

LTL SCRIPT NOTES: RAMAYAN

An adaptation of the epic tale

Scene 1: Ayodhya - The Royal Court

Setting: The grand court of King Dasharatha in Ayodhya. Courtiers are present.

(Narrator): In the prosperous kingdom of Ayodhya, ruled the virtuous King Dasharatha. He had three queens, Kaushalya, Kaikeyi, and Sumitra, but longed for a son.

Characters:

- Dasharatha
- Kaushalya
- Vasishta (Sage)
- Courtiers

Dasharatha: (Sighs) Vasishta, my heart is heavy. Ayodhya lacks an heir.

Vasishta: (Calmly) Rajan, the gods are aware of your virtue. Perform the *Putrakameshti Yagna*. The divine shall answer your prayers.

(Narrator): Following Vasishta's advice, Dasharatha organizes the grand *Putrakameshti Yagna*. From the sacrificial fire, emerges a celestial being with a pot of divine nectar.

Scene 2: The Birth of Rama and His Brothers

Setting: The Queens' chambers. Kaushalya, Kaikeyi, and Sumitra are present.

(Narrator): Dasharatha distributes the divine nectar among his queens. In time, Kaushalya gives birth to Rama, Kaikeyi to Bharata, and Sumitra to Lakshmana and Shatrughna.

Kaushalya: (Holding Rama) My precious child, may you bring glory to Ayodhya.

Kaikeyi: (Looking at Bharata) May you be strong and righteous, my son.

Sumitra: (To her sons) Serve your elder brothers with devotion and love.

(Narrator): The princes grow up to be skilled warriors and virtuous young men. Rama, especially, embodies righteousness and compassion.

Scene 3: Rama and Lakshmana with Sage Vishwamitra

Setting: The forest ashram of Sage Vishwamitra.

(Narrator): Sage Vishwamitra arrives in Ayodhya, seeking Rama's help to protect his *yagna* from demons.

Vishwamitra: Dasharatha, I require Rama's assistance to vanquish the demons who plague my hermitage. He is the only one capable of wielding the divine weapons.

Dasharatha: (Hesitantly) Rama is but a boy, O Sage! But I cannot refuse your request. Lakshmana shall accompany him.

(Narrator): Rama and Lakshmana accompany Vishwamitra to his ashram. Rama slays the demoness Tadaka and protects Vishwamitra's *yagna*.

Scene 4: Sita's Swayamvara in Mithila

Setting: The royal court of King Janaka in Mithila. Kings and princes from various lands are present.

(Narrator): Vishwamitra leads Rama and Lakshmana to Mithila, where King Janaka is holding a *Swayamvara* for his daughter, Sita. The challenge is to string the divine bow of Shiva.

Janaka: Mighty kings and princes, whosoever can string this bow shall win my daughter Sita's hand in marriage.

(Narrator): Many try, but none can even lift the bow. Rama steps forward with Vishwamitra's blessings.

Rama: (Humbly) With your permission, O King, I shall attempt to string the bow.

(Narrator): Rama lifts the bow effortlessly. As he strings it, the bow breaks with a thunderous sound. Sita garlands Rama, accepting him as her husband.

Scene 5: The Exile

Setting: Ayodhya - The Royal Palace.

(Narrator): On the eve of Rama's coronation, Kaikeyi, influenced by her maid Manthara, demands that Bharata be crowned king and Rama be exiled to the forest for fourteen years.

Kaikeyi: Dasharatha, remember the boons you granted me? I demand that Bharata be crowned king and Rama be banished to the forest for fourteen years!

Dasharatha: (Heartbroken) Kaikeyi, you ask for my life! Rama is my eldest, my most beloved son! How can I do this?

(Narrator): Bound by his word, Dasharatha is forced to agree. Rama accepts his exile with grace and obedience.

Rama: Father, Mother, I accept your decision. I shall leave for the forest immediately. Lakshmana, if you want, you don't have to come, it's my duty.

Sita: My Lord, wherever you go, I shall follow. A wife's place is by her husband's side. Even if it's the forest.

