shrI hanumat pancha chAmaram

Document Information

Text title: Hanumat Panchachamaram with meaning
File name: hanumatpanchachAmaram.itx
Category: hanumaana, appayya-dIkShita, hanuman
Location: doc_hanumaana
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Latest update: April 23, 2008, August 4, 2017
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March 25, 2020

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INTRODUCTION.
This is a short and sweet stotram consisting of nine verses arranged in the Pancha chamara meter.
They constitute a prayer to Hanuman to help one to destroy the six internal enemies that form an obstruction on the road to spiritual progress. They seek his help to place one’s mind at the feet of Lord Rama. Thus chanting of these verses will help to calm the mind which is a prerequisite for efficacious prayer or meditation.
Indian mythology offers some unique characters the like of whom are not available in mythologies of other countries. To name some, they are Sage Vyasa, Naradha and Hanuman. We will briefly talk about Hanuman here.

REFERENCES TO HANUMAN IN PURANAS/EPICS.
Hanuman is loved and venerated by all.
He is known for his erudition, bravery, valour and above all his great self effacing humility. His life story appears in chapters 35 and 36 of the Uttara Kanda of Shrimad Valmiki Ramayana. Sage Agastya narrated it to Shri Rama.
Hanuman is also referred to in Siva Purana, Brahma Purana, Bhagavata Purana, Bhavishya Purana and Mahabharata. According to Bhagavata Purana, Hanuman stayed behind after Rama left Ayodhya and remained in Kimpurusha Varsha where he is still living listening to Ramayana being sung by the denizens of the place and himself joining them in the singing.
(5-19-1,2) Full account of Hanuman is given in Parasara Samhita also. The samhitas are that portion of the vedas that contain the prayers, mantras set to appropriate chandas (meter) and rituals to propitiate the God. They are given out by sages who got them as revelations by divine grace. The author of this samhita is not the Parasara who was sage Vyasa's father, but his the third generation disciple (Vyasa->Paila->Baskala->Parasara) who learnt Rig veda. The samhita contains in detail the story of Hanuman - the god. According to it, Anjaneya is the ninth incarnation of Hanuman. It contains a sahasranama. Interestingly, one of the 108 names of Hanuman is Brahma as Lord of creation in the next yuga. According to the samhita this boon was granted to Hanuman by Brahma Himself when he visited Brahma. There is no hint of this in Valmiki Ramayana. Hanuman was born with an aspect of Lord Siva. This is stated specifically in Ananda Ramayana. Vrishakapi is the name of one of the eleven Rudras according to the Vishnu Purana. This name appears in one of the Sivasahasranamams. Brahma Purana refers to Hanuman by this name. The third Yajus in the seventh Anuvaka of Shri Rudram reads: दुर्दशा क्रमाय श्री रुद्राय प्रहिताय श्रीं। dUta is a messenger who is an expert in conveying information and also gathering information. Prahitha is one deputed by his master on a specific occasion for a specific duty. The commentators state that god Agni is meant here as he is said to be the messenger of the gods. He is also the prahitha or special agent of the yajamana or performer of a sacrifice to carry the oblations to the god specified. Thus the Lord Himself acts as a messenger to His devotees and protects them in that capacity. We may say that it was the Lord as Krishna who acted as a messenger to the Pandavas. Similarly, we may
say that it was the Lord who as Hanuman acted as a messenger and conveyed Rama’s message to Ravana and also gathered information about Lanka that will be useful to Rama in case He had to engage in a fight with Ravana. Lord Siva incarnated as Hanuman to demonstrate to the world the value of bhakti and the characteristics of a true devotee. He is also known as Vayuputra, the son of Vayu deva or the wind god. The great philosopher Madhvacharya explained that Vayu, in this context refers, not to the Vayu deva but to Mukhyaprana - the first of Lord Vishnu’s creation - who is also known as Hiranyagarbha. He represents not the individual (Vayuputra) prana but the total (Mukhyaprana) prana or the aggregate of all the individual pranas. Thus the devas depend on Him for their survival. So He is more powerful than all the devas and omniscient too (Mukhyaprana). That is why he was able to perform deeds that could not be performed by anyone else. Jambavan when he was encouraging Hanuman to cross the ocean said that Hanuman was a great scholar and had no equal in strength, wisdom and courage. Rama himself admitted that what Hanuman had done was impossible even to be imagined by others. (Yuddha Kanda.1.2)

