Natya Keertanam
Rare Compositions for Classical Dances

Bhadrachala Ramadasu Compositions
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THE RAMA AND DASA CAMARADERIE

Kancherla Gopanna (1620-1680), was a tahsildar or a glorified clerk during the Nizam rule. It was sheer providence that he was led to the dilapidated shelter Tammula Dammakka constructed for Sri Rama and instantly surrendered to Him. He used his position as a government official and brought glory to Sita. Rama and Lakshmana through a proper temple. But the real glory came through his songs. Gopanna sang earnestly for Rama. His songs wring the heart. Everyone sang his songs. In fact, Tyagaraja’s mother sang them for him and instilled Rama bhakti. We have yet another a treasure of songs as a result!

Simple Telugu language, earnestness, affection, honesty and surrender are the hallmarks of Ramadasu. Gopanna was and still is known by the name Ramadasu, literally, slave of Rama. He sang when he was jailed (for spending public funds to construct the temple!), when tortured in the jail for 12 years and when released. For Ramadasa, Rama of Bhadrachalam was the only truth. He was a friend, a servant, a devotee and a confidant. Ramadasu lauded, teased, chided, pleaded, submitted, blessed…In short, he experienced Rama through every cell of his being. So deep seated was his devotion that Rama and Lakshmana themselves appeared to the then Nizam and cleared the debt for him!

Ramadasu kirtanas are a true treasure. We from SAMPADA have chosen his compositions to share the experience with you. Come! Let’s revel in Rama bhakti!

Deena Babu Kondubhatla
President & Dean
My sincere thanks to

Dr. Pappu Venugopala Rao for taking the lead in this project. Dr. Anupama Kylash, Dr. Yashoda Thakore, Dr. Sriram Parasuram, Dr. Seshulatha Kosuru, Dr. TK Saroja, P. Jaradhana Rao and Phani Madhav Kasturi have spent much of their valuable time to make this dream project a reality. I remain grateful to them.

- Deena Babu Kondubhatla
BHADRACHALA RAMADASU – COMPOSITIONS

RĀMA JOGI MANDU

పలల్ మం కరము మం నంబరు

అపలల్ మం మంరయయ్ మం

చరణం 1

ధనిత్నానన రాకమం మం - కానిడిటి కరణంమా మం

చరణం 2

కింది పనిసిమాచరి కింది కణంమ - కానిడిటి మారిడాండి మం

చరణం 3

పంతాంటి అమరికందు అమరికందు మం - కానిడిటి మారిడాండి మం

pallavi

రామాజోగి మాంధు కనారే పంమరులా - రామాజోగి మాంధు కనారే

anupallavi

రామాజోగి మాంధు మిరు ప్రెమత్తు భుజియిమిసరయా - కామా క్రోదమహుల నెల కాదక పారాద్రోలి మాంధు

caraṇaం 1

కాంక కొమిడాలా వరింటి కారమం లేలబాపే మాంధు - సాంటల్ిని జాగమునాండు సవమి రామాజోగి మాంధు

caraṇaం 2

కోటి ధనములింటణి కననండ దరాకమునాండు - సాంటల్ిని భాగవతాలు స్మరణ జెశి దలచే మాంధు

caraṇaం 3

ముదాంటి బహ్ద్రాదిరామి ముక్తి పొండించిది మాంధు - సాదయుడ్లాని రామాదంసు సద్భాకుంటి గోలింది మాంధు
WORD TO WORD MEANING

RĀMA JOGI MANDU

pallavi
rāmajogi maṁdu konarē pāmarulāra - rāmajogi maṁdu konarē

Pallavi:
rāmajogi = Rāma who wanders in the forests
maṁdu = medicine
konarē = why don’t you buy (take) (konu can mean both buy and take)
pāmarulāra – = oh ignorant people
rāmajogi maṁdu konarē = Buy the medicine of Rāma

Jogi means a hermit, a yogi or a person who roams around
Rāma Jogi is Rāma who spent many years in the forest (subtly suggesting one who
adheres to Dharma, following the words of his father he went to forests)

Pallavi:
Oh ignorant people! take medicine of Rāma jogi!

anupallavi
rāmajogi maṁdu mīru prēmatō bhujiyinçarayya - kāma krōdhamula nella kaḍaku
pāradrōlē maṁdu

