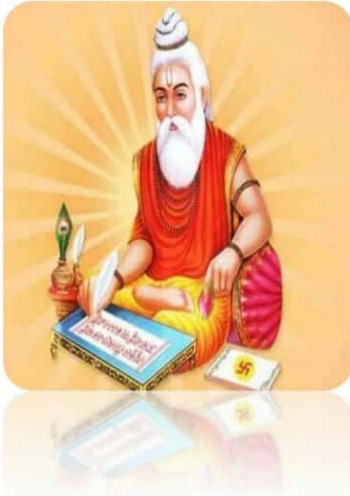


TITLE: DR AMBEDKAR SCHEME FOR CELEBRATION OF BIRTH/DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHARISHI VALMIKI

❖ EXECUTIVESUMMERYOFFPROPOSAL

Rising Nature Foundation, a non govt development organization proposes to implement programs titled **"DR AMBEDKAR SCHEME FOR CELEBRATION OF BIRTH/DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF Maharishi Valmiki"** in collaboration with Ministry of Social Justice, covering Cultural Programs to **"Celebrate the birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki"**.



Maharishi Valmiki

Maharishi Valmiki was the composer of the first Sanskrit poem (the Adikavya) known the world over as the epic Ramayana (Story of Lord Rama), hence he is called the Adikavi or First Poet - the Poet of Poets of India. Maharishi (the great sage) claims the distinction of being the author of the holy epic 'Ramayana', consisting of 24,000 verses. He is also believed to be the author of Yoga Vasistha, a text that elaborates on a range of philosophical issues. There are different versions regarding the time period and life of Maharishi Valmiki. The Maharishi Valmiki Ramayana is believed to be dated variously from the period 500 BC to 100BC. But at the same time Maharishi Valmiki is also said to be the contemporary of Lord Rama. Sita took refuge in her Ashram where Lava and Kusa were born. Against this backdrop, the period of Maharishi Valmiki is likely to date back to thousand of years. There is much

controversy regarding the life of Maharishi Maharishi Valmiki. There is a age old belief that before turning into a sage Maharishi Valmiki was a highway robber called Ratnakara. This widely accepted story has been explained in detail below. But a judgement given by Justice Rajive Bhalla of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the year 2010 could change an age-old belief about Maharishi Valmiki. Justice Bhalla quoted the research done by the head of the Maharishi Valmiki Chair of the Punjabi University, Patiala, Manjula Sehdev, and said that, "actual facts appear to be lost in the mists of antiquity." The judge stated the salient features of the research, saying that "from Vedic literature up to 9th century AD, there is no reference as such that Maharishi Valmiki led a life of a dacoit or highwayman." It was also stated that in his own work 'Ramayana', is called Bhagwan, Muni, Rishi and Maharishi Valmiki and no reference of his highway man ship is available there.

EARLY LIFE

Maharishi Valmiki was born as Agni Sharma to a Brahmin named Pracheta (also known as Sumali) of Bhrigu gotra.[14][15] According to legend he once met the great sage Narada and had a discourse with him on his duties. Moved by Narada's words, Agni Sharma began to perform penance and chanted the word "Mara" which meant "die". As he performed his penance for several years, the word became "Rama", a name of the god Vishnu. Huge anthills formed around Agni Sharma and this earned him the name of Maharishi Valmiki. Agni Sharma, rechristened as Maharishi Valmiki, learnt the scriptures from Narada and became the foremost of ascetics, revered by everyone.

There also exist some legends about Maharishi Valmiki having been a thief before turning into a rishi. The Nagara Khanda of the Skanda Purana in its section on the creation of Mukhara Tirtha mentions that Maharishi Valmiki was born a Brahmin, with the name of Lohajangha and was a devoted son to his parents. He had a beautiful wife and both of them were faithful to each other. Once, when there was no rain in the region of Anarta, for twelve long years, Lohajangha, for the sake of his hungry family, started robbing people that he found in the forest. In the course of this life he met the seven sages or the Saptarishi and tried to rob them as well. But the learned sages felt pity on him and showed him the folly of his ways. One of them, Pulaha gave him a Mantra to meditate upon and the Brahmin turned thief got so engrossed in its recitation that ant-hills came up around his body. When the sages returned and heard the sound of the mantra coming from the ant-hill, they blessed him and said, "Since you achieved great Siddhi seated within a Maharishi Valmika (an anthill), you will become well-known in the world as Maharishi Vālmīki.



