

Transliteration–Telugu

Transliteration as per Modified Harvard-Kyoto (HK) Convention
(including Telugu letters – Short e, Short o) -

a A i I u U
R RR IR IRR
e E ai o O au M (H or :)

(e – short | E – Long | o – short | O – Long)

k kh g gh n/G
c ch j jh n/J
T Th D Dh N
t th d dh n
p ph b bh m
y r l L v
S sh s h

(jn – as in jnAna)

Ela teliya lErO-darbAru

In the kRti ‘Ela teliya lErO’ – rAga darbAru, SrI tyAgarAja sings praises of the Lord.

- P ¹Ela teliya lErO ²pUrva karmam-
(E)lAguna jEsirO rAmayya
- A bAla SaS(A)nka ³kal(A)lankRta nuta
nIlA varNa suguN(A)laya nI mahimal(Ela)
- C1 bAla tanamuna SULa dharuni
viSAla dhanuvunu lIlagA bhU-
pAlakulu kana kEla viraci
kuSAlugA SrIn(E)lina ninn(Ela)
- C2 nAlug(o)ka padi vEla kancu
rathAla sura ripu mUla balamula
lIlagAn⁴(o)ka kOlan(E)si
kAla yama puri pAlu jEsina ninn(Ela)
- C3 rAja SEkharuni(y)I jagatilO
⁵rAjAsambuna pUja sEyu
rAjul(a)nu gaja rAjulaku mRga
rAja tyAgarAja nuta ninn(Ela)

Gist

O Lord rAma! O Lord praised by Lord Siva! O (Dark) blue hued! O Abode of virtues! O Lion to those king elephants called kings – who in this World, endowed with passion, worship Lord Siva! O Lord praised by this tyAgarAja!

Why did they not understand You and Your greatness? How did they perform earlier actions (that they could not understand You)?

In Your youth itself, as the kings watched, You broke the huge bow of Lord Siva sportingly, by Your hands, and happily became the consort of sItA.

You sportingly dispatched fourteen thousand (warriors in) bronze chariots and the core strengths of rAvaNa, to the abode of the Lord of Death by shooting just a single arrow.

Word-by-Word Meaning

P O Lord (ayya) rAma! Why (Ela) did they not (lErO) understand (teliya) You? How (ElAguna) did they perform (jEsirO) earlier (pUrva) (or in their earlier births) actions (karmamu) (karmamElAguna) (that they could not understand You)?

A O Lord praised (nuta) by Lord Siva – one who is adorned (alankRta) with the digit (kalA) (kalAlankRta) of the young (bAla) moon – the hare (SaSa) marked (anka) (SaSAnta)!

O (Dark) blue (nIlA) hued (varNa)! O Abode (Alaya) of virtues (suguNa) (suguNAlaya)!

O Lord rAma! Why did they not understand Your (nI) greatness (mahimalu) (mahimalEla)? How did they perform earlier (or in their earlier births) actions (that they could not understand You)?

C1 O Lord rAma! Why did they not understand You (ninnu) (ninnEla) who, in His youth (bAla tanamuna) itself (literally young age), as the kings – Lords (pAlakulu) of the Earth (bhU) – watched (kana), by breaking (viraci) sportingly (llagA) by His hands (kEla) the huge (viSAla) (literally large) bow (dhanuvunu) of Lord Siva – one who wields (dharnuni) of trident (Sula), happily (kuSA lugA) became the consort (Elina) (literally govern) of sItA (SrI) (SrIni) (literally lakshmi) (SrInElina)?

How did they perform earlier (or in their earlier births) actions (that they could not understand You)?

C2 O Lord rAma! Why did they not understand You (ninnu) (ninnEla), who sportingly (llagAnu) dispatched (pAlu jEsina) to the abode (puri) of the Lord of Death – the controller (yama) of time (kAla) –

the fourteen – four (nAlugu) and a(oka) ten (padi) - thousand (vEla) (warriors in) bronze (kancu) chariots (rathAla) and the core (mUla) strengths (balamula) of rAvaNa – the enemy (ripu) of celestials (sura),

by shooting (Esi) just a single (oka) (llagAnoka) arrow (kOlanu) (kOlanEsi)?

