Raga of the Month- April, 2018

Raga Varati/Barari/Varali/Barathi/Baradi

Raga Varati is an old Raga and has been documented in the classical Sanskrit texts on music. Barari/Varali/Barathi/Baradi appear to be the corrupted forms of the name Varati due to differences in pronunciation or spelling. Pandit Bhatkhande has included brief references of the following variants of Raga Varati in Sangeet Shastra Part 3.

- 1. Varati*; 2. Shuddhavarati*; 3. Todivarati: 4. Nagavarati*; 5. Punnagavarati*;
- 6. Pratapavarati*; 7. Shokavarati*; 8. Kalyanavarati; 9. Kuntalavarati*;
- 10. Dravidivarati; 11. Saindhavivarati; 12. Apasthanavarati;
- 13. Hataswaravarati;

The Raganames marked * are included in the book RagaPravaham (An Index to Carnatic Music – written by Dr. M N Dhandapani and D. Pattamal) apart from the following Variants of Varali which are popular: Salagavarali; Shubhapanthuvarali; Jhalavarali; Panthuvarali; Vasanthavarali; Ganasamavarali; Kokilavarali; etc.

Pandit Bhatkhande has mentioned that there are different opinions about Raga Varati since it is not a common raga. He has also mentioned that the Raga with Shuddha Dhaivat, called as Shuddhabarari or Barari MarwaThata or Shuddhavarali, is more appropriate than Komal Dhaivat Barari, that is, Barari PoorviThata. However, that version is popular among stalwarts of JaipurAtrauli Gharana.

Brief information of the Raga Varati/ Barari given in Hindustani Sangeet Paddhati Part 6 written by Pandit Bhatkhande is given below-Scale- SrGmPDN; Thata Marwa, Vadi G and Samvadi D; (teevra Madhyama is less prominent)- Chalan- 'NS, 'NrGrS, 'NrG, rG, mG, PDG, mDmG, rS; S, 'NrG, P, DGPD, PDG, PDP, mDS", S", NP, mDmG, mG, rS; P, PDS", mDNr"S", Nr"G"P"G"r"S", S"r"NDP, PDG, DPG, rG, rS.

Please listen to both versions of Barari- with TeevraMadhyama-m- sung by Pandit K G Ginde and without Madhyama- sung by Pandit Rasiklal Andharia (titled as ShuddhaVarali). Audio samples of Raga Barari Poorvianga and BarathiTodi are available on the web site.

Audios Courtesy Shri Ajay Ginde and Saptak.org, Ahmedabad.