The first shloka

Maharishi Valmiki was going to the river Ganges for his daily ablutions. A disciple by the name Bharadwaja was carrying his clothes. On the way, they came across the Tamasa Stream. Looking at the stream, Maharishi Valmiki said to his disciple, "Look, how clear is this water, like the mind of a good man! I will bathe here today." When he was looking for a suitable place to step into the stream, he saw a crane couple mating. Maharishi Valmiki felt very pleased on seeing the happy birds. Suddenly, hit by an arrow, the male bird died on the spot. Filled by sorrow, its mate screamed in agony and died of shock. Maharishi Valmiki's heart melted at this pitiful sight. He looked around to find out who had shot the bird. He saw a hunter with a bow and arrows, nearby. Maharishi Valmiki became very angry. His lips opened and he cried out,

mā niṣāda pratiṣṭhā tvamagamaḥ śāśvatīḥ samāḥ

yat krauñcamithunādekam avadhīḥ kāmamohitam

You will find no rest for the long years of Eternity
For you killed a bird in love and unsuspecting

Emerging spontaneously from Maharishi Valmiki's rage and grief, this is considered to be the first shloka in Sanskrit literature. Maharishi Valmiki later composed the entire Ramayana with the blessings of the god Brahma in the same meter that issued forth from him as the shloka. Thus this shloka is revered as the first shloka in Hindu literature. Valmiki is revered as the first poet or Adi Kavi and Ramayana, the first kavya (poem).

❖ Role in Ramayana



Maharishi Valmiki played an important role in Uttara Kanda, the last chapter of epic Ramayana. It is believed that The Uttara Kanda was not original work of Maharishi Valmiki. It is believed to be taken up from Sesha Ramayana. According to the legend Rama send Sita to forest. Sita finds refuge in Sage Maharishi Valmiki's ashram, where she gives birth to twin boys Lava and Kusha. Lava and Kusha were Maharishi Valmiki's first disciples to whom he taught the Ramayana. Bala Kanda of the epic also telling the story of Maharishi Valmiki narrating the Ramayana to his disciples Lava and Kusha.

Role in Mahabharata

Maharishi Valmiki was present during Mahabharata time and he was one of the many sages that visited Yudhisthira after war. He told Yudhisthira the benefits of worshipping Shiva. Once upon a time, some ascetics that possessed the homa fire cursed Maharishi Valmiki as guilty of Brahminicide. The sin possessed him as soon as he was cursed. So he prayed to Shiva and he became cleansed of all his sins. He later told Yudhisthira that he should also pray to Shiva like him.



Reincarnation

✓

ishnudharmottara Purana says that Maharishi Valmiki was born in the Treta Yuga as a form of Brahma who composed Ramayana and that people desirous of earning knowledge should worship Maharishi Valmiki. He was later reincarnated as Tulsidas, who composed the Ramcharitamanas, which was the Awadhi-Hindi version of the Ramayana..

❖ PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Dr Ambedkar Scheme For Celebration Of Birth/Death Anniversary Of Maharishi Valmiki. This program aims to know about Maharishi Valmiki what role in Ramayana , Mahabharata and know about his famous motivational shloka and his culture. So that our generations inspiration from his culture & his through.

3) GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF EXECUTION OF PROJECT.

Target Area: -

Target Geographical Area will be **Bareilly**, District of **Uttar Pradesh**

Target Group

- ✓ The target group under this scheme will be Students of Schools and Colleges between age group of 8-20 years.
- ✓ Implementation Plan: -
- ✓ **Rising Nature Foundation** will organize cultural Programs at above mention Address: - **Mohalla Mirdhan , Bisalpur Road ,Faridpur District Bareilly , Uttar Pradesh Pincode- 243503**
- ✓ To mark the birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki, our hired staff put up a short program.
- ✓ The tiny tots sang about the world being round which was melodious as well as interesting. The program ended with the chief guests' message which was bold and clear that "One need not be born into great and influential families but with goal, hard work and responsibilities one can become great".