



For this month's editorial, I thought I would list some technical terms and their definitions- that we, as students of Karnataka Sangeetham use on a regular basis;-some - used by musicians when they put forth an idea amongst peers, some used in sangeeta granthas and those that are essential to reading any of the Sangeeta granthas like Sangitaratnaakara, Brihaddeshi, Sangita Makaranda etc.

Aadiyappayya Pacchimiriyaam- He is the celebrated composer of the famous Bhairavi varnam Viriboni, which stands as an acid test for any student/musician. He is said to have systematized the rendition of alaapana, madhyamakaala and Pallavi. He was a court musician of Tanjore. Prominent among his disciples were Syama Sastri, Pallavi Gopalayyar and Ghanam Krishna Iyer. Vina Seshanna belonged to Aadiyappayya's family.

Aadi- the first tala a student learns and the most common one, known as Chatusra Jati Triputa tala in the Sulaadi Sapta talas. It's one of the classical 108 talas taking laghu alone. Interestingly it's also the name of the first Mela in the scheme of 4624 Sampurna Melas explained in the work Melaadhikaaralakshana.

Abhyaasa Gaana - Music intended for practice as opposed to Sabha gaana which is music intended for performance. This includes all swara exercises, tala exercises that build shruti and laya jnana, vocal and instrumental techniques and musical forms like Gitas, Jatiswaras, Varnas. The early training in these helps a student to sing concert pieces in an accurate and embellished manner.

Aadhaara Shadja - The tonic keynote or Shruti

Aahata- music made by the conscious efforts of Man as opposed to anaahata music audible only to the Yogis. Aahata music is classified into Gita, Vaadya and Nritta. Aahata is also the name of one of the panchadasha gamakas (15 gamakas)

Akshara- literally a letter, used in the sense of unit time in music. One syllable. Also name of a rare tala used by Ramaswamy Dikshitar in his 108 ragatala malika

Aksharakaala - Time taken to say an akshara, for instance a beat in adi tala is one aksharakaala.

Aalapa/Aalapana- a creative exposition of a raga. It is unmeasured music. This is the most distinguished feature of Indian Music. It has 3 sections- Aakshiptika, Raga vardhani, sthaayi and Makarini

Alpatva- one of the trayodasha (13) lakshanas (characteristics) of a raga- the term denotes a swara that is sparingly used in a raga. For eg. D2 in Sri raga.

Amsha swara- the note that brings out the melodic identity of the raga, also called Jiva swara. This is one of the Trayodasha lakshanas of a raga.

I just realized that there are so many of such terms!!
I intend to continue this in the next few series of the newsletter 😊

