CHAPTER-3

SUPREMACY OF ONE RASA: BACKGROUND IN SANSKRIT POETICS

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Indian Poetics has recognised eight primary sentiments which are latent in man. They are Rati 'love', Hasa 'laughter', Soka 'sorrow', Krodha 'anger', Utsāha 'high-spiritedness', Bhaya 'fear', Jugupsā 'disgust', and Vismaya 'wonder'. As these are fundamental and relatively long-lasting, they are called as the Sthāyibhāvas. A Sthāyībhāva needs some stimulus for its arousal. The stimuli or the Vibhāvas that give rise to a Sthāyin are of two kinds: Ālambana which would be in the form of a person or a thing with reference to which a Sthāyin arises, and the *Uddīpana* or the attendant circumstance which would enhance the excited Sthāyin. Apart from these, there are some passing moods which are called Sañcāribhāvas or Vyabhicāribhāvas. They are thirty-three in numbernirveda-'dis interestedness' etc. A Sthāyin is expressed through some physical gestures or emotional reactions which are technically called the Anubhāvas. When these are artistically represented either through a drama or through a poem they excite the Sthāyin in a Sahrdaya. He enjoys his own Sthāyin in a state of impersonalised subjectivity. Thus a Sthāyībhāva, transformed into a state of aesthetic enjoyment will be called Rasa. Thus, the will be eight rasas from eight Sthayibhavas. Bharata has given the following Sūtra.

विभावानुभाव्य भिचारिसयोगाद्रसनिष्पत्तिः।

['] (नाट्य शास्त्र,६,३२)

'Rasa issues out from the association of stimulus, emotional reaction and passing moods'. Of the eight rasas, Śṛṇigāra (developed out of rati) is canideved as the best, the rasarāja. However, Bharata's Rasa-scheme is not adequate to cover all human emotions. It is necessary to hold the cases of non-sexual love like that between parents and children, elders and youngsters, as different from the traditional Śṛṇigāra. Daṇḍin is of the opinion that Preyas is very closely connected to Śṛṇigāra but different in the sense that Prīti is the Sthāyin of the former whereas Rati is the Sthāyin of the latter.² In his treatment, of Prīti appears to be identical with Bhakti, as his illustrations of Prīti refer to Bhakti only.³

Dandin comments:

भक्तिमात्रसमाराध्यः सुप्रीतश्च ततो हरिः। * प्रतिप्रकाशनं तद्ध प्रेय इत्यवगम्यताम । *

Daṇḍin does not consider *Bhakti* as a *Rasa* but keeps it outside the purview of his *Rasa*-scheme as he treats the cases of all eight *Rasa*s under the head of *Rasavad Alankāra*.⁶

Ānandavardhana⁷ keeps silent on this issue. Abhinavagupata refer to earlier Poeticians who claim that *Bhakti* and $S'raddh\bar{a}$ are different *Rasa*s; he himself includes them under $S'\bar{a}nta$ by making them accessories of $S'\bar{a}nta$:

² प्रेय प्रियतराख्यानम् । (Daṇḍin, Kāvyādarśa.11.275)

³ अद्य यामम गोविन्द etc.

⁴ Ibid., II, 277

⁵ Ibid., II, 279

⁶ इह त्वष्टरसायत्ता रसवता स्मृता गिराम् । Ibid, II.292 see for details, Ibid, 280–292

⁷ Before Ānandavardhana, Rudraṭa has treated *Preyān* as a *Rasa* but he relates it only with friendship: स्नेहप्रकृति प्रेयान् । (काव्यालन्कार, १५)

ईश्वरप्रणिधानविषये भक्तिश्रद्धे स्मृतिमतिधृत्युत्साहानुप्रविष्टे अन्यथैव अङ्गं (शान्तस्य) इति न तयोः पृथग्रसत्वेन गणनम्।

Mammața is the first Ālankārika to refer directly to Bhakti. But he dismisses the status of Rasa to Bhakti and accepts it only as a Vyabhicāribhāva or passing mood:

रतिर्देवादिविषया व्यभिचारी तथाञ्जितः । भावः प्रोक्तः----॥ १

The commentators of Mammaṭa like Govinda Ṭhakkura and Nāgoji Bhaṭṭa, naturally support his view by stating that the love towards god etc., can not rise to the level of a $Sth\bar{a}y\bar{\imath}bh\bar{a}va$

