



STUDY ON ŚANAIŚCARA OR SATURN BASED ON VĀRA KṚTI-S BY MUDDUSVĀMI DĪKṢITA, MUTTAIAH BHĀGAVATAR AND PUDUKODE KRISHNAMURTY

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Abstract

Saturn is a planet in the outer circle of our solar system. Muddusvāmi Dīkṣita (MD) is the mārgadarśi – the one who guided or inspired the others to compose kṛti-s on Vāra Kṛti-s or the kṛti-s on the 7 planets in astrology – Sūrya, Candra, Aṅgāraka, Budha, Guru, Śukra and Śani. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of three compositions dedicated to Śani in composed by Muddusvāmi Dīkṣita, Pudukode Krishnamurty, and Muthaiah Bhagavatar. Drawing from astrological, astronomical, and mythological perspectives, the compositions explore Saturn's significance as the bestower of long life and its potential future role in the event of the Sun's demise. Through lyrical embellishments, scientific references, and intricate musical analysis, the compositions offer profound insights into Saturn's multifaceted nature, inviting listeners to contemplate its influence in our lives and the cosmos.

Keywords: Saturn, Śani, Navagraha, comparative, musical analysis, Muddusvāmi Dīkṣita, Pudukode Krishnamurty, Muthaiah Bhagavatar.

I. Introduction

The Saturn System: Śani in Astrology is Āyuskāraka or the bestower of long life. In astronomical terms, Saturn is a planet that is a potential future source of life for a few more years if the Sun dies and collapses to become a white dwarf, converting the solar system into the Saturn system, with Titan – its largest natural satellite having possible liquid water content in its internal structure¹ (Asphaug & Reufer, 2013). Hence, Saturn is a bestower of long life – doing the role of the Sun after its life, making it the torchbearer of the system after its successor. In other words, the father's legacy will be taken over by the son.

II. KṚTI-S ON ŚANI

1. Divākara Tanujam – Yadukula Kāmbōji – Catusra Ēka – Muddusvāmi Dīkṣita
2. Chāyādēvi Priya Tanayam – Bēgaḍa – Ādi – Muthaiah Bhāgavatar
3. Melle Melle Caricciṭum – Varāli – Ādi – Pudukode Kriṣṇamūrtti

Lyrics of the compositions of:

1. **Divākara Tanujam – Yadukula Kāmbōji – Catusra Ēka - Muddusvāmi Dīkṣita**

Divākaratanujam Śanaiścaram Dhīrataram Santatam Cintayēham

Bhavāmbunidhau nimagna Janānām Bhayaṅkaram Atikrūra Phaladam

Bhavānīśa Kaṭākṣa Pātra Bhūta Bhaktimatām Atiśaya Śubha Phaladam

Kālāñjana Kāntiyukta Dēham Kāla Sahōdaram Kākavāham

Nīlāmsūka Puṣpamālāvṛtam Nīlaratna Bhūṣaṅālāṅkṛtam

Mālinī Vinuta Guruguha Muditam Makara Kumbha Rāśi Nātham

¹ Asphaug, Erik, and Andreas Reufer. "Late origin of the Saturn system." *Icarus* 223.1 (2013): 544-565.



Tilataila Miśritārṇna Dīpa Priyam Dayāsudhā Sāgaram Niṛbhayam

*Kāladanḍa Paripīḍita Jānum Kāmitārṭtha Phalada Kāmadēnum
Kālacakra Bhēda Citrabhānum Kalpita Chāyādēvī Sūnum*

Oh the slow-moving (*dhūrataram*) Śanaīścara, the son of Divākara.- Sūrya (*Divākaratanujam*), I always meditate upon you (*santatam cintayēham*).

You instigate fear (*bhayaṅkaram*) in those people (*janānām*) engaged in worldly pleasures (*nimagna*) (*bhavāmbunidhau*) and bring bad effects (*atīkrūra phaladam*). You bring about unique (*atīśaya*) and auspicious rewards (*śubha phaladam*) to those devotees (*pātra bhūta*) who have the compassionate glance (*kaṭākṣa*) of the Lord of Bhavāni - Lord Śiva (*Bhavānīśa*).

