

# WORRYING IS OK!?! THE TALE OF THREE BROTHERS

Not always do we find siblings behave similar despite same parentage and upbringing. Three brothers in Ra:ma:yana – Ra:vana, Kumbhakarna and Vibheeshana, born in the same family behave differently.

Being the grandson of Pulasthya, one of the ten Praja:pathis, and son of Sage Vishravas, Ra:vana was well versed in all the Ve:das and scriptures. The divine lineage is far eclipsed by the asura lineage he inherited through his mother Ke:kasi, an asura princess.

The small negative aspect seen in Viswa:mithra – to always possess the best, is completely personified in Ra:vana. He never thinks twice before usurping others' wealth. Aparigraha, not seeking other's wealth is alien to him. Lanka was built by the divine architect Maya and given to Kube:ra, who made it his kingdom. Ra:vana, attracted by Lanka's grandeur, usurps it in the absence of Kube:ra never to give it back. The fact that Kube:ra is his step brother did not make a difference. Can we say land grabbers are descendants of Ra:vana? Probably, 'Yes'!

All the wisdom Ra:vana had, bit dust because of his greed. His boon from Bramha to not be killed by any being other than Naras (humans) and Va:naras (monkeys), further worsened his aggressive behavior making him one of the worst conqueror of all times. He simply got the best in this creation at his feet, at his beck and call. No one dared say, 'no' to him.

He always worried to have the best for himself.

When he learnt about Si:tha and Ra:ma through Su:rpanaka, he lost no time to kidnap, bring to Lanka and harass her to accept his company. Thanks to the curse, he could not harm her physically. His preoccupation about possessing Si:tha reached its peak that he gave deaf ear to all the good advice from his brother Vibheeshana, wife Mando:dari and even the ever sleeping Kumbhakarna. He ultimately bit death in the hands of Ra:ma, due to his self-centered attitude.

*Says the Lord in Bhagavad Gi:tha...*

*dhya:yatho: vishaya:n pumsaha sangas  
the:shu:paja:yathe: |*

*sanga:th sanja:yathe: ka:maha ka:ma:th  
kro:dho: bhi:ja:yathe: || BG 2.62*

*kro:dha:th bha:vathi sammohaha sammoha:th  
smruthi vibhramaha |*

*smruthi bhramsa:th buddhina:sa:ha  
bhuddhi:na:sa:th pranasyathi || BG 2.63*

We see a parallel to this quality in Dhuryo:dhana during Kurukshe:thra war. Dhuryo:dhana's self-centered attitude to have the best with him, made him deaf, he could not even listen, let alone follow the advice of wise men in his court. During the war, his worry made him disrespect his Guru Dro:na:cha:rya as well. Finally he died in the hands of Bheema

Second among the siblings – Kumbhakarna was fond of eating and sleeping alternately. He could not even think of any other activity. He is also quite wise and knowledgeable. But, his love to eat and sleep made him a dullard. Ha! When I say, fond of sleep and food, does this remind you of someone in your know-how, who does just that? Or, is it the person in the mirror? Yes! There is no dearth of descendants of Kumbhakarna in the modern era as well !

He had respect for Ra:vana, because he fed and let him sleep for six months alternately. No questions asked. While he was aware of the harm that is to



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