

The title brings to my mind an anecdote which happened few years ago. A young artist was diligently presenting Raga Bibhas in a morning concert. He received a wide applause for the presentation. After the concert, he met a Senior artist to seek his blessings. He asked the young fellow, "Which Raga did you sing?" The young artist hesitantly said "Bibhas". The young lad was shocked with the reply, "No, you sang Rewa." Then the senior artist went on to explain the salient differences in the two Ragas. The young fellow had only heard the name of the Raga "Rewa". After the discussion, he realized his mistake and promised to include study of scale-congruent Ragas along with common Ragas. In this article we will see melodic features of both Ragas since Rewa is a rarely heard Raga.

2) Both Bibhas of Bhairava Thata and Rewa of Poorvi Thata share the same scale, i.e. S, komal rishabh "r", Shuddha Gandhar, Pancham and komal dhaivat 'd'. Madhyam and Nishad are omitted. Both Ragas are "Audava" Pentatonic, having 5 swaras only and the similarity ends there. We shall now discuss the distinctive characteristics of the two Ragas as follows.

3) For Raga Bibhas of Bhairav Thata, gaansamaya is early morning, uttaranga (latter half of the Saptak- notes P,d and S") is prominent, its Vadi is Komal dhaivat 'd' and Samvadi is Shuddha Gandhar 'G', Nyasa is preferred on Pancham and dhaivat, dhaivat is sung for a long time (Deergha) and rishabh and Gandhar are given less prominence. Aroha, Avaroha and Chalan is as follows- SrGPdS"; S" dPGrS; dd, P, GP, dP, GrS, SrS, GPdP, GPdS" dP, ddP, S" dr"S", S"r"S", r"G"r"S", S" dP, PdGP, S" dP, GPdP, GrS.

4) Raga Rewa is considered to be the evening counterpart or jawab, of the early morning melody Bibhas of Bhairav Thata. Being a Raga sung in the evening, prominence is given to the notes in the Poorvanga (first half of the Saptak). Elaboration of the Raga is done in Mandra Saptak and first half of the Madhya Saptak. Its Vadi is komal rishabh 'r' and Samvadi is Pancham 'P'. Komal rishabh 'r' with a slight touch of Gandhar 'G', quick repetition of komal rishabh and nyasa on Shadja proclaim the Shreeanga. Aroha, Avaroha and Chalan is as follows- S^Gr, ^Gr, PGP, dS"; S" dP, G^Gr, ^Gr, S; SrrS, Gr, S, 'd'P, 'P'drS, GrGP, dP, S"r"S", dPG, r, SrS.

There are some other variants of Ragas Bibhas and Rewa, namely, Bibhas of Poorvi Thata, Bibhas of Marwa Thata (Sampoorna Bibhas), Bibhas (ShuddhaDhaivat) and Rewa of Poorvianga. Their audio samples are available on the web site, but they are not in vogue.

Audio samples of Raga Bibhas sung by Pandit Narayanrao Vyas and Raga Rewa by Pandit K G Ginda are attached.

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