Meat eating and animal killing in Valmiki ramayan

A. Introduction

Valmiki Ramayan happens to be the "Original Ramayan" in Indian tradition. This is the book that introduced people to the story of Shri Ram chandru ji. This great epic was written by Shri Valmiki ji. Owing to the popularity of this book; several versions of Ramayana were written at a later time. Several centuries later Ramcharitmanas written by Tulsidas came into existence. Nowadays it is Ramcharitmanas that is read widely. Valmiki Ramayan is not read as much, but thankfully it is accessible and available to people.

To know about some differences between Original Ramayana and the Ramayana that you know - click here. http://khurshidimam.blogspot.in/2011/08/difference-between-original-ramayan-and.html

Our Hindu brethren accuse muslims of meat eating and declare this act as inhumane and barbaric. This issue of "meat eating" has even become a political tool for some mischievous elements of society. However when we go through Sacred Books of Sanatan dharma or Hinduism then we find several references that not only permit or justify meat eating but also encourage in some case. When killing of animal for sacrifice or eating is done by revered personality or those who are worshipped then it poses a very big question mark over the issue of meat eating. In this article we will look at very few such references (7-8)
wherein sacred personalities of Hinduism kill animal for sacrifice and for eating purpose.

Kindly note: I am not presenting research work on all references related to meat eating in Hindu Scriptures but only showing very few references from one book only!!

Another important point is that I would like to draw attention of dear readers of gross mistranslation done by some publishers. It is not difficult to understand that there are deliberate mistranslations done for some verses which speak about meat eating or animal killing. Why this literal fraud? Of course; to conceal truth from the common mass and let them not understand the reality of the issue. For the ease of user we are presenting at least 2-3 different translations for each *shlok* (Verse).

**B. Glorification of roasted meat for eating by Shri Ram chandr ji and others**

1. *Sanskrit text*

> तां तदा दर्शयित्वा तु मैथिली गिरिनिम्ननगाम्। निष्षाद गिरिप्रस्थेसीतां मांसेन छन्दयन्।।
> इत्यं मध्यमिंदं स्वादु निप्पत्तमिद नागिना। एवमास्ते स धर्मात्मा सीतया शह राघवः।।

(वाल्मीकि रामायण, अयोध्या काण्ड, 96, 1 व 2)

*Hindi Translation*

अर्थात् इस प्रकार सीता जी को (नदी के) दर्शन कराकर उस समय श्री रामचन्द्र जी उनके पास बैठ गए और तपस्वी जनों के उपभोग में आने योग्यमांस से उनका इस प्रकार लालन करने लगे, “इ धर देखो प्रियेय, यह कितना मुलायम है, स्वादिष्ट है और इसको आग पर अच्छी तरह सेका गया है।“

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Word by word Sanskrit to English translation:

मधिलीम् princess of Mithila, तां सीताम् that Sita, तथा in that way, गिरिनिम्नगाम् mountain-river, दर्शयित्वा having shown, मांसेन with meat, छन्दयन् gratifying, गिरिप्रस्थे on the mountain-slope, निष्णाद sat.

धर्मात्मा righteous, स राघवः that Rama, इदम् this, मेधयम् sacred meat, इदम् this, स्वादु is savoury, इदम् this one, अग्निना with fire, निष्णप्तम् roasted, एवम् uttering this way, सीतया सह in the company of Sita, आस्ते was seated.

