who was hanuman?

Hanuman is the son of Anjani, (who had been cursed into a female monkey) and Vayu – the wind god, his father. Sundara Kanda, the fifth book in the Ramayana concentrates mainly on the adventures of Hanuman. Hanuman is easily reachable – just by chanting the name 'ram'.

Hanuman is worshipped as a symbol of physical strength, perseverance and devotion. On Saturdays and Tuesdays, many people keep fast in honour of Hanuman and give special offerings to him. The character on Hanuman teaches us of the unlimited power that lies unused within each one of us. Hanuman directed all his energies towards the worship of Lord Rama, and his undying devotion made him such that he became free from all physical harm & tiredness. And Hanuman's only desire was to go on serving Rama.

In order to aid Rama, Lord Brahma commanded some gods and goddesses to take the avatar of 'Varanas' (or monkeys). Indra was reincarnated as Bali, Surya as Sugriva, Vrihaspati as Tara, and Pavana, the god of wind was reborn as Hanuman, the wisest, swiftest and strongest of all apes.

how did hanuman learn to fly?

He received the ability to fly from his father, Vayu. Other qualities such as forceful travel and mighty strength were also inherited.

why was hanuman's knowledge of powers removed?

Hanuman was a naughty monkey god, in his childhood. He used his powers to pester the saints, create whirlwinds, pulling a supporting stick with his tail, pulling a beard and messing with sacred fire. All the gods prayed to Brahma to find a solution. To protect the world, he was cursed & that's how his knowledge of powers was removed.

However, it was Jambavant, the King of bears who reminded Hanuman of his powers. With these powers, he could turn big or small and these took him through many adventures for the good.

how did he become immortal?

At the end of the Ramayana, Ram defeated Ravana and Ram & Sita were crowned King & Queen of Ayodhya. Hanuman remained Ram's favorite general & continued to serve Ram. When Rama offered Hanuman anything that he mentioned, he asked to live for as long as men spoke of the deeds of Rama.

hanuman jayanti

Hanuman Jayanti is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Hanuman. It is celebrated during the month of Chaitra, on a full moon day. He was a devotee of Rama and on this day all devotees of Hanuman visit temples to worship the monkey god. Hanuman is the symbol of strength and energy. He had enough power and strength, to move mountains, run through the air, etc. The devotees apply 'tilak' of sindhoor to their foreheads from Hanuman's body as it is considered to be good luck.

According to the legend, Sita was applying Sindhoor to her head and Hanuman questioned her about why she applies it. She said that it would ensure a long life for her husband, Rama. Hanuman then smeared his entire body with sindhoor, as an effort to ensure Rama's immortality.

a brief explanation of the hanuman chalisa

'Chalisa' means 40 lines or verses or stanzas. It gives & explains the biography & highlights of Hanumanji's life. It also explains the benefits of reciting the Chalisa i.e. Hanuman will always protect you from evil and bad omen that comes in our life. It is written in Hindi and many people learn to recite it.

The Chowpai translates as 'Now I have cleansed the mirror of my mind with the dust of the lotus feet of Shri Gurudev. I meditate upon you Hanumanji, grant me strength, intelligence & true knowledge & remove all my hardship & blemishes. The first line of the Hanuman Chalisa is 'Jai Hanuman gyan gun sagar, jai kapis tihun lok ujagar'. Messenger of Shri Rama, one with the immeasurable strength, son of Anjani, known as Pavansuta. A great hero with a body as strong as thunderbolt.

Verses 2-7 state his physical features & personality. You have Rama, Lakshmana, and Sita always in your mind. You put yourself in a subtle form when you revealed yourself to Sita, and to an awesome form when you burnt the whole city of Lanka.

Verses 9 – 11 points out his part in the Ramayana. Shri Ram declared you (Hanumanji) to be as dear to him as His brother Bharata. You swallowed the sun from a distance of sixteen thousand miles, considering it to be a sweet fruit. With the Lord's ring in your mouth, you crossed the ocean. The gatekeeper of Shri Rama's Kingdom, where none may enter without your permission. You alone are able to control your energy, all three world's tremble before it. All diseases are destroyed and pairs vanish when your powerful name is repeated incessantly. The essence of devotion Shri Rama is with you, may you always be the servant of the Lord.

'Jai, Jai, Hanuman gosaai, kripa karahu gurudev ki naaee' is a very important & loud line in the Chalisa, where we raise our hands to praise Hanumanji. It says victory, victory, victory to you O Hanumanji, our supreme guru, give us your grace. He who recites this chalisa a hundred times is sure to be freed from worldly bondage & enjoy great happiness 'moksha' (that is why we often have occasions where it is recited 108 times, the extra 8 being lucky. e.g. the 108 religious beads on a 'mala' and Krishna bhagwan's 108 gopi's).

