The Infinite Wisdom of Maryada Rama

Retold & illustrated by

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How Rama became Intelligent

In ancient Andhra Pradesh, there lived a couple called Subbanna and Muthyalamma. They owned a tiny piece of land and made a living tending to a few sheep. Theirs was a simple life and they were quite contented with their lot. Their only source of worry was that they did not have any children.

One day, as Subbanna was walking along a forest path, he heard the wail of a child. Looking around, he found a baby boy under a bush!

When Subbanna brought the infant home, Muthyalamma was overjoyed. The couple thanked Goddess Durga for answering their prayers. They named the boy Rama and brought him up as their own.

Rama grew up to be a timid little boy. While all the other children his age went to school, the boy was quite happy day-dreaming and tending to his flock.

Rama's simple nature made him the constant butt of the village children's practical jokes.

One day, as Rama was sitting under a tree and chewing on a blade of grass, a mischievous boy from the neighbourhood decided to play a prank on the simpleton.

Pointing to a flock of cranes flying in the sky the prankster said, "Look, Rama, look! Here you are lazing about and your sheep are flying away to another land!"

"Oh, my god!" shrieked Rama, at the thought of losing his flock, and ran madly after his 'flying sheep'. Whatever would his father say if he returned home without the sheep!

The village kids doubled over with laughter and drove away Rama's sheep.