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Question 1: The Ideal Man

In *The Ramayana of Valmiki*, Rama is presented as the ideal man. He is portrayed as an ideal king, husband, and son. Throughout the epic, there are many examples that support Rama as an ideal man.

As the Kosala Kingdom was preparing for the coronation of Rama, he, instead, demonstrates honor when he insists that Dasaratha, his dad, keeps his promise of crowning Rama's brother, Bharatha. The quote, "... For the sake of my father I can jump into fire. And, I assure you, Rama does not indulge in double talk. Hence, tell me what the king wants to be done." (Puchner 636), symbolizes the ideal son, who can sacrifice even being a king for his parents. Rama's lack of negative emotions toward the situation shows how selfless he is as he retreats to the forests. Books later, Rama demonstrates how he is an ideal husband as well. After Rama rescues Sita from Ravana, he makes Sita test her purity by entering a pit of fire. Although it may be thought that Rama is being harsh toward his wife, the quote, "Indeed, I was fully aware of Sita's purity... Yet, this baptism by fire was necessary, to avoid public calumny and ridicule... I knew, too, that Sita would never be unfaithful to me..." (Puchner 666) demonstrates his care for Sita. Since he knew that reputation was very important to Sita and her family, even though he trusted her and her purity, he had to put her through that to clean her name in society's eyes.

Lastly, Rama was also an ideal king. When Rama was finally crowned and could act as a king, He led his people with morals and values from dharma and, consequently, society was free from any fear (Puchner 668). Thus, Rama being an ideal son, husband, and king, was ultimately an ideal man.

Work Cited

Puchner, Martin. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. 4th ed., vol. 1, W.W. Norton & Co., 2009.