

Raga of the Month- October, 2014-

Paraj.

Raga Paraj (PoorviThata- No. 51 Melakarta Kamavardhini) is a known but rarely heard Raga. A famous record of "Aftab-e-Mousiqui" (the Sun of Music) Ustad Faiyaz Khan in Paraj "Manmohan Brij ko Rasiya" is well known and is the Hallmark of Raga Paraj.

Poorvi Thata Ragas are generally classified into 2 groups- Poorvianga- (where notes G and P are prominent) Poorvi, PooriyaDhanashri, Jetashri, Rewa, Deepak and Paraj and Shreeanga- (where notes r and P are stressed) Shree, Gouri, Malavi, Triveni, Tanki and Basant. As per Raga Samaya Chakra, the time quadrant 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. is recommended for the Raga. Other Ragas close to it are Basant, Sohani, Poorvi and Kalingada.

Raga Paraj- Scale- S r G M m P d N; Vadi S; Samvadi P; Nyasa on N; Uttarang Raga; Raga Paraj is known to be a mixture of Basant and Kalingada,

Aroha- 'NS, G, mdN, S"; Avaroha- S" N, dP, mPdP, GMG, mGrS;

Salient Phrases- 'NSG, mG, mdN, S", r" NS", S" NdP, mPdP, GMG, GmdGmG, rS; SG, mdN, S", dNS"r" NS", NdP, GMG, mGrS; P, mP, dNdP, dN, S" NdP, mdNr"G", r"S", m"m"G"r"S", dN, S" NdP, mPdP, dmP, GMG, NNdPmGrS.

Comparison with similar Ragas:

Basant- a deep & serious Raga; SM-MG; mGrS, mdS", mdr"S"; d is prominent; sometimes Lalatanga is shown as SM, mMG, mdS"; Meend P->G is used.

Kalingada- MGrS is used in both the Ragas; In Paraj nyasa on G is important, such as, MG, rS ; Kalingada does not use Teevra Madhyama which is prominent in Paraj.

(References: RagaNidhi- Prof. B. Subba Rao; Bhatkhande Kramik Pustak malika Vol. 4; Bhatkhande Sangeet Shastra Vol. 3)

Please listen to a Madhyalaya Bandish in Jhaptal presented by Pandit Jitendra Abhisheki.

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