



Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



Class Name: Bhagiratha

Week# 03: October 06, 2013

General Assembly

Satya Aunty started the GA with 3 Oms and the Shanti Mantra

We welcomed the two new classes - Atri and Parashara, and discussed the new composition of the GA - the oldest two classes had graduated to the main-hall. The children were excellent in their transition into the GA and were very quiet as they settled into position.

We then asked about the festival we were celebrating - children participated and came up with answers - Navaratri. We talked about why we celebrate it - the glory of the divine Mother who vanquished Mahishasura. Then we discussed how we celebrated Navaratri - various answers were given - fasting, Golu, garbha, etc.

We then went on to talk about Mahatma Gandhi - whose birthday was this past week. Asking what he was known for - the children again came up with many answers - freedom fighter, ahimsa, truthfulness, satyagraha, made his own clothes. After discussing implications of these - strength of character and faith, we went on to sing his favorite bhajan "Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram". No one needed lead and follow as they knew the bhajan well!!

Then we sang the birthday song for all the children whose birthdays were in June, July, Aug, Sep and Oct.

Class

We started the class with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra. We also learned the new verse, Before Studies prayer for Goddess Sarasvati. Then, for the benefit of old and new students we briefly reviewed the Ramayana so far what we have covered from last year. Here is the story in brief. King Dasaratha with the help of Guru Vasishtha and Rishyashringa performed the Ashvamedha Yaga, named by Putrakama which will grant the King, the son he desired. From the Yagna fire, rose a divine form, Yagna-Purusha with a golden bowl of paayasam (kheer) in his hand and asked King Dasaratha to distribute among his wives. Two of his wives, Kausalya and Kaikeyi were present there and he gave the kheer to them, when his third wife Sumitra came there, Kausalya and Kaikeyi gave half of their share to her. After sometime, four lovely babies were born. Kausalya gave birth to Lord Rama, Kaikeyi gave birth to Bharata and Sumitra gave birth to twins, Lakshmana and Shatrughna. King Dasaratha was full of happiness and there were celebrations and joy in the hearts of all the people of Ayodhya. The three son of king Dasaratha were amshas of Lord Narayana and Rama was Lord Narayana himself.

As the princes grew up they showed remarkable characteristics, Rama showed



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devotion to duty and truth. Lakshmana was strict and impulsive. Bharata was noble and dutiful. Shatrughna was king and gentle. Soon the four princes were close to sixteen years old and entering manhood and king was thinking of their marriage.

One day sage Vishvamitra came and asked for Rama and Lakshmana help to destroy rakshas in Dandaka forest, especially Subahu, Mareecha and their mother Taataka, so that, sage Vishvamitra and his disciples can perform yagna peacefully. Later on Sage Vishvamitra was able to complete his Yagna without any problem and blessed Rama and Lakshmana for that. Then, sage Vishvamitra said, "we all are going to Mithila to attend a Yagna and I would like you to come with us". King Janaka is the ruler of Mithila and he has a Rudra bow, which is very powerful and glows like sun. This famed bow of Mahadeva might interest prince like you.

King Janka once found a divine beautiful baby and named her Sita, who was a symbol of perfection, and incarnation of Devi Lakshmi. Now she reached the age of marriage and king could not find a prince who was good enough for her. King Janka decided she will be given to the one who will lift this bow and string it. Several princes came to lift it, but nobody was able to lift it. When Rama turn came he lifted the bow easily and stood the bow straight and bend it to string it, the Bow of Mahadeva break into two. Rama fulfilled the condition of the bow, so Sita garlanded Rama. At the same time, King Janka has given in marriage his other daughters, Urmila to Lakshmana, Mandavi to Bharata and Shrutakirti to Shatrughna. While going back to Ayodhya Rama has to face Parashurama who gave Rama, Vishnu's bow and asked him to string the bow. For his action Rama has to destroy his fruit of penance.

Ayodhya was very happy to have its princes back. After sometimes, king Dasharatha sat and thought of crowning Rama the Yuvaraja of Ayodhya, so with consent of guru Vasishtha, he told Rama about the coronation ceremony for the following day. Everyone in the city of Ayodhya was full of joy except Kaikeyi's maid servant Manthara. She went to queen Kaikeyi's chamber and gave her the news of crowning Rama the Yuvaraja of Ayodhya and in return the queen rewarded her with necklace for the best news. But Manthara threw the necklace and said to the queen don't be the cause of your own ruin. Since poisonous seed grew in queen's mind and clouded her understanding she asked the King to grant her two boons, first boon to make Bharata the crowned king and with the second boon Rama should be sent to the forest for fourteen years. Dasharatha was in a state of agony, because he has to choose between his love for Rama and his love for Dharma. At the end, his passion for truth won and he granted her two boons. Rama honored his father order with utmost calm, but Lakshmana was upset with his father and Mata Kaikeyi because any insult to Rama made him angry, such was the loving devotion he had for Sri Rama. Rama reminded him not to be swayed by the emotions and instruct him to follow the path of Dharma. Lakshmana touch Rama's feet and asked permission to accompany him. Rama, Sita and Lakshmana went to Dasharatha's palace to take his leave by touching the feet of the king and queens before setting out their journey to forest.



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Homework

No Homework for this week.

Announcements

No announcement for this week.