Lakshmana: (Loyally) Brother, I shall accompany you both and serve you in exile.

Scene 6: Panchavati - The Abduction of Sita

Setting: The forest of Panchavati. Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana reside in a simple hut.

(Narrator): In the forest, Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana face many dangers. The demoness Shurpanakha is smitten with Rama and proposes marriage. Rejected, she attacks Sita, and Lakshmana wounds her.

Shurpanakha: (Angrily) I will not let this insult pass! I will avenge myself!

(Narrator): Shurpanakha seeks revenge from her brother, Ravana, the ten-headed king of Lanka, and tells him about Sita's beauty.

Ravana: (Intrigued) Sita... she must be mine! I will have her brought to Lanka.

(Narrator): Ravana enlists the help of the demon Maricha, who transforms into a golden deer to lure Rama away from Sita. Rama chases after the deer, leaving Lakshmana to protect Sita.

Sita: Lakshmana, I sense danger! Please, go and help your brother!

Lakshmana: Sister, I cannot leave you unprotected. But I shall draw a line, the *Lakshmana Rekha*. As long as you stay within it, no harm shall befall you.

(Narrator): Lakshmana draws a protective line around the hut. Ravana, disguised as a mendicant, approaches Sita and begs for alms. Tempted to assist, Sita crosses the *Lakshmana Rekha*. Ravana seizes her and carries her away to Lanka.

Scene 7: Hanuman - The Devoted Messenger

Setting: Kishkindha - The kingdom of the monkeys. Hanuman meets Rama and Lakshmana.

(Narrator): Rama and Lakshmana, distraught by Sita's abduction, encounter Hanuman, the devoted servant of Sugriva, the exiled monkey king.

Hanuman: (Humbly) Lord Rama, I am Hanuman, a humble servant of Sugriva. He seeks your alliance in his fight against Vali.

Rama: (Gratefully) Hanuman, your devotion is evident. We accept Sugriva's offer. We shall help him reclaim his kingdom, and in return, he shall help us find Sita.

(Narrator): Rama helps Sugriva defeat Vali and regain his throne. Sugriva sends Hanuman to Lanka to find Sita.

Hanuman: (To himself) With Rama's blessings, I shall cross the ocean and find Sita.

(Narrator): Hanuman leaps across the ocean to Lanka. He finds Sita imprisoned in the Ashok Vatika, lamenting her fate.

Hanuman: (To Sita) Mother Sita, I am Hanuman, a messenger of Rama. He has sent me to assure you that he will soon come to rescue you. I have brought you his ring as a token.

Sita: (Relieved) Hanuman, your arrival brings hope to my heart. Tell Rama to hasten his coming. I cannot endure this separation for long.

Scene 8: The Battle of Lanka

Setting: The battlefield of Lanka. Rama's army faces Ravana's forces.

(Narrator): Rama, Lakshmana, and Sugriva's army reach Lanka. A fierce battle ensues between the forces of good and evil.

Rama: (To his army) Let righteousness be our guide! Let us fight with courage and valor to liberate Sita and vanquish evil!

(Narrator): Many brave warriors fall on both sides. Lakshmana is severely wounded by Indrajit, Ravana's son, but Hanuman brings the *Sanjeevani* herb to save his life.

Ravana: (Roaring) Rama, you dare challenge me in my own kingdom! I am invincible!

(Narrator): Rama and Ravana engage in a final, epic duel. After a fierce battle, Rama slays Ravana with the *Brahmastra*.

Scene 9: The Return to Ayodhya

Setting: Ayodhya - The Royal Palace.

(Narrator): After Ravana's defeat, Rama rescues Sita and returns to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile. Bharata welcomes Rama back with joy and reinstates him as the rightful king.

Bharata: (Joyfully) Brother Rama, welcome back to Ayodhya! Your reign shall bring peace and prosperity to our kingdom.

Rama: (Humbly) With the blessings of our elders and the support of my brothers, I shall strive to rule righteously and justly.

(Narrator): Rama is crowned king of Ayodhya, ushering in an era of peace, prosperity, and righteousness known as *Rama Rajya*.

The End