You have a dark glowing body (*kāntiyukta dēham*) like an eyeshadow (*kālāñjana*), and you are the brother of Yama – the God of death (*kāla sahodaram*). You have the crow (vulture² (Trivedi & Trivedi, 2017)) as your vehicle (*kāka vāham*). You are decorated (*alaṅkṛtam*) with a garland of blue flowers (*nīlāmśuka puṣpa māla vṛtam*) and ornaments made with blue sapphire stones (*nīlatnābharaṇa bhūṣaṇa*). You are worshipped by the Mālini mantra (*mālinī vinuta*), you make Guruguha happy (*guruguha muditam*) and you are the Lord (*adhipati*) of the two zodiacs (*rāśi*) Capricorn (*makara*) and Aquarius (*kumbha*). You have a liking (*priyam*) for the lamp (*dīpa*) lit with seame oil (*tila taila*) and food cooked with sesame seeds (*miśritānna*). You are an ocean of nectar (*sudhā sāgaram*) of compassion (*dayā*) and are fearless (*nirbhayam*).

The one whose knee (*jānu*) was hit and damaged (*paripīḍita*) by Yama's (*kāla*) staff (*danḍa*) fulfils (*phalada*) all the desires (*kāmitārṭtha*), like Kāmadhēnu. The one who is like the Sun (*citrabhānu*), capable of breaking (*bhēda*) the wheel of time (*kālacakra*) is considered (*kalpita*) as the son (*sūnu*) of Chāyādēvi.

2. Chāyādēvi Priya Tanayam – Bēgaḍa – Ādi – Muthaiah Bhāgavatar

*Chāyādēvi Priya tanayam Sadā smarāmi Savinayam
Māyāmaya jagadayasahāram Mahēndra nīla maṇihāram
Śamana sōdaram śanaīścaram Amitānanda harikēśapriyam
Kamanīya dēham kāka vāham
Vimalam māruti bhaktābharaṇa pravīṇam
Makarakumbha rāśyādhipatim*

Oh dear son of Chhāya Dēvi (*chāyādēvi priya tanayam*), I humbly (*savinayam*) prostrate (*smarāmi*) before you always (*sadā*).

You are the king (*sahāram*) of this magical (*māyamaya*) World (*jagat*), the one who wears the 'Mahēndranīlam' stone or Blue Sapphire (*mahēndra nīlamaṇi hāram*).

You are the brother (*sahōdara*) of Yama (*śamana*), the one who is a slow mover (*śanaīścara*), the one who gives immense happiness (*amitānanda*) and is very dear to Harikēśa - Lord Śiva (*harikēśapriyam*), who has a beautiful body (*kamanīya dēham*), who rides on the crow (*kāka vāham*), who is pure

² Trivedi, Mridula, and T. P. Trivedi. *Saturn: Manager of Events (Marriage, Vocation, Health)*. Motilal Banarsidass, 2017.



(*vimalam*), for whom the devotion to Lord Ānjanēya (*māruti bhakta*) is your ornament (*ābharaṇam*), who is brilliant (*pravīṇam*). You are the lord (*adhipati*) of the zodiacs (*rāśi*) Capricorn (*makara*) and Aquarius (*kumbha*).

3. Melle Melle Caricciṭum – Varāḷi – Ādi – Puḍucode Kriṣṇamūrṭti

Melle melle caricciṭum dinanātha nandana! Namiccitunnēn

Allum pakalum duṣkṛtam ceyyum hīnare bhavān bhayārttarākkīṭum
Āśudōṣa parāśrita bhaktajanārṭti tīrttati śubha phalamaruḷiṭum

Asitāñjana niṣamām tirumēniyil nīlāambaravum nīlāmsuka suma-
Mālayum nīlaratnābharaṇaṅgaḷum aṇiñjākāsattil (ambarē) tāramāy oḷikkum
Dāsajanābhīṣṭa dāna durīṇanām makarakumbharāśinātha māmaka (sthira)
Durita sañcayamakarṛi sadāhṛdi śāśvata śānti tarēṇamē vibhō³ (Ramachandran, 2024)

Oh, the son of the lord of the day – Sūrya (*dinanātha*) who is slow moving (*melle melle caricciṭum*), I humbly prostrate before you (*namiccitunnēn*).

