

Ram an Ideal Manager, Diplomat and Politician



ISBN: 978-1-7362088-2-3

Ram Mallik
(rammallik@gmail.com)

Lord Ram was an ideal manager, diplomat and politician. Ramayanas narrate episodes illustrating his great accomplishments in Team Building and leadership, Personnel Development, formulating a winning Execution plan, Decision Making, Art of Dialogue, considering ideas and suggestions, encouraging team members to keep morale high, Diplomatic and political incidents. Famous examples are the development of Hanuman to godhead, crowning of Sugriva in Kishkindha and Vibhishan in Lanka, construction of sea bridge, action on the Sea King, killing of Ravan and installation of Shivalinga in Rameshwaram and acknowledging the achievements of his associates. These are discussed in the article.

1. Introduction

Lord Ram was an ideal manager diplomat and politician. The various Ramayanas have described episodes illustrating his great accomplishments Lord Ram was a royal prince of a great dynasty and this performance was as expected. My perspectives on some episodes are briefly discussed here. As Tulasidas in Ramcharitmans has very appropriately said, “Everyone saw in the Lord the reflection of his own disposition (i.e., of the conception each had of him). Jinha ke rahi bhavana jaisi I Prabhu murati dekhi tin tarsi II”. Thus, different persons may have different answers for “Who is Ram?”

2. Narratives in Shree Ramacharit Manas

2.1. Team Building and leadership

Lord Ram assembled a great team in exile picking persons with right credentials. Foremost is Hanuman who met Ram in the forest. Hanuman was the minister of the exiled younger brother of Bali the king of Kiskindha and was an unknown personality. Ram recognized his capability, saw a great potential in him and inducted in his team for the most critical role. Lord Ram groomed him to become Veer Hanuman and the dearest devotee and helped in his ascent to divinity and become the most popular deity of Hindus. Lord Ram organized and led a great team of local Lord Ram assembled a great team in exile picking persons with right credentials. Foremost is Hanuman who met Ram in the forest. Vanaras and Bhalus into an army which defeated the most formidable army of Ravan. It should also be recognized that Lord Ram went to the forest with Sitaji and Lakshmanji empty handed. And he had a big mission and the enormous task of destroying the demons and protecting the saints. For this he arranged and organized the great team.

2.2. Execution Plan

The importance of a sound execution plan and strategy for the successful completion of a mission cannot be overstated. Lord Ram succeeded in formulating a winning plan to take into consideration all eventualities. One very interesting story narrated in Ramcharitmanas is the replacement of real Sita by a Maya (shadow) Sita. Lord Ram advised Sita to stay with Fire god leaving an identical Maya Sita in her place for the period he destroys the demons. This way he preordained shifting his stand, abduction of this replacement Sita by Ravan leading to the attack on Lanka and destruction of Ravan and his demon army.

2.3. Decision Making

Lord Ram’s decision making was solely based on his Buddhi and Vivek and righteous thinking, ignoring any external influence. When proceeding to exile he was advised by Lakshman and others to take the kingdom by force. And he declined. Later Bharat accompanied with Gurus, mothers, other elders and well-wishers approaches him in the forest with a request to end his exile and return to Ayodhya and assume kingship. He declined to return but appointed Bharat as regent to run the kingdom on his behalf. This was applauded liked by all. Lord Ram fully makes use of SWOT Analysis –Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat in his decision making.

2.4. Art of Dialogue

After Ram lifted and broke the Shiva Bow at Sita Swayambar Lord Parasuram comes and shows his anger. Lakshmana talks to him in harse words ma king Parasuram extremely furious. Lord handles his wrath with his courteous and polite talk. He says “Lord the person breaking bow must be one your servants. Please tell me what I your command” Ram goes on arguing politely but sticking to his stand. Parasuram changes his view and happily blesses Ram and gifts is bow. Lord Ram had a very convincing dialogue with King Bali of Kishkindha who questioned the morality of Ram killing him hiding behind the trees. In the end Bali

was fully convinced and supportive of Ram. Ramayana narrates a large number of famous dialogues of Ram with his brothers, sages, Bali's wife Tara, the tribal lady Shabari and the citizens of Ayodhya.