Having shown to Sita the mountain-river Mandakini and gratifying her with meat, Rama sat on the mountain slope. Righteous Rama was seated in Sita's company and remarked saying "This meat is sacred. This is savoury roasted in fire". (Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 96:1-2)

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

The intentional mistranslation by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur:
See the mistranslation done by Geeta press, Gorakhpur. Word “meat” is mistranslated as fruit and plants parts!! Though Original Sanskrit text is talking about meat that is meant for eating; meat that is roasted well on fire but in hindi translation readers are told that fruits and plant parts were meant for eating and cooked well on fire 😊

C. Shri Ram chandr ji and Shri Lakshman killing animals for meat

2. Sanskrit text

तौ तत्र हत्वा चतुरो महामृगान् वराहमृश्यं पृष्टं महारूम् ।
आदाय मेध्यं त्वरितं बुभुख्लितौ वासाय काले ययतुर्वनस्पतितिम्।
(Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 52:102)

Word by word Sanskrit to english translation

बुभुख्लितैं being very hungry, तौ they, तत्र there, वराहम् a boar, ऋश्य म् a white footed male antelope, पृष्टम् spotted deer, महागुरूम् a great deer with black stripes, चतुर: four, मृगान् animals, हत्वा killed, मेध्यम् pure meat, त्वरितम् quickly, आदाय partaking as food, काले in the evening time, वासाय for rest, नस्पतिम् under a tree, ययतु: reached.

Being famished, Rama, Lakshmana hunted and killed a boar, a Rishya animal (a white footed male antelope), a spotted deer and a great deer with black stripes and quickly partaking the pure meat reached a tree by the evening to spend the night. (Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 52:102)

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

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The Sanskrit word HATWA (हत्वा) = after KILLING. But it’s wrongly translated as “shikaar kheli” i.e. (they enjoyed hunting???)

Similarly word Medhyam (मेध्यम्) = pure meat here. But it is wrongly translated as “kand mul, phal” i.e. Plants, fruits etc 😊 Can you see this open forgery?
The intentional mistranslation by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur:

Yet again we can see entirely different translation. Text says that Shri Ram chandr ji and Lakshman ji killed various animals and took meat from it but translation says that they merely threw at animals and took plant food for eating 😊 Is not this literal scam? People are being fooled.

D. Shri Ram chandr ji and lakshman ji killing animals for sacrifice

3. Sanskrit text

ऐणेयं मांसमाहत्य शालां यक्ष्यामहे वयम्।
कर्त्तव्यं वास्तुशमनं सौमित्रे! चिरजीविभि:।

|Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 56.22|

Word by word Sanskrit to english translation
O Lakshmana! Those who intend to live for long should pacify the deity residing here. Therefore, we shall bring the flesh of black antelope and offer sacrifice at the leaf hut.

(Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 56.22)

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

The intentional mistranslation by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur:

Word "meat" is completely omitted and replaced with plant-vegetable in the translation and reader are given wrong picture.
The mistranslation is clear. Meat is again replaced with some plant part; Nothing more to say.

4. Sanskrit text

मृगः हत्वास्तनय क्षिप्रं लक्षणेः शुभेक्षणः
कर्तव्यं शास्त्रदृष्टो हि विधिधर्ममनुस्मर।

|Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 56.23||

*Word by word Sanskrit to English translation*

शुभेक्षण one who has auspicious looking eyes, लक्षण
Lakshmana, मृगः the antelope, हत्वा having killed, 
क्षिप्रम् quickly, इह here, आनय bring, शास्त्रदृष्टो as 
prescribed by the scriptures, विधि: rites, कर्तव्यः हि will 
have to be carried out, धर्मम् the tradition, अनुस्मर recollect.

O Lakshmana!, **Kill an antelope** and bring it here quickly. The rites as prescribed by the scriptures will have to be carried out. You know and recollect that tradition also.

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

http://nyktrivedi.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/valmiki-ramayan-sanskrit-hindi-vol-03-ayodhya-kaand-uttarardh1.pdf says:
The intentional mistranslation by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur:

One can see the same trend here. Word “meat” being replaced as plant’s part. Word “After killing” omitted.

