

Marriage in Tulsi Ramcharitmanas



RAM CHARIT MANTHAN SEMINAR
राम चरित मंथन
DECEMBER 3, 2011
HINDU WORSHIP SOCIETY TEMPLE

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Discussion Outline



- Challenges to marriage in current/western environment
- Couples/Marriages in Ramcharitmanas
- Instructional Messages (generally for women)
- Significant Values/Roles in Ramcharitmanas



Challenges in Current Environment



- I have changed, why can't you?
- We are equal but not the SAME.
- I love you but I am not in LOVE with you.

Slide 3

U1

Usha, 12/3/2010



Challenges Cont.

I have changed, why can't you !

- Men really can't do more than one thing at a time.
- Women simply talk through their problems.
- Men are deaf when reading newspapers and watching TV.

Source: Barbara and Allan Pease authors of #1 International Best Seller Why Men don't listen and Women cannot read Maps.



Challenges Cont.

We are equal but not the SAME !

- Men offer solutions but hate advice.
- Women talk so much and men so little.
- Brains wired differently—men's brains are compartmentalized for dealing with emotions, while women are expressive of emotions.

Source: Barbara and Allan Pease authors of #1 International Best Seller Why Men don't listen and Women cannot read Maps.



Couples/Marriages in Ramcharitmanas



- **21 couples:** 11 Kings/Princes 4 Rishies, 4 Rakshas, and 2 Devtas
- **2 Marriages:** Shiv & Parvati, Ram & Sita
- **Main dialogues are between:** Shiv & Parvati ; Ram & Sita; Ravan & Mandodari
- **Instructional Message for women:**
 - Himanchal & Maina's message to Parvati
 - Janak's queens/Sunaiyna's message to four daughters on womens' duties
 - Atri Muni's wife Ansuiya's message to Sita Ji in Aranya Kaand



Summary of Messages to Women

- Serve Husband
- Serve Family and Guru
- Remain faithful
- No insults --- अपमान
- Be lovable
- Recognize husband's desire (रुख)
- एकै धर्म एक व्रत नेमा, कायं बचन मन पति पद प्रेमा

Source: Aranya kaand, Doha 5, chaupai 5



Key Values Exhibited in Ramcharitmas

- Desire for lasting relationship -- Parvati,
- Surrender and Sacrifice -- Urmila
- Faithfulness-- Sita
- Devotion to spousal respect--- Sati
- Total Harmony -- Manu & Shatrupa
- Recognition of the intrinsic character and tolerance -- Mandodari
- Appeasement -- Ram
- Prayer – Shiva