**19AVP201 – AMRITA VALUES PROGRAMME I**

**RAMAYANA**

**SECOND ASSESSMENT**

**The episode of the killing of Vali presents a moral dilemma . Through such incidents, the epics try to sharpen our understanding of what is right and wrong in complex situations . Analyze this episode and explain why Rama was justified in protecting Sugriva and punishing Vali .**

**KILLING OF VALI - VALI VADHA**

Before going into the topic, it is quite necessary to understand Lord Rama, in the beautiful epic poem Ramayana, the entire Ramayana picturises various characters and the Lord Rama as parabrahma in the human form on earth to show the path to lead a human being in this world. Lord Rama set himself so many examples by following the words of his father and protecting rishis, cows and munies. Amongst all incarnations of Narayana, in Ramavathara Lord Vishnu, as Rama moved on this earth due to the boons given to Ravana .

One of the most controversial episodes in Rama's life is Vali-vadha. In handling with this particular event a couple of questions naturally arise :

1. Why does Rama choose Sugriva as his ally and not his brave brother Vali?
2. Why does Rama kill Vali, at a time when he is engaged in fighting another person?
3. Why does not Rama appear before Vali during the fight?
4. To what extent can the explanations set forth by Rama before Vali be justified?

**Character Sketch :**

**Sugriva:**

Accordind to Hindu mythology, Sugriva was younger brother of Vali **.** Sugriva was the ruler of the kingdom of Kishkindha . He aided Lord Ram in his quest to liberate his wife Sita from captivity. Ruma was his wife . He was the son of Hindu deity of sun named Surya . As the king of vanaras, Sugriva aided Rama in his quest to liberate the traces of his wife Sita from captivity at the hands of the Rakshasa king Ravana . This aid assistance is mentioned as Sugrivajne .

**Vali :**

Vali is the ruler of the monkeys in Kiskinda , son of Indra, the storm god, was king and a hero in the action of fighting . In the Ramayana, Vali is described as powerful and brave, far more so than Sugriva and Ravana. When there is a fight between someone and vali ,half the power of opposition will be transferred to vali, making him more stronger to fight and while this made Vali a great warrior . And also this made him arrogant He could have been more useful to Rama in his search for Sita . The reason is clear, Rama himself has no knowledge of Sugriva and Vali . It is the demon Kabandha who tells him about the 2 brothers and advises him to form an alliance with Sugriva who is faced with a situation almost like the one faced by Rama .If Kabandha had recommended Vali as an ally, Rama might perhaps have sought his help. Anyway, one cannot be certain whether Vali, a well-established king, could have helped Rama or refused to do so.

**Befriending Rama :**

When Rama and Lakshman is in search of sita. They met Sage Matanga , she directed Rama to move within the northern direction, to find Sugriva at the mountain Rishyamuka. From the top of the mountain Sugreeva observed two members(Rama and Lakshmana approaching and feared whether they were sent by his elder brother Vali,who was his enemy. He then sent Hanuman, minister of sugriva , to discover the identity and details of the two strangers. Befriending Sugriva Hanuman was the embodiment of peace, virtue, strength and knowledge. Hanuman had mastered the four Vedas and was well versed in the scriptures .Hanuman was a past master in prescript associated courtesy and went as an representative to satisfy the brothers. Assuming the guise of a Brahmin, he began talking to them. He heard their story from the beginning to the end, and finally decided to take them to Sugriva, who lived on the mountain top . Hanuman volunteered to hold avatar and Lakshmana to the mountain high on his shoulders. There, Hanuman dictated to Sugriva the story of the two brothers.