Madhvacharya has quoted extensively from Rig Veda, Skanda Purana and Vayu Purana to prove that Mukhyaprana took three incarnations. They are Hanuman, Bhimasena and Madhvacharya himself. Hanuman is described in the Rigveda as (i.e) the word Hanuman means one who has perfect knowledge. He is also known as intelligent.

Hanuman learnt all the scriptures from the Sun god himself. The Sun god is always on the move and because of this Hanuman had to learn while on the move. He had to keep flying in front of his guru, the Sun god and also facing him, since he cannot be showing his back to
his guru while listening to the guru! He learnt all the vedas and the six vedangas in a very short time. Hanuman wanted to offer his teacher the gurudakShina which is to be given at the end of learning. Initially the Sun god did not want any thing as dakShina. But when Hanuman insisted, the Sun said that his son Sugriva was living on earth with his brother Vali and was not having good relationship with him. Vali was much more powerful than Sugriva. In view of this the Sun god wanted Hanuman to be with his son Sugriva and be of help to him. Accordingly Hanuman stayed with Sugriva all the time as his friend, philosopher and guide.

Hanuman is reputed to have mastered vyakarana - the science of grammar. He is therefore called nava vyakarana pandita (master of the nine sytems of grammar). Rama pointed this out to LakShmana when they meet Hanuman for the first time in Kishkinda forests.

Hanuman met them taking the form of a celibate (brahmachari) and engaged LakShmana in a conversation in a bid to find out their identity as Sugriva was afraid that they might have been sent by Vali to kill him. Rama did not speak a word himself, but was just listening to the conversation. He concluded that Hanuman was no ordinary person as none but an erudite person could speak in that polished manner. He points out these characteristics in Hanuman’s speech that made him to arrive at this conclusion to LakShmana. Rama, in his admiration, said: (Valmiki Ramayana.Kishkindha Kanda.3-28 to 33).
Rough translations of these verses are given below.

To speak in the way he (Hanuman) has done is not possible for one who has not studied Rig veda, Yajurveda and also Sama veda with meaning. Surely he had studied the entire range of grammar thoroughly, as is clear from the fact that nothing has been wrongly worded by him even though he spoke a great deal. No fault of expression was noticed anywhere in his face, or eyes, or forehead or eyebrows or in anyone of his limbs. The speech emanating from his bosom and articulated by his throat is marked by absence of prolixity, is unambiguous and unfaltering. It does not make a grating impression on one’s ears, uttered as it were in a modulated tone. He utters a wholesome, distinct and remarkable speech that is grammatically correct, fluent and delightful to the mind. Whose mind will not be renpeed favourable by this wonderful speech which has its seat in the three articulating organs (the bosom, throat and head)? The mind even of an enemy with his sword uplifted will be made friendly thereby.

Please note that this encomium is paid by Rama who himself is reputed to be an eloquent speaker and had studied all the shastras like Hanuman. This is stated in the very beginning of Ramayana by sage Narada to Valmiki. In Narada’s words: Rama is வாக்மி or eloquent and: கூறும் தம்முறுவைத்: knows the truth of the vedas and the six sciences (grammar etc.) auxiliary to them and கருணைந்தாங்களே குன்றுந்துமென்: knows the real meaning of all the scriptures, has a sharp memory and is possessed of quick wit. Sage Agastya also mentioned this fact to Rama when he was narrating the life of Hanuman. The sage said:
Sita also paid compliments to Hanuman’s qualities of speaking. This was when he conveyed to her Rama’s victory in the battle with Ravana. She said: (Valmiki Ramayana. Yuddha kanda. 113 - 26).

You alone are competent to speak words that are endowed with the mark of quality, sweet in expression, adorned with virtues, alert in mind that is characterised by (the well known) eight excellences. 

