



Synopsis & Concept Note

The morally uplifting story of Ramayan continues even after Shri Ram fulfills his mission of slaying Ravan and freeing the world of his atrocities. Shri Ram returns to Ayodhya and is crowned King of Ayodhya. He has a new purpose to fulfill. He has to establish Ram Rajya and create that enduring model of just and righteous administration and rule.

So he does that. And now, unfolds the emotional saga of Sita. Sita finds happiness and security when Shri Ram takes her back as the queen of Ayodhya after the Agnipareeksha which she goes through obediently. But Sita's happiness is short – lived. On hearing an indirect disparaging remark about Sita's purity Shri Ram sends his pregnant queen to the forest at her behest. Sita wants to prove to the subjects that her Lord is the ideal ruler for whom no one is above the moral law of the Kingdom.

Sita takes refuge in the Ashram of Valmiki and she gives birth to twins, Luv and Kush. In the ashram nobody knows her as her identity is not revealed to anybody. This is a request she has made to Valmiki.

The most heartwarming part of Ramayan, traditionally referred to as Uttar Ramayan, now unfolds. Sita brings up her two sons with utmost care, instilling values of courage, truth, humility and compassion. Under the guidance of Rishi Valmiki the boys learn all the Vidya and arts of warfare and become masters of all the gifts that made Shri Ram the most courageous and just King. Sita watches her sons growing up and thus lightens her sorrow. In a way she becomes the earliest example of the strong, single parent and a woman of substance who draws strength from the inner reserves of her soul.

In the palace at Ayodhya Shri Ram is lost without Sita. He sleeps on the floor on a mat made of grass. He gives up all the luxuries because he knows Sita is living the life of a yogini.

When Luv and Kush are grown up they seize the horse let loose by Shri Ram in the Ashwamedh Yagya a traditional challenge thrown by mighty rulers to establish their sovereignty. They do not know that they have to confront Shri Ram.

Luv and Kush vanquish their uncles Laxman, Bharat and Shatrughna not knowing that they are crossing swords with their father's brothers. Sita has brought them up to respect Shri Ram as the ideal King but has not told them that they are his sons. In the fourth round they defeat Hanuman. The victorious boys now walk into the streets of Ayodhya singing the ballad of Ram Katha.

One of the finest moments of the emotion packed epic comes when Shri Ram realizes that Luv and Kush are his sons. Sita arrives at the nick of time to ensure that there is no conflict between her Lord Sri Ram and

her brave sons. It is Valmiki who tells Shri Ram that Luv and Kush are his sons. Shri Ram asks for proof and Sita's self-respect is hurt. She decides it is now time for Sita to return to her Mother Earth. She calls out to mother Earth who opens up and engulfs her. Shri Ram is left desolate and shattered.

From time immemorial, literary minds have hailed the lyricism and emotional content of Uttar Ramayan. It is being brought to the screen in its entire poetic and sentimental splendor by the Sagar Parivaar, the masters of mythology, on NDTV Imagine.