A letter by Swami Ramadas to Sambhaji

For those who can understand Marathi should read the poem/letter aloud. Also pay attention to the rhyming in each verse. It is written in transliteration scheme(ITRANS) which allows easy change for printing in Devanagari.

Here is a letter written to Chatrapati Sambhaji by Samartha Swami Ramadas, Shivaji's guru.

Sambhaji ruled Maharashtra for many years after Shivaji passed away. The letter contains a 'wake-up' call to Sambhaji who was facing difficult problems at home and was not persuing correct path for ruling. This letter prompted him to make successful changes and he regained confidence of his subordinates after some adjustments. It is unfortunate that at the end he fell in hands of Aurangajeb and was subsequently killed for sticking to his principles. (The torturous death occured on फाल्गुन अमावास्या.)

रामदासस्वामींचे पत्र

अखंड सावधान असावें । दुश्चित्त कदापि नसावें ।
तजविजा करीत बसावें । एकांत स्थळीं ॥ १ ॥

कांहीं उग्र स्थिति सांडावी । कांहीं सौम्यता धरावी ।
चिंता लागावी परावी । अंतर्यामीं ॥ २ ॥

मागील अपराध क्षमावे । कारभारी हातीं धरावे ।
सुखी करूनि सोडावे । कामाकडे ॥ ३ ॥

पाटवणी तुंब निघेना । तरी मग पाणी चालेना ।
तैसें सज्जनांच्या मना । कळलें पाहिजे ॥ ४ ॥

जनाचा प्रवाह चालिला । म्हणजे कार्यभाग आटोपला ।
जन ठायीं ठायीं तुंबला । म्हणजे खोटां ॥ ५ ॥

श्रेष्ठीं जें जें मिळविलें । त्यासाठीं भांडत बसलें ।
मग जाणावें फावलें । गलिमांसी ॥ ६ ॥

ऐसें सहसा करूं नये । दोघे भांडतां तिसर्यासी जय ।
धीर धरोण महत्कार्य । समजून करावें ॥ ७ ॥

आधींच पडला धास्ती । म्हणजे कार्यभाग होय नास्ती ।
याकारणें समस्तीं । बुद्धि शोधावी ॥ ८ ॥

राजी राखितां जग । मग कार्यभागाची लगबग ।
ऐसें जाणोनियां सांग । समाधान राखावें ॥ ९ ॥

आधीं गाजवावे तडाके । मग भूमंडळ धाके ।
ऐसें न होतां धक्के । राज्यास होती ॥ १० ॥

समय प्रसंग ओळखावा । राग निपटून काढावा ।
आला तरी कळों न द्यावा । जनांमध्यें ॥ ११ ॥

राज्यामध्ये सकळ लोक । सलगी देऊन करावे सेवक ।
लोकांचे मनामध्यें धाक । उपजोंचि नये ॥ १२ ॥

आहे तितुकें जतन करावें । पुढें आणिक मिळवावें ।
माहाराष्ट्रराज्य करावें । जिकडे तिकडे ॥ १३ ॥

लोकीं हिंमत धरावी । शर्तीची तरवार करावी ।
चढती वाढती पदवी । पावाल येणें ॥ १४ ॥

शिवराजास आठवावें । जीवित्व तृणवत् मानावें ।
इहलोकीं परलोकीं राहावें । कीर्तिरूपें ॥ १५ ॥

शिवरायाचें आठवावें रूप । शिवरायाचा आठवावा प्रताप ।
शिवरायाचा आठवावा साक्षेप । भूमंडळीं ॥ १६ ॥

शिवरायाचें कैसें चालणें । शिवरायाचें कैसें बोलणें ।
शिवरायाची सलगी देणें । कैसें असे ॥ १७ ॥

सकळ सुखांचा त्याग । करून साधिजे तो योग ।
राज्यसाधनाची लगबग । कैसी असे ॥ १८ ॥

त्याहूनि करावें विशेष । तरीच म्हणावें पुरुष ।
याउपरी आतां विशेष । काय लिहावें ॥ १९ ॥

The gist of the letter is as follows:

"Material happiness should be looked upon as worthless. We should live in such a way as to be praised and remembered in this world and welcomed in the other. We should be ever vigilant in our thoughts, words and deeds. We should never think low. One should sit alone and think deeply. One should be less severe and more liberal in judging others. One should take one's officers into confidence. Always think of Shivaji Maharaj and his great deeds. Think his form, think of his valour. Think of his bravery, his tact, his administrative

capacity. How noble were his words, his conduct! What warmth of personality! He should be an inspiration in every walk of your life. It should be your constant endeavour to better him if possible in every respect. Then alone will you be worthy of praise. What else can I write ?”