Buddhi is the awakened, alert mind. The ashtanga, the eight qualities of Buddhi, a sound and ripe intellect are given in the following verse of the Nitisara Kamandaka quoted by the commentators.

They are: (1) keenness to hear discourses especially on spiritual topics, (2) readiness to hear such topics, (3) receptivity, (4) retentive power, (5) reasoning for and, (6) against a proposition, (7) the faculty of comprehension and (8) realisation of the truth.

No wonder, then, that Rama being a shrewd person observed Hanuman’s bearing combined with his gift of powers of communication and concluded that he was suited to be an ideal messenger. Rama stated this after listening to Hanuman’s introductory talk in Kishkinda (referred to above). Rama said (Valmiki Ramayana. Kishkinda Kanda. 3 - 34, 35)

How can the progress of undertakings of a king in whose service no such envoy exists actually meet with success? By the very pleading of
an envoy, all the objects of a sovereign in whose service there happen to be agents adorned with such virtues are surely accomplished. Manu prescribes certain qualifications that a king should look for in a messenger. He says:

Roughly translated, these verses say that the king should select one who is expert in scriptures, who could read the intention from gestures, physical appearances and features, who is a man of character, clever and belonging to a high family. He should love his king, be pious, dexterous, intelligent, should feel easy at any place, time or circumstance, handsome and strongly built, fearless and a good orator. We find that Hanuman possessed all these qualifications and was fit to be a messenger. Rama had studied the qualities of Hanuman and had no difficulty in choosing him to be his messenger.

Rama, though he claimed himself to be Dasaratha’s son, and tried to act like a mortal could not conceal his real identity from the eyes of the devotee Hanuman. So, Hanuman did not waste even a second, but surrendered at Rama’s feet. Prahlada classifies devotion into nine kinds. He said this in his reply to his father Hiranyakasipu when he was asked to say what according to him was the best he learnt at the gurukula.

The nine types of devotion that Prahlada talks about are: (1) to hear

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the names, glories and stories of the Lord, (2) to chant them, (3) to remember Him (as well as His names and stories, (4) to wait upon Him, (5) to offer worship, (6) to offer salutations to Him, (7) to dedicate one’s actions to Him, (8) to cultivate friendship with Him and (9) to offer one’s body and belongings to Him.

Hanuman’s devotion comes under the seventh category (viz.) the dasya bhakti (i.e.) devotedness to the Lord with a sense of service. He proudly proclaimed himself to be the servant of Rama in Lanka when he was surrounded by the solders of Ravana in the Ashoka Vana. (Valmiki Ramayana. Sundara Kanda - 42-34)

Also his is a solitary example of this type of devotion. This is stated in the following popular verse.

A devotee practising this type of devotion is inspired with a sense of service to the Lord and feels that the Lord is his master and he is His servant. He does not nourish any kind of ego but surrenders himself, body and soul to the Lord. The master can expect any kind of work from him. In the case of Hanuman, his devotion was so intense that it transcended the boundaries of this particular type and spanned the full extent of types 8 and 9 also: that is, he was considered a friend by Rama and he also surrendered himself totally to Rama. He tried to be in Rama’s company as much as possible so that he could enjoy His glories from close quarters. Also since proximity creates affection, by being close to Rama, he could receive Rama’s love. He is the one chosen by the Lord to obtain His love as mentioned by the Katha Upanishad that states (2-23) He is attained only by the one whom He
chooses. This also brings to our mind the verse in Varadarajapanchasat by the great poet Shri Vedanta Desika. He says:

\[ \text{ெஸௗஶீ}hயபா⁴விததி⁴யாப⁴வதாகத}²

One peculiarity of the types 4, 7, 8 and 9 of devotions is that it involves acceptance by the other party, namely the Lord also. One cannot claim himself to be the Lord’s friend or servant unless the Lord also accepts the offer of friendship or service. Did Rama accept Hanuman’s services? We find that Rama unhesitatingly acknowledged his services. He told the sage Agastya that but for Hanuman he could not have had the news about Sita languishing in Lanka, win the war with Ravana, regain Sita, Laksmana and others. (Valmiki Ramayana. Uttara Kanda. 35-9 and 10)

