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Sita as the Voice of Justice in the Ramayana

By

Prof. Mandakranta Bose

Chairperson

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan

**WEDNESDAY, 3rd February, 2016
at 4:30 pm**

Venue:

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ABSTRACT:

Sita's repeated rejection by Rama, venerated as righteousness personified, is so undeserved that it makes one wonder how he could inflict such injustice upon her. This question is Sita's own, and although Rama's authority prevails, justice speaks in Sita's voice in Valmiki's *Ramayana* as well as in many later versions, particularly from the different regions of India, as this discussion will show.

Mandakranta Bose is Director of the Centre for India and South Asia Research and Professor Emerita at the Institute of Asian Research in the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Beginning her studies in Sanskrit at Sanskrit College, Kolkata, Dr. Bose continued her research at Somerville College, Oxford, earning a D. Phil. there. She has been a Visiting Fellow there and at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. She is on the editorial board of several journals, including the Oxford Journal of Hindu Studies. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada's Academy of Arts as well as of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain, Professor Bose specializes in the classical performing arts and religions of India, the *Rāmāyaṇa*, and Gender Studies. Among her many publications are: *The Rāmāyaṇa Revisited* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), a critical edition of *Sangitanārāyaṇa*, a 17th century musicological Sanskrit text, (New Delhi: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, 2009), and *Women in the Hindu Tradition* (London and New York: Routledge, 2010). Her most recent book is a translation of Candravati's 16th century Bengali *Ramayana*, co-authored with Dr. Sarika Bose and published in June 2013 by Routledge, UK. Her major project currently is a critical edition of the dramaturgical text of Kohala (2nd-3rd century). In addition, she is close to finishing an illustrated book on scroll paintings of the *Rāmāyaṇa*, and also working on editing for Oxford University Press, UK, a collection of articles on Hindu goddesses.