You instigate fear (*bhayārttarākkīṭum*) in those sinners (*hīnare*) who are engaged in (*ceyyum*) cruel deeds (*duṣkṛtam*) day in and day out (*allum pakalum*). You remove (*tīrttu*) the sorrows (*āśudōṣa*) and greed (*ārtti*) of the devotees (*bhaktajana*) who seek refuge on you (*parāśrita*) and bless (*aruḷiṭum*) them with auspicious results (*ati śubha phalam*).

You wear (*añinju*) a garland (*māla*) of blue flowers (*nīlāambaravum nīlāmsuka suma*), jewellery (*ābharaṇam*) made of blue sapphire (*nīlaratna*) on your dark-hued body (*asitāñjana niṣamām tirumēniyil*), and you shine (*olikkum*) on the sky (*ākāsattil / ambarē*) like a star (*tāramāy*). You are capable of bestowing (*durīṇan*) unique boons (*abhīṣṭa dāna*) to your devotees (*dāsajana*). You are the lord (*nātha*) of the zodiacs (*rāśi*) Capricorn (*makara*) and Aquarius (*kumbha*). Oh great one (*vibho*), please remove (*akarṛi*) my (*māmaka*) mound (*sañcayam*) of sorrows (*durita*) and give me (*tarēṇamē*) genuine inner peace (*śāśvata śānti*) always (*sadāhṛdi*).

Language

MD and MB have used Sanskrit whereas PK has used Malayalam (can be termed as Maṇipravāḷam also, as it has a mixture of Malayalam and Sanskrit) as the language for their respective compositions.

Lyrical Embellishments

Number of **Pāda-s**: {Pallavi + Anupallavi (+Madhyamakāla) + Caraṇam (+Madhyamakāla)}

MD – 3+2(+1)+8(+2) = 16

MB – 2 + 2 + 5 = 9

PK – 2+4+8 = 14

Dvītiyākṣara Prāsa:

MD: *Dīvākara – Bhavāmbuni - Bhavānīśa; Kālāñjana – Kāla – Nīlāmsuka – Nīlaratna; Mālini – Tila – Kāḷadaṇḍa – Kāḷacakra.*

³ Ramachandran, G. (2024). Navagraha Kritis of Puḍucode Krishnamurthy. *Personal Interview*.



MB: *Chāyādēvi – Māyāmaya; Śamana – Amitā – Kamanīya – Vimalam.*
PK: *Melle – Allum*

Antyaprāsa

MD: *Dēham – Kākavāham; Mālāvṛtam – Alaṅkṛtam – Muditam – Nātham; Priyam – Niṛbhayam; Jānum – Kāmadēnum – Citrabhānum – Sūnum.*

MB: *Tanayam – Savinayam; Sahāram – Maṇihāram; Dēham – Kākavāham.*

Selection of Raga and Tala

All three composers have chosen Bhāṣāṅga Janya rāga-s for the respective Śani kṛti-s, however, PK has composed in Prati Madhyama Vivādi rāga Varāli, whereas others have composed in Śuddha Madhyama rāga-s (MD - Yadukula Kāmbōji and MB – Bēgaḍa).

The rāga chosen by MD is representative of the slow movement of Śani as the rāga Yadukula Kāmbōji has phrases that are best suited when rendered in *cauka kāla* or slow tempo⁴ (V, 2010). Numerous compositions by different composers can be quoted to demonstrate the same. Here are a few of them:

- Kāmākṣi (Svarajati) – Misracāpu – Śyāma Śāstri
- Ētāvuna Nērcchitavo – Ādi – Tyāgarāja
- Heccarikaga – Khaṇḍa Cāpu – Tyāgarāja
- Kālai Tūkki – Ādi – Mārimutta Piḷḷai

The tāla chosen by MD is Catusra Ēka whereas the others are in Ādi tāla. The selection of tāla by MD looks very interesting because Catusra Ēka tāla rendered in 2 kaḷa gives a total of eight beats, representing the number for the graha Śani.

