

Raga of the Month- April, 2017

Raga MotakiTodi

In this month we shall study Raga MotakiTodi. Although the Raga is melodious, it is not commonly heard. The audio sample presented here is a rare recording of (Late) Sangeet Rasraj Pandit Shivkumar Shukla* of BhandiBazaar Gharana. The Raga with the name Motaki is documented in Pandit Bhatkhande's Kramik Pustak Malika Volume 6 and also in Raga Nidhi by Prof. SubbaRao, but its melody structure is different. Dr. Madhusudan Patwardhan has documented both the Ragas Motaki and MotakiTodi in the book Raga Vidnyan Volume 8 where he has given information about both the Ragas. Whereas scale of Raga Motaki includes SrRgMPdDnN; scale of MotakiTodi consists of notes SrgMPdDn. The basic information of Raga MotakiTodi can be summarized as follows:

Thata- Bhairavi, Jati- Shadava-Sampoorna ; Vadi M; Samvadi S;
Time 7 am to 10 am;

Aroha- rS 'P'n'P S, SgMP, DnDP, PDnS'' or MPd-nPS'';

Avaroha- r''S'' DnP, S'' nDPMPg-MgrS;

Chalan- S, 'P'n'PS, SM, MPgrS, 'n SgMP, PDPDnDMgrS, MPd-nPS'',
g''r''S'', nS''dP, PDPDnDPMgrS; S'' nDMgrS, r''S''nS'' dP,
PDPDnDMgrS, 'P'n'PS.

Phrase MPd-nPS'' shows influence of Raga DurbariKanada; and, phrase S 'P'n'PS of Raga NayakiKanada, Srgs of Todi and PMg, MgrS of Bhairavi. Raga LakshmiTodi resembles Raga MotakiTodi closely and Raga KomalBhimpalasi also has some resemblance with the Raga.

It may be mentioned that audios of this Raga as well as, Ragas Motaki, LakshmiTodi and KomalBhimpalasi are available on the web site.

* The title Sangeet Rasraj was conferred on Shivkumar Shukla by Pandit Omkarnath Thakur in 1936. Pandit Shivkumar Shukla was the foremost disciple of Ustad Aman Ali Khan and was regarded as the Khalifa of BhandiBazaar Gharana. In 1952, Pandit Ravi Shankar was successful in convincing Ustad Aman Ali Khan to give a public performance in Delhi. After a lot of persuasion by the then Director General of All India Radio, Mr. Z.A.Bukhari and Nabhovani Minister Dr B V Keskar, Khan Sahib agreed to perform in the National Programme of Music. However, Khan Sahib's life came to a sudden and tragic end in February, 1953 due to a brief illness, before the National Programme of Music could be planned. Pandit Shivkumar Shukla,

therefore, was given the honour of presenting the National Programme of Music in place of his Guru.

Please listen to excerpts of Raga MotakiTodi sung by Sangeet Rasraj Pandit Shivkumar Shukla.

(Updated on 01/04/2017.)