

RĀMĀYANA AND LANKA

PARTS I & II

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(c) SINGRAUR TO JUMNA BLUFF

At Singraur, Rāma crossed the Ganges, and marched *fifteen* miles across the Doab. Crossing the Jumna, he went thirteen miles along its south bank visiting the Sacred Banyan at Katra and halting for the night on a bluff of the Jumna *a mile west of Katra*. He spent two nights in the Doab, one under a banyan tree south of the Ganges and the other as the guest of a Ṛshi Bharadvāja on the *north* bank of the Jumna, close to Sihonda and the Majhiari Ferry.*

*Note.—There was no 'Prayag' in Rāma's days. Allahabad was then under the 'Sāgara' a lake of about four hundred square miles which the Ganges and the Jumna entered by *distinct* mouths. Srī Krishna says of Bṛhadratha and his two wives : 'Between them, the King looked like the Sāgara in human form *between* the Ganges and the Yamuna' (*Bhārata, Sabhā Parva, Adhy. 17, verses 18-20*). Obviously the 'Sāgara' cannot be the Bay of Bengal. Again Srī Rāma says : 'Ever doth the full *Yamuna* flow into the 'Samudra' of swelling waters (*Rāmāyaṇa, Ayodhya, Sarga 105, verse 19*). The bevelled stumpy ridge of the Bindhachal between Meja, east of the S. Tons, and Partabpur, on the south bank of the Jumna and shown as 'Stony waste' in Degree sheets 63. K and 63. G, is conclusive proof that there was an old 'Sāgara' which is now dry even like the *Pampa Saras* and the *Sāgara round Trikūta*. In his '*Indica*,' Arrian quotes Megasthenes as saying : 'The Ganges in many places forms lakes, so that the land opposite

(d) JUMNA BLUFF TO CHITRAKŪT

From the Jumna bluff to Chitrakūt is forty-one miles. The text does not refer to any halts on the way. But as Sītā followed him, Rāma must have halted twice, and there is good reason to believe that he spent one night at Lalapur hill (fifteen miles to the east of Chitrakūt), as the guest of Ṛshi Vālmiki. Rāma thus reached Chitrakūt a week after he left Ayōdhya, and almost on the day Daśaratha died. Bharata visited him at Chitrakūt six weeks later. He was in Nāgarkot, Kangra, six hundred miles from Ayodhya, when he learnt of his father's death, the funeral ceremonies took a fortnight, and the journey to Chitrakūt with his mothers must have taken another fortnight.

(e) CHITRAKŪT TO ŚARABHANGA'S HERMITAGE

On Bharata's departure, Rāma went to Atri's abode on Anasūya hill (nine miles).

is not visible where it is flat and nowhere stands up in hills.' Evidently the 'Sāgara' between the Ganges and the Yamuna was such a lake. Bhāsa and Patañjali do not refer to Prayāg and so far as I know there is no reference to it in pre-Christian Sanskrit literature. The Akshaya-vaṭa in the Allahabad Fort is an obvious fake for the Sacred Banyan on the south bank of the Jumna worshipped by Sītā.