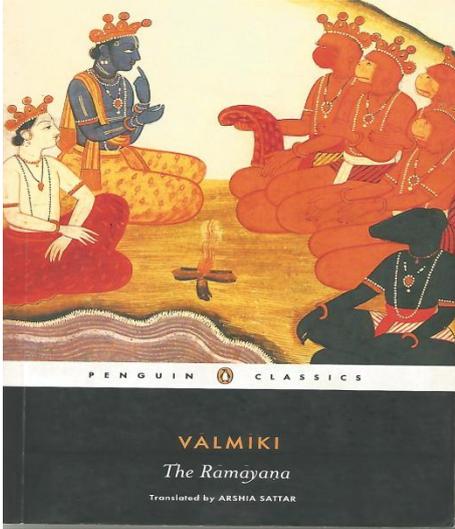


READING RAMAYANA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

With Arshia Sattar



Everyone in India has some idea of the Ramayana, we all claim to know it, we have strong opinions about it though few of us have actually read it. Moreover, most of us have little or no familiarity with the first Ramayana, the one composed by Valmiki in Sanskrit. This story forms the basis for the Ramayanas that we know, the ones closest to us, usually from our mother tongues and our grandmothers' tales. This weekend offers us a chance to read the Valmiki Ramayana in translation and get to know it in an intimate environment of

conversation and guided discussion.

How do we read a text that comes to us from the distant past? How do we understand a story that is 2500 years old? Can it speak to us at all, as we live through the troubles and successes of our lives, both private and public? What meaning can the Ramayana, a grand epic about kings and princes and abducted wives, ten-headed demons and magical weapons, monkeys who speak like us and fly like birds? The Ramayana speaks of all of these things from a time and place that was never ours. And yet, the story has remained with us, it has provided inspiration for music and art, for literature and performance. Over three days of close readings and discussions, we will see that the Ramayana is about righteous and rightful kings, it is about magical beings and great adventure. But it is also a deeply personal story about love and longing, trust and betrayal, about jealousy and rivalry, about conflicting duties and great responsibilities. The Ramayana shows us what it means to have choices, how what we choose determines who we are.

Ramayana in the 21st century will meet over the weekend of October 5 to 7.

At **The Jamun**, 521, 2nd Main, 3rd Block, RMV Extn 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560094

Time: Friday Oct 5: 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Saturday Oct 6: 2 pm to 6 pm

Sunday Oct 7: 3 pm to 7 pm followed by dinner

Registration: Rs 3000*.

Last date for registration: August 31, 2108

*To avail student discount, please call: Veronica +919900904344



Arshia Sattar has a Ph.D. in South Asian Languages and Civilisations from the University of Chicago. Her translation of the Valmiki *Ramayana* was published in 1996 by Penguin and has remained in print constantly since then. She has also published essays on the *Ramayana* -- *Lost Loves: Exploring Rama's Anguish* (2011) and *Uttara: the Book of Answers* (2017). Most recently, her re-telling of the *Ramayana* for children has been published by Juggernaut.