

Same Melody with Different Tongues...



Often I wonder the Genesis of languages and their scripts!
Travelling back in time can we situate their beginning?
How did they emanate and coloured our lives down the ages?
History has no specific answer to the origin of scripts and tongues-
Paleolithic and Neolithic history indicate vaguely
some primordial languages of communication
Historians say it is Hebrew or Sumaritan, Akkadian or Egyptian
In India, it is contested between Tamil and Sanskrit-
The former is alive with its Dravidian daughters
and the latter giving way to its Indo-Aryan decedents aplenty.

We are proud of being the most multilingual Nation
with its numerous dialects and tongues.
Numerically they keep growing and flourishing
defying statistics and Mathematical precision.
Inspired by the Divine, the pioneers of spoken and written words,
mapped the cultural contours of the society,
scripting the beauty of nature and the glory of its Master.
Research findings, hypothesis and theories apart,
we know that languages are the 'greatest gifts' from above
to give expressions to our thoughts and throbs of our hearts!

People with multipronged tongues of our country
resemble a habitat of different birds
singing together with chords of unity,
and trumpeting a harmonious melody with their varying tongues!
It is a mystery to the linguists and grammarians world over.
Unique and incredible... this Nation of scripts and tongues!

Tamil is ancient, with literary works and immortal poetic creations
Malayalam literature resonates with beauty and grandeur of nature
Telugu is musical, with maximum speakers in the Dravidian family
Kannada is the sweetest Dravidian language of linguistic glory
Tulu of 'kola' fame is heard in South West India.

Sanskrit is the language of Vedas and Ramayana the great epic
Hindi is an Indo-Aryan language and is spoken across the world
Gujarati has vibrant music and dance forms such as 'Garba'
Marathi is close to Sanskrit in script and grammar
Kashmiri with its Indo-Aryan traditions has gifted us 'Sufi poetry'
Konkani is Indo-Aryan and can be written in multiple scripts
Dogri is spoken in 'Dogras' and Jammu and Kashmir.

In Bengali, we sing with reverence - 'Tagore's National Anthem'
Odia literature reflects religiosity, cultural flavor and ethical values
Urdu and Sindhi are written and read from right to left
Santali has close ties with Urdu and Punjabi.

Assamese and Bihu dance are inseparable and is close to Bengali
Manipuri is a Tibeto-Burman language of North East India
Mizo is written in Roman, Latin and Bengali scripts
Maithili is the sweet language of Mithila region of Bihar
Bodo is a Sino-Tibetan language of the Bodoland
Nepali is spoken in Sikkim, Gorkha Land and Himalayan Regions.

God reads only our hearts and not our languages
Love is the language of the heart that can transcend
our shadow differences and demarcation between people,
based on language, religion, colour, caste and ethnic origin...

At this **Christmas** along with the shepherds and heavenly spirits
We shall line up to the places where '**love made flesh**' is born again
...in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere, the innocent people are crying
for food, shelter, security, peace and deliverance.

Let the **New Year 2024**, usher in greater awareness in us
to accept the distanced people as our own '**brothers and sisters**'.


-Bro. George Kalangod