तेनाङ्गभूताया अनुभावादिभिरपुष्टायाश्च न रसत्वम् । ^{1°}

Hemacandra, the author of *Kāvyānusās*ana, is of the opinion that all the sentiments like *Sneha*, *Bhakti* etc., are the varieties of *rati* and are nourished as *Bhāvas* only:

स्नेहो भक्तिर्वाव्सल्यमिति हि रतेरेव विशेषाः । तुल्ययोः या परस्परं रतिः स स्नेहो । अनुत्तमस्य उत्तमे रतिः प्रसिक्तः, सैव भक्ति पदवाच्या । उत्तमस्य अनुत्तमे रतिः वात्सल्यम् । एवमादौ च विषये भावस्यैव, आस्वाद्यत्वात ।

Appayya Dīkṣita, (17^{th} century) upholds the view of Daṇḍin and observes that the thirty three transitory moods like *Nirveda* etc and the love expressed towards gods, elders, children etc., fall under the province of $Bh\bar{a}va$ only, and the instances where such a $Bh\bar{a}va$ is subordinated to something else come under

⁸ Abhinavabhārati, as quoted in V Raghuvan. Number of Rasas, P.110

⁹ काव्यप्रकाश, Iv, 12 cd.

¹⁰ Kāvyaprakāśa P.126. But it should be roted that mammata reads the removal of mauspicious things (शिवेतरक्षति) as one of the purpose of poetry. Ibid 1.2

the figure Preyas : विभावानुभावाभ्यामभिव्यञ्जितो निर्वेदादिस्त्रयस्त्रिशद्भेदो देवतागुरुशिष्यद्विजपुत्रादावभिव्यज्यमाना रतिश्च भावः ।स यत्रापरस्याङ्गं तत्र प्रेयोऽलङ्कारः ।

Jagannātha observes that *Bhakti* is nothing but *Rati* or love towards Godhead and it cannot rise to the level of a *rasa*:

भक्तेर्देवादिविषयरतित्वेन भावान्तर्गततया रसत्वानुपपत्तेः। "

Thus the major theorists in Sanskrit Poetics, are of the opinion that *Bhakti* was not a *Rasa* on par with other traditionally accepted *Rasas*. However, these theorists did recognize the importance of *Bhakti*; for, some of them like Ānandavardhana, Appayya Dīkṣita etc., were devotees them and Abhinavagupta was a mystic too. The logic behind the dismissal of *Bhakti* is somewhat feeble and unconvincing. As Dr. Raghavan says:

'This is not commendable attitude. If it is said that friendship is only a variety of *Rati*, can we call the *Rasa* in the association of Rāma and Sugrīva, *Śṛṅgāra*? If brotherly attachment again is brought under *Rati*, is the *Rasa* in the association of Rāma and Bharata or Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa, *Śṛṅgāra*? Literature is too full of these types of attachment.'

Karuṇa-Synthesis: Bhavabhuti:

There are some writers who propose (or seem to propose) a theory in which not eight but only on of them is considered as the principal or original

¹¹ Quoted in V.Raghavan, number of Rasas, P.111, fn.2

¹² Kuvalayānanda, under Rasavad Alankāra, p. 183

¹³ Rasasangādhara Ibid, pp. 123–124

¹⁴ Number of Rasas, P 112

rasa and all other rasas as arising out of (and also merging back in) that principal rasa. Prof. V. Rāgavan calls such a view as the theory of Rasasynthesis. He says 'Rasa-synthesis means a reducing of all rasas to the nature of one, formulation of one as Prakrti and the rest as its Vikṛtī 151:

There are at least four such cases before RG which deserve some consideration here.

