

Hanuman learns how to kill Ravana from his brother Bhibek (Thai Ramayana mural)

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Hanuman learns how to kill Ravana from his demon brother Bhibek, as depicted on a mural at the Emerald Buddha Temple. Within an elevated pavillion, adorned with gold leaf, Hanuman kneels at the feet of a crowned demon. The demon gestures forward with his extended left arm, telling Hanuman how to proceed.

Ravana's astrologer brother Bhibek was exiled by Ravana when Bhibek early advised the return of Princess Sita to her husband Rama. Bhibek then joined Rama's side, where he often saved those who Ravana wounded.

When Ravana seems unable to be killed by any possible method, Hanuman turns again to Bhibek for a solution to the puzzle. Bhibek explains to Hanuman that Ravana's soul is kept separately from his body, stored far away in a special cylindrical container. Hanuman realizes that Ravana will not die until the cylinder is obtained so both Ravana's body and soul can be destroyed.

Note: Readers of the Harry Potter books will recognize a parallel plot device in the invincibility and ultimate vulnerability of Lord Voldemort!



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