Anupallavi:
rāmajogi maṁdu = medicine of Rāma
mīru = you
prēmatō = with love
bhujiyinçarayya - = please eat / consume
kāma = desire
krōdhamula nella = anger etc
kaḍaku = to the end
pāradrōlē maṁdu= a medicine which drives away

Anupallavi:
Take the medicine of Rama jogi, it will drive away desire anger and other vices.
caraṇāṇi 1
kāṭuka koṁḍala vaṁṭi karmamu leḍabāpē muṁdu - sāṭilēnī jagamunaṁdu svāmi rāmajōgi marīdu

caraṇāṇi 1
kāṭuka koṁḍala vaṁṭi = mountains like those made of soot (collyrium, dark)
karmamu = of actions
leḍabāpē muṁdu = a medicine which separates
sāṭilēnī jagamunaṁdu = in this unique world
svāmi rāmajōgi marīdu = the medicine of Lord Rama jogi

1. It drives away the sins which are like huge dark mountains made of black soot; in this world it is a unique medicine of our Lord Rāma.

caraṇāṇi 2
kōṭi dhanamulittunani konnanu dorakanimaṁdu- sāṭilēnī bhāgavatulu smaraṇa jēsi
dalacē marīdu

caraṇāṇi 2
kōṭi dhanamulittunani = crores of riches even if offered
konnanu = to buy
dorakanimaṁdu- = unavailable medicine
sāṭilēnī = unparalleled
bhāgavatulu = devotees
smaraṇa jēse = chant
marīdu = meditate upon this medicine

2. One cannot buy it with crores of money, it is only available with the devotees who chant it and meditate up on it.
caraṇaṁ 3
mudamutō bhADRādiyaṁdu muktini poṁdiṁcē maṁdu - sadayudaina rāmadāsu
sadbhaktito golicē maṁdu

caraṇaṁ 3
mudamutō = pleasantly
bhADRādiyaṁdu = in Bhadrachalam
muktini = liberation
poṁdiṁcē maṁdu = a medicine which can get
sadayudaina rāmadāsu = compassionate Rāmadasa
sadbhaktito = with good devotion
golicē maṁdu = worships this medicine

3. It is a medicine which pleasantly provides liberation at Bhadrachalam the one that is worshipped by the compassionate Rāmadasa
BHADRACHALA RAMADASU – COMPOSITIONS

PALUKE BANGARA MAAYENA

పలల్ బంగార మాయేనా

పాలుకె బంగారమాయేనా, కోదాడిపాణి

చరాణములు

1.పాలుకె బంగారమాయేనా పిలాసి పాలుకవెమి
2.ఎంత వెంటనా మదుపు దయాంది
3.ఇరవగి ఇసుకలో పోరి ఉత భక్తి
4.శరాణగతాత్రానా బిరుదమిత్వదివుకుడా

పాలవి

pallavi

palukē barigāramāyenā, kōdaṇḍapāṇi

caraṇamulu

1.palukē barigāramāye pilacinā palukavēmi
2.eṁta vēḍināgāṇi suṁtāna dayarādu
3.iravuga isukalōna poralina uḍuta bhaktiki
4..śaraṅgagatratrāṇa birudāṁkitudavukādā

karuṇīmaic brōcitivani nera nammitini tāṁḍrī
dhadrācalā varāmādāsā pōṣa
pallavi

palukē baṅgāramāyenā, kōdaṁḍapāṇi

palukē = has (your) very word
baṅgāramāyenā, = has it become gold!
kōdaṁḍapāṇi = one who holds the bow in the hand

Oh Rāma!, the one who holds the bow! your words are scarce like Gold.

caraṇamulu

1. palukē baṅgāramāye pilacinā palukavēmi
   kalālō nī nāmasmarāṇa maruva cakkani taṁḍri

1.palukē baṅgāramāye = are your words scarce like gold!
pilacinā = when I call
palukavēmi = why don’t you respond
kalālō = even in dreams
nī nāmasmarāṇa = chanting your name
maruva = I don’t forget
cakkani taṁḍri = oh handsome father (lord)

When I call why don’t you respond. Oh my handsome lord, I don’t forget chanting your name even in my dreams. Are your words scarce like Gold?