2.5. Consideration of all ideas and suggestions.

During any decision process it is a prudent policy to consider all ideas and suggestions and not reject off hand. Lord Ram asked Vibhishan for advice about crossing the ocean to go to Lanka and destroy demons and free Sita. Vibhishana suggested praying to the ocean to allow a cross over. Ram agreed with this to try though Lakshmana objected to this. This idea did not work but encourage Vibhishan to put forth his ideas in future without any hesitation which were really very helpful. This includes tips on Yajna by Meghanada and Ravan which would have made them invincible and suggesting plan to stop these Yajnas. These were crucial for winning the war and killing Ravan and Meghanad. Vibhishan also freely gave ideas and secret information on Ravan throughout the war which were essential for the victory.

2.6. Encouraging team members to keep morale high.

It is very important to dispel all doubts about the success of the endeavor. Before the Ram Ravan war Vibhishan felt greatly disturbed seeing Ravan on his war chariot and Lord Ram without this and even sandals in his feet. Lord Ram explained him about Dharma Rath, the chariot of austerity, the inner strength like valor, patience, truth, pity etc. and other qualities which really makes one victorious. This dialogue is the famous Vibhishan Gita.

Lord Ram openly expressed appreciation and gratitude to the team members for their contribution, be it Hanuman, Jatayu or someone else. As the story goes a squirrel was dropping pebbles of stone in the ocean during the construction of the bridge and this small contribution was appreciated by Ram.

2.7. Diplomatic and political incidents

Lord Ram appointed Sugriv as the king after Bali's death, consoled Bali's wife Tara and appointed the son Angada as crown prince. Later Angad was sent by Lord Ram as his emissary to Ravan's court prior to war. This ensured healing of any rift and kept the kingdom united.

Lord Ram believed in the peaceful resolution of all conflicts but failing this advocated use of force. When the Sindhu raj did not respond to prayer granting ocean crossing and Ram called for his Agnivan to destroy the ocean he came in line with folded hands. Lord Ram gave the Maha mantra " Bhaya binu hohin na preeti". There can be no friendship without inspiring fear'. Similar incident occurred when Sugriva after becoming a king ignored Lord's work. Lord Ram sent Hanuman and Lakshman with threat to kill if he does not change.

Lord Ram cleverly sought the support of the exiled king of Kiskindha instead of Bali, his elder brother and stronger and mighty king of Kishkindha. Bali had a friendship treaty with Ravan. Bali would not have been supportive of Ram in the ensuing conflict with Ravan for the return of Sitaji from the captivity.

Lord Ram as an astonishing display of amicable feelings with his opponent Ravan invited him to be his Acharya for installaion Shiva Ling at Rameshwaram. Ravan accepted the invitation and even brought Sita with him to join the puja. Ram also sent Lakshman to learn from Ravan who was on his death bed.

After returning from Lanka and assuming the kingship of Awadh Lord Ram established an ideal system of governance lovingly called Ramarajya. In this system none in the kingdom suffered from any bodily, divine or physical pain (Daihik, Daivik, Bhautik Tapa as Ram Charit Manas describes. Ramarajya has been proclaimed as the ideal rule for ages and was advocated by Mahatma Gandhi for Independent India.

3. Concluding Remarks

As we have seen Lord Ram excels in all these episodes The incidents discussed here are only a miniscule fraction of just one facet of the great Ram Katha. "Hari Ananta Hari Katha Ananta". May Lord Ram help us all to discover our own answer for "Who is Ram?"

4. Reference

- 1 Shri Ramcharitmanas by Goswami Tulasdas-Gita Press Gorakhpur