

Class Prayer

Gurur Brahma... Gurur Vishnu..
Gurur Devo Maheshwara...
Guru saakshaal Para Brahma...
Thasmai Sree Gurave Nama:

[Hindu mythology hails a supreme power, Para Brahman, comprising of three deities – Brahma who is the lord of creation, Vishnu who is the lord of protection (or sustenance), and Maheshwara (Shiva) who is the lord of destruction. The Guru sows the seeds of goodness and virtues in your mind – so he is Brahma. Guru protects your virtues against all evil – so he is Vishnu, and he destroys all the weeds and bad thoughts that co-infest your mind – and so he is Maheshwara. In other words, the Guru is none other than Para Brahman. Let us all bow to the great Master.]

Asatho Ma Sad Gamaya

Brhadaranyaka Upanishad — I.iii.28

asato ma sadgamaya
tamaso ma jyotirgamaya
mr[^]tyorma amr[^]tam gamaya

[Lead me from the asat to the sat.
Lead me from darkness to light.
Lead me from death to immortality.]

Vande Matharam

By Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

Vande Matharam... Vande Matharam...
Sujalaam, Subhalaam, Malayaja seethalaam
Sasya syaamalaam, Maatharam...
Vande Maatharam...

Subhra jyotsna pulakitha yamini
Bhulla kusumitha drumadala shobhini
Suhasini, sumadhura bhashini
Sukhadaam, varadaam, Matharam...
Vande Matharam... Vande Matharam...

[Translation by Sri Aurobindo Ghosh:

I show gratitude to thee, Mother,
richly-watered, richly-fruited,
cool with the winds of the south,
dark with the crops of the harvests,
The Mother!

Her nights rejoicing in the glory of the moonlight,
her lands clothed beautifully with her trees in flowering bloom,
sweet of laughter, sweet of speech,
The Mother, giver of boons, giver of bliss.
]

Indian National Anthem

By Rabindranath Tagore

Jana gaṇa mana adhināyaka jaya he
Bhārata bhāgya vidhātā
Pañjāba Sindhu Gujarāṭa Marāṭhā
Drāviḍa Utkala Vaṅga
Vindhya Himāchala Yamunā Gaṅgā
Ucchala jaladhi taraṅga
Tav śubha nāme jāge
Tav śubha āśiṣa māge
Gāhe taba jaya gāthā
Jana gaṇa maṅgala dāyaka jaya he
Bhārata bhāgya vidhātā
Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he
Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he!

Lesson 1: Choir Practice

Doe, a deer, a female deer Ray, a drop of golden sun Me, a name I call myself Far, a long, long way to run Sew, a needle pulling thread La, a note to follow Sew Tea, a drink with jam and bread That will bring us back to Do oh-oh-oh	sa, sarasam, Sruthipadamam shadjam ri, rudramaam rishabham ga, gahanam, gambheeramaam gaandhaaram ma, mr^duvaam madhyamam pa, pranavatthil panchamam dha, dheeramam dhaivadham ni, nistalamam nishaadam samgeethathil sargam chERtthaliyunnu
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[Shadjam, Rishabham, Gandharam, Madhyamam, Panchamam, Dhaivadham, Nishaadam – these are the notes of Indian classical music – sung as Sa, Ri, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha, Ni. Shadjam is the essence of all rasams (bhaavam or emotions) and is the base of the shruthi (tonic scale). Rishabham embodies wrath and fury. Gandharam is intense and resonates pride and authority. Madhyamam is soft and sweet. Panchamam is the heart of the Pranava manthram (Aum). Dhaivadham is bold and personifies valor. Nishaadam is bottomless. Sa to Sa, these notes join hands to sublime into a Sargam (octave).]

Lesson 2: Uma Keralam

By Ulloor S. Parameswara Iyer

ga sa ri ga ma ga ri ga | pa dha pa ma ga ri ga ||
pa ma ga ma pa dha pa ni | ni pa ma ga ri ga sa ||
sa ni sa ri ga ma pa dha | pa ni sa ri ga ri ga ||
ma ga ri ga sa ni pa ma | ni pa ma ga ri ga sa ||

aTiyān~ iniyum uNTaam | janmam ennaal athellaam ||
aTi muthal muTiyOLam | ninnil aakaTTe thaayE ||
aTi malar iNa vENam | thaang uvaan mat orETatth||
aTiyuvath~ njerukkam | mukthi siddhikkuvOLam ||

[O Mother (Keralam), if I were to be born again and again, end-to-end, may all of it be on your land. I seek protection at your feet - anywhere else would be extremely difficult – till the time I attain moksham (nirvanam or salvation).]

parama purusha SayyE, | bhaaratha kshONi maule ||
paraSu jaya pathaakE, | pathmajaa nr^ttha Saale ||
param ivanu sahaayam | paaril aaruLLu neeyE ||
paravaSatha akati | paatthu koLLaNam thaayE ||

[Thou, who art the resting place of Parama Purushan (Maha Vishnu – Anantha Sayanam in Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple), the crown jewel of Mother India, the symbol of Parashuraman's victory (please see below), and the dancing grounds of Padmaja (Maha Lakshmi – goddess of wealth) – art my only help in the whole world. O Mother, spare me all the troubles, and protect me for ever.]

[Note: Parashuraman, torn with despair and repentance over his brutal killing of Kshathriyas, threw his axe into the Arabian Sea. The ocean receded to give raise to the land of Kerala – spanning from Gokarnam to Kanyakumari.]

Lesson 3: Sree Ganapathiyute

By Kavalam Narayana Panikkar, Music by M.G.Radhakrishnan

Sree gaNapathiyuTe thirunaamakkuRi thuyiluNaru~ thuyiluNaru~
Sree mahaadEvanum Sree paar_vvathiykkum
ponnaay~ vaLar_nnavanE thuyiluNaru~ thuyiluNaru~
aana mukhavanukk~, muthalamr^thoonukk~,
ayyaa thuyiluNaru~, ayyayyaa thuyiluNaru~
Sree gaNapathiyuTe thirunaamakkuRi thuyiluNaru~ thuyiluNaru~

[Please wake up, the great namakkuri of Lord Ganapathy. (Or in other words: Please wake up, O Lord Ganapathy, and don your great namakkuri - the mark with bhasmam on Lord Ganapathy's forehead). Do wake up, O great one, who grew up to be the dear son of Lord Mahadeva (Shivan) and Goddess Parvathy (Siva's wife). O wake up, My Lord, who is distinguished by the face of an elephant, and is the distinguished guest at any feast.]

Lesson 4: Pora Pora Nalil Nalil

By Vallatthol Narayana Menon

maada pura muthal maNi mEda varEkkezhum ellaa
veedinteyum padikkalee vaijyanthikaL
aadi kaLicchu ninnoLi thooki naanaa niram chaartthi
maadi viLikkaTTe nammaL thEdum mukthiye

mangaLa pathaakE ninkal thangina thudippo ha... ha...
njangaLude sudinatthin pratha: sandhya thaan
ithaa ninkal samarppicchu mudaa njangaL swajeevitham
ithine nee swarggathilEkkuyartthiyaalum

pOra pOra naaLil naaLil doora dooramuyaraTTe
bhaarathasma dEviyuTE thr^ppathaakakaL
aakaaSa poikayil puthuthaakum ala iLakaTTe
doodu bandhu gathikkuta maarggam kaaTTaTTe

[In commemoration of Indian Independence, the poet writes about the Indian National Flag...

From the smallest huts to the most magnificent mansions, let every door step bear this symbol of victory. Let them (flags) fly, and fill the skies with colors and flairs, and beckon upon us the salvation we have always been seeking.

O great flag, the dawn and dusk of this greatest day in our lives (Independence day) are mere reflections of the blush on your cheeks. We place in your hands our humble lives, do raise this up to the heavens (where you flutter).

Day by day, we would like to see soaring higher and higher, the great tri-colored flag of my Mother India. Let it stir great waves in the lakes of the heavens, and foster new diplomatic relations with countries around (whoever sees this flag flying).]

Lesson 5: Omana Thinkal Kidavo

By Iravivarman Thampi (Irayimman Thampi)

Omana thinkaL kiTaavO, nalla kOmaLa thaamara poovO?
poovil niRanja madhuvO, pari pooRNNEndu thante nilaavO?
putthan pavizha koTiyO, cheRu thathakaL konchum mozhiyO?
chanchaaTi aaTum mayilO, mr^du panchamam paaTum kuyilO?
thuLLum iLa maan kiTaavO, SObha koLLunnoranna koTiyO?
iiSwaran thanna nidhiyO, paramESwari Enthum kiLiyO?

Lesson 6: Udayaravi Kiranangal

By O.N.V. Kurup

udayaravi kiraNangngaL thanthrikaLaay~ meeTTunnathaarO
hr^daya thaamara veeNTum uyarukayaay~
dhim dhimi - dhimi dhim dhimee - dhimi dhim dhimee - dhimi dhim

uyarumoru kuLir gaana kaahaLamaay~ manthra dhvanikaL
pulariyinnumuNar_nnirikkunnoo
mozhikaL nammuTe mozhikaL sathyaththin aazhangngaLil
ninnuyarumoru kuLir dhaarayaakaTTe
[udayaravi]

inthya than svaathanthya manthram nee, mandra Sruthiyil,
innum ennum uNar_nnirikkunnoo
chaithra mangngaLa gaanamaayi varoo, thaara svaraththil,
viSva pauranuNar_ththu paaTTaayi
[udayaravi]

[Who is that playing melodiously on (the veena strung by) the golden rays of the rising sun? The heart springs up like a lotus in a pond.

The dawns resound with mathras that rise like a melodious orchestration of trumpets. Words, our word, let them spring rise from the depths of truths, like a fountain of healing (where “words” implies scriptures, knowledge, war slogans, etc. and the “healing” reflects on social awakening, spiritual rejuvenation, liberation or independence).

Thou, who art the manthra of Indian independence, for ever strike the chords (in the mandra sruthi - bass voice), to the glorious ballads of success (sung in the thara sruthi – soprano/treble voice), and do float down as the waking song for the viswa pauran (Supreme power, God, or world citizen).]

Lesson 7: Sanaadhayaayi Bhoomi

By Vayalar Rama Varma

prabhaatha gOpura vaathil thuRannu, paNTu manushyan vannoo
viSwa prakr^thi veRum kaiyOTe, virunnu nalkaan ninnu

kOTi yugangaLkkakale, kaalam kooTi janikkum mumpe
sooryanil ninnoru chuRu thee kuTammay, SoonyaakaaSa sarassil
veeNu thaNutthu kiTannu, mayangi, uNarnnavaLallo bhoomi
vayuvil eeRan jeeva kaNangaLe, vaari chooTiya bhoomi

annu manushyan theeRtthu, bhoomiyil, aayiram albhutha SilpangaL
aLakaapurikaL, madhuraapurikaL, kalayuTe amaraavathikaL
ashTaiSwarya samr^dhikaL chooTi, anaSwarayaayi bhoomi
sankalpatthinu chirakukaL kiTTi, sanaadhayaayi bhoomi

mannile jeevitha khanikaLil muzhuvan, ponnu viLanjathu kaaNke
sooryan kOpam koNTu jwalicchu, Sukran kannu chumannu
bhoomiyil vannu valam vacchorunaaL, poonthinkaL kala paaTee
paRanjayakko dEvi, manushyane orikkal, ithile kooTi

[Opening the doors of dawn, down stepped Man onto the face of the Earth. Nature stood empty handed to welcome him.

Billions of years ago – before the dawn of time – a speckle of fire broke loose from the Sun and hurled out into the vast expanse of the universe, where she rested and cooled down, and finally woke up bearing seeds of life in its atmosphere – she was Earth.

Man created many many wonders on the face of Earth – marvels like Alakapuri (palace of Lord Kubera, the king of Yakshas and the lord of wealth), Madurapuri (palace of Lord Kr^shna), and Amaravathi (a small town situated on the banks of the River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh, India - famous for its Amareswara temple dedicated to Lord Shiva). Blessed with ashta aishwaryam (the eight riches - Anima, Mahima, Lakima, Karima Esitvam, Vasithvam, Prapti and Prakamyam), Earth became immortal. Fantasies (imagination) took to flight, and Earth finally found a companion – in Man).

Seeing the vast riches abounding on Earth, Sun flamed with anger, Venus (normally, clear and pure, calm and bright) reddened with fury. But moon (Earth's closest friend), came around to say, "Please, Devi, send your Man my way some day".]

Extras

Aalaayaal Thara Venam

By Kavalam Narayana Panikkar

yuddhatthinkal raaman nallu, kulatthinkal seetha nallu
ooNurakkam upEkshipaan lakshmaNan nallu
padakku bharathan nallu, paravaan painkiLi nallu
parakkunna pakshikaLil garudan nallu
aalaayal thaRa vENam, aduthhorambalam vENam
aalinnu chErnnoru kuLavum vENam

Brahma Kamala Dala

aadi mahassil, anaadi thamassil, aadyam prapancham uRangumbOL
aayiram chiRakukaL vidartthi veeSum, ananthathE, apaarathE...
nadam tharoo, thaaLam tharoo, naada thaaLa layangaL enikku
tharoo...
brahma kamala daLa yugangaLil uNarum, brahmamayi, naada
brahmamayi
swara raga suma maalyam aNiyum, sudhaamayi, sura sOma mayi
[namastE, namastE, namastE, jagathE kamaadha:ha]

Jayadeva Kaviyute

ii niSaa vELayil ninte ninavoru vENu gaanatthil alinjO
ii Saantha nidrayil ninte kinaavukaL dwaaraka thEdi paRannO
jayadEva kaviyude veechikaL kETTente raadhe uRakkamaayO
raajeeva nayanante vaartthakaL kETTente raadhe uRakkamaayO

Karuna Cheyvaanenthu

By Iravivarman Thampi (Irayimman Thampi)

karuNa cheyvaanthu, thaamasam kr^shNaa
kazhaliNa kaithozhunnEn

Krishna Nee Begane

By Vyasaraaya Thirtha

krishNa nee bEganE baarO

Pallivaalu Bhadravattakom

paLLi vaaLu bhadra vaTTakom, kayyilEnthi thampuraaTTi
nallacchante thiru mumpil ninnum kaLi gamicchidunnu
(anganangane)
iniyellaam maRannidaam, nallacchanaam gamicchidaam
chathi thirukiya daarikane kola cheythu vannidaam
(anganangane)

Punchavayal Chirayurakkana

puncha vayal chirayuRakkaNa thOtan paaTTu
nenchuruki paadaNa maNNinte makkada paaTTu
paaTTinu thaaLamadikkaNa maadatthe puLiyante karaLu
karaLinte karaLilu paaTTu neyyaNa thanka kinaavu

mala mukaLilood~ alaRi varum~ orotayaan pOle
kuthi kuthicchu varunnOraatu veLLam thadayaan
mada uyardthana pulayante kudililu theppuka pongaan
maanam theLiyedi, mizhi thuRakkadi, deevathamaarE...

Sare Jahaan Se Accha

By Muhammad Iqbal

maḥḥab nahīñ sikhātā āpas meñ bair rakhnā
hindī haiñ ham, vaḥān hai hindostāñ hamārā
sāre jahāñ se acchā hindostāñ hamārā
ham bulbuleñ haiñ us kī vuh gulsitāñ hamārā

Vaishnava Jan To

By Narsimh Mehta

Vaishnav Jan to tene kahiye Jay peerh paraaye janneyray
Par dukkhey upkar karey teeyey, man abhiman na anney ray
Sakal lokma Sahuney bandhey, Ninda Na karye kainee ray
Baach kaachh, Man nischal Raakhey, dhan-dhan jananee tainee ray

[He and he alone is the man of God,
Who knows the pain and misery of others,
Who tries to help others in distress,
And who does not have pride in his mind.

He and he alone is the man of God,
Who respects and salutes all,
Who does not talk ill of others,
Who keeps his mind pure in words and action,
And whose mother is considered blessed by all.]