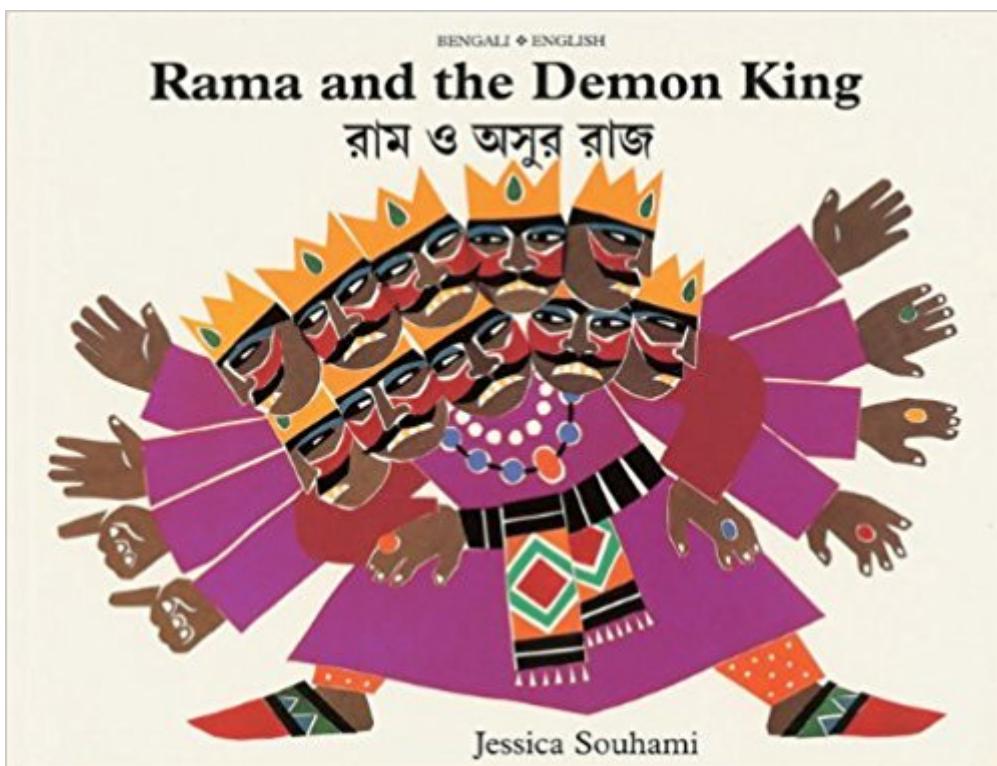


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# Rama And The Demon King: An Ancient Tale From India (Bengali-English Bilingual Edition)



## Synopsis

Banished by his jealous stepmother, the good and brave Prince Rama has lived in the forest for 14 years, along with his beautiful wife Sita and his loyal brother Lakshaman. Rama has triumphed over the demons that dwell there and the three live a simple, peaceful life among the forest animals. But it is not to last, for the ten-headed King of the Demons vows to take revenge. Eye-catching illustrations, based on the Indian tradition of shadow-puppetry, convey the exuberance of a millennia-old tale which is still very much alive today.

## Book Information

Paperback: 36 pages

Publisher: Frances Lincoln Children's Books; Bilingual edition (May 10, 2005)

Language: Bengali

ISBN-10: 1845074173

ISBN-13: 978-1845074173

Product Dimensions: 10.7 x 8 x 0.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,895,917 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Citizenship #3895 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #60736 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3. The tale of Prince Rama is both complex (filling 24,000 couplets in the Ramayana) and simple (good triumphs over evil). Souhami preserves the central ingredients: the characters and the plot outline. At the request of his jealous stepmother, Rama is exiled by his father, the king, for 14 years. His wife, Sita, and his brother, Lakshman, accompany him on his demon-killing adventures in the forest. They live happily until Ravana, the 10-headed demon king, employs a ruse to steal Sita. Hanuman, the monkey leader, and his monkey army help rescue her and the prince kills Ravana. Rama becomes king, forgiving his stepmother, and all ends well. The illustrations, clear, flat blocks of color against a white background, look like tissue-paper cutouts. Indian artistic conventions (profile heads and lower bodies, straight-on torsos) and decorative motifs

add an exotic flavor. Sherbet-bright tints and a lively, uncluttered layout increase the appeal of this ancient but engaging tale. ?Patricia Lothrop-Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI  
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Souhami (The Leopard's Drum, 1996, etc.) creates bold illustrations that have the look of cut-paper collage for this retelling of a Hindu tale from The Ramayana. Brave and good prince Rama should be happy--he's the king's favorite son, his wife is dear, his brother is his best friend, and everybody loves him--except his jealous stepmother. She arranges for Rama's exile to the dangerous, demon-ridden forest for 14 years. Wife and brother accompany Rama thence, and together the three establish peace and live a simple life. Enter Ravana, the ten-headed king of demons, who flies to India in his magic chariot to avenge his slain demons only to be instantly smitten with Rama's wife, Sita, whom he steals. The brothers search for Sita, enlisting the aid of Hanuman, the leader of the monkey army. In subsequent warfare the demons are defeated; Rama slays Ravana, is reunited with Sita, and returns to India, only to find that his father has died of grief. Rama is made king, ruling so wisely that the land becomes fruitful and free of evil. What sets this folktale apart from many others is the author's theatrical sense of timing; Souhami cues storytellers as to the inflections and pauses for suspense that will make this a story- hour favorite. (Picture book/folklore. 5-9) --  
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The Ramayana is both a very basic story of truth and loyalty, as well a a complicated narrative on relationships, good/evil and everything in-between. For young children, however, this book strikes a nice balance of sticking to the main tenets of the story and moral outcome. The illustrations are bright, and unique. My son is learning to read, but is mostly interested at this time because the pictures are plentiful and easy to follow. I would recommend for a child as early at 2.5 to 3 years old.

Great book. Bought it for my two and a half year old. Aside from it having demons (which kind of scares him) he loves it. Bapu & Dadima can read it to him in Gujarati and Mommy & Puppa can read it to him in English. Wish there were more age appropriate Gujarati/English books out there. Colorful illustrations and quality printing (not like so many other books printed over seas)

We are trying to expose our 3 year to a variety of world religions and cultures. Although this book is a little violent for a 3 year old, it does an excellent job at this. It has become one of our daughters

favorites.

My kids loved this story. I have started introducing them to the classical as I am learning them all over again. I just wish the female characters had stronger traits. Well written.

This is a great book! I plan to use it with my students. We'll work cultural history, art and science using it as our base story.

The quality of art is incredible. Kudos to the authors. I gave this book to my son and bought other copies for his cousins for Diwali.

I'm Indian and my husband is not - and we both love reading this book to our girls. They think it's awesome and FYI: never found it scary.

We bought our son several books of Hindu tales. This was his favorite. It was easy for my 4 year old to understand this version of the Ramayana. I would recommend this.

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