5. Sanskrit text

भारतचन्द्रमाधानय लक्ष्मणः परवीरहा।
चकार स यथोक्तं च तं रामः पुनर्रवीत्॥ २४॥

क्रियाविषयान लक्ष्मण जो भाईः को प्राणः केन अनुसार लक्ष्मणान कायः सूच मार कर ले पाये । फिर श्रीरामचन्द्र जी के कथनानुसार कायम कर उक्तने पर ओगोरमचन्द्रजी ने पुनः उनसे कहा ॥ २४॥

एणेचं अथपयस्वैत्तच्छालाँ यष्ट्यामेहे चयमु ।
तव सौम्य सूचनतेर्तथार्थु नवचरे दिवसाध्ययमु ॥ २५॥

श्यामा अन्वेषभ इस मांसः का रूपाण्व, जिससे हम दृष्टम करूँ । वे सौम्यः शोभता करें । क्योंकि यह सूचनां भी चिकित्सें हैं गौरा विन सभी बच्चा है ॥ २५॥

स लक्ष्मणः कपनांगं हत्त्वा मेध्यं प्रतापवान ।

One can see the same trend here. Word “meat” being replaced as plant’s part. Word “After killing” omitted.

Word by word Sanskrit to English translation

परवीरहा slayer of enemy heroes, स लक्ष्मणः that Lakshmana, भारतुः brother's, वचनम् words, आजाय having understood, यथोक्तम् as to ld,चकार carried out, रामः Rama, तम्ह him, पुनः again, अब्रवीत् said.

Lakshmana who is slayer of enemy heroes having understood his brother's words carried out accordingly. Again Rama said to him.

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

http://nyktrivedi.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/valmiki-ramayan-sanskrit-hindi-vol-03-ayodhya-kaand-uttarardh1.pdf says:
Word by word Sanskrit to English translation

O gentle Lakshmana, this, flesh of antelope, cook, we, shalaam hut, yashyamhe will offer sacrifice, aymthis, divas: day, aymthis, mhouette: auspicious moment also, dvashch is firm, tvar hasten up.

O gentle Lakshmana!, dress this meat. We will offer sacrifice to the presiding deity of this hut. This moment indicates stability. Hasten up.

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

http://nyktrivedi.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/valmiki-sanskrit-hindi-vol-03-ayodhya-kaand-uttarardh1.pdf says:
Word by word Sanskrit to English translation

Then, Lakshmana, the valorous son of Sumitra, having killed a black antelope pure enough for a sacrifice, cast it in a well-kindled fire.

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

http://nyktrivedi.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/valmiki-ramayan-sanskrit-hindi-vol-03-ayodhya-kaand-uttarardh1.pdf says:

**The intentional mistranslation by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur:**

Though Sanskrit text spoke about Lakshmana killing an animal and getting sacred meat but Hindi translation is done
8. Sanskrit text

तन्तु पक्वं परिज्ञय निष्टप्तं छिन्नशोणितम्।
लक्ष्मणः पुरुषव्याघ्रमथ राघवमब्रवीत्।

|Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 56.27||

Word by word Sanskrit to english translation

लक्ष्मणः: Lakshmana, निष्टप्तम्: roastedwell, छिन्नशोणितम्: drained the blood, तम्: that, पक्वम्: cooked, परिज्ञय: having found, अथ: then, पुरुषव्याघ्रम्: tiger among men, राघवम्: Rama, अब्रवीत्: said.

Having observed that it is well-boiled, drained off the blood and cooked well, thus said Lakshmana to Rama, the best of men.

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

http://nyktrivedi.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/valmiki-ramayan-sanskrit-hindi-vol-03-ayodhya-kaand-uttarardh1.pdf says:

टं तु पक्वं समाजाय निष्टप्तं छिन्नशोणितयु।
लक्ष्मणः पुरुषव्याघ्रमथ राघवमब्रवीत्। २७ ॥

और जब वह खुल गया और उसका गंधर जल गया, तब
लक्ष्मण जो ने पुरुषव्याघ्रमथ बनाया उसे कहा। २७ ॥
The intentional mistranslation by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur:

Once again this publication – Geeta press, Gorakhpur – has made mockery of Sanskrit to hindi translation. Revered personality lakshaman follows order of his elder brother Shri Ram chandhr and got the meat drained off blood; roasted it well and cooked it. But hindi translation is telling different story about some plant / vegetable.