This is evident from the following incident narrated in Uttara Kanda. After Rama’s coronation, all those who all those who helped him were given presents and given leave to depart. Rama sends back other friends, including monkeys, bears and ogres. At that time Hanuman said

Hanuman pleaded saying may my supreme affection for you stand for ever. May my devotion to you be constant. Let not my love be diverted
to anyone else. May life continue in my body as long as your story remains current on this earth. On hearing this, Rama was moved and said

In reply Rama said you have done me numerous services. For anyone of them my life is an adequate return. If my life is pledged in return for one of your services then I shall be in debt in respect of others. I shall be indebted to you in a manner that I can never think of repaying you. Let there be no occasion for me to repay your services; for one deserves to be requitted for services rendered only when one is in trouble. Can there be a better way of acknowledging the services rendered by Hanuman?

Incidentally the above request by Hanuman whose whole being was imbued with the spirit of service to the Lord shows that such a devotee will not accept any of the many types of liberation. He is content with the thought that Lord to whom services has been offered by him had accepted his services. This was said by Lord Kapila in His advice to His mother Devahuti.

Hanuman had other endearing qualities too. Sita found in him the following qualities: energy, firmness, renown, dexterity, competence, modesty, prudence and intelligence. Rama had given a beautiful pearl necklace (given to him by the wind-god) to Sita. She, in turn, with the consent of Rama gave it to Hanuman with whom she was very pleased and found the above said qualities in him.
That is why it is said that one who worships Hanuman will inherit these qualities. This is mentioned in this following popular verse.

Hanuman is renowned for his great strength. In North India he is known as Bajrang Bali. This is a dialectical variation of the word "vajranga balee" implying he has a body strong as Indra’s Vajrayuda. But he was equally known for his humility because of which he preferred to call himself as the servant of Rama. With the combination of these qualities and gift of supernatural powers got even when he was a child he could easily accomplish great feats like crossing the ocean, bringing the mountain etc.. which no mortal can even think of.

The great poet Kalidasa, known for his similies, describes Hanuman’s crossing of the ocean with an apt simile thus.

Hanuman himself talked of his ability to perform superhuman acts to Rama when he said whenever Hanuman takes a pledge fate itself is nullified and death turns into life.

This is not an idle boast but the result of his immense faith that with Rama’s blessings he could accomplish anything.

It was said earlier that Hanuman was blessed with long life by Rama. So, though he served Rama in the Treta Yuga he continued to live and was present during the Lord’s descent as Krishna in the next Dwapara Yuga. He had a meeting with the Pandava prince Bhima. This is mentioned in the Aranya Parva of Mahabharata. Initially Bhima could not make out who the monkey was. But later on when Hanuman disclosed his identity, Bhima was overjoyed and saluted him. He sought...
Hanuman’s blessings. Hanuman was only too happy to bless him. He said he could not take up arms and fight in the ensuing KurukShetra war: but he would be seated in the banner of Arjuna and discourage his enemies by his loud roars. This is referred to in the Bhagavat Gita (Ch1-20) wherein Arjuna is called -one with the mark of monkey in his flag.

As a result, he had the great fortune to listen to the song celestial - Bhagavat Gita- first hand as it flowed out of the sacred lips of the Lord. The Muktikopanishad says that he had earlier learnt the upanishads from Rama in Ayodhya. According to a popular verse Gita is the milk drawn from the upanishads - the cow. Krishna milked the cow using Arjuna as the calf.

Hanuman, having studied the upanishads at the feet of the Lord already, listened to the teaching of Gita from the Lord (as Krishna) with rapt attention and could understand the purport of Gita without difficulty.

The saint composer Thyagaraja says in his song Gitartamu that the true meaning of Gita was grasped only by Hanuman the savant.

