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ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION.

TOPIC: Our Cultural values and its present Applications as Per Ramayana.

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Introduction:

In the vast tapestry of the Hindu mythology and literature, the Ramayana stands as an immortal epic, revered for its profound teachings, timeless wisdom and enduring impact on Hindu culture and belief. Composed by the ancient sage Valmiki, Ramayana narrates the extraordinary journey of Lord Rama, the Seventh Incarnation of Lord Vishnu, his consort Sita, his brother Lakshmana, along with his loyal devotee Hanuman and a host of other divine and mortal characters. Ramayana illustrates the ancient Indian culture through ideals like Dharma (Righteousness), Duty and Pursuit of Virtue. Ramayana embodies social ideals through characters such as Lord Rama, who is the epitome of moral and virtuous leader, Sita depicting purity and devotion and Hanuman who stands as a great example of loyalty, spirituality and respect. It also explores the concept of purushartha (human endeavours), and the importance of balancing Artha (Wealth) and Kama (Desire) with Dharma.

Ramayana's Impact:

* Art and Literature:

The epic has inspired countless works of art, literature, music, dance and sculptures across the ~~Ind~~ Indian sub-continent and beyond. Regional variations, such as Tulsidas's Ramachithramanas ~~or~~ in North India or the Thai Ramakien, reflect its universal appeal and adaptations to local conditions. As an Adekanya, it established framework, theme and metrical structure of literature in every major language. The epic has inspired a famous poet, Kambha to translate the chronicle in Tamil.

* Festivals:

Major Hindu festivals such as Diwali [Celebrating the return of Rama to Ayodhya] and Dussehra [Commemorating the defeat of Ravana] are directly linked to the Ramayana's narrative. The annual dramatic re-enactment of the epic tale, known as Ramlela, is declared as a Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, by UNESCO.

* The Blueprint of a righteous society - The concept of Ramarajya:

Ramayana illustrates the concept of Ramarajya, which is an ethical, ideal and utopian state, which is regarded widely as a model of governance and societal structure and continues to influence the political philosophy and administration of the Indian society. The Ramayana has its importance on the later Sanskrit poetry and the cultural practices and its main figures and celebrated and commemorated in various nations and religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, etc..



* Problem Solving and the Act of Forgiveness:

The epic emphasizes ^{reconciliation} ~~reconciliation~~, such as Rama's will to establish ~~Ravana's~~ brother Vibishana as the rightful king of Lanka, demonstration the power of dialouge and the inclusive leadership for long term stability.



* Global Cultural Diplomacy:

The story of Ramayana has been passed to several parts of the world by the ~~travellers~~ and traders, since the Christian Era to the ~~Southeast~~ Asia. The Ramayana's cultural practices are evident in the culture and religious ideas of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia, marking its long/wide range of cover and influence on the world. The local ~~retellings~~ have read the narrative, and embedded the art forms and cultural practices in the fabric of other religions.

* Consequences of Ego:

Ravana's downfall, despite possessing immense power and knowledge, stands as a cautionary tale against uncontrolled ego, arrogance and greed.

The epic tale has its own application of the culture in the modern world as, following:

* Dharma - The central theme of Lord Rama's life:

Dharma, the most central theme of Lord Rama's life along with duty. The entire life of Lord Rama is dedicated to upholding dharma (righteousness), explaining the importance of selfless and moral conduct. Dharma has its own application in modern-day, by doing our work as a student by studying well, taking care of the welfare of the family as a parent,

doing our work sincerely as an employee and helping others as a community member with honesty, respect and truth.



* Virtuous Living:

It depicts us that leading a moral life can conduct happiness even in the face of adversity. The real life example of virtuous living is by choosing ~~over~~ our career with dharma, truth, and basic principles of life, with our own contentment and satisfaction. Ramayana reinforces to respect elders and family rules from the heart, just as Rama obeyed his father and went to live in a forest for 14 years.

* Light vs Darkness:

Ramayana's epic narration of one of the noblest wars in the history between Rama and Ravana, explains the victory of good over evil, which is one of the main principles of ancient Hindu culture as "Pursuit of Virtue". "Truth always Triumph" is the proverb that suits the war between Rama and Ravana. This has its very own modern day application when a person or a group tries to fight against the social inequalities, hierarchies, and for a peaceful country. Inclusivity offers a great example, with the efforts to celebrate the various cultural festivals and several religious upbringings in the society, and create a sense of belonging.

Real life application of Ramayana's principles in a Student's life:

Being a loyal friend, I could support the peer during their tough times (like a family problem), rather than just abandoning them or gossiping about them. By offering my fullest efforts to a group performance, projects, sports etc... with pure dedication and involvement, just as Hanuman did in Rama's mission. I would never seek personal glory,

(or) personal milestones and achievements. This is very similar to the case of Lord Hanuman. Despite possessing immense strength [like lifting mountains], Lord Hanuman always acted as the servant of Lord Rama. This depicts and nurtures the art of humility. Having a conflict (or) a fight over a friend (or) a family member may be emotionally draining. I can learn to take things in a positive way and not take it seriously. This may help children like me, to have inner-peace, confidence and happiness. A student can use the dedication towards studies (Eg. Planning to score high marks in a particular exam, etc.) and be away from the social media to have a great self-control.



Applications of Ramayana's Core principles in the development of a nation:

Ramayana has provided a base for the freedom struggle of our country by providing powerful ethics and values. The concept of 'Ramrajya' had been specifically invoked by Mahatma Gandhi. It also provided a motivation for the freedom struggle with the pursuit of good over evil. The Ramayana, also provided the values that ~~can~~^{are} be embedded in our curricula, for moral-based learning. As the kingdom of Lord Rama, flourished with gold, silver, money, etc... it provided a framework for the economic development of our country, leading our country to progress.

Conclusion:

As the devotees immerse themselves in the devotion towards Lord Rama, some attain inner-peace and lead a spiritual and divine life, while others follow the core principles of Ramayana. May the values and morals of Ramayana bring a positive influence among the people. Jai Shri Ram!