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 Samantha 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 pursuing 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 फात्मून अमावस्या.)

रामदासस्वामीचे पत्र
अखंड सावधान असावं । दृष्टि विस्तृत कथापि नसावं ।
तजविजा करित बसावं । एकांत स्पष्टी इति ।
काहीं उग्र स्थिति सांडवावी । काहीं सौम्यता धरावी ।
चिंता लागावी परावी । अंतरांमी इति ।
मागीत अपराध क्षमावें । कारभारी हाती धरावें ।
सुंदर करून सोडवावे । कामाकडे इति ।
पाठवणी तुंव निघेना । तरी मग पाणी ठेलेना ।
तैसं जजनांज्ञा मना । कर्त्तले पाहिजे इति ।
जनाचा प्रवाह चालिता । म्हणजेच कार्यभाग आटोपला ।
जन ठायी ठायी तुंवला । म्हणजेच इतिहार इति ।
श्रेणीं जे हे मिळविले । त्यासाठी भांडत बसले ।
मग जाणांवें फांबले । गतिमांसी इति ।
ऐसं सहसा करू नये । दोषे भांडतां तिसरांसी जय ।
धीर भरोश महत्कर्य । समजून करावें इति ।
आरोप पडला धास्ती । म्हणजे कार्यभाग होय नास्ती ।
याकारण समस्ती । बुद्ध शोधावी इति ।
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 of 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?"