Mudra-s

MD has mentioned *guruguha muditam* meaning the one who makes Guruguha happy. A similar reference is given by MB, where he mentions *amitānanda harikēśapriyam* meaning the one who gives happiness and is dear to Harikēśa. PK has not mentioned any mudra in his kṛti.

III. Similar References in the Compositions

- *Chāyā dēvi sūnum* (MD) – *Chāyā dēvi Priya tanayam* (MB)
- *Kāla sahōdaram* (MD) - *Śamana sahōdaram* (MB)
- *Kāka vāham* (MD and MB)
- *Divākaratanujam* (MD) – *Dinanātha nandana* (PK)
- *Kālāñjana kāntiyukta dēham* (MD) – *Asitāñjana niṛamām tirumēniyil* (PK)
- *Bhayaṅkaram* (MD) - *Bhayārttarākkum* (PK)
- *Nīlāmśuka Puṣpamālāvṛtam* (MD) - *nīlāmśuka sumamālayum* (PK)
- *Atiśaya Śubha Phaladam* (MD) - *Dāsajanābhīṣṭa dāna durīṇanām* (PK)
- *Dhīrataram* (MD) – *Śanaīscaram* (MB) - *Melle melle cariccīṭum* (PK)
- *Nīlaratna Bhūṣaṅālāṅkṛtam* (MD) – *Nīlamanihāram* (MB) - *Nīlaratnābharaṅgaḷum aṇiñju* (PK)
- *Makarakumbha rāsi nātham* (MD) – *Makarakumbha rāśyādhipatim* (MB) – *Makarakumbharāśinātha* (PK)

⁴ V, S. (2010, March 11). *Yadukula Kamboji*. Madras Heritage and Carnatic Music. 2.

[https://sriramv.com/2010/03/11/yadukula-](https://sriramv.com/2010/03/11/yadukula-kamboji/#:~:text=The%20other%20two%20compositions%20are,composed%20by%20Patnam%20Subramania%20Iyer.)

[kamboji/#:~:text=The%20other%20two%20compositions%20are,composed%20by%20Patnam%20Subramania%20Iyer.](https://sriramv.com/2010/03/11/yadukula-kamboji/#:~:text=The%20other%20two%20compositions%20are,composed%20by%20Patnam%20Subramania%20Iyer.)



IV. Scientific and mythological references hidden in the KRTI-S

- *Divākara tanujam* – Saturn and the Sun embody opposite yet complementary aspects of a fundamental principle: they symbolize Prakriti and Purusha, representing the eastern and western facets of spiritual evolution.
- *Dhīrataram* (MD), *Śanaiścaram* (MB), *Melle melle caricciṭum* (PK) – The slow mover – takes 29.4 Earth years to complete one full revolution around the Sun⁵ (NASA, n.d.).
- *Bhayaṅkaram* (MD) / *bhayārttarākkiṭum* (PK) – Saturn's atmosphere is home to winds of astonishing velocity, reaching speeds of approximately 1,800 kmph. This remarkable speed is approximately four times faster than the typical wind speeds observed on its gas giant counterpart, Jupiter⁶ (Anderson & Schubert, 1995). These ferocious winds evoke a sense of fear, showcasing the raw might of nature on this gas giant.
- *Atikrūra phaladam* (MD) - Saturn's rings, while stunningly beautiful, also harbour a sense of danger, as objects caught within them can be subjected to the whims of the planet's powerful gravitational forces. These objects, ranging from tiny particles to larger chunks of debris, can become trapped within the rings, perpetually orbiting the planet. The possibility of encountering such hazards adds an element of peril to any journey through Saturn's captivating ring system⁷ (James. L. (Editor) Martin, n.d.).
- In medical astrology, the bad position of Saturn can lead to severe health issues including damage to the nervous system and lymphatic vessels, impotency, damage to the gastrointestinal tract, long-term illness, paralysis, skin diseases and drug addiction (Balamurugan et al., 2019). Additionally, in astrology, "7 and a half Sani" refers to a belief in Indian astrology, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where it is believed that the planet Saturn's influence lasts for seven and a half years in a person's life. This period is often considered challenging, as it is associated with Saturn's transit through certain positions in an individual's birth chart. During this time, people may experience difficulties, obstacles, or setbacks in various aspects of their lives, such as careers, relationships, health, and finances. It is believed that these challenges are meant to teach important life lessons and encourage personal growth and spiritual development, which paves the way for the next reference⁸ (Garfield-Kabbara, 2016).
- *Bhavānīśa kaṭākṣa pātra bhūta bhaktimatām* (MD) - Lord Śiva bestowed Saturn with the status of Navagraha. Once, fearing the adverse effects of Saturn's influence, Śiva concealed himself within a lotus, knowing Saturn's aversion to water, which lotuses thrive in. Saturn, observing this, realized that despite granting him powers, Śiva humbly respected the consequences of his boons⁹ (Kathirvel, 2023). This incident deepened Saturn's devotion to Lord Śiva, and he blesses those who worship the Lord.