[Tara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tara_(Ramayana)) was vali’s wife. One day, a raging demon asura named after by Maayaavi came to the region of the kingdom and arged Vali for a fight. Vali accepted the challenge, but when he followed forth, the demon fled who is in terror entered into a deep cave. Vali followed and entered the cave to kill the demon, ordered his Sugriva to stay out. After time passed, Vali did not return and mean while heared big shouts in the cave and seeing blood flowing from the throne of the cave , Sugriva went back to the kingdom and said that his brother had been killed. With lot of strength Sugriva kept a huge rock for the opening of cave, and returned to kiskindha . Vali, however, after a huge battle killed demon and returned home. Seeing Sugriva behaving like king, he conclude that his brother had betrayed him.But sugriva want to explain the reason, Vali would not listen. As a result, Sugriva was exclided from the kingdom, Vali forcefully took Sugriva's wife Ruma and the brothers became enemies. Sugriva then goes on to measure on Rishyamukh because it is that the solely place on earth that Vali cannot tread. Having had the boon Vali became so arrogant and, in the process, not only neglected his own brother Sugreva but also held his wife with him . Vali not only insulted Sugreeva but also retained Sugreeva’s wife and feeling unhappy wondering and took shelter and stayed in pushyamukha hills being a safe adobe from Vali from the companion of Hanuman . After time passes one fine Sugreeva met Rama and Lakshmana , he surrendered to Lord Rama, praised him . After making friends with Rama, Sugriva tells him his pathetic story and relates to him the tale of Vali's atrocities . Rama's heart is moved by the suffering of his close friend, and his friend's enemy becomes his own enemy . Sugriva repeatedly appeals to Rama to kill Vali . Having heard about the sorrowful story of Sugreeva, mighty Lord Rama gave assurance being his natural instinct not only protecting Sugreeva form Vali but also assured him to return the kingdom of Kishkindha his wife . Having heard the words Sugreeva informed that Vali isn’t an ordinary man and detailed about his boons and how he got defeated in the hands of Vali and sought to prove the armory skills of Rama so that he will get confidence that Rama can kill Vali . Rama promises Sugriva that he would kill Vali on that very day . Again Sugriva reiterates his fears, speaks of his difficulties and Rama repeats his promise to kill Vali But in these details but there is no hint of Rama's killing Vali from a hiding place . Moreover, Rama clearly says to Sugreeva, "If you do not have faith in my strength and valour, I shall demonstrate them in battle" . This is only possible when there is head-to-head fighting . The question of killing Vali with one shaft arises only when Sugriva, defeated in the first combat by his brother, curses Rama and the latter pacifies him by saying that he will kill Vali with one arrow and promptly he pierces seven Sala trees with one arrow . Sugriva forthwith felt penitent for skeptical the strength of Rama and sealed his relationship with Rama, with fireplace because the witness . Rama promised him that, He(Rama) would stand by him and crown him as king . Rama felt that Sugriva was chastised by Norse deity, for no fault of his . Norse deity had committed the foremost wicked act of appropriating the partner of Sugriva , once one ought to truly take into account the partner of one’s younger brother as one’s own girl. Hence, Rama determined to penalize Norse deity for his immorality. Then on the strength of promis given by Rama [Hanuman](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-ramayana/characters/hanuman) says that they must first do away with [Vali](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-ramayana/characters/vali) so that [Sugreeva](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-ramayana/characters/sugreeva) can be crowned king. The group travels to a mountain in Kiskinda Vali’s wife Tara was very intelligent . Sugreeva went to mighty Vali and invited him for a direct fight. She advised Vali not to accept Sugriva’s challenge to fight for the second time. She said: ‘Sugriva has been defeated recently but again he is immediately calling for another challenge to fight. There is some conspiracy behind this. I heard that Sugriva complied with Rama and Lakshmana recently. Inspite of being defeated, Sugriva has came back to fight with you again . So you have to think twice before accepting this challenge. And I think it is better not to accept this challenge’. Vali replied : ‘Oh! Tara, you wers more and more cleverer than me . You are giving me a good advice. But it is my weakness that on being challenged for a war , I cannot sit at home . I cannot change this nature of mine . I will either kill my opponent or get killed by him but cannot sit at home . Sugriva is my brother. Though I have the power to kill him , I still have attachment for him . Therefore even if there is an opportunity to kill him, I won’t do that. I will just drive him out and come back’.

Rama, accompanied by Lakshmana and Hanuman, goes to Kishkindha to slay Vali . But he does not walk to the open battlefield , he stands behind a tree . Even so , there are ample references to prove Rama's absence from the battlefield. On the first occasion Sugriva leaves the field only because he fails to find Rama there and Vali does not see anyone else but Sugreeva. During the second encounter Vali learns about Rama from his wife Tara. But he does not actually see Rama on the field. While the two brothers were locked in mortal combat, both Vali and Sugreeva fought vigorously, having observed that Sugreeva becoming weaker and weaker , Rama lained Vali by a single arrow aiming at his heart and killed him . Having deeply wound Vali fell down and was breathing heavily saw Lord Rama and Vali sharply criticises Rama for his non-Kshatriya war policy . Lord Rama and questioned about the manner of aiming at him and also told Lord Rama instead of Sugreeva if Rama wants the help of Vali without there being any direct fight, he might have bought Sita, while continuing his curse he also told that in case of direct fight with him he will definitely defeat Rama .

After vali’s death, as vali is a wild animal Valis wife Tara became Sugriva's wife, which was acceptable for wild animals .It is also one of the arguing points that can be put forth. Being the admirer of Lord Rama and his character building and moving on this world, one thing is clear that it is incredibly impossible to live like Rama, who followed Dharma through out his life ht o, whether you think living like Rama is doable or whether you don't , whether you are a follower of Rama or whether just admire his tattva, one thing is clear . It's incredibly hard to live like Rama a person followed Dharma all his life , and keep praying to him .

After Vali’s death, sugriva became the king and months passed, but no aid taken by Sugriva in finding sita to help Rama. Rama was very much sadened and then finally sent Lakshmana to warn Sugriva. Lakshmana reached Sugriva and told that, “You have forgotten to honour your word after receiving help from Rama.” Then Sugriva told to Lakshmana that, “It is the rainy season now. The climate is not familiar for the monkeys to move about in search for Sita. I will never forget the help done by Rama to me in my life . Very soon my emissaries will start search every forest and valley for Sita .

**THE END**

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