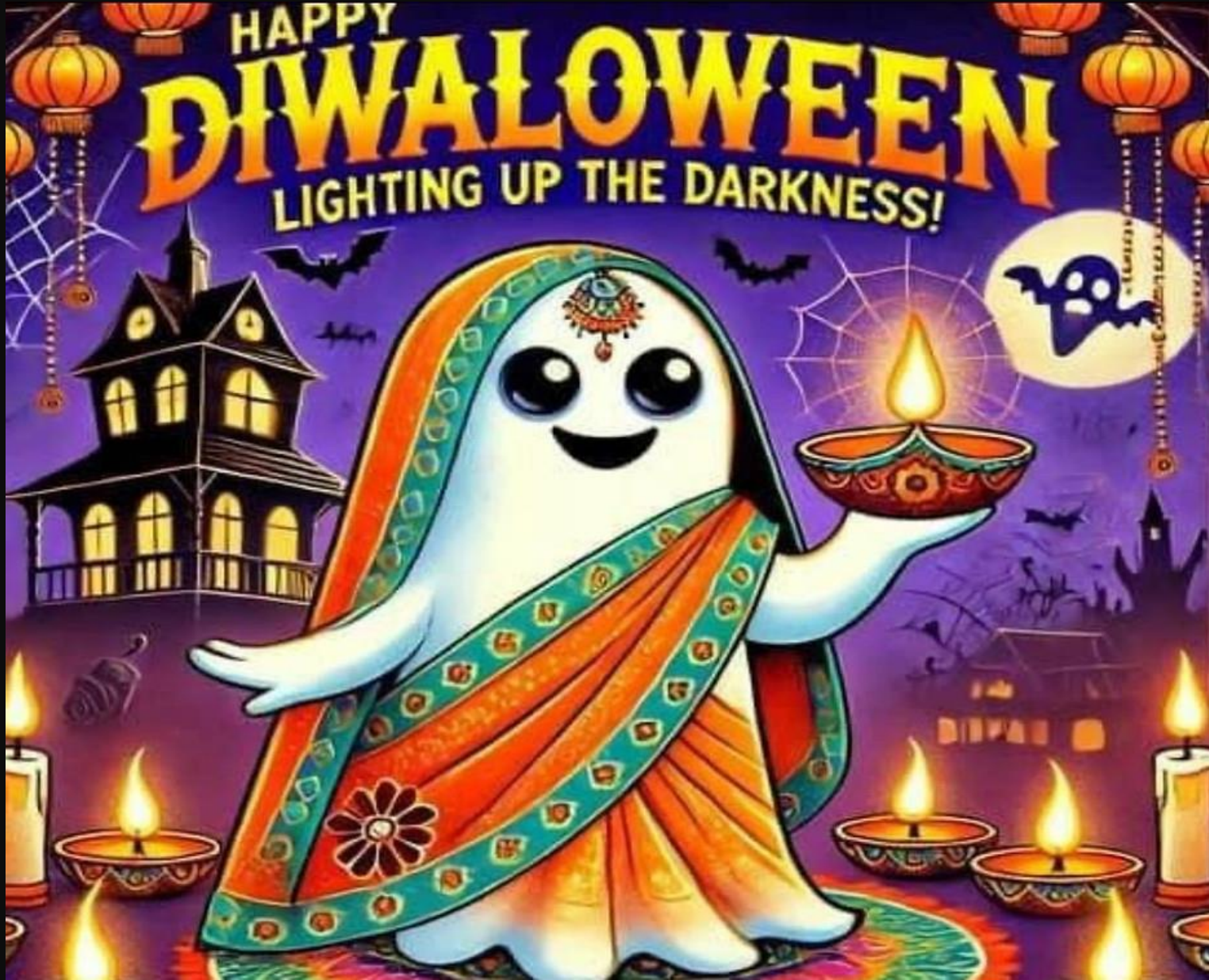
Sandhya Anand

Director of Samskrtasangitam School of Music

Fun Corner at School



Fun Corner at School



Student's Special

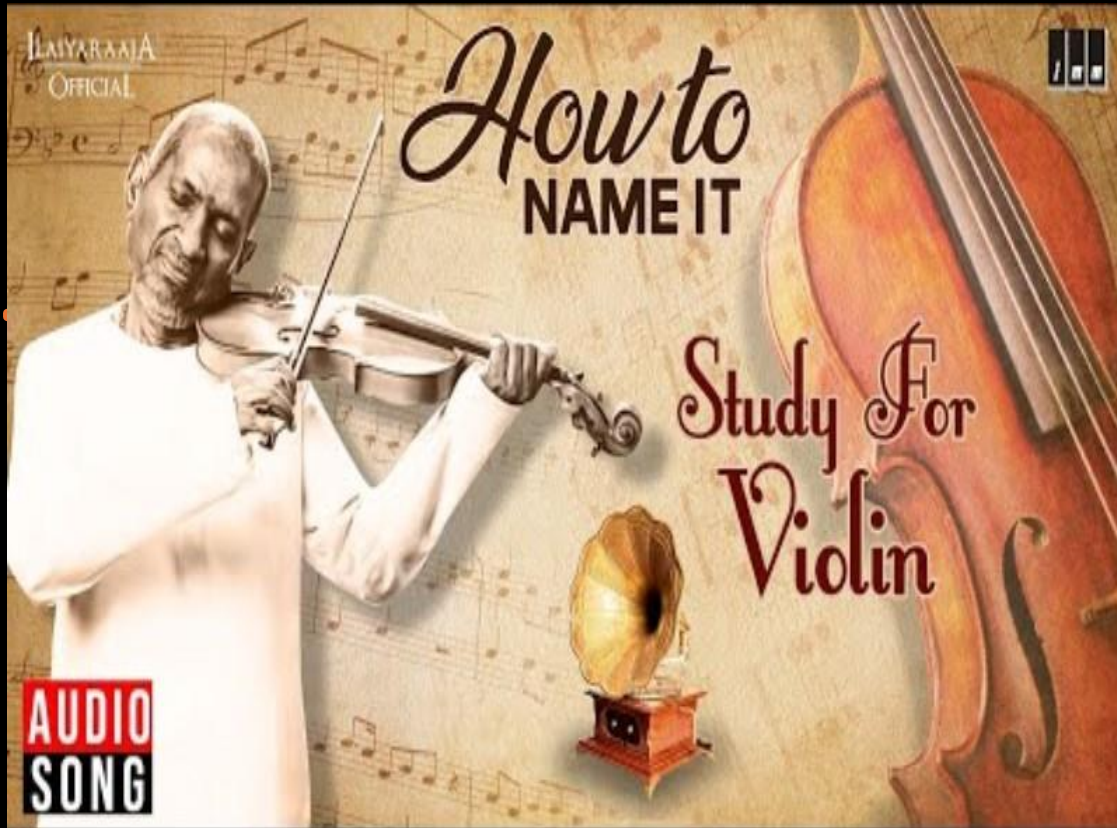
I challenged my students Indu and Dhruva to decode the swaras of this beautiful Western piece from Maestro Ilayaraja's album 'how to name it'. It's a difficult composition, set to a Carnatic raga. The raga takes a lot of twists and turns and yet the students took the challenge with gusto, and they cracked it!

It was such a pleasure to see these kids decode music presented in a different form. Way to go Indu and Dhruva!

Now, question for you 😊

What is this raga? Can you decode this music and notate the swara's of the entire song?

