

SHOW THEM THE WAY
Show Angada and Hanuman the way to reach Sampati.



SAMPAATI AND JATAYU

Lord Rama was sad because Ravana had taken Sita away. So, he sent Hanuman and Vali's son Angada to search for her. After they had searched for a month, they reached the seashore. The monkeys were very sad that they were unable to find Sita. They thought it was better to die than go back in failure. So, they lay down, to die taking no food. A huge vulture spotted them, and decided to eat them as they die.

Angada was very unhappy that they had not found Sita. He felt it was better to die than to tell Lord Rama that he had failed. So, he said to the vulture, "Eat me. I'm glad to die! But I will not have a glorious death like Jatayu!"

Jatayu was a brave bird that Ravana had killed when the bird had tried to rescue Sita. The huge vulture stopped when he heard Jatayu's name.

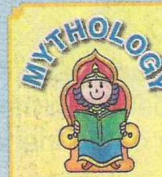
He asked Angada, "How do you know Jatayu?"

Angada replied, "Why do you want to know? Who are you?"

Then, the vulture explained, "I am Jatayu's elder brother Sampati. We are sons of Aruna, the God of Dawn. One day, both of us had a contest to see who could fly the highest. As we started flying, Jatayu flew very close to the Sun. He felt dizzy, and the Sun's heat started to burn his wings. I tried to protect him, and I flew between him and the Sun. But my wings got burnt, and I fell on the Vindhya Mountains. I could not fly any more.

Jatayu offered to stay back and help me when he saw my sad state. But I asked him to leave. Jatayu was worried that I would not be able to hunt for food, but I told him that instead of hunting, I would eat dead animals. Jatayu decided that he would also eat only dead animals, because he had caused my sad state. From that day, we vultures eat only dead things.

Jatayu left, and I was very unhappy. But then, sage Nisakara, who lives on the Vindhyas told me that one day I would get a chance to serve Lord



Dear Parents and Teachers, Children should be made familiar with tales from the Puranas and legends. This is a famous story from our mythology. The story has been edited keeping in mind the age of the readers.

Rama. Then, my wings and feathers would grow back again. I have been waiting for this to happen."

Angada said "Oh! Sampati! If you want to help Lord Rama, tell us where Ravana took Sita."

Sampati said "Ravana is the king of Lanka, an island in the middle of the sea. My son Suparsva saw Ravana taking a pious lady, who glowed like the morning Sun, to Lanka. She must be Sita. So, search Lanka, and you might find Sita". Just as Sampati finished speaking, his wings and feathers grew back.

He said goodbye to Angada and Hanuman and flew away happily.

● DR. ROHINI CHINTA

