

Goswami Tulsidas

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About Goswami Tulsidas

- He was a great Hindu poet as well as saint, reformer, and philosopher who composed various popular books.
- **Birthplace:** As per the historians, he was born (around 16th century) in Rajapur (also known as the Chitrakuta) at the bank of the Yamuna river in UP.
- The name of his parents is Hulsī and Atmaram Dubey
- He is also remembered for his devotion to Lord Rama and being the author of the great epic, the Ramcharitmanas.
- **Reincarnation of the Valmiki:** Tulsidas was always admired as a reincarnation of the Valmiki (original composer of the Ramayana in Sanskrit and Hanuman Chalisa).
- He spent his entire life in the city of Banaras (Varanasi) and also took his last breath in this city.
- After his birth, he started enchanting the name of Rama instead of crying. That's why he was named Rambola, he himself stated in Vinaya Patrika
- He himself had given some of the facts and events of his life in his various works.
- Two ancient sources of his life are the Bhaktamal and Bhakti Ras Bodhini composed by the Nabhadās and Priyadas respectively.
- Nabhadās had written in his writing about Tulsidas and described him as an incarnation of the Valmiki.
- Priyadas composed his writing 100 years after the death of Tulsidas and described the seven miracles and spiritual experiences of the Tulsidas.
- Two other biographies of Tulsidas are Mula Gosain Charit and Gosain Charit composed by Veni Madhav Das in 1630 and Dasanidas (or Bhavanidas) around 1770 respectively.

His contributions

Ramcharitmanas

- He started to write Ramcharitmanas in Ayodhya around 1631 and completed it in 1633
- Ramcharitmanas, is an epic poem in Awadhi language
- The word Ramcharitmanas literally means “Lake of the deeds of Rama”.
- It is considered one of the greatest works of Hindi.

His other Major Works

Apart from the Ramcharitmanas, there are the five major works of the Tulsidas which are:

- **Dohavali:** It has a collection of miscellaneous Doha and Sortha in Braja and Awadhi. Out of all-around 85 Dohas of it are also included in the Ramcharitmanas.
- **Kavitavali:** It has a collection of **Kavitas in Braja**. Just like the epic, Ramcharitmanas, it also has seven books and many episodes.
- **Gitavali:** It has a collection of 328 **Braja songs** divided into seven books and all are of **Hindustani classical music type**.
- **Krishna Gitavali or Krishnavali:** It has a collection of **Braja songs especially for Krishna**. Out of the 61, 32 songs are dedicated to childhood and Rasa Lila of Krishna.
- **Vinaya Patrika:** It has a collection of **Braja stanzas**. Out of all, around 43 hymns are attended to a variety of deities, Rama’s courtiers, and attendants.

His Minor Works are:

- **Barvai Ramayana:** It has 69 verses created in the Barvai meter and divided into seven Kands.
- **Parvati Mangal:** it has verses describing the marriage of the Parvati and Lord Shiva in the Awadhi.

- **Janaki Mangal:** It has verses describing the marriage of Sita and Rama in the Awadhi.
- **Ramalala Nahachhu:** It described the Nahachhu ritual (cutting the nails of the feet before the Vivaha) of the child Rama in the Awadhi.
- **Ramagya Prashna:** It described the Will of Rama in Awadhi
- **Vairagya Sandipani:** It consists of 60 verses in Braja describing the state of realization and Vairagya.

Popularly Recognized Works

- **Hanuman Chalisa:** It consists of 40 verses **devoted to the Hanuman in the Awadhi**, 40 Chaupais and 2 Dohas and is a prayer to Hanuman.
- **Sankatmochan Hanumanashtak:** It consists of 8 verses **for the Hanuman in the Awadhi**.
- **Hanuman Bahuka:** It has 44 verses in the **Braja describing** the Arm of Hanuman (praying to the Hanuman for curing his hand).

Tulsi Satsai: It has a collection of dohas in both Awadhi and Braja and separated into seven Sargas or cantos