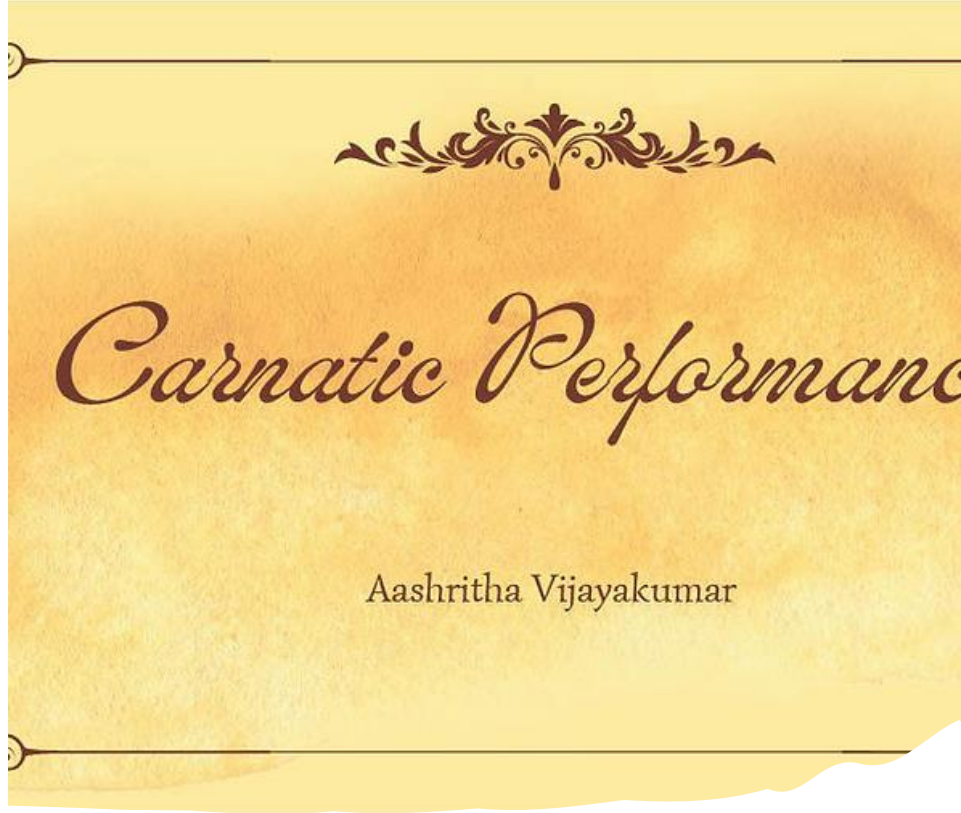
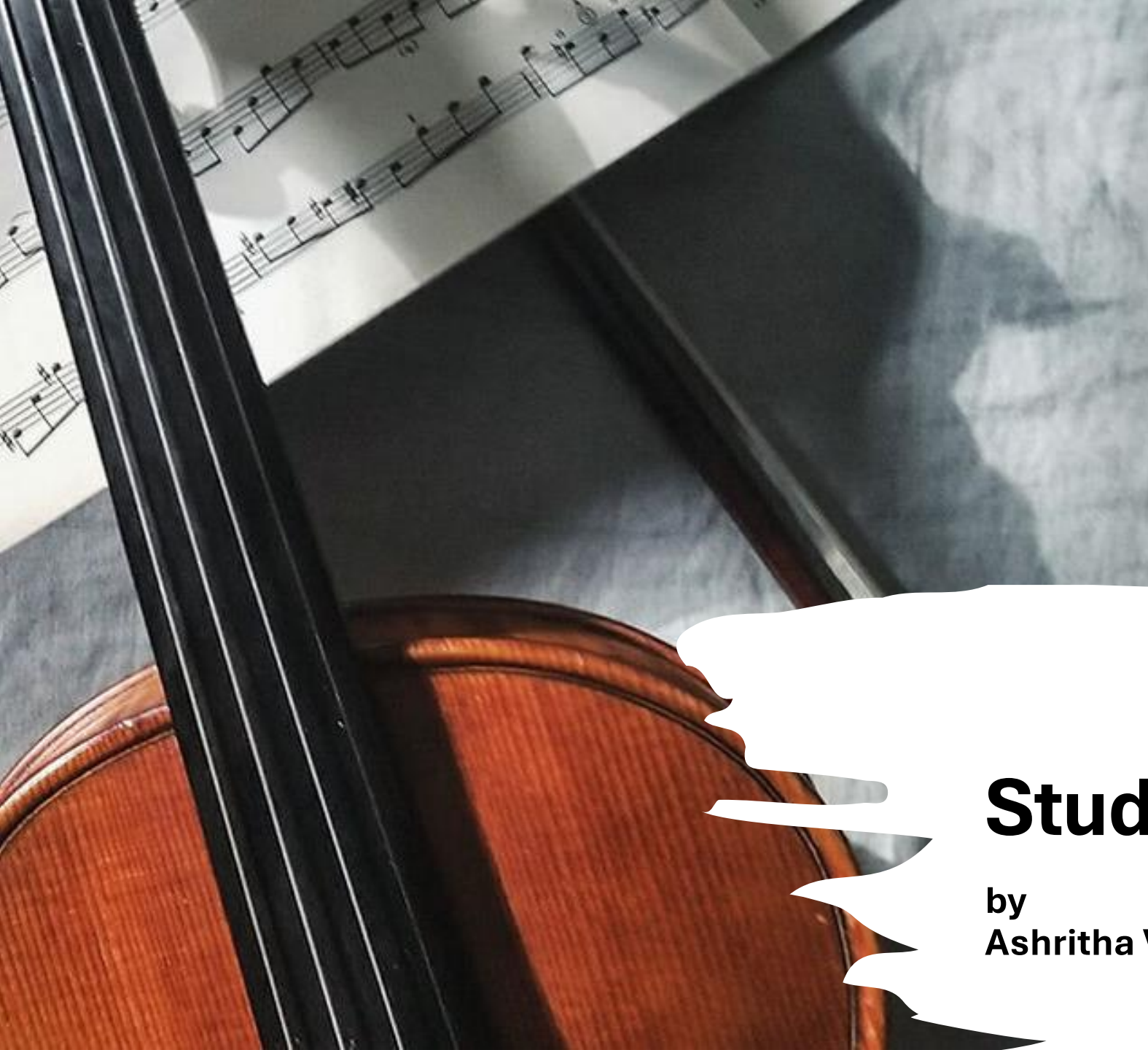
Student's Special



