

Viswa:mithra approaches Dasaratha to seek the assistance of Ra:ma in completing the yajna he has set out for.

He says to Dasaratha, “I am doing a yajna for six nights. I need the support of Ra:ma and Lakshmana to protect this yajna from evil”. Initially Dasaratha was apprehensive. He doubts “what protection can a youngster provide to the all-powerful Bramharshi Viswa:mithra?” Saying so, he resists sending Ra:ma with Viswa:mithra. However, he finally relents on the advice of Vasishtha. Ra:ma and Lakshmana go to forest with Viswa:mithra to protect the yajna.

After arriving at the venue for yajna, Viswa:mithra, in the pretext of teaching the brothers, surrenders all he had learnt to the divine brothers. Teaching thus, he says, “now with all the powers and weapons you had learnt, you will be able to save the yajna”.

With the help of all the newly acquired skills Ra:ma and Lakshmana protect the yajna from Ma:ri:cha and Suba:hu – the demons who were causing trouble. Thus, the brothers fulfill the duty assigned to them by their guru. After that, Viswa:mithra takes them to Mitthila and plays instrumental role in the marriage of Ra:ma with Si:tha. At a superficial level it indicates a good teacher-student (guru-sishya) relationship.

**At a deeper level, the yajna Viswa:mithra performs symbolizes the “yajna of life”.** Initially, when Viswa:mithra tried to perform the yajna, he was continually disturbed by Ma:ri:cha and Suba:hu. With all the powers he had, he could have killed them. But, he doesn't do so. After becoming Bramharshi, he becomes wiser. He takes the assistance of Ra:ma and Lakshmana.

The inherent message is that we cannot achieve anything just with the knowledge, skills and abilities we have gained in life. We need divine intervention and support to accomplish any task successfully.

# THE YAJNA OF OUR

## HOW TO OVERCOME OUR

### INNER WEAKNESSES





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