanuman did. He answered with detailed data on various questions and doubts put by Sri Rama.

Fourthly, as tactical strategy, he dealt a psychological blow to the mighty Ravana by valiantly encountering and crushing the onslaughts by the invincible warriors of Ravana in the fight ensued in Ashoka Vanam.

It is pertinent to note that Seetha Devi herself paid a glowing tribute to Hanuman on his exemplary skill as follows in Yuddha kanda. अतिलक्षणसंपन्नं माधुर्यगुणभूषितम् ॥ बुद्ध्या ह्यष्टाङ्गया युक्तं त्वमेवाहंसि भाषितुम् । श्लाघनीयोऽनिलस्य त्वं सुतः परमधार्मिकः ॥ बलं शौर्यं श्रुतं सत्त्वं विक्रमो दाक्ष्यमुत्तमम् ॥ तेजः क्षमा धृतिः स्थैर्यं विनीतत्वं न संशयः ॥ 6-113-26 to 28.

" Oh Hanuman, you are blessed with intelligent skill consisting eight excellences apart from your endearing demeanour with graceful style. In addition, you possess good characteristics like strength, valour, knowledge, vigour, the foremost superlative skill in combat, action, indefatigable spirit, forbearance, firmness etc. “

From the above descriptions, there is no doubt that Hanuman is the supreme emissary. Even if one can aspire to cultivate studiously some of the attributes that would definitely help him to excel in his professional and personal life.