



The Austin Hindu Temple & Community Center

Presents

Sundarkandh Recital - **Saturday, January 28, 2023**

In front of Sri Hanumanji (in the Main Temple Courtyard or in front of Sri Rama Parivar Sannidhi)

Typical Program

3:15 pm: Set up

3:30 pm (sharp): Invocation & Recital Starts

6:00 pm: Aarathi

Sunderkandh is the fifth kandh (episode) of the Hindu holy epic 'Ramacharitamanas' composed by Goswami Tulsidas. Regarding this kandh it is said,

**"Sundere sundero Ram sundere sunderi katha
Sundere sunderi Sita sundere kim na sunderem //"**

Meaning of this is, in Sunderkandh everything is sunder (beautiful). Rama is beautiful; Sita is beautiful and the story is beautiful. It is said Sunderkandh was composed in front of Sri Hanumanji and at the end of Sunderkandh, Tulsidasji requested to imbibe life in this kandh by special blessings of Sri Hanumanji.



When Rama sets out for searching Sita towards Lanka, they were at the seashore at Rameshwar and were planning how to cross the sea. Jamwant reminded Sri Hanumanji of his forgotten divine powers. Sri Hanumanji sets out towards Lanka in search of Mother Sita. This is the commencement of Sunderkandh. On the way Hanumanji overcomes lots of obstacles in the form of Sursa and Lankini. While searching for Mother Sita, He meets Vibhishan [brother of Ravana] who tells Hanumanji about Ashok Vatika. Hanumanji meets Mother Sita. He then destroys the Ashok Vatika [beautiful garden]. Ravan got annoyed and sent his sons to kill Him but in this process one of his sons got killed. However, they could overpower Hanumanji who brought Him in front of Ravan. Ravan ordered his followers to light a fire on his tail. Sri Hanuman made his tail bigger and bigger and then he jumped around engulfed whole Lanka. After doing this Hanumanji went to meet Sitaji and said He will come with Sri Ram to rescue her. Hanumanji narrated the whole incident to Sri Rama on returning from Lanka. Upon this Rama started his journey towards Lanka by creating Ram setu (bridge) on the sea and enters Lanka. This is the Sunderkandh being narrated in verses and poetry form. It is believed that recitation of Sunder Kandh brings peace and harmony not only the reciter but the listener as well as the household & community.