2. eṁta vēṭinaṇāi sūṁtaina dayarādu
   paṁtamu sēya nēneṁtaṭivāḍanu taṁḍri

2.eṁta vēṭinaṇāi = however much I plead
sūṁtaina = even a little
dayarādu = compassion you don’t show
paṁtamu sēya = to be stubborn like this (with me)
nēneṁtaṭivāḍanu = how much am I (what am I before you)
taṁḍri = Oh Father

Oh father Rāma! however much I plead with you, you don’t even show a little kindness. What am I, after all, for you to be stubborn like this with me
3. iravuga isukalōna poralina ṛḍuta bhaktiki karuṇiṁci brōcitivani nera nammitini taṁḍrī

3. iravuga = suitably
isukalōna = in the sands
poralina = rolling
ṛḍuta bhaktiki = squirrel’s devotion
karuṇiṁci = showing compassion
brōcitivani = you protected
nera nammitini = I trust you in my heart
taṁḍrī = Oh father!

Oh father Rāma! you have shown compassion on a squirrel which rolled in sand (to help in the construction of your bridge to Lanka), therefore I believe you wholeheartedly.

4. śaraṅgatatrāṇa birudāṁkitudavukādā karuṇiṁcu bhadrācala vararāmadāsa pōṣa

4. śaraṅgatatrāṇa = one who rescues those who seek refuge in you
birudāṁkitudavukādā = you hold this title
karuṇiṁcu = show compassion
bhadrācala vararāmadāsa pōṣa = one who nourishes Bhadrachala Rāmadasa

you hold a title that you protect those who seek refuge in you. Show compassion on me, Bhadrachala Rāmadasa whom you nourish
నను బ్రోవమాని చెప్పవె సితమ్మతలలి
nanu brōvamani ceppavē sītammatallī
nenu brōvamani ceppavē // pallavi //

నను బ్రోవమాని చెప్ప నారిసిరోమాని
nanu brōvamani ceppu nārīśirōmanī
ejnakuṇī kūṭura janani jānakamma // nanu //

ప్రాకునులెరి చెక్కలి నోక్కుచు
prakkanucēri cekkili nokkucu
chakkaga marukēḷi jokkiyūṁḍeḍu vēḷa // nanu //

అద్రియా వినుతుడు భహద్రాగిరిశుడు
adriya vinutuḍu bhadragiriśuḍu
nidramēlkonuvēḷa nelatarō bōdhirīnci // nanu //
WORD TO WORD MEANING

NANU BROVAMANI CHEPPAVE

nanu brōvamani ceppavē sītammatalī
nannu brōvamani ceppavē // pallavi //

nanu = me
brōvamani = protect
ceppavē = tell (Him)
sītammatalī = oh mother Sitamma
nannu brōvamani ceppavē = tell him to protect me

Oh mother Sitamma ! Tell him to protect me. Tell him to protect me

nanu brōvamani ceppu nārīśirōmanī
janakuni kūtura janani jānakamma // nanu //

nanu = me
brōvamani ceppu = tell him to protect
nārīśirōmanī = O gem among the ladies
janakuni kūtura = O daughter of Janaka

Janani = mother
Jānakamma = Janakamma

Oh Janakamma, daughter of Janaka, gem among the ladies! Tell Him to protect me
prakkanucēri cekkili nokkucu
cakkaga marukēḷi jokkiyuṁḍeḍu vēḷa // nanu //

prakkanucēri = when he comes next to you
cekkili nokkucu = pampers your cheeks
cakkaga = beautifully
marukēḷi = (when) in love sport
jokkiyuṁḍeḍu vēḷa = at that time when he is in bliss

When He is next to you pampering you and in union with you in bliss, at that time... tell Him to protect me

adrija vinutuḍu bhadragirīśuḍu
nidramēlkonuvēḷa nelatarō bōdhiṁci // nanu //

adrija vinutuḍu = (Rāma) one who is praised by Parvati (daughter of the Himalaya Mountains)
bhadragirīśuḍu = Lord of Bhadrachalam
nidramēlkonuvēḷa = at the time when He wakes up
nelatarō = Oh lady!
bōdhiṁci = convincingly tell him

When Rāma the one who is praised by Parvati, one who is the Lord of Bhadracham wakes up, at that time Oh lady! tell Him convincingly to protect me
శాతకంలో తన మనం
యోగ నందిత
రాజకుమారు శివారి ను
ప్రతిపద సాధించి నే
మందిపురం నంతల నీనామం నరం 
// నరం //

