

What Can I Learn From Ramayana?

There are several lessons that can be learnt from the Ramayana, but the three main lessons that are significant includes being loyal to parents, making good friendships along with not breaking them, and always keeping up our promises. The Ramayana teaches us about being loyal to parents and it is portrayed in the section of the epic, where Lord Rama fulfilled King Dasarata's promise to Queen Kaikeyi by giving up the throne and going on exile to the forest for 14 years. It also teaches us about making good friendships and it is depicted in the section of the epic, where Lord Rama befriended the Varna King Sugreeva and they both helped each other without breaking their friendship. Last, it teaches us about keeping our promises and it is illustrated in the section of the epic, where King Dasarata kept his promise to Queen Kaikeyi by granting two boons to her even though, it broke his heart. These three principles are further elaborated in the following paragraphs.

One of the major things the Ramayana teaches us is being loyal and listening to parents. Once when Queen Kaikeyi had taken King Dasarata away from a battle when he was wounded, he promised her two boons that she can ask anytime. When time came for Lord Rama to be crowned king, she used her two boons that she had obtained from King Dasarata. One is that Prince Bharath will inherit the throne instead of Lord Rama, and Lord Rama has to go in exile to the forest for 14 yrs. When Lord Rama was informed about this by King Dasarata, he obeyed his father and went on exile to the forest without showing any anger or disappointment. This part from the epic conveys the message of being respectful and loyal to parents.

Another key moral the Ramayana teaches us is to establish good and lasting friendship. When Lord Rama and Lakshmana tried to locate Sita, they met the Varna king Sugreeva. They became friends and promised to help each other. Sugreeva promised Lord Rama to find Sita and attack the city of Lanka (Ravana's city) and for exchange, Lord Rama promised to get back Sugreeva's Kingdom from his brother Vaali who had banished him due to a misunderstanding in the past. In the end, both of them fulfilled their promises and continued their friendship. One can learn from this section of the epic the importance of friendship, choosing trustable friends, and equally retaining these friendships forever.

The last significant lesson the Ramayana teaches us is about keeping up the promises. After Queen Kaikeyi saved King Dasarata in the battle, he had promised her of two boons that can be used by her anytime. She decided to save them for later. When Lord Rama was to be crowned the King, based on the ill advice of Queen Kaikeyi's maid Manthara, she used her boons to send Lord Rama to exile and to crown her son, prince Bharath, the King of Ayodhya. After many failed attempts to convince Queen Kaikeyi to seek other boon and in spite of his love for Lord Rama, he granted the boons for the sake of retaining his dynasty value of keeping up the promises. One can infer from this part of the epic that one should never break promises regardless the cost and consequences.

There are many parts in the Ramayana that teaches valuable lessons, but the three morals that stand out from the others are being loyal to parents, making good and lasting friendships, and most importantly keeping up promises. One is that when Lord Rama learnt about the two boons that his stepmom (Queen Kaikeyi) had asked for, he simply accepted his dad without arguing. This teaches us that when our parents advise us something, we should simply listen to them. Also when Lord Rama went looking for Sita, he finds the Varna King Sugreeva who then helps Lord Rama to find Sita for exchange for Lord Rama to help win back his kingdom that was taken by his brother Vaali. This part teaches us that we should always have good friends. Last moral that was important was when King Dasarata fulfilled his two boons that were promised to Queen Kaikeyi though he was heartbroken to send away his son Lord Rama. This teaches us that one should always keep one's promises no matter the cost. To conclude, the Ramayana teaches many lessons that can be followed by any age group which can shape up our life in the future.