Swami Dayananda Saraswati

Arsha Vidhya Ashram Gurukulam, Alamarathumedu, Anaikatti (P.O.), Coimbatore-641 108.

Saint Tyagaraja was not only of the form of the music he composed but also was of the content of its theme. That is the reason why he came to be known as Tyaga Brahmam. The swaroopa of Lord Rama, his altar of devotion and theme of most of his songs, is Brahman, the implied meaning of the Sruti's words: Satyam gnanam and anantam.

Besides the accounts of Tyagaraja's saintliness and wisdom narrated by his parampara of disciples, the lyrics of his music themselves revealed his wisdom. One can study his songs as a Book of Vedanta for discovering the Vastu that is Brahman.

Smt. Pushpa is a disciple of Saint Tyagaraja even as Ekalavya was to Drona. Her discipleship does not just confine to music; it inleudes her spiritual pursuit. She looks upon Saint Tyagaraja as her Upasya Devata. She has earned His blessings in full measure and this is borne out in her outpourings in the form of this Unique Sahasranama, Pancasati, Trisati, Ashtottarasata Namavali, Saranagati Gadyam and Mangalashtakam.

Very rarely does one come across a Namavali of this nature. The names of a given Deity are always centred on the swaroopa or the vibhutis of the Deity. The famous Vishnu Sahasranama would reveal the Lord's essential nature, His glories and His forms-of blessing in His various avataras. In these Namavalis you can come across a number of names which reveal the heart of the composer with which any reader can easily identify. Therefore, this book not only reveals Tyagaraja the person and his music, his wisdom and the content of it but also the beauty of devotion. The book itself is an offering of Pushpa to her Guru and Ishta Devata, the Saint Tyagaraja who is looked upon as Brahman.

**DAYANANDA** 

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