All of us know that Ramayana is all about Sri Ramaâ€™s  
story.   
  
Kaikeyi asked for boons ordaining Rama to go to the  
forest, Sita humbly following Him, her falling in love  
with a deer, Ravana taking her away, Rama waging a war  
with Ravana and eventually getting Sita back.  
  
Beyond this, Ramayana is a great benefit to our  
everyday life too. How? If we read Ramayana  
carefully, chapter by chapter, we can realize the  
import of the story in our daily life, as conveyed by  
the great Maharshi.  
  
The first part of the epic talks about a prosperous  
Ayodhya. The overflowing Sarayu river, the abundance  
of grains, the devoted king and the devoted subjects,  
the affluence of the people â€“ all these signifying a  
wealthy and prosperous land of Ayodhya is clearly  
depicted.  
  
One day, Dasharata addressed the masses and expressed  
his wish to crown Rama and retire from his regal  
duties. The citizens rejoiced. Rama was then  
informed about the crowning ceremony scheduled for the  
following day. The whole city was agog with this  
happy news â€“ decorations and preparations for the  
crowning ceremony were on.  
  
Hearing this news, Kaikeyiâ€™s aide, Manthara (Kuni)  
rushed to Kaikeyi â€˜Hey! Did you hear that Kausalyaâ€™s  
son Rama is going to be crowned?â€™   
Kaikeyi, being a noble person at heart immediately  
gifted her with a necklace.  
â€˜Rama is like my own son! I love him even more than  
Bharata. What difference does it make crowning Rama  
or Bharata?â€™  
  
Manthara said, â€˜Oh! My dumb Mistress! Donâ€™t you  
realize that if Rama becomes the king, even Kausalyaâ€™s  
servants will disrespect you? You will be trampled  
once Rama is crowned. Bharata will be doomed!â€™   
Saying thus, she poisoned Kaikeyiâ€™s mind so much so  
that the latter merely submitted to her - â€˜What should  
I do now?â€™  
  
Manthara said â€˜Long ago, when you assisted Dasharata  
in a war, he granted you two boons. Exercise them!   
One, let Bharata be crowned. Two, have Rama exiled  
for 14 years.â€™  
  
Kaikeyi was ready to ask these boons.  
  
That night, when Dasharata came to her harem, she lay  
there as if in abject misery. As instructed by Kuni,  
she asked Dasharata for the two promises. It was a  
blow to the king.  
  
Dasharata pleaded with her to take back her request.  
He beseeched her, â€˜Let Bharata rule. But donâ€™t  
separate Rama from me. You know I canâ€™t live without  
him.â€™ Kaikeyi was stubborn.Begging with Kaikeyi all  
through the night, Dasharata was completely wrecked by  
grief and swooned.   
  
At dawn, Kaikeyi summoned Rama and explained  
Dasharataâ€™s promise to her. â€˜Your dad has given me a  
word that you shall go to the forest!â€™ she said.  
  
If we read this part of the story, we find that the  
whole town was plunged into grief. Rama leaves for  
the forest and the entire Ayodhya follows him. Wails  
of sorrow sound in every home and there is  
inauspiciousness all over. The queens Kausalya and  
Sumitra wail, Vasishta cries, the whole kingdom is in  
tears as they see Sita following Rama to the forest.  
  
As Rama leaves the kingdom, he halts on the bank river  
Sarayu for the night. The citizen who have followed  
him, lie down to sleep. Rama sheds tears seeing their  
pitiable plight â€“ Such a flourishing and happy kingdom  
as Ayodhya now bears a deserted and orphaned look! The  
scene is now transformed into a gloomy one. There is  
inauspiciousness all over. The king, who ruled for  
60,000 years, passes away. The queens are widowed.   
Bharata renounces the kingdom and is disturbed because  
of the false blame on him.   
  
In a moment, the whole scenario has turned  
topsy-turvy. Who is the reason behind this? Is it  
God? Fate? The kingâ€™s misconduct? No! It is thanks to  
the woman with a hunchback (Kuni) named Manthara.   
  
Introducing an insignificant character called  
Manthara, Valmiki shows how she could cause a whole  
kingdom, its king, princes and everyone to crash.  
  
Any organization or setup should be wary of the fact  
that it could be shaken to its roots by sinister  
designs of even lowly employee from an insignificant  
corner.  
  
This important management precept which is a part and  
parcel of our everyday life is being eloquently taught  
to us by Ramayana.  
  
Regards  
  
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare   
Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare   
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Spirituality, Mental peace or problems in life or  
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His Holiness Sri Sri Swamiji personally answers these  
questions for you and suggests prayers.   
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