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Ayodhya means an unconquerable city, it is one of the 7 sacred cities of Bharata which leads to the gateway of Moksha. Situated on the bank of Sarayu, Ayodhya is the birthplace of Shri Ram.

Valmiki Ramayana gives a beautiful description of this great city as follows:

#Thread



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On the banks of river Sarayu, a great and prosperous country named Kosala, abundant in food grains and wealth and inhabited by contended people, was situated.

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[redacted]
[redacted] 1.5.7

In the country called Kosala was the famous capital city of Ayodhya built by the lord of men, Manu.

With welllaid out thoroughfares, the beautiful and prosperous city of Ayodhya extended for twelve yojanas in length and three yojanas in breadth.

[redacted]
[redacted]: 1.5.8

[redacted]: [redacted]
[redacted] 1.5.9

It looked splendid with its welllaid out & broad highway strewn with flowers & regularly sprinkled with water. Dasartha, augmenting the prosperity of kingdom, lived in Ayodhya like Indra in heaven.

[redacted]
[redacted]: 1.5.10
[redacted]
[redacted] 1.5.11
[redacted]: [redacted]
[redacted] 1.5.12

City where all kinds of artificers lived had arched outer gateways, well arranged markets & all kinds of instruments & weapons. With matchless splendor, it abounded in eulogists & genealogists. It contained stately edifices decorated with flags & 100s of sataghnis.

The city with suburban towns on all sides had several female dancers and actors. It was filled with gardens and mango groves. And girdled by sal trees.

[redacted]
[redacted]: [redacted] 1.5.13

[redacted]
[redacted] 1.5.14
[redacted]: [redacted]
[redacted] 1.5.15

It was enclosed by strong fortifications & deep moat. No enemy can ever enter and occupy that city.

It abounded with several elephants and horses, cattle, camels and mules. It was embellished with a host of tributary kings who used to pay tributes and with merchants from different countries. Like Indra's Amaravati, it was adorned by mountains and mansions with precious stones.

[illegible]
[illegible] 1.5.16

With groups of men and women and adorned with seven storied palaces, it looked wonderful like a board where the game of ashtapada, is played. It was rich in all kinds of gems.

[illegible]
[illegible] 1.5.17

Its dwellings were constructed on levelled ground with no space left unutilised. It was abundantly stocked with fine-grained rice and water which tasted sweet like sugarcane juice.

[illegible]: [illegible]
[illegible] 1.5.18
[illegible]
[illegible] 1.5.19

The city echoed with the sounds of trumpets, mrudangas, vinas and panavas.

There was no city on earth superior to Ayodhya. Like an aerial car acquired by the siddhas in heaven through their austerities, the palaces were perfectly constructed in rows and inhabited by the noblest of men.

[illegible]
[illegible]: 1.5.20
[illegible]
[illegible] 1.5.21
[illegible]: [illegible]
[illegible] 1.5.22

The city was inhabited by thousands of warriors known as maharathas. They were skilled archers and sharp handed. They would not pierce with arrows, solitary persons, persons without defense, fleeing foes who could be tracked down through hints from sound.

With sharp arrows or with the strength of their arms, they would kill roaring and inebriated lions, tigers, boars etc. in the forest. It was in that city (of Ayodhya) that king Dasaratha lived.

[illegible]
[illegible]: [illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]: 1.5.23

That city (of Ayodhya) was filled with excellent dwijas (brahmana, kshatriya and vaisyas) performing rituals, virtuous and well versed in the Vedas and Vedangas.

They were generous, truthful and dignified. They were almost equal to rishis and maharshis.

To this day, the great and sacred city Ayodhya is standing tall with the same splendor which is mentioned in the Valmiki Ramayana and celebrating the home coming Maryada Purushotam Shri Ram with deevoptsav.

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