HANUMAN AS GURU. The Ramayana of Valmiki is known as Itihasa or a historical narrative. But, for a devout Hindu, it is not merely a narrative but a book of great spiritual significance. It was the supreme Being who incarnated as Rama to carry out certain specific tasks. This is mentioned in the following popular verse:

When the Supreme Being, who is to be known (only) on the authority of vedas, was born as the son of Dasaratha, the
vedas became Ramayana through (the agency of) the sage Valmiki. This implies that the Ramayana is vedas in the form of the story of Rama. That is why the great book has been rendered in many Indian Languages. Many commentaries have been written on it and will continue to be written in future also. The ardent devotees of Rama have the habit of regularly reading one or more chapters of the text daily. They believe that the holy book has the power to ward off or alleviate the evil effects of past karma. Great acharyas have dived deep into the sacred text and coaxed rare interpretations that are a great treat to chew and digest. They substantiate their interpretations with quotations from vedas, upanishads and works of saints and philosophers. A phrase from a popular verse describes this phenomenon by comparing Ramayana to the ocean.

The ocean is believed to be the repository of precious stones. So it is known as ரஹினார:.

A casual visitor to the sea may take a stroll along the beach and come across some shells cast by the waves. A novice diver will be able to dive to a short depth only and may chance upon one or few diamonds of little value. The more experienced diver can plunge to greater depth, stay for a longer time and find many more valuable diamonds. But the case of an experienced one is very different. He has studied the characteristics of the ocean in his area. He is equipped with special equipments and will be able to go down to greater depths, stay for as long as is required. He can make a thorough search of the dark recesses that could not have been accessed by the lesser divers and gather very rare gems. Similar is the case with Ramayana. It has, just like other spiritual texts the capacity to divulge newer and rare meanings pari passu with one’s scholarship, faith and devotion.

No wonder then a devotee uses Ramayana to aid on the spiritual path.

A guru is a must for one who wants to proceed on the spiritual path.
One has to seek a guru to know the truth about God. Krishna says this in Gita.(4-34).

The Munadakopanishad also says that one should approach a guru and gain knowledge from him only.

A discussion on the need for a guru and his qualifications are available in Gurvashtakam with meaning in this site. As said earlier Rama is the Supreme Being who incarnated as Dasaratha’s son. He may be worshipped either in Hisṣaṃkṣaṇ  aspect; that is as the Lord with attributes or in Hisनिर्धेत  aspect. In the निर्धेत  aspect the supreme Being is spoken of in the upanishads as being without form and beyond sense perception.

Such devotees who worship the Lord with form also make progress. The Lord endows them with necessary wisdom by which they can reach Him as their own Self.
The saint composer Thyagaraja was a great devotee of Rama and worshipped Rama in an icon, but had described Rama in both forms in his songs. The saint Sadasiva Brahmendra had said in one of his songs beginning என் என் மீசும் மீசும் that Rama is the supreme being whose nature is existence, knowledge and bliss that shines in his heart.

He took on a human form for a specific purpose. People use a tame elephant to train a newly captured elephant. In the same way the Lord put on a human form to teach righteous conduct to other men. Shri Bhagavatam says this:(5-19-5) that is - the descent of the Lord in a human form is to teach mankind the ways of the great and not merely to exterminate the demon race. பரமஹஸஸாஹராஜேயாதா தானியாந்தே தானியாந்தே பரமஹஸஸாஹராஜேயாதா தானியாந்தே தானியாந்தே: என்றாக்கும் பெருமகாலசணல் அப்பொருளை விளக்கியமைந்தே: ஒன்றிய வேகவல்மி: மரைப்பவதாரம் மரைப்பவதாரம் மரைப்பவதாரம் மரைப்பவதாரம் / Rama set an example to all by strict adherence to the scriptural injunctions. Hanuman had known Rama and served him devotedly. As a result he had received Rama’s blessings in abundance. He also has all the qualifications prescribed for a guru in our scriptures.