First among these is Bhavabhūti. He is said to propound the theory of Karuṇa-synthesis. The tradition of considering Karuṇa as an important rasa is very old. The first Kāvya in Sanskrit, the ādikāvya, i.e. the Rāmayaṇa, arose out of a sense of pity¹⁶. Raseṣu karuṇo rasah is a well-known anonymous saying. Again, it is said: Kāruṇyam Bhavabhutir eva tanute¹⁷. Only Bhavabhuti is the past master in creating the pathetic (Karuṇa) sentiment in which api grāva rodity api dalati vajrasya hṛdayam i.e. stones weep and the heart of thunderbolt becomes shattered¹⁸. Even the heroine Sīta in his Uttara-rāma-caritam is called the sentiment of Karuṇa incarnate i.e. karuṇasya mūrtir athavā śarirīṇī¹⁹. In the end of the third act of his play Uttara-rāma-carita, the characters of Vāsantī and Tamasā say:

एको रसः करुण एव निमित्तभेदा-द्विन्नः पृथक्पृथगिवाश्रयते विवर्तान् । आवर्तबुदबुद्तरङ्गमयान्विकारा-नम्भो यथा, सलिलमेव हि तत्समस्तम् ॥ The verse has a vedāntic background as seen from the words like nimitta'cause/motive', vivarta-'turning/revolving/changing', vikāra-'agitation of mind',

¹⁵ Śrigara Prakasa-V.Raghava

¹⁶ Valamıki ramayana 1.2 14

¹⁷ URC

¹⁸ URC I.28

¹⁹ URC, III, 4,

²⁰ URC, III, 47

etc. Bhavabhuti here appears to propose a theory that *Karuṇa* is the only all important *rasa* and all other *rasas* are only its transformations. Just as the single element of water takes various forms like whirlpool, bubbles, waves etc., Similarly it is *Karuṇa* that takes different forms due to various *nimittas. Karuṇa* is the *prakṛti*, other *rasas* are its *vikṛtis*. Though this statement is very appropriate in the context in which it appears, yet it is rather too much to say that Bhavabhuti appears to propound here a theory of *Karuṇa*—synthesis as some scholars claim. Vīrarāghava himself seems to be the first supporter (or the propounder? we do not know) of such an interpretation. He says:

इदमत्र कवेर्मतम्-यद्यपि श्रृङ्गार एक एव रस इति श्रृङ्गारप्रकाशकारादिमतम्, तथापि प्राचुर्याद् रागिविरागि-साधारण्यात् करुण एक एव रसः। अन्ये तु तिद्वकृतयः इति। Vīrarāghava com. P-99

Śānta-Synthesis : Abhinavagupta:

Next we have Abhinava Gupta advocating a $S\overline{a}nta$ -synthesis. Actually, Bharata propounded only eight *rasas*:

श्रृगांरहास्य करुणा रौद्रवीरभयानकाः । बीभत्सश्चाद्धुतश्चैव अष्टो नाट्ये रसाः स्मृताः ॥ स

This is confirmed by Kālidāsa in his Vikramorvasīyam. Act I in the verse:

मुनिना भरतेन यः प्रयोगो भवतीष्वष्टरसाश्रयो नियुक्तः । 23 etc.

But it is likely that there was a tradition which included $S\bar{a}nta$ as the ninth Rasa. $Bh\bar{a}vaprak\bar{a}sana$ says:

उत्पत्तिस्तु रसानां या पुरा वासुिकनोदिता । नारदस्योच्यते सैषा प्रकारान्तरकल्पिता ॥ Bha.Pra., p. 47

²¹ Vīrarāghava com P-99

²² N S V₁.15

²³ Vıkramor Vasīyam–Act.I, verse

and in the same context:

रजस्तमोविहीनात्तु सत्वावस्थात् सचित्ततः। मनागस्पृष्टबाह्यार्थात् शान्तो रस इतीरितः ॥ ^{१९} Bhā.Pra., p. 48

Vāsuki was perhaps the first to accept $S\overline{a}nta\ rasa$: Even Kohala is mentioned to discuss the $sth\overline{a}y\overline{\imath}$ of $\overline{a}\overline{a}nta$. Dharmasuri, author of $S\overline{a}hityaratn\overline{a}kara$, says: कोहलस्तु उत्साहो वा निर्वेदो वा शमो वा अस्य स्थायीत्युवाच। vide D.T. Tatacarya, J.O.R., vol.

