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Srimad Ramayanam - Importance of guru as enunciated by Rama

Aranya Kandam in Srimad Ramayanam is considered to be mOkSa kAndam as lot of personalities such as SaraBangar, Jatayu, Sahara get mOkSA.

The episode of Sabhari is quite important, 1

not just because she got mOkSam but highlights the importance of an ideal guru.

An ideal guru can uplift the soul from from a bottomless and chalk out a clear path to be never born again, I.e., mOkSam (paramapadam). 2

Sabhari was a vagabond, who by chance stumbled onto Rishi Mathanga. He offered her redemption by giving tAraka brahma (Rama Nama) and assured that she would be visited by the one behind the meaning of the name (Rama).

Sabhari was quite diligent in being the right disciple 3

for the Rishi in carrying out her responsibilities by expecting the person Rama. True to the word of Rishi, Rama visited and enquired about her.

Valmiki explains this with the following slokas -

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1) ■■■■■■■■ ■■ ■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ - Is your tapas happening without any hindrance?

2) ■■■■■■■■ ■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■■■■ - In order for the tapas to happen 5

without any hindrance, Kama and krOdA should have subsided.

3) ■■■■■■■■ ■■ ■■■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■■■ ■ ■■■■■■■■ - In order to control lust and anger, food has to be controlled.

4) Why is this important? This helps in being disciplined in the larger pursuit of reaching the goal, mOksam 6

5) Leading a disciplined life leads to contentment. Eg is reading Sundara Kadam or Srimad Bhagavatham daily.

6) In order for all the above to happen, one needs an ideal guru, and once He comes into life, it takes a U-turn and steers towards paramapadam. 7

This saga ends with Valmiki saying that Sabhari reached the worlds of her guru as witnessed by none other than Rama.

Jai Sriram.

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