According to one interpretation of Ramayana, Sita represents the individual soul or Jivatma. It is living happily with Rama who represents the supreme being or paramatma. Unfortunately, in a moment of weakness, its attention is diverted from the paramatma, who represents bliss, towards the worldly attractions outside. That these external attractions are illusory and not real is shown by the golden deer. There is no such thing as a golden deer. The moment the jivatma’s attention is diverted and is separated from the Lord, it falls a prey to the senses, as denoted by the ten headed Ravana. The sense organs are ten. As the jivatma is held a prisoner in the control of the sense organs, it repents its folly and pines for reunion with the Lord. As the longing becomes intense with the passage of time, the kindly Lord, who is never away from the jivatma,
senses the desperate situation. He sends a guru (represented by Hanuman) to meet the jiva. The guru offers consolation. He gives the news about the Lord, instils the hope that the day of deliverance is not far away and so there is no need for despair. The overly perturbed jiva, thus gets encouragement, continues its prayers and looks forward to redemption. Sure enough, the Lord comes and redeems the jiva who once again joins Him. This is the story behind Ramayana. Sage Narada includes Hanuman’s name along with the names of renowned sages like Sanatkumara, Vyasa and Sukadeva as great teachers of devotion in his aphorisms on bhakti. (No: 83 of Narada Bhakti Sutra.)

Even in worldly matters we find that when we want to approach a highly placed dignitary, like a minister, for a favour we have to observe the required protocol and go through the proper channel. The proper channel for approaching the Lord is via devotees. The Lord appeared as Kapila to teach His mother Devahuti the way to liberation. During the course of the teaching Kapila says more than once that He is the Lord Himself. But nevertheless, He advises her to have recourse to saints who have great devotion to Him. He Himself did not directly grant her salvation. Similarly we find in Bhagavatam that the Lord appeared as Rishabadeva and ruled the earth for a long time. He decided to renounce and hand over the rule to His son. Before departure He called His sons and advised them that the human birth is very valuable and is not meant to be frittered away in pursuit of petty sense pleasures that are enjoyed even by lowly animals. Instead life should be used to work for attaining the greatest good, that is liberation from the cycle of birth and death. To do this one has to seek the help of sadhus. As in the case of Kapila, He also hints that He is the Lord Himself, but advises His sons to come through the proper channel. Thus it is most proper that one resorts to Hanuman for getting Rama’s grace as is being done in the following verses. Incidentally, we are told in the Mundakopanishad (3-2-10) that one can get mundane prosperity by
approaching and worshipping a realised person.

It is not wrong to ask for wealth from Him as one requires money for having a comfortable life. And money is definitely required for leading a religious life by performing the religious rites as ordained by the scriptures. In Gita, Krishna says that he considers the one who prays to Him for prosperity as His devotee. He welcomes such a devotee also and fulfils his desires.

Let us move on to the stotram proper. Rough translations of the verses are given.

Salutations to you, merciful Hanuman, son of wind god! You are fast like mind and shining like mount Meru. You have no equal in all the worlds in valour or the art of speaking or acquisition of supernatural powers. You possess immense wisdom. (\text{மறாங்கம்} = \text{the wind}). \text{மகித்} is synonymous with \text{மாங்கம்.} \text{மகித்} and means intellect. So \text{மஹாமகித்} is same as \text{மஹாமாங்கம்}. Shri Sankaracharya defines \text{மஹாமாங்கம்} occurring as one of the names (No.173) of Lord Vishnu in Vishnusahasranama to mean \text{மஹாமாங்கம்} best amongst jnanis or realised persons. We may, without hesitation, accept this meaning and say that Hanuman is a great jnani and so most suited to be taken as a guru.

When you were a child, you once wanted to eat a fruit. You saw the
sun and (taking him to be a fruit) you jumped towards it and were about to seize it. What a wonder! from the same sun you learnt all the vedas and scriptures. Your endearing way of talking became an ornament to the ears of Rama, the best of Raghus and immensely delighted his heart.

You could find out that Rama was none other than the Lord of the universe Himself. You became renowned as Rama’s servant. You jumped across the ocean quickly, met the hapless Janaki. You burnt Lanka along with heart of Ravana.

You met the Mother Sita in the (Ashoka) garden of Ravana. You talked to her in a pleasing manner in beautiful Sanskrit. You also met Ravana and indicated to him, through gentle persuasion and also by serious threat, that the time of the destruction of his entire retinue is not for away.

