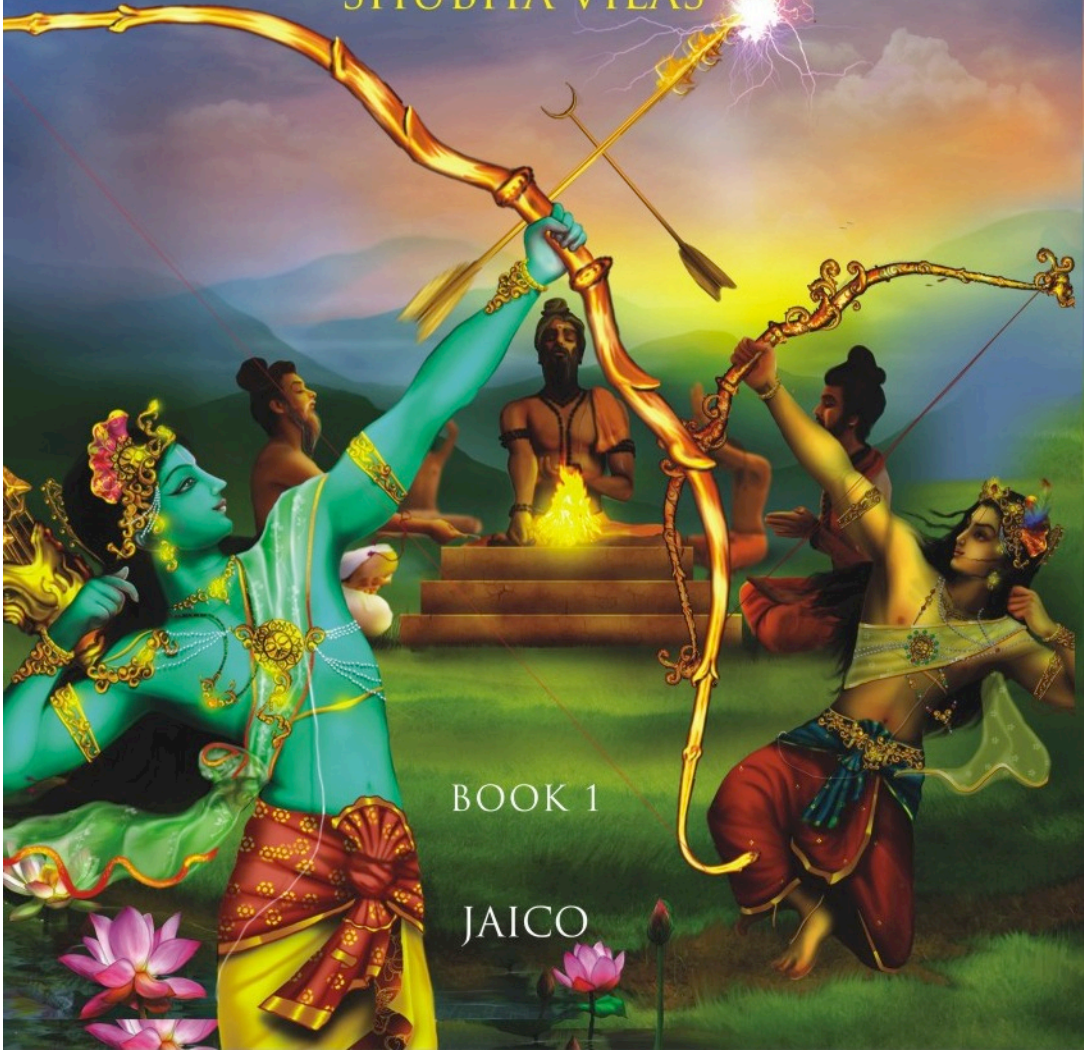


RAMAYANA: THE GAME OF LIFE

RISE OF THE SUN PRINCE

SHUBHA VILAS



BOOK 1

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RAMAYANA – THE GAME OF LIFE

Author's Note

When was the last you came across a novel that you felt like reading all over again? Have you ever met characters in a story that appear to you different every time you read about them? Most stories can be enjoyed once, at the most twice; they have nothing new to offer after the second read. But unlike regular stories, the *Ramayana* grows more interesting with every reading. An all-encompassing story, it adds value to every type of reader and addresses every human need. Here, we find adventure and romance, mysticism and sinister plots, struggles and immortal values, poetry and intellectual analogies, and so much more.