9. Sanskrit text

अर्य कृष्ण स्मापाताङ्ग १६४० कृष्णमृगो यथा ।
देवतां देवसइकाश! यजस्व कुशलो हयसि।

|Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 56.28|

Word by word Sanskrit to english translation

समस्ताङ्ग: with all the limbs, अयम् this, कृष्णमृग: black antelope, सर्व: completely, मया by me, श्रुत: is well-cooked, देवसइकाश equal to devatas, देवता: devatas, यजस्व offer with sacrifice, कुशल: असि हि you are proficient.
This black antelope with all the limbs is completely and well-cooked. As such O! devine sir, you may offer sacrifice to Vastu devata. You are proficient in doing such acts.

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

http://nyktrivedi.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/valmiki-ramayan-sanskrit-hindi-vol-03-ayodhya-kaand-uttarardh1.pdf says:

अयं कृष्णः समासात्: भूत: कृष्णपुरो यथा ।
देवता देवसंक्षणः यजस्व कुशलः हसि || २८ ||

In Translation: Animal black antelope is replaced with black plant.) The meaning is completely changed. Though sanskrit text is talking about animal which well cooked and is meant for eating / sacrifice but intentionally mistranslation give entire different picture to readers. People told that Sanathan dharm is against non veg eating or animal killing because of these literal lies I request all to read this with unbaised and neutral mind and understand the literal "conspiracy"!!!
Same story of literal fraud is repeated here. Sanskrit text is openly abused and wrong translation is being presented to the innocent mass. People are made to believe that Non-veg food is against their culture while sacred books talk about “god” eating animal meat after killing them.

E. Shri Ram chandr ji killing animals and bring meat

10. Sanskrit text

समाश्वस मूहूर्त तु शक्यं वस्तुमिह त्वया।

| Valmiki Ramayan, Aranya Kand 47.22 |

आगमिष्यति मे भर्ती वन्यमादाय पुष्कलम्।

रुस्तन्गोधा न्यराहांशच हत्वासदायामिषाणबहून्।

| Valmiki Ramayan, Aranya Kand 47.23 |

Word by word Sanskrit to english translation

मुहूर्तम् for a while, समाश्वस take rest, त्वया you, इह here, वस्तुम् staying, शक्यम् it is possible, मे भर्ती my husband, रुस्तन्द दeer, गोधा: alligators, वराहांशच hogs, हत्वा after killing, बहून् many of them, आमिषान् varieties of meat, आदाय after fetching, पुष्कलम् in plenty, वन्यम् from the forest, आदाय getting, आगमिष्यति will come.

Take rest for a while staying here. It is hoped that my husband will come and be getting from the forest plenty of meat of many kinds on killing deer, alligators and hogs.

Source: http://valmiki.iitk.ac.in/index.php?id=translation

Source: http://nyktrivedi.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/valmiki-ramayan-sanskrit-hindi-vol-04-aranya-kaand.pdf says:
The intentional mistranslation by Geeta Press, Gorakhpur:

Geeta press, Gorakhpur – again misleads the common mass. The Sanskrit text is talking about Shri ram chand r ji bringing meat of animals after killing deer, alligators, hogs/pigs for purpose of eating; but the hindi translation speaks about “fruit” for eating ☺. Fooling the common mass!!

F. Conclusion

1. Majority of our Hindu brethren are made to believe that Non-veg food is against their culture and tradition. They are told that Hinduism is against killing of animals for food. However a careful study of their sacred scripture gives entirely different picture.
2. Valmiki Ramayan not only speaks about shri Ram chandr ji – who is worshipped by millions of Indians as ideal person – eating meat but gives the picture that he was very fond of it.

3. Shri Ram chandr ji would kill animals, get meat to eat. He would order his brother Shri lakshmana ji to do the same. They would offer animals for sacrifice also.

