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Author: Sri Appaya Dixit
Transliterated by: N.Balasubramanian bbalu at satyam.net.in
Proofread by: N.Balasubramanian bbalu at satyam.net.in
Translated by: N.Balasubramanian bbalu at satyam.net.in
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Send corrections to: Sanskrit@cheerful.com

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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.

किंपुरुषे वर्षं भगवन्तमादिदिपुरुषं
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 अव्रतभिव्यवहारं सत्यं चेतं गायति।

That is, he will succeed present 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:नमो दूताय च प्रहिताय च।

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 yajaman 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 Hiranyakarbh. He represents not the individual (व्यक्ति) prana but the total (समस्ति) 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 (सबंध है). 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 हनु शाशवचि हनुमान मतिशब्दित: I (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 thr 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).

नानृऽवेदिवनीतस्य नायजुवःदधािरणः ।
नासामवेदिवः शमेवं िवभािषतुम ् ॥ २८॥
नूनं नाहैतानेन न निकितिसितम ।
बहरतानेन नूनं निपदपशितम ् ॥ २९॥
नूनं मुखे नेऽयो िप ललाटे ।
अिवरमसि च चारमसि च भुवोः ।
अन्येषषि च सर्वणु दोषः संविदितः कचित् ॥ ३०॥
अिवस्तरमसन्दिरोवितम्भितमव्ययम ् ।
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 unfaaltering. 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 rendered 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 वाग्मी or eloquent and: वेदवेदान्त तत्त्वातः knows the truth of the vedas and the six sciences (grammar etc.) auxiliary to them and सर्वशास्त्रायत्तत्त्वातः: स्मृतिमान् प्रतिमानवान् 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.

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:

रूतं चैव प्रकुर्वीति सर्वशाष्विशारदम् ।
इक्ष्टिकार्चेत्या शुचि दक्षं कुलोद्दतम् ॥

अनुरत्नः शुचिन्दशः स्मृतिमान्देशकालिवितः।
वपुषावन्तभीवोग्मी दूतो राजः प्रशास्ते ॥

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 chosing 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.

श्रवणं कीर्तनं विषणं: स्मरणं पादसेवनम्।
अर्थं वन्दनं दास्यं सत्यं आत्मनिवेदनम् ॥

इति पुंसार्पिता विषणं भक्तिश्वेत्रवालक्षणा।
क्रियं भगवत्क्र्यं तन्नन्यं धीतमुत्तमम् ॥

(Shri Bhagavata. 7-5-23 and 24).
The nine types of devotion that Prahlada talks about are: (1) to hear 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 soldiers of Ravana in the Ashoka Vana. दासोऽहं कोसले रामं कमः (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.

श्रीविष्णू: अवशेष परीक्षिदभवदु वैयासिकि: कीर्तने प्रह्लादः रमणे तद्द्विभजने तक्ष्मी: पृष्ठ: पूजने ।
अकृंस्तव्यवन्दने कपिपतिर्द्वेष्ठ सर्वायेः जुनः सर्वव्यात्मनिवेदने वपि भर्तरं हृद्यतु कृणासिरेषां परम् ॥

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) यमेवेष
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:

सौशीत्यायात्वित्यं भवता कठोर्निः
संछारितानि गुणान् वरद त्वदीयान्।

Pratyakṣaṇयन्त्विकर्तेत तव सत्क्रिक्षयः:

Patanjaliśāmājīvan pāyodvṛttanān mayūkhaṁ। ॥ २७॥

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)

एतत् बाहुवीर्यं लक्ष्या सीता च लक्ष्मणः।
प्रातो मया जयश्रेष्ठ राज्य मित्राणि बान्धवः। ॥ ९॥

हनुमान यदि मे न स्वाधू वानराधिपते: सवा।
प्रवृत्रिमपि को वेच्छु जानकः: शक्तिमानं भवेत्। ॥ १०॥

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

ख़ेदो मे परम् राजस्वविपि तिष्ठतु नित्यदा।
भक्तिश्च नियता वीर भावो नान्यं गच्छतु। ॥ १६॥

यावद्यास्वास्था वीर चरिष्यति महीतले।
ताब्रह्मिरि वत्सन्तु प्राणं मम न संशयः। ॥ १७॥

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

एकैकोपकाराणां दा णाना ते कपे।
शेषे पकाराणां भवाम ऋणिनो वयम्॥

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.