Some books teach ideals and some books entertain. *Ramayana: The Game of Life*, is an attempt to present the timeless story in a way that is entertaining to the heart and enlightening to the intellect.

A good game is full of twists and turns at every stage and promises to thrill with its absolute unpredictability of results. But no one wants the same to happen in real life. Life should be extremely predictable and smooth – this is what most of us are comfortable with. Stories like the *Ramayana* present the realities of life in the most exciting manner. This magical epic arms us with valuable tools to deal with the various twists and turns of our own lives. The simple wisdom of *dharmic* tales like the *Ramayana* is always fresh and gives us the clarity we often need, while being rooted in time tested traditional values .

Those who are looking only for the story of the *Ramayana* will find it here, packed with plenty of exciting drama and action. This book keeps Valmiki's *Ramayana* front and center, yet explores other versions, gently weaving in aspects of *Kambar Ramayana*'s beautiful poetic analogies and folk tales that are in philosophical alignment with Valmiki's *Ramayana*. Those who seek to relate the story to their own lives will find in the footnotes, practical learnings gleaned from various facets of the story. These sutras will help them navigate and steer the ship of life through stormy seas and clear skies alike.

Essentially, everyone of us falls in one of the three categories in the game of life: positive contributor, negative destroyer or protective mediator. So here we find all the sages headed by the iconic Vishwamitra striving to contribute positively to society through the Vedic sacrifice, even as the demons headed by Maricha and Subahu, try to destroy the positive by casting intense negativity. Rama and Lakshmana are trying to protect the positive forces by casting spells of intense negativity. And Rama and Lakshmana work to protect the positive from the corrupting influence of the negative by wielding a protective shield of arrows. This, for instance, is a classic scene taken from the game of life. Which role do you want to play?

Book One of the six volume “*Ramayana: The Game of Life*”, which draws extensively from Valmiki Ramayana’s Bala kanda, is entitled *Rise of the Sun Prince*. The coming together of myriad forces that it takes to give rise to a perfect hero are brought out through the early life of Rama. As Rama carefully weighs the pros and cons of so many of His decisions and words, we catch a glimpse of the loftiness of a real hero. What is more, we also begin to value the simplicity of being a good student.

In *Rise of the Sun Prince*, we are exposed to the struggles of an imperfect teacher, one who relentlessly fights his internal battles to rise above his shortcomings. And this, in a way, is the central hero of this book - Vishwamitra, the ever-angry sage. As the teacher mentors his pupils, Rama and Lakshmana, they too mentor him at another sphere. As the story advances, we witness the angry sage and imperfect teacher blossoming into a focused spiritualist and perfect student, learning the laws of progressive living.

We palpably feel the angst of Dasarath, his struggle as a father on the one hand and as a king on the other. How does a loving father resolve his conflicting role as a dutiful king, especially when duty obstructs his love?

The book also unravels the story of Sita, whose life revolves around a bow. For a girl, handling the delicate balance between love and tradition is like walking a tightrope between life and death. Are traditions made to die or are

they made to live on? This is a question only the heart-moving saga of the marriage of Sita and Rama can answer.

Rise of the Sun Prince reveals to us the range of principles that underlie the healthy relationships in our lives - between parents and children, between husband and wife, between brothers, between a leader and his followers, between a teacher and his students.

The *Ramayana* is not a book; it is a way of life. We invite you to delve into *Ramayana: The Game of Life...* to master your own game of life.

Author Profile

Shubha Vilas, a spiritual seeker and a motivational speaker, holds a degree in engineering and law with specialization in patent law.

His leadership seminars are popular with top-level management in corporate houses. He addresses their most crucial needs through thought provoking seminars on themes like 'Secrets of Lasting Relationships', 'Soul Curry to Stop Worry' and 'Work Life Balance' to name a few.

He believes that a good teacher, no matter how knowledgeable, always sees the process of learning and teaching simultaneously as an inherent aspect of personal and spiritual growth.

He connects with youth in various premium institutes across the country, inspiring them to live a life based on deeper meaningful values. Close to his heart is his role as a guide and teacher for school children teaching foundational values through masterful story telling.

He also helps individuals apply the teachings of Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana and other *dharmic* traditions in dealing with modern day life situations.

Rise of the Sun Prince is available at all leading book stores across India; online bookings on www.flipkart.com; www.tulsibooks.com, Kindle edition on www.amazon.com.