

The Avanti PRE Curriculum

Resource Sheet 7.6.5a (1)

“Vibhishana Joins Rama”

When Ravana heard from his messengers that Rama had already arrived at Mahendra Hill, and was preparing to cross the ocean to Lanka, he summoned his ministers for advice. They unanimously decided to fight Rama to his death. To them, Ravana was indestructible and they, undefeatable. Only Vibhishana, the younger brother of Ravana, was cautious and opposed to this.

Vibhishana said, "Brother Ravana, you must return the chaste woman, Sita, to her husband, Rama, seek his forgiveness and restore peace."

Ravana became upset with Vibhishana and told him to leave the kingdom of Lanka.

Vibhishana, through his magical power, reached Mahendra Hill and, whilst flying overhead, sought permission to meet Rama. The monkeys were suspicious but took him to Rama as a captive.

Rama's asked his general for their advice. When it came time for Hanuman to speak, he said: "Whenever a person is deceptive, you can see it in his body language. Even if he tries to hide it, there will be some signs he is lying or trying to cheat. I see no such signs in Vibhishana."

Rama thanked all the generals for their sound counsel. He then gave his own opinion, and concluded, "Whoever sincerely takes shelter of me just once, saying, 'My Lord, from this day on I am yours', then from that day on I will protect them. They will not perish. This is my vow"

Having been accepted, Vibhishana explained to Rama all that happened in Ravana's court and sought his asylum. Rama gave him sanctuary and Vibhishana became the closest adviser to Rama in the war against Ravana. Rama promised Vibhishana to make him the future king of Lanka. Vibhishana provided much vital and confidential information about the military installations in Lanka.