He who reads Hanuman Chalisa will become perfect, as Lord Shiva is the witness. And the final Doha 'Pavantnai sankar haran, Mangal murati roop. Ram Lakhan Sita sahit, Hrdaye basahu sur bhoop' translates as, may Hanumanji, who removes difficulties, who has an auspicious form & is king of the gods, dwell in my heart along with Shri Ram, Lakshmana & Sita.

Chowpai

Shri guru charon saroj raj, Nij mane mukure sudhar, Barnau Raghuvar Vimal Jasu, Jo dayaku phal char Budhi Hin Tanu Janike, Sumirau Pavan Kumar Bal budhi Vidya dehu mohe, Harahu Kalesa Vikar

> Shiya var Ramachandra ki Jay Pavansut Hanuman ki Jay

Jai Hanuman gyan gun sagar, Jai Kapis tihun lok ujagar Ram doot atulit bal dhama, Anjani-putra Pavan sut nama Mahavir Vikram Bajrangi, Kumati nivar sumati Ke sangi Kanchan varan viraj subesa, Kanan Kundal Kunchit Kesa

Hath Vajra Aur Dhuvaje Viraje, Kandhe moonj janehu sajai Sankar suvan kesri Nandan, Tej pratap maha jag vandan Vidyavan guni ati chatur, Ram kaj karibe ko aatur Prabu charitra sunibe ko rasiya, Ram Lakhan Sita man Basiya

Sukshma roop dhari Siyahi dikhava, Vikat roop dhari lanka jarava Bhima roop dhari asur sanhare, Ramachandra ke kaj savare Laye Sanjivan Lakhan Jiyaye, Shri Raghuvir Harashi ur laye Raghupati Kinhi bahut badai, Tum mam priye Bharat-hi sam bhai

Sahas badan tumharo jasa gave, Asa kahi Shripati kanth lagaave Sankadik Brahmadi Muneesa, Narad Sarad sahit Aheesa Yam Kuber Digpal Jahan te, Kavi kovid kahi sake kahan te Tum upkar Sugreevahin keenha, Ram milaye rajpad deenha

Tumharo mantra Vibheeshan mana, Lankeshwar bhaye sub jag jana

Yug sahastra jojan par Bhanu, Leelyo tahi madhur phal janu Prabhu mudrika meli mukh mahee, Jaladhi langhi gaye achraj nahee

Durgaam kaj jagat ke jete, Sugam anugraha tumhre tete

Ram dware tum rakhvare, Hoat na agya binu paisare Sub sukh lahai tumhari saran, Tum rakshak ka kahu ko dar na Aapan tej samharo aapai, Teenhon lok hank te kanpai Bhoot pisach Nikat nahin aavai, Mahavir jab naam sunavai

Nase rog harai sab peera, Japat nirantar Hanumant beera Sankat se Hanuman chudavai, Man Karam Vachan dyan jo lavai Sub par Ram tapasvee raja, Tin ke kaj sakal Tum saja Aur manorath jo koi lavai, Sohi amit jeevan phal pavai

Charon Yug partap tumhara, Hai persidh jagat ujiyara Sadhu Sant ke tum Rakhware, Asur nikandan Ram dulhare Ashta sidhi nav nidhi ke dhata, Us var deen Janki mata Ram rasayan tumhare pasa, Sada raho Raghupati ke dasa

Tumhare bhajan Ram ko pavai, Janam janam ke dukh bisravai Anth kaal Raghuvir pur jayee, Jahan janam Hari-Bakht Kahayee Aur Devta Chit na dharehi, Hanumanth se hi sarve sukh karehi Sankat kate mite sab peera, Jo sumirai Hanumat Balbeera

Jai Jai Jai Hanuman Gosaai, Kripa Karahu Gurudev ki naaee Jo sat bar path kare kohi, Chutehi bandhi maha sukh hohi Jo yah padhe Hanuman Chalisa, Hoye siddhi sakhi Gaureesa Tulsidas sada hari chera, Keejai Naath Hrdaye mein dera

Doha

Pavantnai sankat haran, Mangal murti roop. Ram Lakhan Sita sahit, Hrdaye basahu sur bhoop.

> Shiyavar Ramachandra ki jay Pavansut Hanuman ki jay Oomapati Mahadeva ki jay