

Ganesha Prayer Modalondipe



Kannada

ಮೊದಲೊಂದಿಪೆ ನಿನಗೆ ಗಣನಾಥಾ
ದೇವಾ ವಂದಿಪೆ ನಿನಗೆ ಗಣನಾಥಾ
ಬಂದ ವಿಘ್ನಗಳ ಕಳೆ ಗಣನಾಥಾ||ಪ||
ಆದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿನ್ನ ಪಾದ ಪೂಜಿಸಿದ ಧರ್ಮರಾಯ
ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಗಣನಾಥಾ ||1||
ಅಂದು ರಾವಣನು ಮದದಿಂದ ನಿನ್ನ ಪೂಜಿಸದೆ
ಸಂದ ರಣದಲಿ ಗಣನಾಥಾ ||2||
ಮಂಗಳ ಮೂರುತಿ ಗುರು ರಂಗ ವಿಠಲನ ಪಾದ
ಹಿಂಗದೆ ಭಜಿಪೆ ಗಣನಾಥಾ ||3||

Transliteration

modalom̐dipe ninage gaṇanāthā
dēvā vaṁdipe ninage gaṇanāthā
baṁda vighnagala kale gaṇanāthā||pa||

ādiyalli ninna pāda pūjisida dharmarāya
sādhisida rājya gaṇanāthā ||1||

aṁdu rāvaṇanu madadiṁda ninna pūjisade
saṁda raṇadali gaṇanāthā ||2||

maṁgala mūruti guru raṁga viṭhalana pāda
hiṁgade bhajipe gaṇanāthā ||3||

Carnatic Music

It is customary to worship lord Ganesha in Indian tradition before starting any activity. The above prayer on lord Ganesha is composed by **Sripadarāja** as can be seen from his poetic signature, *ankita*, '*ranga-vithala*'. He was a saint who lived between 1420 – 1486 A.D and belonged to devotional sect of Madhva. He is responsible for starting 'dāsa-parampara' in Karnataka. Puruandara dāsa who came after Sripadaraja has chosen this song as a prayer to start the study of Carnatic music.

In the song Sripadaraja gives example of Dharmaraya and Ravana from the epics Mahabharata and Ramayana. Dharmaraya worshipped lord Ganesha with humbleness and was victorious. Ravana did not worship lord Ganesha with pride and was defeated. So, it is important to be humble and shun the pride while learning music, or for that matter any learning.

Purandara Dasa (1470 – 1565 CE) was a Hari-dāsa philosopher and a follower of Madhwacharya. He was a composer, singer and one of the chief founding-proponents of Carnatic music. He is widely referred to as the Pitamaha (lit."grandfather") of Carnatic music. Purandara Dasa systematized the method of teaching Carnatic music which is followed to the present day. He introduced the raga Mayamalavagowla as the basic scale for music instruction and fashioned a series of graded lessons such as *swaravalis*, *janti swaras*, *alankaras*, *lakshana geetas*, *prabandhas*, *ugabhogas*, *daatu varase*, *geeta*, *sooladis* and *kritis*. Another contribution was the fusion of bhava, raga, and *laya* in his compositions. His *sooladis* are regarded musical masterpieces and are the standard for raga *lakshana*. Scholars attribute the standardization of varna *mettus* entirely to Purandara Dasa.