Rāghavan shows the text of *Naṭyaśastra* containing the elements of Śantarasa, in the verse:

Udbhaṭa, probably the first commentator of Bharata, recognizes $S\bar{a}nta$ and speaks of nine rasas. Rāghavan feels that he could be the person to have made alterations in the text of $N\bar{a}tya$ $S\bar{a}stra$ which in its revised form accommodates $S\bar{a}nta$ rasa and runs as follows:

श्रृङ्गारहास्यकरुणाः रौद्रवीरभयानकाः । बीभत्साद्भुतशान्ताश्च नव नाटये रसास्मृताः ॥ N.S. Vi, 16 रतिर्हासश्च शोकश्च क्रोधोत्साहौ भयं तथा । जुगुप्साविस्मयशमाः स्थायिभावाः प्रकीर्तिताः ॥ N.S. Vi, 18

There are authors like Aśvaghoṣa and king Harṣavardhana who wrote works depicting $S\overline{a}nta$ as their principal rasa. Theoretically also authors like Udbhaṭa, Rudraṭa, Ānanda vardhana, and even perhaps Tauta and Nāyakā have

²⁴ Bhava prakasana-p.47

²⁵ Bhāva prakāśana-p.48

²⁶ Vide D. T. Tatacarya J.O.R., Vol.v,p,29

²⁷ N.S.I.108 (I st line)

²⁸ N.S.-I.114 (I st line)

²⁹ N.S.-I.

supported the case of S' anta It is, however, Abhinava, who finally propounds. S' anta as the most important S' is the S' and S' and S' are a sum of S' and S'

The revised text of NS it self says:

भावा विकारा रत्याद्याः शान्तस्तु प्रकृतिर्मतः । विकारः प्रकृतेर्जातः पुनस्तत्रैव लीयते ॥ स्त्रुं स्वं निमित्तमासाद्य शान्ताद्भावः प्रवर्तते । पुनिर्मित्तापाये च शान्त एवोपलीयते ॥ Vi. 86–87

Abhinava has strongly put forward the case of $S\overline{a}nta$ -rasa hence, the theory of $S\overline{a}nta$ -synthesis is ascribed to him. He dismissed the claims of Nirveda or Sama or $Uts\overline{a}ha$ and proposes $\overline{A}tman$ as the $sth\overline{a}y\overline{i}$ of $S\overline{a}nta$. He concludes:

तदिदमात्मस्वरुपमेव तत्वज्ञानं शमः । ³¹(P. 331)

He again says: all *rasas*, in the state of their relish, will be like *Śanta*. सर्वरसानां सान्तप्राय एवास्वाद: ³²(P. 333, I.20)

Ahamkāra-Śrngāra: Bhoja

Bhoja comes with in fifty years of Abhinawa and taking his idea from the latter, he propounds a theory which is generally called $S'_rnig\bar{a}ra$ —synthesis. The term $S'_rnig\bar{a}ra$ however is used in a very special philosophico—spiritual sense. In this theory Bhoja appears to adopt a monistic as well as pluralistic approach simultaneously.

The theory seems to develop from the following verse of Dandin in which he has defined the *rasa*-based *Alamkāra*s. The verse is:

प्रेयःप्रियतराख्यान रसवद्रसपेशलम् । उर्जस्वि रुढाहंकारं युक्तिक्तर्ष च तत् त्रयम् ॥

³⁰ N.S Vi.86-87

³¹ N.S. P-331

Bhoja, in the first place, endorses the view that sentiment also are *Alamkāras* and says *Preyaḥ*, *Rasavad* and *Urjasvi* become sentiments when they are *yuktotkarṣa*-'heightened', otherwise they remain merely qualities called *preyaḥ*, *Bhāvikatva* and *Aurjitya*. The sentiment called *Preyaḥ*, *Rasavad* and *Urjasvi* are a higher type of *Alamkāras* because they are related to *Bhāvas*. Though them Bhoja propounds his own concept of the three–level *rasa*.

