

Rāma (11)—a son of Daśaratha known for his righteousness and truth: Parikṣit compared to him: An *avatār* of Hari born in the Ikṣvāku line; killed Rāvaṇa: His fame equalled that of Pṛthu.¹ King of the Kośala country and brother of Lakṣmaṇa, Bharata, and Śatrughna: Disfigured Sūrpānakā; killed Mārīca (Subāhu?) and other Rākṣasas in the *yajña* of Viśvāmitra, bent and broke the bow of Śiva and married Sītā, put down the pride of Paraśurāma, spent a forest life with his wife in obedience to his father's command, killed Khara, Triśiras and 14,000 Rākṣasas; performed the funeral rites to Jaṭāyu, and Kabandha, killed Vālī for the sake of Sugrīva, put up a bridge across the sea, welcomed by the Lord of the seas; killed Rāvaṇa and Kumbhakarna in their capital, ordered Vibhiṣaṇa to perform funeral rites to his dead kith and kin; recovered Sītā; enthroned Vibhiṣaṇa; left in an aerial chariot to Ayodhyā, embraced Bharata, paid respects to Brahmanas, Gurus, elders and was crowned by Vasiṣṭha just like Indra. In his period which was the Tretāyuga, it looked like Kṛtayuga; sons, Kuśa and Lava; ruled for 1010 years;² led an exemplary household life, by his loyalty to his wedded wife; performed sacrifices by giving all his kingdom as *dakṣiṇa*, retaining only the ornaments and dress, and for Sītā, her *saumāṅgalya*. The Brahmanas returned the kingdom as they had no use for it and praised him.³ One night he went about to know what people talked of his rule. He heard a person saying that Rāma was mad after Sītā, taking her back though she was at another's house for long. Next day he abandoned her and left her at Vālmiki's abode. Here were born his two sons—Kuśa and Lava. When Sītā entered the bowels of the earth, Rāma led a life of celibacy for 13,000 years giving joy and happiness to the people of Kośala. Sent his brothers on *digvijaya* and himself resided at the capital.⁴ Hearing of the Rāmacarita of Vālmiki, rides one of *karmabandhas*;⁵ resided on the banks of the Kadalī river;⁶ the 24th in the Tretāyuga; 7th incarnation