How did they perform earlier (or in their earlier births) actions (that they could not understand You)?

C3 O Lion – king (rAja) of animals (mRga) – to those king (rAjulaku) elephants (gaja) called (anu) kings (rAjulu) (rAjulanu) – who in this (I) World (jagatilO),

endowed with passion (rAjasambuna), worship (pUja sEyu) Lord Siva – one who wears the (digit) of the moon (rAja) on the head (SEkhara) (SEkharoniyI)! O Lord praised (nuta) by this tyAgarAja!

O Lord rAma! why did they not understand You (ninnu) (ninnEla)? what kind of actions did they perform earlier (or in their earlier births) (that they could not understand You)?

(To those kings, who become arrogant by obtaining boons worshipping Lord Siva, you are like a lion to the elephants.)

Notes –

Variations –

References –

³ – kalA – a digit is equivalent to 1/16th portion of anything, especially, moon.

Comments -

¹ – Ela teliya lErO – 'why did they not understand' – In the kRti 'ramA ramaNa bhAramA' – rAga vasanta bhairavi, SrI tyAgarAja states – 'marmamerigi nammukona lEraNTi dharmAdi mOksha varamulosangi bhakta varula kAcina kIrTi viNTi' - I heard about your fame, of protecting the great devotees, by conferring on them that kind of boons (which are otherwise attainable only as a result of the objects of human pursuit - purushArtha) of righteous conduct etc (dharma, artha, kAma) and also emancipation; people in the Earth would not believe such acts (excepting by) knowing the secrets (of Your true nature).

Even SrI rAma denies existence of any such special powers with him – please refer to SrImad-vAlmIki rAmAyaNa, yuddha kANDa, Chapter 117 - 'sItA's fire ordeal' –

AtmA M mAnushaM manyE rAmaM daSa RathAtmajam |
sO(a)haM yaSca yataScAhaM bhagavAMstad bravItu mE || 11 ||

"I account myself a human being, Rama (by name), sprung from the loins of (Emperor) Dasartha. And (yet) let the glorious lord (Brahma) tell me that which I as such (really) am and whence I have come."

² – pUrva karmamElAguna jEsirO – 'how did they perform earlier actions' – rAvaNa and other demons could not recognise SrI rAma to be the Lord incarnate. In this connection, the statement of maNDOdari lamenting about the death of rAvaNa wherein she pities her husband for not recognising SrI rAma to be the Lord vishNu incarnate, is relevant. Please refer to SrImad vAlmIki rAmAyaNa, yuddha kANDa, Chapter 111.

Read in conjunction with caraNa 3 'rAjAsambuna pUjalu sEyu', it is clear that SrI tyAgarAja implies what is stated in SrImad- bhagavad-gIta, Chapter 3 (please also refer to note below) –

yajnArthAtkarmaNO(a)nyatra lOkO(a)yaM karma bandhanaH |
tadarthaM karma kauntEya mukta sanghaH samAcara || 9 ||

"The world is bound by actions other than those performed for the sake of yajna; do thou, therefore, O son of kuntI, perform action for yajna alone, devoid of attachment." (Translation by Swami Swarupananda)

⁴ – oka kOlanEsi – The killing of fourteen thousand demons in a matter of hour and a half is praised by dEvas – SrImad vAlmIki rAmAyaNa – AraNyakANDa – Chapter 30 refers.

Ibid yuddha kANDa – Chapter 93 (verses 27, 31-33) describes the exploits of SrI rAma – "The aforesaid ogres for their part beheld thousands of rAma on the battle field, while at other times they saw only one rAma – a scion of kAkustha. (27) In the eighth part of a day (one hour and a half) an army of ogres capable of changing their form at will, consisting of a myriad chariots possessing the swiftness of the wind, also eighteen thousand fleet-footed elephants, fourteen thousand horses with their riders, and a full two lakhs of ogres fighting on foot, was exterminated by SrI rAma single-handed with his arrows resembling tongues of fires. (31-33)"

However, the statement of SrI tyAgarAja about 'fourteen thousand bronze chariots' is not readily traceable.