Note. When Hanuman Sita in the garden of Ravana (Ashoka) she was surrounded by Ravana’s servants. He was waiting for a suitable opportunity to talk to her. At that time he was deliberating how to talk to her and in what language. He felt that if he talked in chaste Sanskrit spoken by learned brahmins she may imagine that Hanuman was only Ravana in disguise and may be frightened. So he decided to talk to her in the colloquial Sanskrit as used by the common people.
You possessed immense strength. You carried the huge mountain that was shining brightly with medicinal plants and revived LakShmana (who fell down unconscious) in the fearful battle. The Lord Rama, though He is the intimate relative of all beings, considered you, who thus rendered an invaluable help, a close relative.

Oh Anjaneya, wherever you hear the glories of Rama being sung, you are present there with tears flowing from your eyes and hands raised over your head in salute. Please grant me the grandeur of your devotion and the untainted status of being servant to you - the servant of Rama.

Note. It was said earlier that Hanuman’s devotion was pure and unalloyed. The devotee prays for such a sincere devotion here: because very often people pray to God for getting relief from some suffering or for gain. In such cases one uses God as a means to attain some material gain. This is an inferior type of devotion. Also, please note the prayer here is for being a servant of servant of God. In Bhagavatam, Krishna said to His devotee Uddhava that He follows a sincere devotee. Thus by following such a devotee one is sure to find Him. This is like saying that by locating a calf one finds the cow which is inextricably tied by bonds of love to the calf. The devotee Kulashekara prays for similar boon from Krishna in
Mukundamala. He wants the Lord to grant him the status of the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of the servant of the Lord.

One commentator had given an interesting explanation for Kulasekhara wishing to be a devotee’s devotee than just being a devotee. He says that any one who is heriditarily rich is entitled to greater honour than one who suddenly finds himself rich due to a windfall. In the same way devotion secured by inheritance and that had percolated down several layers of devotees is refined and has got an unique flavour not to be seen in the devotion obtained by one’s own effort.

You are of inconceivable merit and greatly blessed unlike any one else. Sita herself took out her pearl necklace from her neck and gave it to you. Also Rama Himself embraced you exclaiming This is the only thing I can give to Hanuman.

O Hanuma! please place my mind on Shri Rama, the beloved consort of Sita. He confers liberation after the fall of the body. Please bring my plight to His notice so that He may cast His glances at me very often.

Note. What happens when one is caught in the range of His glance? One
of His names (No:393 in Vishnusahasranama) is சுபேப்: I one with auspicious looks. Shri Sankaracharya in his commentary explains the significance of the name as follows.

His auspicious looks grants liberation (mokSha) to those who seek liberation, grants pleasures to those who seek pleasures, destroys the sins of the sinners, removes all doubts, removes the knot of ignorance that ties up the mind and destroys all remnants of karma and also ignorance. What more can one desire from Him? A similar idea is expressed in a highly poetic form by the well known acharya Shri Vedanta Desika in his Shreestuti. This poem is in praise of Shree (LakShmi) Devi.

The poet says that Her eyes are like freshly blown lotuses. They are verily the dark clouds that pour rains of nectar that yield mokSha or immortality. In whichever direction Her glances travel, to the end of that direction, all good things are showered. In fact there seems to be a competition amongst the good things to flood the devotee with prosperity and relieve him of his material wants.
O Hanuman! please deign to accept this hymn composed by your servant with pleasure. Please destroy the six (internal) enemies that are hard to be won over by me. Please extricate me from the mire known as rebirth. Please save me, save me!

Note. எடும் = six. இன்று கீதம் = internal. கிளை = enemies.

The six internal enemies are mentioned in our scriptures are: காம: கேராத இலப்பா மதமாஹமார: மாதஸர:

These are said to be internal because they perturb the mind and are thus form obstacles one faces in his spiritual path. They are difficult to conquer. Krishna warns Arjuna to be careful and avoid falling a prey to them.

For example He said

Here He calls lust, anger and greed as the three gateways to hell. மதம்: pride, arrogance. மாதஸரம் = delusion, confusion.

Encode, proofread, and translation by N. Balasubramanian