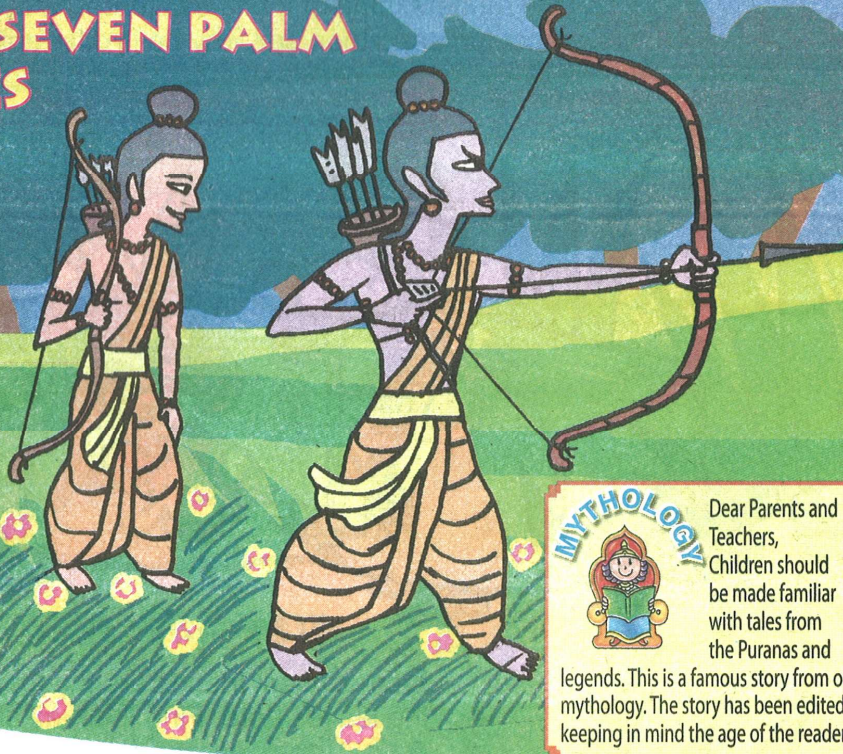# LORD RAMA AND THE SEVEN PALM TREES

MYTHOLOGY 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.

Once upon a time, there was a king who had SEVEN sons. All seven of them learnt magic and created a big serpent with their powers. They went around the world on this serpent, visiting places and sightseeing.

On one such visit to a forest, they saw SAGE Agasthya coming towards them. They wanted to tease Agasthya; so they asked the serpent to coil up in the middle of his path. The serpent did so, and the seven brothers stood on the huge coils of the serpent in a circle and pretended to be palm trees, thus blocking the sage's way.

But Sage Agasthya, with his divine powers, knew that the brothers were teasing him. He got angry and cursed them, so that they became PALM trees forever.

The brothers realized their mistake and begged Agasthya for forgiveness. Then, Sage Agasthya took pity on them, and told them that Lord Rama would release them from their curse.

In due course, Lord Rama came to the forest searching for Seetha. He saw the palm trees blocking his way, and took an arrow and shot the trees down in a single shot. Then the arrow returned to Lord Rama's quiver. Everyone was surprised to see the circle of

LEARN A WORD

Quiver : an archer's portable case for holding arrows

trees shot down by just one arrow. But Lord Rama knew that the trees were standing on the serpent's coils. So, before shooting the arrow, he put his FOOT on the serpent's head for support.

The serpent was shocked that its head was being stamped and it straightened itself just for one second to see who was doing this. While it straightened itself, all the palm trees fell into a single line, and Lord Rama's ARROW hit all the trees in a single stroke. After a second, the serpent coiled up, and the trees fell down in a circle. All this happened so fast that nobody even noticed that the serpent had uncoiled himself.

From the broken trees, the seven princes came out and thanked Lord Rama for releasing them from their curse.
● **DR. ROHINI CHINTHA**

FIND THE WORDS
Some words printed in big, red letters in the story are there in the boxes of letters below. Find them all.

S	E	V	E	N
A	A	F	I	A
G	I	O	I	R
E	N	O	R	R
X	R	T	V	O
P	A	L	M	W