⁵ – rAjasambuna pUja sEyu rAjulu – This would, generally, refer to all those demons who sought boons from Lord Siva for their personal aggrandisement – hence rAjasa. However, here this would specifically refer to rAvana.

Devanagari

- प. एल तेलिय लेरो पूर्व कर्म-
(मे)लागुन जेसिरो रामय्य
अ. बाल श(शां)क क(ला)लंकृत नुत
नील वर्ण सुगु(णा)लय नी महिम(लेल)
च1. बाल तनमुन शूल धरुनि
विशाल धनुवुनु लीलगा भू-
पालकुलु कन केल विरचि
कुशालुगा श्री(ने)लिन नि(न्नेल)
च2. नालु(गो)क पदि वेल कञ्चु
रथाल सुर रिपु मूल बलमुल
लीलगा(नो)क कोल(ने)सि
काल यम पुरि पालु जेसिन नि(न्नेल)
च3. राज शेखरुनि(यी) जगतिलो
राजसम्बुन पूज सेयु
राजु(ल)नु गज राजुलकु मृग
राज त्यागराज नुत नि(न्नेल)

English with Special Characters

- pa. ēla teliya lērō pūrva karma-
(mē)lāguna jēsirō rāmayya
a. bāla śa(śāṁ)ka ka(lā)laṅkṛta nuta
nīla varṇa sugu(ṇā)laya nī mahima(lēla)
ca1. bāla tanamuna śūla dharuni
viśāla dhanuvunu līlagā bhū-
pālakulu kana kēla viraci

kuśālugā śrī(nē)lina ni(nnēla)
 ca2. nālu(go)ka padi vēla kañcu
 rathāla sura ripu mūla balamula
 līlagā(no)ka kōla(nē)si
 kāla yama puri pālu jēsina ni(nnēla)
 ca3. rāja śēkharuni(yī) jagatilō
 rājasambuna pūja sēyu
 rāju(la)nu gaja rājulaku mṛga
 rāja tyāgarāja nuta ni(nnēla)

Telugu

ప. ఏల తెలియ లేరో పూర్వ కర్కు-
 (మే)లాగున జేసిరో రామయ్య
 అ. బాల శ(శాం)క క(లా)లంకృత నుత
 నీల వర్ష సుగు(ణ)లయ నీ మహిమ(లేల)
 చ1. బాల తనమున శూల ధరుని
 విశాల ధనువును లీలగా భూ-
 పాలకులు కన కేల విరచి
 కుశాలుగా శ్రీ(నే)లిన ని(న్నేల)
 చ2. నాలు(గో)క పది వేల కజ్ఞు
 రథాల సుర రిపు మూల బలముల
 లీలగా(నో)క కోల(నే)సి
 కాల యమ పురి పాలు జేసిన ని(న్నేల)
 చ3. రాజ శేఖరుని(యా) జగతిలో
 రాజసమ్మున పూజ సేయు
 రాజు(ల)ను గజ రాజులకు మృగ
 రాజ త్యాగరాజ నుత ని(న్నేల)

Tamil

ப. ஏல தெவிய லேரோ பூர்வ கர்ம-
 (மே)லாகுன் ஜேவிரோ ராமய்ய
 அ. பால ஸ(ஸா)ங்க க(லா)லங்க்ருத நுத
 நீல வர்ண ஸாகு(ணா)லய நீ மஹிம(லேல)

