

संस्कृतम्
INTERNAL
ASSESSMENT

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TOPIC: DILEEPA'S GOVERNANCE



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DILEEPA'S GOVERNANCE

Sri Rama's father was Dasharatha, who was born to Aja. Aja's father was the great king Raghu, because of whom the dynasty was also known as Raghuvamsha, or the race of Raghu. Raghu's father was emperor Dileepa. The kings of the Sun-dynasty lived very good lives. Not doing anything evil and being pure, they ruled over the kingdom only for the welfare of the people. They were interested only in good things. And they never left anything half-done. They were all very heroic. They helped the angels too. They performed sacrifices as prescribed, for the good of the world. And they were very generous to the needy. They knew statecraft very well. They never uttered falsehood or practiced deceit. They thought that the country's good was their own good and were always careful. They did not have the selfishness that happiness should be theirs only and they only should be profited. They collected money and gave it away as gifts. They spent to help others. They spoke sparingly but truthfully. **King Dileepa was of such lofty lineage.**

Dileepa possessed a strong and a well-built body capable of discharging his duties as a king. His wisdom, learning and enterprises were all very great in proportion to his magnificent personality. He was dreaded by the wicked and loved by the good. Under his rule, the people followed the righteous path. The army was a mere ornament to him because he never depended on it to gain his object, but relied only on his own strength and wisdom. Free from greed, he collected taxes only to spend for the welfare of the people. Sense of duty, self control, fearlessness, tolerance and learning co-existed in him like brothers. He looked after the education, protection and maintenance of his subjects and hence was regarded as their father. Natural calamities did not visit his kingdom and the people were free from the fear of thieves and robbers. He was quite impartial and his virtues existed only for the benefit of others. Being a pious king, he performed sacrifices to please the Gods who, in turn, made the crops grow well by giving timely rains. He ruled the earth with care as if it were a single city. He was an ideal king who possessed most of the family traits

He was taught by the great Sage Vasishta and he was quick learner and was considered very intelligent. He mastered the art of warfare, diplomacy and state administration in no time. Dileepa then became the king of Ayodhya. He was a just king and was loved by all. There was peace and prosperity in his kingdom and the people loved him. Dileepa excelled all others in his handsomeness and good nature. With a broad chest and strong shoulders, he had a build and strength befitting a king. He was courageous and valiant. Those who erred would be terrified at his mere sight. But he appeared to be mild to all good men. He was learned, spoke sparingly, and strong but forgiving. He was generous but disliked flattery, and was very righteous. The sole aim of his life was the welfare of the people. He collected from his subjects only one sixth of their income as tax. And he spent it for there, own welfare. Sudakshinadevi, a daughter of the royal house of Magadha, was Dileepa's queen. She was as good-natured and she was beautiful. King Dileepa looked after his subjects like they were his own children. He was like a father to all his subjects. Dileepa ruled over his kingdom easily, as if it were a town. People were all very happy that it was their good fortune to have such a good king and queen. The three goals of life, dharma, artha and kāma were meticulously followed by Dileepa in a harmonious manner, where artha and kama found their fulfilment in dharma, as it should be, in the case of an extraordinary personality like that of Dileepa, who was the model of men in his conduct.

The King thus had plenty of weal and wealth. However the King and his Queen Sudhakshina had one worry. The couple was getting old and they had no children that would continue his royal lineage. The king, sunken in sorrow, yet had an idea. He felt they should seek the blessings of sages. He resolved to call on sage Vasishtha, the preceptor to his entire dynasty, and follow his advice. So he handed over the administration to his ministers, and getting into the chariot with his queen Sudakshina at an auspicious time, left his capital Ayodhya to go to sage Vasishtha's hermitage. A few persons went with him as his retinue. After returning back from Vasishtha's hermitage, Dileepa did not wish to continue as king any longer. He had ruled over his people for many years. He had punished the wicked and protected the virtuous. So he now decided to hand over the reigns of the kingdom to his youthful son and occupy his own mind with thoughts of God. So Dileepa arranged for the coronation of Raghu who was the crown prince and who had already won the hearts of the subjects. And then on a day he went away with his queen Sudakshina to a hermitage.

Dileepa was a very heroic emperor. He amply showed by his actual conduct that, those who rule over others and have the authority to do so should use their power for the welfare of others. As he became old he gladly gave over the throne to his young son and went away for meditation. In the work that he had accepted, he showed unequalled loyalty and was ready to lay down his life to save Nandini. Born an emperor's son, he became a great emperor. More than that, he acquired great fame with his humility, dutifulness and spirit of sacrifice. With his virtues he won the hearts of all.

Not only did Dileepa show by his own conduct how men in high positions should be in their lives, but also he became an example as a person of ideal qualities. He became a great man memorable for all time.

Thank you