

## **From Bandit to Brahmarishi: Becoming of Sage Valmiki**

**Narrator: In Treta Yuga there was a man by the name Ratnakar. He used to make his living by hunting, stealing and robbing. One day, a great sage Narada was passing through the forest.**

**(Narada enters the stage with the Veena in his hands)**

Narada: Narayana! Narayana! Narayana!

**Ratnakara enters the stage. Dressed in dark clothes, unkempt hair, Axe on his shoulders and the Bow and Arrows.**

Ratnakar: Stop the mumbling and hand over all that you have or else I'll chop your head off!

Narada: My dear man, all that I have is this old Veena and the rags. If you want them, you can certainly have them. Why do you want to chop my head for these?

Ratnakar: What can I do, I make a living by robbing and hunting.

Narada: Brother! Stealing is sin. Killing animals is also sinful. Why do you such evil acts?

Ratnakar: Sir, what can I do? I have a large family. There are my old parents, my wife and children. What else can I do?

Narada: My friend, will any member of your family will partake of your sins also? Go and ask them and bring back their reply.

Ratnakar: Ofcourse, they love me and so they will share the sins committed by me.

Narada: Go and find out for yourself.

Ratnakar: Are you trying to trick me to escape?

Narada: Well child, if you do not trust me, you can first tie me to this tree and then go.

**Ratnakar tied Narada to the tree. Narada kept on chanting and playing Veena- Om Namo Narayana.**

Scene 2

**On the Stage are Ratnakar's father, mother, wife and children. Ratnakar approached his father.**

Ratnakar: Father, I rob people to get food and clothing for you all. It seems that it is a sin. Do you not share in the sin?

Father: You sinner, you are the one that do such bad things. I never taught you those things. Why then should I share your sins? No! Never! You have to face the consequences of your own actions.

Ratnakar: You always preach and don't love me. Let me ask my mother. Mother, Will you share my sins? Won't you?

Mother- Go away you stupid, I have never advised you to live a sinful life. You are responsible for your actions.

Ratnakar – My parents have gone senile. Let me ask my wife.

Ratnaker- (to his wife) Darling- Do you know, how I earned to provide for you and your children with food and clothing. It is by robbery. But I steal for your sake. Therefore, you are also a partner in my sin. Aren't you?

Wife (Tara): What are you saying? What we have to do with your sin. You are my husband and my children are your children. It is your duty to look after us and give us food and clothing.

Ratnakar: Oh my God, what a fool I was, totally blind and focused only on making a living without being aware of my actions. How can I redeem of my sins. Who can help me. Yes., I know, that great Rishi, who opened my eyes., My Guru. He is the only hope. Let me see his guidance immediately.

Scene3

**On the stage, Narada is tied to a tree and chanting happily with Veena in his hand – Om Namoh Narayana.**

Ratnakar rush to Narada and untie from the tree with disappointed face and falling at Narada's feet. Oh Sir.

Ratnakar; Oh great sage, what a great sinner I am. I understood that I am responsible for my actions and no one can partake the consequences of it. How can I atone for all the sins I have committed? You are my only savior.

Narada : "Don't be afraid, I shall teach you a way to wash off your sins.

Ratnakar: Please guide of divine Sage..

Narada: Chant this mantra "Ram".

Ratnakar: Mmmm.Mara. Mara.

Narada: Ram Ram.

Ratnaker: Mara. Mara means death, why do you want me to repeat this word.

Narad: It is Ram, the very word that by chanting will remove all sins. If you cant repeat Ram , it is okay that you repeat Mara Mara continuously.

Ratnaker: Mara Mara Mara. Mara Mara (slowly it turns to Ram Rama Rama ).

Narad: I shall come here again. Till then you should not get up and go away and continue to chant Ram Nam Mantra in your mind.

#### Scene 4

**Narrator- Ratnakar continued his tapas chanting name of Rama. His eyes were closed. His whole mind was concentrate on the chanting of the name of his lord and forgot his existence. He had neither food nor sleep for days and days. And ant hill grew all over him. He could not be seen by anybody. At last one day sage Narada came and he knew that Ratnakar was inside the anthill. The tapas of Ratnakar also transformed the heart of his family. The family also began their spiritual journey by singing the glory of lord Ram.**

**Narrator: Mother is teaching the children the song glorifying Lord Ram. The meaning of the Song is**

**“Chanting Ram’s name, with a true and loving Heart , will remove obstacles, purify the heart, remove negativities, will bring you bliss, prosperity, and enlightenment. Know that Your father, mother, family members and friends are all the personification of Ram and by loving and respecting them you will earn grace of Ram. This will transform us and make our lives happy and blissful.**

On the stage, ladies are singing- Ram Ram Ram-3, Shriram Ram Ram bhajan.

**Narrator: At last one day Sage Narad came and knew that Ratnakar was inside an anthill. Very carefully he cleared the anthill. Narada chanted Rama Nam in his ears, then he opened his eyes and he gently touched him all over. Ratnakar felt a new life allover. He touches the feet of Narada. Narada lifted him up and embraced him.**

Narad: “Ratnakar, You have attained highest order of sage Brahmarishi and due to ant hill you will be known as Brahmarishi Valmiki.

Valmiki : Sir, you visit all three worlds and therefore knows what happens anywhere. You can certainly answer my questions. Please tell me who is the most virtuous man among all human beings on the earth?

Narad: One who always speaks the truth and desires the well being of everyone.

Valmiki: Who is this great Man?.

Narad: He is Lord Ram, whose words and action are praised by the gods and is the noblest of all man in the world.

Narrator: Then Sage Narad narrated the story of Lord Ram to Valmiki. Valmiki told to Rama’s children – Luv and Kush while writing the great epic Ramayana.

Narad: Story of Ratnaker shows a life of a Bandit transformed to a great Brahmarishi by chanting Ram’s Name. This gives hope for all of us that we also can reach the highest spiritual order by Chanting Ram’s name.

**Narrator – Bolo shri Ram Chandra ki Jai! Bhrahmarishi Valmiki ki Jai. Sage Narad ki Jai.**