सालोसािसामीन्तो वर्गवाचनयो न जना।
दीव्यमानं गुरुं जिनाः मृत्युवर्णं जना।॥

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.

तेजो धृतियंशो दाश्यं सामत्यं विनयो नय।
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 वज्राङ्ग बली (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.(दासोऽओहं कोशले रामं) 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.मारुति सागरं तीर्णि: संसारमिव निर्मम्: । Hanuman crossed the ocean like one having no attachments goes across the ocean of samsara. 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.हनुमति कृतप्रतिज्ञेव देवमदेवेः

यमोद्यर्यम्: ।(Hanumannataka.XIII-16) 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 कपिध्रजः - 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:

वेदवेदः परेपुंिस जाते दशरता जाने ।
वेदः प्राचेदसादसीत् साक्षात् रामामायणात्मनः ॥

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 रज्जकः.

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 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 His संगुण aspect; that is as the Lord with attributes or in His िनगुणम aspect. In the िनगुणम aspect the supreme Being is spoken of in the upanishads as being without form and beyond sense perception.

Conceiving of such a Being which is not accessible to one’s senses and then worshipping Him is obviously a very difficult job. This is beyond the reach of most people and not an attractive proposition too. In view of this, our scriptures allow us to worship God in a form that appeals to us. Thus, one may worship the Lord as Rama, Krishna, Ganapathi, Devi etc., in a picture or icon or any other suitable medium. Krishna, in Gita, says (7-21) that He accepts such a worship done with faith.

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 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. Rama set an example to all by strict adherence to the scriptural injunctions. Hanuman had known Rama and served him devoutly. 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.

नमोऽहुं ते हनुमते दयावते मनोगते
सुवर्णपर्वताकः नभावत: सुतायः ते
न चाहामेव ते समो जगात्य श्रावमाते
पराक्षेम वचः क्रमः समस्तसिद्धिसङ्गमे || १ ||

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. (नभावतः = the wind). मति: is synonymous with बुद्धि: and means intellect. So महामति: is same as महाबुद्धि: || Shri Sankaracharya defines महाबुद्धि: occuring as one of the names (No.173) of Lord Vishnu in Vishnusahasranama to mean बुद्धिमतामये बुद्धिमत्तचातु महाबुद्धि: 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.

रघुत्रम् ग्रासित्यां सन्तपत्ता फलेच्छया शिख्युभवान्
रघुत्रां ग्रासित्यां समस्तवेदशावकम् ||
भवननोधभाषणं भवृवृ कर्ष्णभूषणं
रघुत्रमस्त्र मानसाम्बुजस्य पूर्णितोषणम् || २ ||
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.

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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.

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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.

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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 Kulashekarā prays for similar boon from Krishna in Mukunda-Mālā. 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 Kulaśekhara wishing to be a devotee’s devotee than just being a devotee. He says that any one who is hereditarily 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 Hanumān.

O Hanumān! 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 शुभेच्छणः: I one with auspicious looks. Shri Sankaracharya in his commentary explains the significance of the name as follows.

ईश्वरं दर्शनं यस्य शुभं शुभकरं, ममुंक्षुणं मोक्षं, भोगार्थीं भोगं, सर्वसन्ताहिंच्छेदकरणं, पापिनं पावनं, हृदय्यन्ताहिंच्छेदकरं, सर्वकर्मांश्र कारणं, अविचारायशं निविवकं स शुभेच्छण: I "भिवते हृदयप्रक्षति:” इत्यादि श्रुते: II 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.

आर्त्ताग्रन्थितमित्रमृतासार नीतामुखवाहः: अम्मोजानामुषसि मिष्ठामन्तरमृजरपाघः: I यस्यां यस्यां दिशा विहरते देवि दिशिस्वदीया तस्यां तस्यां अहमहमीकां तन्त्रते सम्पदोधाः: II १५॥

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.

इदं च पञ्चचामरं गृहाण दासकल्पितं
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. षड = six. अन्तरान = internal. रिपून = enemies.

The six internal enemies are mentioned in our scriptures are: कामः कोपस्तथा लोभो मदमोही च मल्सरः। 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

त्रिविधं नरकःपूर्तं वरं नाशनमातमः।
कामः कोपस्तथा लोभस्तमादेतथं त्यजेत्॥

Here He calls lust, anger and greed as the three gateways to hell. मदः = pride, arrogance. मोहः = delusion, confusion. मात्सर्यम् = envy, jealousy.

Encoded, proofread, and translation by N. Balasubramanian