4. Unfortunately some Ramayana publications grossly mistranslate such sholkas of Valmiki Ramayan that speaks about meat eating and animal killing. They not only mislead common mass but also disrespect scripture by not giving its due.

5. It’s heartening to note that some translators DO have translated such sholkas correctly and accepted meat eating and animal killing in Ramayana.

6. When Ramayana speaks about permissibility of meat eating then one should not lead common mass into believing wrong thing.

7. Intention is not at all to hurt any of our brethren but to draw attention towards the literary fraud done by some publications and wrong principles preached by some people.

8. We have not speculated, assumed or guessed but presented correct translation of such references done by learned Hindu Scholars.

9. Also its time for our Indian brethren to wake up and understand the tactics of some elements of our society who use meat eating as a political tool to divide people. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic some of our innocent’s brethren get carried away in emotion and don’t look at facts. Let’s not be divided and don’t let people polarize the society.
10. Let us not allow anti-social elements to spread hatred, create division and polarize hearts of fellow countrymen in the name of meat and animals.

Note: Let’s look at another source which proves our point. Please find below translation of above mentioned verses from Scholars of Hindu scriptures available at other site: http://www.valmikiramayan.net

Reference 1.

Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 96:1-2

तां तथा दर्शयित्वा तु मैथिली गिरिनिम्ना गाम्

| निषाद गिरिप्रस्थे सीतां मांसेन चन्द्रयन् || २-९६-१

tathaa = thus; darshayitvaa = havingshown;
girinimnagaam = the mountaneous river Mandakini; taam = to that Seetha; maithiliim = the daughter of the king of Mithila; niSasaada = sat; giriprashtthe = on the hill side; chhandayan = in order to gratify her appetite; maamsena = with flesh.

Having shown Mandakini River in that manner to Seetha, the daughter of Mithila, Rama set on the hill-side in order to gratify her appetite with a piece of flesh.

इदं मेध्यभिमिदं स्वादु निष्टप्तमिदमग्निना

| एवमास्ते स धर्मात्मा सीतया सह राघवः || २-९६-२

2. saH raaghaHvaH = that Rama; dharmaatmaa = of righteousness; aaste = stayed; siitayaa sha = with Seetha; evam = thus speaking; idam = this meat; madhyam = is fresh; idam = this; niSTaptam = was roasted; agninaa = in the fire.
Rama, whose mind was devoted to righteousness stayed there with Seetha, saying; "This meat is fresh, this is savoury and roasted in the fire."

Source: http://www.valmikiramayan.net/utf8/ayodhya/sarga96/ayodhya_96_frame.htm

Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 52:102

102. hatvaa = having killed; tatra = there; chaturaH = four; mR^igaan = deer (namely); varaaham = Varaaha; R^ishyam = Risya; Rishhatam = PRisata; mahaaruru = (and) Mahaaruru; (the four principal species of deer); aadayaa = and taking; tvaritam = quickly; medhyam = the portions that were pure; tou = Rama and Lakshmana; bubhuksshitou = being hungry as they were; yayatuH = reached; vanaspatim = a tree; vaasayaa = to take rest; kaale = in the evening.

Having hunted there four deer, namely Varaaha, Rishya, Prisata; and Mahaaruru (the four principal species of deer) and taking quickly the portions that were pure, being hungry as they were, Rama and Lakshmana reached a tree to take rest in the evening.

Source: http://www.valmikiramayan.net/utf8/ayodhya/sarga52/ayodhya_52_frame.htm

Valmiki Ramayan, Ayodha Kand 56.22-28

22. saumitre = Oh; Lakshmana!; aahR^itya = being; aiNeyam maamsam = bring meat of the antelope; vayam = we; yakshyaamahe = shall worship; shaalaam = (this)
leaf-hut; vaastushamanam = purifactory ceremony on entering the house; kartavyam = on entering the; chirajivihiH = by those who wish to live long.

"Oh, Lakshmana! Bring the meat of an antelope. We shall perform a purifactory ceremony while entering the house. Which is to be done by those who wish to live long."

