

RESEARCH ARTICLE



2395-2636 (Print);2321-3108 (online)

## Ramarajya: A Utopian Ideal

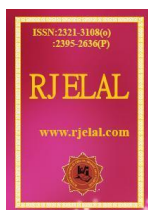
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DOI: [10.33329/rjelal.13.3.450](https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.13.3.450)



### Article info

Article Received: 22/08/2025  
Article Accepted: 11/09/2025  
Published online: 16/09/2025

### Abstract

This abstract mainly emphasizes the quintessential society under the rule of Rama in Maharishi Valmiki's Ramayana. This abstract doesn't only call attention to the peace and consonance established among human beings under the rule of Rama, but it shows how other entities were happy under his rule. This abstract explores the concept of dharma in Ramarajya. This abstract studies how dharma helped Rama in gaining reputation as an ideal king. These abstract further studies how people lived without grief, sickness, poverty and has a longevity of life. This abstract further describes how ecological balance was maintained under Rama's rule. This also shows the selfless rule of Rama in making society utopian. The study is mainly focused on psychological and spiritual utopia where people are free from envy under Rama's rule. Ramarajya in Maharishi Valmiki's Ramayana is not just a mythological factor but continuous inspiration for leaders at present all over the world.

**Key words:** Ramarajya, Maharishi Valmiki, Ramayana, utopian, ideal, Dharma.

### Introduction

Ramarajya can be seen in the final section uttarakhanda of Maharishi Valmiki's Ramayana. This happens after fourteen year exile of lord Rama and his coronation as a king. This coronation of king Rama is not the end of the epic, but it is the beginning of the glorious rule of king Rama within the context of dharma which stands as an inspiration even today.

Uttarakhanda shows the beginning of such a rule which is idealistic. The events prior to Uttarakhanda like Rama's dharma, his respect towards teachers, parents, his sacrifice of the throne for father, his Victory over Vali and Ravana; thereby establishing dharma convinced everyone that he is the only one as their future king. Due to all these ideals of dharma, Rama is considered as the idealistic king with idealistic rule even at present. As people of Ayodhya

know his dharma, they knew that he would treat them as their own children. So, they happily accepted him as their king.

Ramarajya is completely a rule of dharma. Rama doesn't rule based on cruelty and force but his rule is rule of dharma. He rules according to raja dharma where he rules them with honesty and fairness. This is completely contrast to rule of Ravana which is based on cruelty, and self-imposing attitude.

Maharishi Valmiki says that people never had any kind of suffering under the rule of Rama. People were never deprived of food and no land was dry. Everyone was healthy and youngsters didn't die before elders. This is not only materialistic Prosperity but moral prosperity too.

Under the rule of Rama, everyone lived with dharma (doing his or her duties) devoid of social conflict. Maharishi Valmiki says that all varnas lived happily under lord Rama. Citizens lived with veracity by following their dharma.

This utopian nature not only limited to human beings but also extended to nature. The sea is serene, breeze of wind is gentle. People don't have any fear of diseases or beasts or external threats.

Many critics say that Rama's rule is paternal. It is not paternal, it is beloved. People could reach him easily for justice. Happiness of people is ultimate goal of Rama. As it can be seen how he sacrifices Sita, his pregnant wife for their happiness and to keep them in the path of dharma.

Ramarajya gives great inspiration to politics as well as society. It is not just fictional, it can be achieved through proper inspiration as well as aspiration. Many get confused with Mr. Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi's Ramarajya. Equality, secularism and dignity of poor were the ideals. But, in these goals, equality and secularism are not possible in any society. Extreme equality will lead to serious oppression

and extreme secularism leads to dissatisfaction in practicing religion.

### **Discussion**

Maharishi Valmiki's Ramarajya is an idealistic society because it is based on dharma. This showcases the fact that if dharma is followed then only a society can be utopian otherwise no, especially by the ruler. This displays the fact that when people and ruler both follow Dharma, society not only becomes utopian, but it is called a golden age just as Rama Rajya.

Rama rajya as portrayed by Maharishi Valmiki is not any society but a true utopian ideal. The actual debate follows the fact that through dharma, Maharishi Valmiki has shown how one can give rise to serene and prosperous society. As the discussion is about Ramarajya, the consultation is related only to those aspects which take place after Rama becomes the king.

### **Main aspects of Rama Rajya**

#### **Dharma: A Leading Factor**

The basic aspect of Rama Rajya is dharma is a guiding principle; the main principle in the constitution of Rama rajya. "Ramo Vighrahan Dharma" says Mareecha to Ravana in Aranya khanda. A demon has said these words. It means if dharma takes a form, that is Rama. Rama's deeds, rule everything is guided by dharma. He not only follows dharma but sees that people follow Dharma. That is the reason when people said should they also endure if their wives stay somewhere and come just as Rama is putting up with Sita. Rama realised that if he doesn't take an action society would be driven towards infidelity. So, he sacrificed Sita, his consort. He chooses dharma over his personal happiness.

#### **A Fair Society**

In Rama Rajya, there is no mental suffering as well as any social suffering. People are free from all sorts of calamities as disease, poverty and everyone has complete life span.

The land is productivity and nature is ample. There is no theft, deception, or tyranny. As these were absent from the country, people lived in peace and harmony.

#### A Fair Justice system.

In Rama rajya, justice is not only delivered to human beings but all creatures. For example, in Uttarakhand, a dog comes and asks for justice. Lord Rama immediately does Justice to that dog. It is a true democratic governance where every entity got justice.

#### Beloved Rule

Rama's rule is beloved. He acts as a father figure to his subjects. He is not a tyrant or doesn't stay distant away from his people. Everyone trusted Rama. For example, after sacrificing Sita, Rama has done many yagnas to protect his country from calamities.

#### Social Harmony and Virtue:

Citizens under rule of Rama are good and happy people. They follow dharma and live in unity. Every young person respected elder in Ramarajya. This is the greatness of Lord Rama, who followed dharma and made his people follow dharma.

#### The Utopian Ideal:

Rama Rajya is a utopian ideal for several reasons:

##### Ideal State

Maharishi Valmiki doesn't just tell a story, but he presents a perfect system of governance. All rulers around the world should strive for this Rama rajya.

#### Importance of dharmic ruler

This utopian ideal was only possible through the dharma of Lord Rama. It shows that a dharmic ruler is the pillar stone of perfect society. A ruler's honesty, dharmic values and the attitude of sacrifice are important to achieve a utopian society.

#### A Perfect World

In the present world, where there is poverty, calamity and tyranny everywhere, the only solution is Ramarajya. Ramarajya is an answer to tyranny of terrorism. As everyone lived in perfect balance and unity by following their dharma.

#### Conclusion:

While this concept is deep, it is not difficult to achieve. According to Maharishi Valmiki's Ramayana, it contributes for elevation of moral values in society. It shows such a happy society where the ruler constantly upholds dharma and strives to keep his people happy. Ramarajya stands as an inspiration for many political leaders as well as philosophers.

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