



## Four courageous decisions of Sita in Valmiki Ramayana

Punit Sharma

Professor, Training & Placement Officer, KCES Institute of Management & Research, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

### Abstract

Ramayana is the most admired epic of Hindu's. It is a story of two men, one at the good side and the other at bad side. One is considered to be the greatest ideal human of all time and one is taken as the biggest villain of all time in the history of mankind. The one who is called as Rama of Ayodhya is the hero of Ramayana written by great author Valmiki and the other one who is projected as Villain is none other than demon king Ravana of Sri Lanka. But the other side of coin is tremendously filled with great characters and their dedication towards making this epic so pure and admirable. Especially women's who were the centre of the story and who also created an ideal image for the rest of the today's women.

**Keywords:** Ramayana, Seeta, Indian mythological Epic, Lord Rama, Ravana, Sita Haran, earth, sacrifice, decision making, women power

### Introduction

In the great epic Ramayana, there are many characters, which needs to be studied as whole such as the character of Sita, wife of prince Rama. The lady with bold image for decision making by her own and the women who projected as the dedicated and statue of sacrifice. In this paper we are going to see the four major courageous decision taken by Sita as per the Valmiki Ramayana.

### Research materials & method

I have studied Valmiki Ramayana and explored many four highly courageous decision taken by Sita, at the most important time of her life. Every decision she took was in the favor of Rama by creating a positive image of him along with setting an example for the society as well.

### Limitations of the study

There are few limitations needs to be mention here before discussing the critical analysis, that starts with the facts involved in Ramayana, as it's a mythological epic happened in 5000 BC, so the evidences are based on the book itself. Secondly Ramayana was wrote in the form of 24000 verses with over twenty female characters, who are influential and can be studied through the aspects of philosophical research but because of limitation of time and content, I had to focused on major characters, which is Sita.

### Scope for further research

Definitely there is a vast scope over the study for modern day women to understand and get some lessons from Sita, about the ethical decision making and choosing the right side even though it is considered to be bold and courageous by society.

### Analysis

The role of below mentioned character Sita, is analyse through her major four decision which she shaped the Ramayana and

created Prince Rama as Lord Rama along with few decisions were in the goodness of her kingdom. Following are the major analysis of her courageous decision.

#### 1. To be with Rama in the exile

The first and foremost courageous decision taken by Sita, was when Rama asked by his father to leave the Ayodhya and to go for fourteen years of exile. This was compulsion only on Rama not for his newly married wife Sita. She was supposed to be at palace and wait for Rama to come back from the exile. But courageous Sita refused all the amenities & comfort and chose to be with his husband Rama, as a part of her moral responsibility towards his husband. Yet she was very well aware of the danger of the jungle filled with man eaters, wild animals and living demons. It was her sole decision to be with Rama, which made her a great example of true character of sacrifice and relinquish wife.

#### 2. To cross the Lakshman Rekha

During the exile life, Rama & Lakshman built a house of bamboos and everyday they used to go for hunting where Sita was looking after the cooking. One fine day Lakshmana had strong negative feeling about Sita, so before going to help Rama, who was after the golden deer, he marked a line called Lakshmana Rekha, a line which was so powerful that nobody can cross it and thus Sita will be fully protected in the house. After marking the line he went in to the jungle. After a while Ravana came in the form monk and asked for the food. Sita offered him some fruits but he denied by saying that come near me and put it properly in the mug. Sita got confused because she had to cross the line to go near to him. It was a confused situation for her because her family tradition does not allow her to return hungry monk from her doorstep, so she took her own decision by crossing the line and feeding the hungry.

But unfortunately it was Ravana who abducted her later on it was the reason for a battle between Rama and Ravana.

### 3. Refused going with hanuman

Rama wanted Hanuman to trace Sita's location. Hanuman, who was oblivious of his own strengths, was reminded of his valour by Jambhavan. On realizing that he could fly, Hanuman took a giant leap into the skies and flew in the direction of Lanka. After searching a lot, somehow Hanuman found Sita. He transformed into a tiny ape and greeted her as a devotee of Rama. To prove his identity, he handed over Lord Rama's ring to Sita. After the confirmation, Hanuman requested her to flown out of Sri Lanka with him but here again she took a courageous decision to refused the offer. It was so easy for her to escape from Ravana's cruel custody but she wanted to be freed respectfully and with dignity. She had faith in her husband's power to annihilate the demon that had abducted and humiliated her. So she wanted her husband to end Ravana. So that history will consider him a real man and an ideal person. Thus thinking of husband's image, she took a courageous and wise decision. Hanuman respectfully accepted Sita's decision after taking her *chooda mani* (decorative hair clip) as a token of identification for Lord Rama's sake.

### 4. Agreed to return to Ayodhya

After the death and defeat of Ravana. Rama rescued Sita but on the return journey to Ayodhya, Rama told Sita not to come with him to Ayodhya because people will not accept her as she stays with another man for a longer time though she was abducted but the question will rise on her purity. But this time also she took a courageous decision to face the people so she came along with Rama to Ayodhya. This again became a trouble foe her as she has to face many questions from people who were talking on her back. One day Rama itself raised a question on her purity, that changed the entire scenario for once and for all. Here also she took another courageous decision to prove herself pure and pristine by giving *Agnipariksha* (Test of fire) in which she proved her innocence and pureness, which made her more respectable amongst the people of Ayodhya. but later on she left Rama and stayed her own where she gave birth to two boys and brought them as a warrior too.

### Conclusion

The Valmiki Ramayana is a masterpiece in the human history filled with some of the greatest lessons for mankind such as courageous decision made by Sita, which are an example for the women's to take some tips and guidance to tackle the difficult situation.

### Reference

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