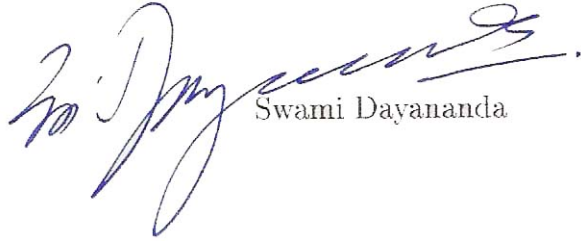


Smt. Pushpa Srivatsan's book of verses on Lord Rāma, apart from being a valued addition to Sanskrit literature by an inspired devotee, has a special feature which makes this book unique. The *stotra* of Rāma is a moving prayer to the Lord telling at the same time the Rāmāyaṇa, the entire story of Rāma. This is another colourful fragrant flower offering of Smt. Pushpa to the Lord. So too, she has more flowers to offer in *Śrī Rāma Sahasranāma Akshara Pushpāvali* and *Śrī Rāma Maṅgalāṣṭakam*.

Writing again about the great saint and prolific composer Śrī Tyāgarāja, her *Guru*, Pushpa offers her *añjali* in inspiring verses through *Guruvandanam*, *Sadguru Śrī Tyāgabrahma Bhujāṅgaprayāta Stotram*, *Sadguru Śrī Tyāgabrahma Śaraṇāgati Stotram*, *Śrī Tyāgabrahma Gurvaṣṭakam* and *Sadguru Maṅgalāṣṭakam*. Another of her lilting inspired compositions is in the *Pramāṇikā* metre under the title *Gurus-tuṭipramāṇikā*.

Tyāgarāja presented Lord Rāma in many of his songs as an altar of worship and meditation identifying the emotions of a *bhakta*. In his own vision Rāma was never separate from him. Now as one who enjoys the grace and insight of the Saint Tyāgarāja, Smt. Pushpa Srivatsan does not see him separately from Lord Rāma. In fact she even saw Tyāgarāja in the flow of Gaṅgā; and in the flow of these verses the reader can see the flowing grace of Rāma, the grace of Tyāgarāja. The spontaneous ease with which she handles various difficult metres is astounding. I am very happy that we have another *pushpāñjali* from Pushpa.



Swami Dayananda