మానవరు చానలు
ధనురు ఈయనరు మాను
రెండు లక్షలు కింద
మానవరు చేతుల సమయం 
// సమయ //

మాంతరా తప్పన పాట
మన సమంతం
మాంతరా రేఫాయతం
మాంతరా సంధయం పాల 
// పాల //

ఇతను చందన కాన
చందన పాటకాన
ఇతను చందన కానం
ఇతను సంధయం పాల 
// పాల //

సతృగారం
ప్రాణించ తాడు
సతృగారం తాడు
సతృగారం సంధయం 
// సంధయం //
garuḍagamana rārā nanu
nī karuṇa nēlukōrā
paramapuruṣa ē verapulēka nī
marugujoccitini aramara sēyaku // pallavi //

piluvagānē rammi
abhayamu talapagānē yimmi
kalimibalimi nākīlalō nīvani
palavarīniicitini naluvanu ganna // garuḍa //

pālakaḍali śayanā daśaratha
bāla jalaja nayanā
pālamuṁcīnano nītamumcīcino
pālabāḍitinika jālamo sēyaku // garuḍa //

ēlarāvu svāmī nanu
nīvēlukōvadēmi
ēluvāḍavani cālanammitini
ēlarāvu karuṇālavāla hari // garuḍa //

iṁta paṁtamēla
bhadragirīśa varakrpāla
ciṁtalanacī śṝrāmadāsuni
aṁtaraṁgapativali rakṣiṁpumu // garuḍa //
WORD TO WORD MEANING

GARUDA GAMANA RAA RAA

garuḍagamana rārā nanu
nī karuṇa nēlokōrā
dhamapuruṣa ē verapulēka nī
marugujoccitini aramara sēyaku // pallavi //

garuḍagamana = (Oh Lord) one who travels on Garuda (the great eagle as his vehicle)
rārā = come, come
nanu = me
nī karuṇa = with your compassion
nēlokōrā = rule over me
dhamapuruṣa = Oh the absolute!
ē verapulēka = without any fear
nī marugujoccitini = I came into your refuge
aramara sēyaku = don’t hesitate

Oh the absolute lord one who travels on the Garuda, come and rule over me with your compassion. I came into your refuge without any fear, don’t hesitate to protect me
piluvagānē rammi
abhayamu talapagānē yimmi
kalimibalimi nākilalo nīvani
palavariṁcitini naluvanu ganna // garuḍa //

piluvagānē = as soon as I call
rammi = please come
abhayamu = give me fearlessness
talapagānē = as soon as I think of it
yimmi = please give
kalimibalimi = wealth and strength
nākilalo = for me in this world
nīvani= only you
palavariṁcitini = I repeatedly say
naluvanu ganna = father of Brahma

Oh father of Brahma! Come as soon as I call, protect me as soon as I think of you. I believe you are my wealth and strength in this world.

pālakaḍali śayanā daśaratha
bāla jalaja nayanā
pālamuṁcinanu nītamuṁcinanu
pālabaḍitinika jālamu sēyaku // garuḍa //

pālakaḍali śayanā = one who sleeps in the milky ocean
Daśaratha bāla = son of Dasaratha
jalaja nayanā = lotus eyed (Rāma)
pālamuṁcinanu = whether you dip me in milk
nītamuṁcinanu= or dip me in water (an idiomatic saying to emphasise whatever good or bad you do)
pālabaḍitinika = I am at your mercy
jālamu sēyaku = don’t delay

Oh the one who lies in the milky ocean!(Vishnu in his posture sleeping on Adi Sesha in the Milky ocean), son of Darasrath, you have lotus eyes, whatever you do with me I am at your mercy don’t delay anymore.
ēlarāvu svāmī nanu
nīvēlukōvadēmi
ēluvāḍavani cālanammitini
ēlarāvu karuṇālavāla hari // garuḍa //</p>
edarāvu = why don’t you come
svāmī = Oh Lord

nanu = me
nīvēlukōvadēmi = you don’t rule (showmercy) why
ēluvāḍavani = thinking that you rule over me (protect me)
cālanammitini = I trusted you very much
ēlarāvu = why you don’t come
karuṇālavāla = Lord of compassion
hari = Hari!

