



Sri Thyagaraja The Testament of Indian Music

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There are at least thirty-two songs in which the saint has expressed his intimate Communion with the Lord of Beauty achieved through music. In his musical experience the Beautiful interfuses with the Sublime and the Good and irradiates through the good life. If a conviction of the rightness and felicity of the aesthetic approach to Truth is wanted, it is here.

Alone amongst the musicians of East and West, saint Thyagaraja has the unique distinction of deliberately and elaborately propounding a theory of music with a philosophical, religious and at the same time practical orientation. This is in a line with the vogue of our cultural tradition as evidenced by legend, literature and history.

While our ancient Rishis and Nadopasakas have indicated and put into practice the religio-philosophical theory of music, the credit of bringing out the aesthetic appeal of the theory through elaboration in charming song goes to Thyagaraja.

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The following is a humble attempt to present eight lyrics of the saint on the musical theme in rhythmic form. The samples reflect the ideas of Thyagaraja as to the goal of Indian music, the ideal singer, the ideal accompanist, the place of composition in music and the essential features of a musical composition.

1

THE BURDEN OF THE EARTH

['Anandasagamreedani' in Raga Garudadhvani and Tala Deshadi]

That person is verily a burden to the earth
Who doth not swim the ocean of Bliss,
The Ocean of Brahma's Bliss ! Rama !

Lord of Beauty ! the ocean of Brahma's Bliss
Is the ken of Music, wherein rests
The entire Veda !

The Lord of Being, the Lord of Beauty,
And the Ordainer - this holy Trinity -
Did they not contemplate it?
O, Thou, sung of Thyagaraja,
Rapt meditator of Raga and Rhythm !

2

THE HALL MARK OF FREEDOM

['Mokshamugalada' in Raga Saramathi and Tala Adi]

Is Liberation there
For those who do not become free here on earth?
For those bereft of insight into music
Devoted to thee, O Glory visible !



Prana and Heat contacting,
The Pranava Nada in seven notes issueth !
They know not the Mind
Of veena – enraptured Shiva !
O, thou, sung of Thyagaraja !

3
THE FREE MAN'S DRINK
[‘Ragasudharasa’ in Raga Andolika and Tala
Adi]

Drink the nectar of Raga
And enjoy thyself, O mind !
Raga which yields the fruit
Of Yoga and Yoga, Thyaga and Bhoga
Suffused by the Ever Good Lord Sadashiva
Are Nada, the Spirit of Sound, Om and the
musical notes! –
Knowers of this are free men –
So knoweth Thyagaraja.

4
THE SEVEN FAIRIES
[‘Shobhillu’ in Raga Jagannohini and Tala
Roopaka]

Won't you meditate, O mind, the glowing
Graces
Of the seven notes?
Aglow in navel, heart and throat,
In the tongue, the nose and the like !
Illuminating the Earth, the Rik, the Sama and
the rest,
The heart of Gayathri,
The minds of the gods and the gods of the earth
And Thyagaraja the reverent too !

5
HOW MUCH IS JOY?
[‘Inta Soukhyamani’ in Raga Kapi and Tala
Adi]

How much is joy I cannot say !
How much? Who would know?
O sense- Controller ! Seetha's Beloved !
It is the kindly spirits and loving souls
That might know !
In the nectar of svara, Raga and rhythm
Mixing the candy of Ram's name
And tasting, Shankara knows !
O, Thou, sung of Thyagaraja !

6
REVERENCE DOES THE TRICK
[‘Sangeethajnanamu bhaktivinaa’ in Raga Dhanyasi
and Tala Adi]

Doth musical lore without reverence
Have the good direction, O mind?
That lore which Nandi and Natesha
And the wind-born and the pot-born,
And sage Matanga and Narada and such others
Do meditate upon?

Right and wrong do become manifest,
And the worlds seem as full phantom illusions,
And that act by which the wicked enemies six
Like lust and the like are vanquished
Becomes plain to Thyagaraja !

7
THE MUSICIAN'S VADEMECUM
[‘Sogasuga mridanga talamu’ in Raga Sree Ranjani
and tala Roopaka]

Sweetly coupling Mridanga Tala
Who would dare enrapture Thee !

With words that signify
The Essence of Vedanta,
And in notes of purity !

With compositions exhibiting
Caesura, ease, and reverence,
Pauses and daintiness with rasas nine,
Contemplating Thee – Finesse such as this,
Is it in the competence of Thyagaraja?

8
THE TESTAMENT OF MUSIC
[‘Svara raga Sudharasayuta Bhakti’ in Raga
Shankarabharanam and Tala Adi]

The Svara Raga nectar with reverence mixt,
Is very Heaven and Liberation ! O mind !

If on the Lotus of joy
The crane or frog should cruise,
What boots it, O Mind?
To know the Muladhara born sound
Is, Oh, the joy of Liberation !
To know the home o' the mighty seven notes
Is very Liberation, O Mind !

To thump the drum without the ken
Of technique or of interval –
Is it Pleasure?



ಕರುಣೆಯೇ ರಂಗ ಕರುಣೆಯೇ |
ಹಗಲು ಇರುಳು ನಿನ್ನ ಸ್ಮರಣೆ ಮರೆಯದಂತೆ !!

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ಜನವರಿ-2010

To worship without a heart serence
Is the pigghish way, O Mind !

But who combines Raga with reverence
Is the free man, O mind !

Right and wrong do become manifest,
And the worlds seem as full phantom illusions,
And that act by which the wicked enemies six
Like lust and the like are vanquished
Becomes plain to Thyagaraja !

