

## Virtues of Shabari in Ramayana



Shabari was born in the hunter's family and a very devoted female saint of Lord Rama. Though she was born in the lower caste, she had great virtues which are described below.

One of Shabari's virtues was **Compassion**. She showed her compassion towards hundreds of goat and sheep which were brought to be killed and served as dinner for her marriage feast. The thought of killing so many animals for the marriage feast disturbed her. So she eloped from her house leaving everything in search of a Master or Guru.

In addition to her compassion, she also did a great deal of **Service** to her master, Sage Mathanga. This service was her other virtue. She was dedicated to her master and rendered good services in the ashram. Old age approached Sage Mathanga and he was on the verge of attaining Mahasamadhi and Shabari enquired him how to attain it for herself.

Her master had envisioned the arrival of the Lord in the form of Rama. He was very disappointed that he would not be there to see the Lord Rama but gave the responsibility to Shabari to take care of the ashram and serve the Lord . By doing this she would easily attain Mahasamadhi. She was hand-picked by her Guru because of her **virtues, Compassion, Service and Devotion.**

Above all, Shabari had **Bhakthi or Devotion and Patience.** After sage Mathanga attained Mahasamadhi, Shabari started preparing the ashram for Lord Rama's arrival. She would clean the ashram, go to the forest to pick the best flowers and fruits to offer it to the Lord. She did this work daily waiting for the Lord's arrival without losing hope. Even during her old age she would still walk with the help of a stick to the forest in search of the best flowers and fruits to worship the Lord. She had dedicated herself to serve the Lord daily with lot of patience.

All the years of Shabari's Devotion, Compassion, Service and Patience was very pleasing to the Lord Rama. When the moment came which she had waited for her entire life, she made Lord Rama, Lakshmana and Sita walk on the flower path and made them sit on the bed of flowers which she had prepared. She offered them the fruits to eat which she had got from the forest. The fruits were special because Shabari tasted them to ensure they were sweet before offering to the Lord.

Rama was very pleased with Shabari and her thought to serve only the best thing impressed him as each of her action showed bhakthi in it. This incident also shows that Lord treats everyone of his devotees equal irrespective of their family, education and other material things.

Shabari's great virtues like **Compassion, Devotion , Service and Patience** helped her attain Mahasamadhi as her master Sage Mathanga mentioned. She is still remembered for all her virtues and a role model for young and old generations.

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