Oh Hari ! Why you don’t come to protect me. I trusted you very much that you would protect me.
Why you don’t come Oh lord of compassion !

iṁta paṁtamēla
bhadragirīśa varakrpāla
ciṁtalaṇaci śrīrāmadāsuni
aṁtaraṁgapativai rakṣimpumu // garuḍa //</p>
iṁta = this much
paṁtamēla = stubbornness why
bhadragirīśa = oh Lord of Bhadrachalam
varakrpāla = superior lord in bestowing compassion
ciṁtalaṇaci = supress my worries
śrīrāmadāsuni = and Rāmadasa’s
aṁtaraṁgapativai = become the lord of my inner self
rakṣimpumu = protect me

Oh Lord of Bhadrachalam ! why are you so stubborn ? You are a very superior compassionate lord.
Supress my worries, be the lord of my inner self and protect me.
BHADRACHALA RAMADASU – COMPOSITIONS

E TEERUGA NANU DAYA JOOCEDAVO

ē tīruga nanu daya jucedavō inavaṁśottama rāmā
nā taramā bhavasāgaramīdanu nalinadajēkṣaṇa rāmā // pallavi //

śrīraghunārdana sītāramāṇa śritajanapoṣaka rāmā
karuṇālaya bhaktavarada ninu kannadikānupu rāmā // ē tīru //

krūrakarmamulēraka cēsiti nēramulemēcaku rāmā
dāridryamu parīhāramučēyavē dāivasikhamāṇi rāmā // ē tīru //

vāsavanuta rāmadāsapōṣaka vaṁdana mayōdhya rāmā
dāsārcita mākabhayamōṣagave dāsaradhīraghurāmā // ē tīru //
**WORD TO WORD MEANING**

**E TEERUGA NANU DAYA JOOCHEDAVO**

ē tīruga nanu dayajūcedavō inavaṁśōttama rāmā
nā taramā bhavasāgaramīdanu nājinadalēkṣaṇa rāmā  // pallavi //

ē tīruga = in what way

nanu = on me
dayajūcedavō = you show kindness
inavaṁśōttama = the best of the solar dynasty
rāmā= Rāma !
nā taramā = is it possible for me
bhavasāgaramīdanu = to swim across the ocean of mundaneness
nājinadalēkṣaṇa = oh lotus eyed
rāmā // pallavi // = Rāma

Oh Lotus eyed Rāma, the best in the solar dynasty! (I don’t know) in what way you show kindness on me. It is not possible for me to cross this mundane ocean (without your compassion)
śrīraghunāṁdana sītāramaṇā śritajanapōṣaka rāmā
karuṇyālaya bhaktavarada ninu Kannadikānupu rāmā // ē tīru //

śrīraghunāṁdana = the offspring of Raghu dynasty
sītāRāmaṇā = husband of Sita
śritajanapōṣaka = one who nourishes those who seek refuge in you
rāmā = Rāma
karuṇyālaya = abode of compassion
bhaktavarada = one who bestows boons on the devotees
ninu = you
Kānnadikānupu = (2 meanings) 1. The eyes that can see you are those which truly can see
2. The mother who gave you birth is verily The mother
rāmā // ē tīru // = Rāma

Oh son of Raghu dynasty, consort of Sita, Oh Rāma you protect those who seek refuge in you, you bestow boons on your devotees. You are the abode of compassion Eyes are those which can see you, a mother is one who gave birth to you!

krūrakarmamulunēraka cēsiti nērumuleṁcaku rāmā
dāridryamu pariḥāramucēyavē daivaśikhāmaṇi rāmā // ē tīru //

krūrakarmamulu = cruel deeds
nēraka cēsiti = ignorantly I committed
nērumuleṁcaku = don’t count my mistakes
rāmā = Rāma
dāridryamu = poverty
pariḥāramucēyavē= compensate
daivaśikhāmaṇi = oh the crown jewel among the Gods
rāmā // ē tīru // = Rāma

Rāma you are the crown jewel among the Gods. I committed mistakes in ignorance, please don’t count them. Drive away my poverty. (enrich me with your compassion)
vāsavanuta rāmadāsapōṣaka vaṁdana mayōdhya rāmā
dāśārcita mākabhayamosaṁgave dāśaradhīraghurāmā // ē tīru //

vāsavanuta = one who is praised by Indra
rāmadāsapōṣaka = one who nourishes Rāmadasa
vaṁdana = salutations
mayōdhya rāmā= Ayodhya Rāma
dāśārcita = worshipped by your servants (devotees)
mākabhayamosaṁgave = bestow on us fearlessness
dāśaradhī = Oh son of Dasaratha
raghurāmā // ē tīru // = Ragu Rāma

Oh Raghu Rāma! Son of Dasaratha ! you are worshipped by Indra. You nourish Rāmadasa. You are served by your devotees. Salutation to you, Bestow on us the state of fearlessness.
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