The Lord of the Silver Mountain
Revealed to the Mountain Maid
The mysteries of the ocean of Svara !
This the victorious Thyagaraja knows ! -
Believe and learn, O mind !

To excel as the knower of Truth
Many lives after is Liberation.

(Courtesy: Second Music Conference Seminar 1959:
Bidaran Krishnappa's Sri Prasanna Seetharama
Mandiram, Mysore)

ಮಲ್ಲಾರ: ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾಸಪತ್ರಿಕೆ 2010

ಜನವರಿ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್	ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಮಾರ್ಚ್ ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್	ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ಜುಲೈ	ಮೇ	ಜೂನ್	ಆಗಸ್ಟ್	ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್	2010ನೇ ವರ್ಷದ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಕ್ಯಾಲೆಂಡರ್				
ವಾರದಿಗಳು							ದಿನಗಳು				
ಶುಕ್ರ	ಸೋಮ	ಗುರು	ಶನಿ	ಮಂಗಳ	ರವಿ	ಬುಧ	1	8	15	22	29
ಶನಿ	ಮಂಗಳ	ಶುಕ್ರ	ರವಿ	ಬುಧ	ಸೋಮ	ಗುರು	2	9	16	23	30
ರವಿ	ಬುಧ	ಶನಿ	ಸೋಮ	ಗುರು	ಮಂಗಳ	ಶುಕ್ರ	3	10	17	24	31
ಸೋಮ	ಗುರು	ರವಿ	ಮಂಗಳ	ಶುಕ್ರ	ಬುಧ	ಶನಿ	4	11	18	25	
ಮಂಗಳ	ಶುಕ್ರ	ಸೋಮ	ಬುಧ	ಶನಿ	ಗುರು	ರವಿ	5	12	19	26	
ಬುಧ	ಶನಿ	ಮಂಗಳ	ಗುರು	ರವಿ	ಶುಕ್ರ	ಸೋಮ	6	13	20	27	
ಗುರು	ರವಿ	ಬುಧ	ಶುಕ್ರ	ಸೋಮ	ಶನಿ	ಮಂಗಳ	7	14	21	28	

- ಶಿವಶಂಕರ್.ಆರ್, ನಂ. 108, ಗೋವಿಂದಪುರ, ಎ.ಓ. ಅಂಚೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-45.

ಶ್ರೀಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ - ವಾರ್ತೆ

ಅಲಂಬಗಿರಿ ಮಹಾಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ: ಶ್ರೀ ಅಂಜನೇಯಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಸನ್ನಿಧಿ ಹನುಮ ಜಯಂತಿ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.11.2009

ಅಲಂಬಗಿರಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಶ್ರೀ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ವೆಂಕಟರಮಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಮುಂಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವ ಶ್ರೀ ಅಂಜನೇಯ ಸ್ವಾಮಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಹನುಮಜಯಂತಿಯ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ನವೆಂಬರ್ 30ರ ಸೋಮವಾರದಂದು ವಿಶೇಷ ತುಳಸಿ ಅಲಂಕಾರವನ್ನು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ತುಳಸಿಯು ಭಗವಂತನ ಪೂಜೆಗೆ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠವಾದುದು. ಸದ್ಗುರು ತಾತಯ್ಯನವರೂ ಸಹ ಶ್ರೀ ಅಮರ ನಾರೇಯಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿಯ ಪೂಜೆಗಾಗಿ ತುಳಸಿಯನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ತಾವೇ ಸ್ವತಃ ಬಾವ ತೋಡಿ ನೀರು ಬಾರದಿದ್ದಾಗ **ವಿಷಮೃ ಗಂಗಾಭವಾನಿ** ಕೀರ್ತನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಪಾದಪೂಜಿಸು ತುಳಸಿವನಮಟ್ಟು ಕಾವಲಂಚಿಸು ಪರಲಚಿತನು ಅಪ್ಪು ಚೇತಿಸಿ ಬಾವ ಸನಿಸಿ ಒಪ್ಪು ಜಲಮೃ ವಟ್ಟಿಟರದ** - ಎಂದು ಭಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸಿದಾಗ ತುಳಸಿ ತೋಟಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಗಂಗೆಯು ಸಮೃದ್ಧಿಯಾಗಿ ಹರಿದು ಬಂದಳು. ಅಲಂಬಗಿರಿಯ ವೆಂಕಟರಮಣ ಸ್ವಾಮಿಯನ್ನು **ಶ್ರೀ ತುಳಸಿ ವನಮಾಲಲೋಲುನು** - ಎಂದು ಹಾಡಿ ಹೊಗಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇಂತಹ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠವಾದ ತುಳಸಿಯ ಅಲಂಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೃಹದಾಕಾರವಾದ ಅಂಜನೇಯಸ್ವಾಮಿಯು ಅಚ್ಚ ಹಸಿರಿನ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯಂತೆ ಕಂಗೊಳಿಸಿ ದಿವ್ಯರಸವನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಾ ಭಕ್ತರ ಹೃದಯವನ್ನು ಆನಂದಪರವಶರನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿತ್ತು.

ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಧರ್ಮಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಾದ ಡಾ|| ಎಂ.ಆರ್. ಜಯರಾಮ್‌ರವರು ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಸ್ರಾರು ಭಕ್ತರು ಹನುಮಜಯಂತಿಯ ವಿಶೇಷ ಪೂಜಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಸ್ವಾಮಿಯ ದರ್ಶನ ಭಾಗ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದರು.

- ವರದಿ: ಕೆ. ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ

