



SRI TALLAPAKA ANNAMACHARYA COMPOSITIONS - DASAVATARA KEERTANAS

Dr Vanaja Uday

Associate Professor

Suravaram Pratapa Reddy Telugu University ,Hyderabad

Abstract :

Tallapaka Annamacharya known as Annamayya was a 15th century Telugu composer from Andhra Pradesh. He is renowned for his numerous sankeertanas, devotional songs dedicated to lord Venkateswara. His compositions are classified as Adhyatma sankeertanas and Sringara sankeertanas. Annamacharya is said to have written 32,000 sankeertanas in the praise of Lord Venkateswara. Annamacharya written different types of keertanas like Gobbipatalu, Lalipatalu, Suvvipatalu. Particularly Annamacharya written Dasavatara keertanas . In this kirtanas Annamacharta mentioned all avatars .The song Dolayamacala dolayamchala dolayam in this keertana Annamacharya describing the ten avatars of Vishnu. In this keertana the first sentences of this charanam Annamayya begins the avatars of Vishnu, starting with meena, kurma, varaha. Like this Annamayya written special keertanas about Dasavataram. These kirtanas are not just prayers but also philosophical journeys. The present paper focus on dasavatara glorious compositions and also philosophical approach of Annamacharya.

Key Words : Carnatic Music, Compositions, Life Sketch, Sankirtanas, Venkateswara, Literature.

Introduction:

Tallapaka Annamacharya was born on Vaishakha Shuddha Pournami in the year

Sarwadhari (22 May 1408) in Tallapaka, Rajampet Mandalam, a village in present-day Annamayya district of Andhra Pradesh, India.[5] Even though his parents belong to the Nandavarika Niyogi Brahmin community of Smarta tradition, he was given samashrayana initiation by Ghana-Vishnu and became a Vaishnava of the Ramanuja Sri Vaishnava Sampradaya.[6][7][8] He decided to go to Ahobilam in order to receive instructions from Satakopa Swami, the founder of Ahobila Matha. He spent many years in Ahobilam where he acquired the knowledge of Naalayira Divya Prabandham and the philosophy of Visistadvaita. His wife, Timmakka,[9] had written Subhadra Kalyanam, and is considered the first female poet in Telugu literature. Their son, Pedda Tirumalacharya, and grandson, Tallapaka Chinnayya, were also composers and poets. The Tallapaka compositions are considered to have dominated and influenced the structure of Carnatic music compositions.[3] Annamacharya lived for 95 years until Phalguna Bahula (Krishna) Dvadashi (12th day after full moon) in the year Dhundhubhi (4 April 1503).

Literary Career :

Annamayya is said to have composed as many as 32,000 samkirtanas (songs) on the praise of Venkateswara of which only about 12,000 are available today. He is also the author of musical treatise called "Samkirthanalakshanamu".

Annamayya considered his compositions as floral offerings to Venkateswara. In the poems, he praises the deity, describes his love for him, argues and quarrels with the deity, confesses the devotee's failures and apprehensions, and surrenders himself to Venkateswara. His songs are classified into the Adhyatma (spiritual) and Shringara (romantic) samkirtanas genres. His songs in the "Sringara" genre worship Venkateswara by



describing the romantic adventures of Venkateswara and his consort Alamelu, while others describe the bhakti of his devotees

Musical and Literary Contributions

Sankirtanas:

Annamacharya composed over 32,000 Sankirtanas, or devotional songs, dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, often describing his love, faith, and devotion to the deity.

Pioneer of Telugu Music:

He was the first known composer to use the Telugu language for composing devotional songs, a style that was later followed by other artists.

Influence on Carnatic Music:

The musical form of his keertanas has significantly influenced the structure of Carnatic music compositions and remains popular among artists today.

"Telugu Pada Kavita Pitamaha":

He is widely honored with this title, which means the "grandfather of Telugu lyrical poetry".

very famous songs of Annamayya :

Keertana	Ragam	Talam
• 1. AadhivoAlladhivo -	Madhyamarathi -	Adi
• 2. EvvariBakiyam -	Bairai -	Adi
• 3. EnthagaNidhra -	Kamboji-	Kandachapu
• 4. OkapariKokapari -	Karaharapri-	Adi
• 5. Oh Baranathmaja -	Sriragam -	Adi
• 6. Kondalelo -	Hindolam-	Adi
• 7. KshirabdhiKanyakugu -	Kuranji -	Adi
• 8. BrahmamOkate-	Mukhari -	Adi

In 1922, twenty-five hundred copper plates comprising of about 14,000 Sankirtanas.

Dasavatara Keertanas in Devotional Expression:

The compositions are primarily expressions of love and surrender to lord Vishnu, emphasizing the importance of bhakti.

Theme of Dasavatara Keertanas :

The keertanas praise the deity, describe his divine exploits, and emphasize his supreme power, including his manifestations as the ten avatars.



Dasavatara Keertanas :

Dasavatara refers to the ten principal incarnation of lord Vishnu including mastya, kurma, Varaha, Narasimha, vamana, parasurama, rama, Balarama and kalki

Annamayya mentioned Dasavatarasa in his keertanas are:

1. Mastyakurma Varaha manushyasimhavamana iccharamaramaramahita buddha kalki

In this keertana Annamacharya describes the all the 10 avatars of lord Vishnu in this keertana.

2. **Madhava kesavamadusudana** kapi raga in the keertana 3rd charanam Annamacharya wrote the sahyam Mahita Janardhana mastyakurma Varaha Sahaja Bhargava buddha jayaturagakalki Annamayya mentioned dasavataras in this charanam.

3. **Dolayamchala dolayamhari dolayam** in this keertana Pallavi indicates the unjal part but in all the first charanam starts with Minakurma Varaha mrugapatiavatara like all the charanasahityamare describes dasavataras.

4. **Hari yavataaramitadu** : This song highlights the various avatars of lord Vishnu and their significance.

Some Other Dasavatara Keertanas :

- Bhavayami gopalabalam
- Teppagamarrakumida
- Pudaminindaribatti
- Hari rasama vihara
- Vadala Vadalaventa
- Karanekim mam gruhe
- Tane kakevvarumaku

References:

- Ananda murthivetri :Tallapakakavulapadakavitalu bhasha prayogavisheshalu Tirumala Tirupati devasthanamulu- Tirupati 1976.
- Krishnamurthy salva- Sankeertana lakshanam innstitute of Asian studies , Chennai, 1996.
- Laksmanayya samudrala Annamacharyasankeertanamrutam, Tirumala Tirupati devasthanamulu, Tirupati, 2000
- Vani kesarla- sritallapakaannamacharyulujeevitacharitra, Tirumala Tirupati devasthanamulu, Tirupati, 2000
- Tallapaka padasahityam Adhyatamsankeertanalu , (1 to 4 volumes)
- Adhyatamasankeertanalapeethikal, 18 volumes
- Tallapakapadakavulasankeertanalu 1st to 29 volums , Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanamulu, Tirupati, 1998.