- ச1. பா³ல தனமுன ஸஅல த⁴ருளி
விஸால த⁴னுவனு லீலகா³ டு⁴-
பாலகுலு கன கேல விரசி
கு ஸாலுகா³ டூ(னே)வின நின்(னேல)
- ச2. நாலு(கொ³)க பதி³ வேல கஞ்ச²
ரதா²ல ஸார ரிபு மூல ப³லமூல
லீலகா³(னோ)க கோல(னே)ஸி
கால யம புரி பாலு ஜேஸின நின்(னேல)
- ச3. ராஜ் சேக²(ருனியீ) ஜக³திலோ
ராஜஸம்பு³ன டுஜ சேயு
ராஜா(ல)னு க³ஜ ராஜாலகு ம்ருக³
ராஜ் த்யாகராஜ் நுத நின்(னேல)

எனறிந்திலரோ? முன் வினைகள்
எவ்விதம் செய்தனரோ, இராமயா?

இளந்திங்கட் பிறை குடியோனால் போற்றப்பெற்றோனே!
நீல வண்ணா! பண்புகளினுறைவிடமே! உனது மகிமைகளை
எனறிந்திலரோ? முன் வினைகள்
எவ்விதம் செய்தனரோ, இராமயா?

1. இளமையில், சூலமேந்தியின்
பெருத்த வில்லினை, விளையாட்டாக, புவி
யாள்வோர் காண, கைகளால் முறித்து,
களிப்புடன் திருமகளையாண்ட உன்னை
எனறிந்திலரோ? முன் வினைகள்
எவ்விதம் செய்தனரோ, இராமயா?
2. நான்குடனோர் பதினாயிரம் கஞ்சியத்
தேர்களையும், சுரர் பகைவனின் மூல பலத்தினையும்,
விளையாட்டாக, ஓரம்பெய்து,
காலவியமனின் புரமடையச் செய்தவுன்னை
எனறிந்திலரோ? முன் வினைகள்
எவ்விதம் செய்தனரோ, இராமயா?
3. திங்களணிவோனை, இப்புவியில்,
இராசத்தினால் வழிபடும்
அரசர்களைனும் கரியரசர்களுக்கு, மிருக ராசனே!
தியாகராசனால் போற்றப்பெற்றோனே! உன்னை
எனறிந்திலரோ? முன் வினைகள்
எவ்விதம் செய்தனரோ, இராமயா?

இளந்திங்கட் பிறை குடி, சூலமேந்தி, திங்களணிவோன் - சிவன்
திருமகள் - இங்கு சீதையைக் குறிக்கும்
நான்குடனோர் பதினாயிரம் - பதினான்காயிரம்
கஞ்சியம் - வெண்கலம்
கஞ்சியத் தேர்கள் - கரன் (சூர்ப்பநகையின் சோதரன்) சேனை

சுரர் பகைவன் - இராவணன்
மூல பலம் - அடிப்பெலமாயிருக்கும் சேனை
காலவியமன் - நமன்
இராசதம் - முக்குணங்களிலொன்று
மிருகராசன் - சிங்கம்

Kannada

ப. ஏல தீலிய லீரீஒ பூர்ண கீழ் -
(மீ)லாஸுந ஜீஸிரீஒ ராமையீ
அ. சால ஶ(ஶாஂ)க க(லா)லங்கூத் நுதே
நீல வர்ண ஸுஸு(ஷா)லய நீ மகிமீ(லீல)
ஜ. சால தெமூன ஶூல ஢ருனி
விஶால ஢ந்வுனு லீலா ஭ூ-
பாலகுல கெ கீல விரசீ
குஶாலா தீ(நீ)லின நி(நீல)
ஜ. நாலு(கீல)க பெரி வீல கீஜூ
ரங்கால ஸுர ரிபு மூல சுலமூல
லீலா(நீல)க கோல(நீ)ஸி
கால யம புரி பாலு ஜீஸின நி(நீல)
ஜ. ராஜ ஶீவருநி(யீ) ஜக்திலீ
ராஜஸ்மூந பூஜ ஸீயீ
ராஜ(ல)நு ஗ஜ ராஜலகு மூர்
ராஜ தூராஜ நுதே நி(நீல)

