



Preface

Since my childhood Śrī Rāma is an important character not as Lord Śrī Rāma but as a divine child who was so obstinate that He cried to catch the moon. How innocent and amazing child He was! As a child I reflected again and again on the incident and finally my simple curiosity was satisfied by the folk-story that the moon (चन्द्रः) wished to append his name to the name of Śrī Rāma i.e. श्रीरामचन्द्र.

In those days I was extremely fascinated by the story of a crow playing with child Śrī Rāma who was enjoying the play but the clever crow snatched away Śrī Rāma's sweet cake (अपूपः) and flew away up in the sky what a marvelous scene!

Very late I gathered more information from my parents and then my uncle saint Śrī Morārī Bapu Hariyani, the world-famous narrator of Śrī Rāma saga. I was also deeply attracted by Morārī Bapu's discourses on Śrī Rāma saga and have attended many of them.

After completing M.A. with Sanskrit (Principal) and Gujarati (Subordinate) in April 2002 and B.P.A (Vocal) in April 2003, I was still fascinated by the two stories of child Śrī Rāma wishing to catch the moon and the clever crow snatching away Śrī Rāma's sweet cake though most of Śrī Rāma saga was (& is) on the tip of my tongue and is in my heart.

Once on the family function of Rāmanavmī 2004 I had a casual talk with my close friend Dr. Gargi Chandrashekhhar Pandit who was working on her Ph.D. (on Kevalādvaita in Adhyātmārāmāyaṇa) under the guideship of Prof. Dr. Jaydev Arunoday Jani. She mentioned the name of a Rāmāyaṇa by Bhuśuṇḍi who was a crow. Immediately I requested her to talk to Prof. Dr. Jani to find out if Prof. Jani has time and place for me (in his Ph.D. students).

Fortunately I happened to go to the department for a casual talk with Prof. Jani on Saturday 05/02/2005 my husband Mr. Vivek

Gandhi was also with me and to over utmost surprise both of us received the chocolate from Prof. Jani (It was Prof. Jani's birthday!). I suggested the topic of Rāmāyaṇa, esp. Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa because the Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa of Rāmacaritamānasa is included in daily prayer of our Hariyani family. Prof. Jani accepted and consequently I approached st. Morārībapu Hariyani who informed me about the two parts of the Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa (Pub. From Vārāṇasī) edited by Dr. B. P. Sinh.

On 17/03/2005 I enrolled myself for Ph.D. in Sanskrit on the topic "Madurādvaita-Bhakti in Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa – A Study" and the work began. In the midst of lots of family liabilities and conjugal adjustments, I continued my work regularly but slowly and steadily. The result of my efforts, my husband's affectionate help, the blessings of my parents as well as parents-in-law, the friendly push up of my friends Dr. Gargi and others last but not the least Prof. Jani's infallible blessings- is this personal thesis.

The 03 Rāmāyaṇas are considered to be the ancient ones (i) Vālmīki-Rāmāyaṇa, (ii) YV or Yogavāsiṣṭha-Rāmāyaṇa and Bhuṣuṇḍi-Rāmāyaṇa, though their chronological order would be Yogavāsiṣṭham composed and probably compiled during Śrī Rāma's student life, (iii) BhR also known as Ādi-Rāmāyaṇa and or Brahma Rāmāyaṇa compiled during the war between Śrī Rāma and Rāvaṇa (when Garuḍa was called to free Śrī Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa from the Serpent nooze) and (iv) VR composed after exiling Sītā to the forest (Near hermitage of Vālmīki).

Thus if we consider the chronological order of Śrī Rāma's life-span i.e. childhood, youth and advanced Age, then the order would be (i) Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa, (ii) Yogavāsiṣṭha-Rāmāyaṇa and (iii) Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa. It must be borne in mind that the original text of the BhR was available either *in toto* or fragmentary, hence the author (16th – 17th cent. AD) of the present available text of the BhR cultivated a strong feeling and sheer need to complete the text. This led the author of the present edition to incorporate Śrī Rāma's

child-sports, of course adding Śrī Kṛṣṇa's child-sports along with the attuned character and surrounding.

Thus the thesis had the fixed time of action to discriminate the probable original text from the fused form of the so-called Bhagavatisation.

For such a gigantic work on the Bhagavatised Bhuṣuṇḍi Rāmāyaṇa was so interesting and taints taking for naturally both the student and the guiding teacher that I must pay homage to my guiding teacher Prof. Dr. Jaydev A. Jani who has remained ever ready and enthusiastic. I heartily thank him.

At this juncture I thank my teachers retired Prof. Dr. Mrs. Uma Deshpandey, retired Prof. Dr. B.P. Pandya, the present head Dr. R.K. Panda, Dr. Mrs. Shveta Jejurkar, Dr. Nehal Pandya and Dr. Daxa Purohit whose support and motivation must be acknowledged with thanks. I am thankful to Prof. Jani's Students Dr. Gargi Pandit for her invaluable Ph.D. scholarly support, because without her friendly report this thesis would not have been completed. I also thank other fellow students Dr. Milind S. Joshi, Dr. Mahesh G. Patel, Mr. Mihir Upadhyay, Mrs. Vibha Parmar, Mrs. Kunjal L. Patel, Mrs. Jignasa Patel and Ms. Varda A. Vasa who have extended their help in my work.

How can I forget the evergreen support and the nature of giving impetus as well as all-time inspiration of my better-half Mr. Vivek Gandhi? I have no word to express my feelings in thanking him. As a token of thanks I bow down to my parents Mr. Trikamdas Hariyani and Mrs. Jasumati Hariyani, my parents-in-law Mr. Manojbhai Gandhi and Pravinaben Gandhi, My brother-in-law Nachiket Gandhi and his wife Hetal, My elder sister Pratibha, Beena and Zankhana and my brother Dhaval. १५

I must remember to extend my loving thanks to my daughter Samhita who is young yet reminded me frequently to do my work in

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such a way that she uttered the words, “Mamma, give me paper and pen and give me dictation”.

I must not forget the affection, warm welcome and the feeling of giving the push back of Mrs. Latika Jani (Prof. Jani’s wife) whose smiling nature and friendly behaviour can never remain concealed to any student. Thanks to her.

I am really thankful to Shri Mahesh Patel who accepted the task of computer typing and has completed it before time.

Last but not the least is St. Shri Morārī Bapu Hariyani, because he has given the fatherly blessings to me and that too *In Person*.

Vadodara
21/10/2011

Hariyani Kalpana Trikamdas