**Ram Navmi (Birth Celebration of Lord Ram)**



Namaste and our warmest wishes to you on this auspicious day of Ram Navami

*“Wherever four Hindus live, Ram and Sita will be there.”*

So said Swami Vivekananda; the reverse is equally true – wherever Ram and Sita live, the people there will remain and live as Hindus.

Every hill and rivulet of Bharat bears the imprint of the holy feet of Ram and Sita. He is called the Maryada Puroshotam – the great one who never deviated from the norms of Dharma. The touchstone of human excellence is Dharma. Devotion to Dharma came first in Ram’s life and considerations of his personal joys and sorrows came last. It was his supreme commitment to Putra-Dharma (duty of a son) that made Ram leave for the forest for fourteen years. He upheld the supremacy of Dharma in each one of his human relationships and hence became an ideal son, an ideal brother, an ideal husband, an ideal disciple, an ideal friend, an ideal king, and an ideal foe. His supreme concern was the welfare of his subjects. When Bharat came to him in the forest, imploring him to return to Ayodhya, Sri Ram firmly refused. Here was enacted a scene unparalleled in world history – each of the brothers trying to convince the other to accept the emperorship of a great and mighty kingdom. Sri Ram turned every adversity into an opportunity to serve, to unify the nation, embracing all the people, city dwellers and vanavasis alike, in his travels throughout Bharat. His intense adoration for the motherland is immortalized in the words:

*"janani janmabhoomischa swargaadapi garreyasi"*

(Mother and the motherland are to me greater than the heavens themselves)

Every character in Ramayana has its own greatness. Ram had only words of kindness for Kaikeyi who was responsible for his banishment to the forest. And even for Ravana, the abductor of his wife, Ram had praise for his erudition and prowess. Such acts of truthfulness, self-control, sacrifice, love, devotion, grace and leadership are unparalleled in the annals of human history.

For us Devi Sita, Sri Ram and Mahavir Hanuman are a perennial source of inspiration, guiding us through difficult times.