Malayalam

ப. ஏறு தெலிய லேரோ பூர கர்ம-
(மே)லாகுந ஜேஸிரோ ராமயு
அ. ஸுல ஶ(ஶாஂ)க க(லா)லங்கூத் நூத
நீல வர்ண ஸுகு(ஸா)லய நீ மஹிம(லேல)
ப1. ஸுல தநமூந ஶூல யருளி
விஶால யகுவுநு லீலா டூ-
பாலகுலு கக கேல விரசி
குஶாலா ஶீ(நே)லின நி(நேல)

- চৰ. নালু(গো)ক পতি বেল কণ্ঠ্য
 রমাল সুৰ তিপু মূল বেলমূল
 লীলা(নো)ক কোল(নে)সি
 কাল যম পুৰি পালু জেসীন নী(নেল)
- চৰ. রাজ শেবৰুনি(য়ী) জগতিলো
 রাজসম্বুন পুঁজ সেয়ু
 রাজু(ল)নু গজ রাজুলকু মৃগ
 রাজ ত্যাগৰাজ নুত নী(নেল)

Assamese

- প. এল তেলিয লেৰো পূৰ্ব কৰ্ম-
 (মে)লাণুন জেসিৱো বাময়্য
 অ. বাল শ(শাং)ক ক(লা)লংকৃত নুত
 নীল রণ সুগু(গা)লয় নী মহিম(লেল)
 চৰ. বাল তনমুন শূল ধৰনি
 রিশাল ধনুরুনু লীলগা ভূ-
 পালকুলু কন কেল রিবচি
 কুশালুগা শ্রী(নে)লিন নি(নেল)
 চৰ. নালু(গো)ক পদি রেল কঞ্চ
 বথাল সুৰ বিপু মূল বলমূল
 লীলগা(নো)ক কোল(নে)সি
 কাল যম পুৰি পালু জেসিন নি(নেল)
 চৰ. বাজ শেখৰুনি(য়ী) জগতিলো
 বাজসম্বুন পূজ সেয়ু
 বাজু(ল)নু গজ বাজুলকু মৃগ
 বাজ আগৰাজ নুত নি(নেল)

Bengali

- প. এল তেলিয লেৰো পূৰ্ব কৰ্ম-
 (মে)লাণুন জেসিৱো বাময়্য
 অ. বাল শ(শাং)ক ক(লা)লংকৃত নুত

નીલ બર્ણ સુગ્રે(ગો)લય ની મહિમ(લેલ)

ચ૧. બાલ તનમુન શૂલ ધરુનિ

વિશાલ ધનુબુનુ લીલગા ભૂ-

પાલકુલુ કન કેલ વિરચિ

કુશાલુગા શ્રી(ને)લિન નિ(નેલ)

ચ૨. નાલુ(ગો)ક પદ્દિ વેલ કષ્ટું

રથાલ સુર રિપુ મૂલ બલમૂલ

લીલગા(નો)ક કોલ(ને)સિ

કાલ યમ પૂરિ પાલુ જેસિન નિ(નેલ)

ચ૩. રાજ શેખરનિ(યી) જગતિલો

રાજસંસુન પૂજ સેયુ

રાજુ(લ)નુ ગજ રાજુલકુ મૃગ

રાજ આગરાજ નુત નિ(નેલ)

Gujarati

પ. એલ તોલિય લેરો પૂર્વ કર્મ-
(મે)લાગુન જેસિરો રામચ્ચ

અ. બાલ શ(શાં)ક ક(લા)લંકૃત નુત
નીલ વળ્ણ સુગુ(ણા)લય ની મહિમ(લેલ)

ચ૧. બાલ તનમુન શૂલ ધરુનિ
વિશાલ ધનુબુનુ લીલગા ભૂ-
પાલકુલુ કન કેલ વિરચિ
કુશાલુગા શ્રી(ને)લિન નિ(ઝેલ)