According to Bhoja, then the first state of rasa is $R\bar{u}dh\bar{a}h\dot{m}k\bar{a}ra$ this is the basic or fundamental stage of rasa. Rasa in this state is of the form of $Aha\dot{m}k\bar{a}ra$ or $Abhim\bar{a}na$ -Ego/Pride and is present in every soul as a result of its experiences of past lives. This $Abhim\bar{a}na$ which is self-consciousness can also be looked upon as $S\dot{r}n\dot{g}n\bar{a}ra$ -'self-love', in a highly philosophical sense. In Bhoja's own words:

रसोङिभमानोङहंकारः श्रृङ्गार इति गीयते । योङर्थः तस्यान्तयात काव्य कमनीयत्वभ्नुने ॥ विशिष्टादृष्टजन्मायं जन्मिनामन्तरात्मसु । आत्मसम्यग्गुणोभूतेरेको हेतुः प्रकाशते ॥

This Abhimāna-Ahamkara-Śṛngāra develops into Māna-'dignity or self-respect or consciousness', it is the 'I', the ego which is at the root of, is the most primary cause of all experience as their 'experience', This stage is also called Parākoti.

The second stage, *Madhyamāvasthā*-'middle stage', occurs when this one basic *Ahamkāra ra*sa manifests itself as *Abhimān*a-'self-assertion',

³² N S.P-331

³³ काव्यादर्श २. २७५

³⁴ स.कण्ठा.५ १-२

'consciousness of the self', revealed in attaching itself to describes to several out ward objects with which it comes in to contact. The one basic *rasa* thus manifests itself in multiplicity of forms. All the eight *rasas* described by Bharata's or the twelve given by Bhoja:

श्रृंगार-वीर-करुण-रौद्राद्धत-भयानकाः । बीभत्स-हास्य-प्रेयासः शान्तोदात्तोद्धता रसाः ॥

or even all the forty-nine moods (including transitory moods and involuntary emotions) can develop to the state of *rasa* in this stage. In fact even when fully developed to the state at sentiment, in this stage, they will be called emotions only.

आलम्बनविभावेभ्यः स्वेभ्यः समुनिनाषम् । रसो रत्यादिरुपेण भाव इत्याभिधीयते ॥

Thus in this stage, the several emotions which have arisen out of the our Aharikāra, are attended by their respective emotions etc. and develop to the state of climax, yet really speaking they are emotions only, they can be called sentiment only in secondary sense, because the real sentiment is only one the Aharikāra rasa and it is a only when Aharikāra is present as Abhimāna, as the experiences, that the different sentiments can be relished. (In the terminology of Abhinava, Ātmā-'soul', is neither viśesata ullikhila nor atyantatiraskṛtā.³⁷

The third and final stage also called *uttarā koti* occurs when all the several emotions having reached their individual climax, then become transformed into one unitary *rasa* which should now be called *Preman*. The

³⁵ स.कण्ठा.५.१६४

³⁶ स.कण्ठा.५.१६

³⁷ अभिनव भारती (NS. I P. 273)

climax of individuals emotions themselves is only *Preman*. The emotions which were several in the second stage now reach their highest intensity, and are synthesized into the one sentiment which is *Preman*. Dr. *Rāghavan* has described the entire process of this sentiment very well in these words: Thus *ahaṁkāra* or *abhimāna* of the first stage becomes *abhimāna* for various outward objects and become the manifold emotions of <u>rati</u> etc. and those emotions themselves develop into respective *rasas* and culminate in *preman*—'love' though which they again pass into the first fundamental sentiment of *ahaṁkāra*.³⁸

Thus in the first and final stages. In the parā and the uttara koṭis, the sentiment is only one. "We are there in a monistic Pāramārthika stage' (ibid). Only in middle stage, the Vyāvahārika stage, pluralism of sentiment finds place. Again in the third stage the several manifestations of the emotions of the middle stage return to the original one sentiment. The several Vikṛtis, as it were, return to their Prakṛti. 'This third stage is therefore only the involution of the evolved'. (ibid)

It is to be noted here that in identifying the sentiment with $S'ring\bar{a}ra$ on the one hand $Ahaik\bar{a}ra-Abhim\bar{a}n$ on the other, Bhoja is actually admitting two sense of $S'rng\bar{a}ra$, one at the ' $Vy\bar{a}vah\bar{a}rika$ ' stage where it is the Prakarṣa-yukta state of rati and another in the spiritual-philosophical sense of $Abhim\bar{a}n$ -souls attachment toward outward objects. Prof. K.C. Pandeya brings out this second connotation of $S'ring\bar{a}ra$ clearly the word $S'ring\bar{a}ra$ is used by Bhoja in the $S'ring\bar{a}ra$ $prak\bar{a}s'a$ in the context of his theory that $S'rng\bar{a}ra$ is the only sentiment, not in the ordinary sense of the word as an aesthetic configuration, the central fact of

