

RAMLILA FESTIVAL:

The chariot of Rama passes through the streets of Delhi, in a festival which Indians have celebrated since time immemorial - yet another version of the age-old story of the victory of good over evil. It tells how the exiled King Rama, with his beautiful wife Sita and his warrior brother Lakshmana, defeated Ravana, the demon king of Ceylon.

These huge effigies are the demon king and his two brothers - who abducted Rama's wife, among either ungentlemanly activities. Retribution caught up with them - and Rama got his wife and his throne back. The retribution was so well-deserved that India repeats it every year - with all the trimmings.

So perish all demon kings - especially the ones who kidnap beautiful wives.