**Lord Rama helping Sugriva, the monkey king**

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Lord Vishnu’s seventh incarnation was in the Trita Yuga as Lord Rama. The story of Lord Rama is called as Ramayana, and Lord Rama took birth as the son of King Dasaratha. When Lord Rama was about to be crowned as the king, he was ordered to go in exile for 14 years by his mother Kaikeyi. Lord Rama’s wife Sita and his brother Lakshmana also accompanied him to the forest. One fine day, Ravana, the king of Lanka, abducted Sita in the forest. Lord Rama and Lakshmana were severely pained at the disappearance of Sita and set out with great vigor in search of Sita. Many animals helped them by giving hints, and upon the advice of the monster Kabandha(whose curse was removed by Lord Rama) , Lord Rama decided to seek the help of Sugriva, the monkey king who himself was on the run, at Rishyamuka.

Sugriva had been abandoned by his own brother Vali (king of Kishkinda) and was living in the hiding with his friend Hanuman for fear of getting killed. Vali had mistakenly assumed that Sugriva wanted to kill him for the throne, and hence had vowed to kill his own brother. Vali had also snatched Sugriva’s wife and all his wealth.

Lord Rama met with Sugriva and Hanuman for help to find Sita. Sugriva explained to Rama his miserable condition and assured Rama of all the help if he got back his kingdom and his wealth. His kingdom of monkey soldiers would be of great help to Rama to locate the whereabouts of Sita. Lord Rama thought about this for a long time and agreed to help Sugriva.

Lord Rama advised Sugriva to go and fight Vali: Lord Rama did not want to fight Vali directly because he wasn’t his direct enemy, but promised Sugriva that he would stay back and slay Vali by bowing him at the right time. Sugriva agreed with Lord Rama and did exactly what Lord Rama had suggested. While Sugriva and Vali were battling, Lord Rama shot an arrow at King Vali when Vali was about to kill Sugriva. Vali, in his death-bed, cried to Lord Rama that he himself would have helped him if Lord Rama had asked him for his help. When Vali asked him why Lord Rama had slayed him from behind, Lord Rama mentioned that Vali had erred by confiscating Sugriva’s wealth incorrectly and also that a friend’s (Sugriva’s) enemy is his own enemy. However, Lord Rama blessed Vali and gave him the eternal freedom of Moksha.

Once Sugriva got back his kingdom, he provided all the help to Lord Rama. With the help of Sugriva’s army and his friend Lord Hanuman, Lord Rama located Sita and got her back safely.

Besides Sugriva and the other monkey warriors, several other animals, such as the squirrels, bears, eagles, etc., had also helped Lord Rama. Lord Rama in return gave them various boons and also blessed them wholeheartedly!