 $^{^{38}}$ श्रृगार प्रकाश-P-410

which is love, but in the sense of self-feeling of a particular type, which is due to the pure religious dead of those in whom the quality of *Sattva* predominates and arises from or is strengthened by the residual traces of the expreience of the part birth and takes a man to the highest cultural level (*yena singam ucchrayo rīyate*. ³⁹ (*Sipra*. P.420) (Indian Aesthetics I. P. 198) So for as this aspect of the theory is concerned the influence of the *Sāmkhya* school of though is to obvious. In the *Sāmkhya* system, it is the *Ahamkāra* which makes all worldly experiences of pleasure and pain possible for the *Puruṣa*. Similarly, it is the *Ahamkāra* of the *sahrdaya bhāvaka* which makes all the *rasa*-relish possible for him. A slight divergences may be noted here. In the *Darśana* the experiences can be either pleasurable or painful, where as in a *Kāvya*, all experiences-even those of pathetic will ultimately transform into *preman* only.

Adbhūta-Synthesis: Viśveśvara:

There are some other views of *rasa*-synthesis which however have not been given much importance. Viśvanātha Kavirāja, the autheor of *Sāhityadarpaṇa*, has noticed one such view of *Adbhuta*-synthesis which he ascribes to some *Nārāyaṇa* who obviously must have been his predecessor. In the context of *Adbhuta rasa*, Viśvantha says: *Tadāha* Dharmadattaḥ svagranthe

रसे सारश्चमत्कारः सर्वत्राप्यनुभूयते । तद्ममत्कार सारत्वात् सर्वत्राप्यद्भतो रस ॥ **

It may be noted that this tradition of *Adbhuta*-synthesis seeme to have gone some way. There is one work *camatkāra-candrika* (cc) of one

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³⁹ श्रृगार प्रकाश-P-420 Indian Aesthetics I.P. 198

⁴⁰ S.D.under III-3

Viśveśvarakavicandra (Pub. Andhra Uni, Press, waltair, 1969, ed. Dr. P. Śrirāmamūrti) Who was a protege of the famous king Śingabhūpāla (related 1386–1412 A.D.), author of Rasārņavasudhākara. Viśveśvara defines camatkāra as camatkārastu viduṣāmananda parivāhakṛta. (CC.I.6) and Kāvya as Śabdārthau sa camatkārau kāvyam. He says: camatkāra can reside in all the seven elements of a poem:

गुणं रीतिं रसं वृत्ति पाकं शय्यामलंकृतिम् । सप्तै तानि चमत्कारकारणं ब्रुवते बुधाः । गुणादीनां वाक्यशोभाकृतौ साधर्म्ययोगतः ॥ ^{१२}СС.І.6–7

The entire treatise elaborates in eight chapters (called *vilāsa*) this element of *camatkāra*-wander-ful achievement/astonishment:

Some sort of continuation of this view can be seen in jagannathas Rasagangādhara. He defines Kāvya as ramaṇīyārthapratipādakaḥ śabdaḥ kāvyam and ramaṇīyatā as lokottarāḥ lādajanakajñāna gocaratā and ultimately svaviśista janakavaccadekapratipāda-katāsansargena camatkārakttvam kāvayatvam.⁴³

One Haripras \bar{a} da, author of $K\bar{a}vyaloka$ (written 1729 A.D.) also defines $K\bar{a}vya$ thus:

विशिष्टशब्दरुपस्य काव्यस्यात्मा चमत्कृतिः । उत्पत्तिभूमिः प्रतिभा नागत्रोपपादितम् ॥"

It is in the light and context of these efforts that we now propose to examine RG's theory of *Bhakti* as the only and the highest of *Rasas* as propounded mainly in his BRAS.

⁴¹ Camatkāra Candrikā, I-6

⁴² Camatkāra Candrikā, I-6-7

⁴³ Rasagangādhara

⁴⁴ Kāvyāloka (quoted in intro, to cc, p.xxx vii)