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Student Scribe

by
Ashritha Vijayakumar

What is a Carnatic Classical Concert?



A Carnatic Classical concert is also called as Katcheri that usually lasts about 3-4 hours. These concerts consists of a variety of different compositions. The music that is sung during the concerts is typically composed up of different ragas, talas, and swaras.

Concert Format Foundation



Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar is the greatest legend in the Carnatic music who established the concert (Katcheri) concepts or traditions.

Concert Format before and after Ariyakudi's invent

Pre-Ariyakudi Days

Prior to the advent of Ariyakudi, carnatic music concerts went on for hours with only few ragas and kritis, repetitive alapanas that were elaborated in great detail. By giving concert form a structure, Ariyakudi transformed the presentation of Carnatic music.

Post-Ayirkudi Days

Beginning -- Varnam

Krithi -- Brisk krithis and Slow Krithis

Main piece -- Heavy Krithi

Second major piece

Variety of songs like bhajans, Padam, Ragamalika,
Tillana

Conclusion -- Managalam

Performance in a Concert

Carnatic music concerts are typically performed by a small group of musicians in an elevated stage.

Lead Performer: Singer (Vocalist) or Instrumentalists like Violin, Veena, Flute, or Nathaswaram.

Accompanists: For vocal concert, the following are the accompanists

- Violinists -- Melody support
- Mridangist -- Rhythmic support
- Tambura -- For perfect Sruti
- Optional Accompanists: Ghatam, Khanjira, and Morsing



Instruments Used Then and Now

Instruments used in those days....

Veena
Rudra veena
Tambura
Ghatam
Venu
Mridangam
Ghanjira/Hand drum
Nadaswaram



Instruments used Now


Violin
Sruthi Box or Electronic Tambura
Mridangam
Veena
Flute
Sitar

Concert Improvization



Improvisation is vital in carnatic music for following reasons:

- Enhances the quality of the music
- Develop the music skills
- Become dynamic and adaptive
- Establish musicians individuality



IT'S PLAYTIME

by Indira Subramaniam



- **Discover the joy of creativity with our Carnatic Jigsaw Puzzle! Engage your mind and enhance your appreciation for the rich traditions of Carnatic music as you piece together this beautiful representation. Perfect for all ages. Enjoy playtime while diving into the world of music and art!**

<https://puzzel.org/jigsaw/play?p=-OBXmogCf5TKzb-K6le0>

Instructions to play:

Please scan the QR code on your mobile device or click on play time button to play Carnatic Jigsaw Puzzle!



Carnatic Connections

Share

by Akshara

TYPES OF MUSIC

BHAJAN, KRITI, PADAM, VARNAM

CONCERT SEGMENTS

ALAPANA, NIRAVAI, PALLAVI, THANAM

INSTRUMENTS

KANJIRA, MRIDANGAM, NADHASWARAM,
VEENA

MUSIC ELEMENTS

GAMAKAS, RAGA, SWARA, TALA

October
Playtime's
answers!

Timeless Wisdom: Inspirational Quotes



Music is the highest art and to those who understand, is the highest worship.

Swami Vivekananda
Indian monk and philosopher