⁵ NASA. (n.d.). *Saturn Facts*. <https://science.nasa.gov/saturn/facts/> .

⁶ Anderson, J.D., and G. Schubert. "Saturn's Observed Atmospheric Variability and Constraints on its Rotation Period." *Icarus*, vol. 115, no. 2, 1995, pp. 257-265.

⁷ Martin, James L. "Saturn: Overview and Abstracts." *Nova Publishers* (2003).

⁸ Garfield-Kabbara, J. (2016). Re-Visioning Saturn. *ARCHAI: The Journal of Archetypal Astrology*, 5, 31–50.

⁹ Kathirvel, Latha. "Sani Bagavān Pōla Koḍuppavar Yevarum Illai", 2023 (Speech)
https://youtu.be/VuilwPAJWhc?si=HcUT_xPuLfqft5d3



- *Atisaya śubha phaladam* (MD) / *ati śubha phalamaruḷiṭum* (PK) - Saturn's role is akin to that of a vulture, which consumes the decaying body, assimilating its essence within itself. From this amalgamation, Saturn extracts the life force, initiating a cycle of renewal. Its purpose lies in the transformation and rejuvenation of individuals, liberating their spiritual essence from affliction, grief, and mortality¹⁰ (Trivedi & Trivedi, 2017).
- *Citrabhānu* (MD) – meaning Saturn is capable of being like the Sun, thus emphasizing the fact that the solar system will survive a few more years even if the Sun becomes a white dwarf or collapses, creating a Saturn system as mentioned above¹¹ (Pollack, 1984).
- *Kālacakra Bhēda* (MD) – An object caught within Saturn's ring system would remain ensnared indefinitely, challenging conventional notions of time.
- *Ākāśattil tāramāi oḷikkum* (PK) – To the naked eye, Saturn appears as a bright, pale yellowish-white point of light in the night sky. It is one of the five planets visible to the naked eye from Earth and is easily recognizable due to its distinct appearance and steady brightness, the other four being the Sun, the moon, Venus and Jupiter. With a telescope or even a good pair of binoculars, one can see Saturn's rings, which are its most distinguishing feature and make it one of the most fascinating objects to observe in the night sky¹² (*Sky and Telescope: The Essential Guide to Astronomy*, n.d.).

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, the compositions of Muddusvāmi Dīkṣita, Pudukode Krishnamurty, and Muthaiah Bhagavatar offer profound insights into the multifaceted nature of Saturn, both from an astrological and scientific perspective. Through lyrical embellishments and intricate musical analysis, these compositions explore Saturn's astrological significance as the bestower of long life, as well as its potential future role in the event of the Sun's demise. Moreover, they delve into Saturn's astronomical attributes, such as its distinctive appearance in the night sky and its complex ring system, drawing parallels between its celestial phenomena and its astrological symbolism. By weaving together lyrical, astrological, astronomical, and mythological elements, these compositions offer a rich tapestry of understanding, inviting listeners to contemplate the mysteries and intricacies of Saturn's influence in our lives and the cosmos at large.

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¹⁰ Trivedi, Mridula, and T. P. Trivedi. *Saturn: Manager of Events (Marriage, Vocation, Health)*. Motilal Banarsidass, 2017.

¹¹ Pollack, James. B. (1984). Origin and Evolution of the Saturn System. In *Reports of Planetary Geology and Geophysics Program* (Vol. 87563). NASA.

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