मृगम् हत्वास्नय क्षिप्रम् लक्षमणेह शुभेक्षण कर्तव्यः शास्त्रहष्टो हि विधिदर्ममनुस्मर || २.५६-२३

23. shubhekshaNa = Oh; large-eyed; lakshmaNa = Lakshmana!; hatvaa = killing; mR^igam = the antelope; kshhipram = quickly; anaya = bring; iha = here; vidhiH = the prescribed rite; shastra dR^iSTaH = according to scriptural point of view; kartavyaH hi = indeed is to be done; anusmara = keep in mind; dharmam = the sacred obligation."

"Oh, large-eyed Lakshmana! Killing the antelope quickly, bring it here. The prescribed rite according to scriptural point of view indeed is to be performed. Keep in mind the sacred obligation."

भातुरवचन माजाय लक्षमणः परवीरहा ||

चकार स यथोक्तम् च तम् रामः पुनरबवीत् || २.५६-२४

24. saH lakshmaNaH = that Lakshmana; paraviirahaa = the slayer of enemies; aaJNaaya = understanding; bhraatruH = his brother's; vachanam = words; chakaara = acted; yathoktamcha = as instructed; raamaH = Rama; abraviit = spoke; punaH = again; tam = to him (as follows).

Lakshmana the slayer of enemies, understanding his brother's words, acted as instructed. Rama spoke again to Lakshmana as follows.

इणेयम् श्रपयस्वैतच्चचालाम् यक्ष्महे वयम् ||

त्वरसौम्य मुहूर्तोदयम् धुवश्च दिवसोडप्यम् || २.५६-२५
25. saumya = Oh; great brother!; shrapayasva = boil; etat = this; aiNeyam = antelope's meat; vayam = we; yakshya amahe = shall worship; shaalaam = the leaf-hut; ayam = this; divasaH = day; ayam = (and) this; muhuurtaH api = instant also; dhruvaH= are of a distinctive character; tvara = be quick.

"Oh, gentle brother! Boil this antelope's meat. We shall worship the leaf-hut. This day and this instant also are of a distinctive character. Be quick."

26. atha = then; saH lakshmaNaH = that Lakshmana; prataapavaan = the strong man; saumitriH = and son of Sumitra; hatvaa = killing; medhyam = the holy; kR^iSNa mR^igam = black antelope; chikSepa = tossed; jaata vedasi = in a fire; samiddhe = ignited.

Then, Lakshmana the strong man and son of Sumitra, killing a holy back antelope, tossed it in an ignited fire.

27. parijJNaaya = feeling certain; pakvam = it is cooked; niSTaptam = and heated thoroughly; chinna shoNitam = with no blood remaining; lakshmaNaH = Lakshmana; atha = thereafter; abraviit = spoke; raaghavam = to Rama; puruSa vyaaghram= the lion among men (as follows).

Feeling certain that it is cooked and heated thoroughly with no blood remaining, Lakshmana spoke to Rama the lion among man as follows:

अयम् कृष्णः समाप्त अन्गः शृङ्गः कृष्ण मृगो यथा ||
देवता देव सम्काश यजस्व कुशलो हि असि || २-५६-२८
"This black antelope, with its complete limbs, has been cooked completely by me. Oh, Rama resembling God! Worship the concerned deity, as you are skilled in that act."

Source: http://www.valmikiramayan.net/utf8/ayodhya/sarga56/ayodhya_56_frame.htm

Reference 10.

Valmiki Ramayan, Aranya Kand 47.22-23

"Be comfortable for a moment, here it is possible for you to make a sojourn, and soon my husband will be coming on taking plentiful forest produce, and on killing..."
stags, mongooses, wild boars he fetches meat, aplenty. [3-47-22b, 23]

Source: http://www.valmikiramayan.net/utf8/aranya/sarga47/aranya_47_frame.htm

The article can be found at:
http://khurshidimam.blogspot.in/2013/03/meat-eating-and-animal-killing-in.html

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