ચ૨. નાલુ(ગો)ક પદ્દિ વેલ કર્યુ
રથાલ સુર રિપુ મૂલ બલમૂલ
લીલગા(નો)ક કોલ(ને)સિ

કાલ યમ પૂરિ પાલુ જેસિન નિ(ઝેલ)

ચ૩. રાજ શેખરનિ(યી) જગતિલો
રાજસમ્બુન પૂજ સેયુ

ରାଜୁ(ଲ)ନ୍ତୁ ଗାୟ ରାଜୁଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ମୃଗ
ରାଜୁ ତ୍ୟାଗରାଜୁ ନୁତ ନି(ଶୈଳ)

Oriya

ପ. ଏଲ ତେଲିଯ ଲେରୋ ପୂଞ୍ଜ କର୍ମ-
(ମେ)ଲାଗୁନ ଦେସିରୋ ରାମୟ
ଆ. ବାଲ ଶି(ଶିଁ)କ କଲାଲଙ୍କୃତ ନୁତ
ନୀଲ ଝର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସୁରୁ(ଶା)ଲଘୁ ନୀ ମହିମ(ଲେଲ)
ଚୀ. ବାଲ ତନମୂନ ଶୂଳ ଧରୁନି
ଅଶାଲ ଧନୁଞ୍ଜଳି ଲୀଲଗା ଭୂ-
ପାଲକୁଳ କନ କେଲ ଝିରଚି
କୁଶାଲୁଗା ଶ୍ରୀ(ନେ)ଲିନ ନି(ନେଲ)
ଚ୍ଛ. ନାଲୁ(ଗୋ)କ ପଦି ଖେଲ କଞ୍ଚୁ
ରଥାଲ ସୁର ରିପୁ ମୂଲ ବଲମୂଲ
ଲୀଲଗା(ନୋ)କ କୋଲ(ନେ)ସି
କାଳ ଯମ ପୂରି ପାଲୁ ଦେସିନ ନି(ନେଲ)
ଚୀ. ରାଜ ଶେଖରୁନି(ଯୀ) ଜଗତିଲୋ
ରାଜସମୂନ ପୂଜ ସେୟୁ
ରାଜୁ(ଲ)ନ୍ତୁ ଗଜ ରାଜୁଲକୁ ମୃଗ
ରାଜ ତ୍ୟାଗରାଜ ନୁତ ନି(ନେଲ)

Punjabi

ਪ. ਏਲ ਤੇਲਿਸ ਲੋਰੋ ਪੂਰ੍ਵ ਕਰਮ-
(ਮੇ)ਲਾਗੁਨ ਜੇਸਿਰੋ ਰਾਮਯ
ਆ. ਬਾਲ ਸ(ਸਾਂ)ਕ ਕ(ਲਾ)ਲੰਕਿਤ ਨੁਤ
ਨੀਲ ਵਰਣ ਸੁਗੁ(ਲਾ)ਲਯ ਨੀ ਮਹਿਮ(ਲੇਲ)
ਚੀ. ਬਾਲ ਤਨਮੂਨ ਸੂਲ ਧਰੁਨਿ
ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਧਨੁਵਨ ਲੀਲਗਾ ਭੂ-

ਪਾਲਕੁਲੁ ਕਨ ਕੋਲ ਵਿਰਚਿ
ਕੁਸ਼ਾਲੁਗਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ(ਨੇ)ਲਿਨ ਨਿ(ਨਨੇਲ)

ਚ੨. ਨਾਲੁ(ਗੋ)ਕ ਪਦਿ ਵੇਲ ਕਵਚੁ
ਰਥਾਲ ਸੁਰ ਰਿਪੁ ਮੂਲ ਬਲਮੁਲ
ਲੀਲਗਾ(ਨੋ)ਕ ਕੋਲ(ਨੇ)ਸਿ
ਕਾਲ ਯਮ ਪੁਰਿ ਪਾਲੁ ਜੇਸਿਨ ਨਿ(ਨਨੇਲ)

ਚ੩. ਰਾਜ ਸ਼ੇਖਰੁਨਿ(ਯੀ) ਜਗਤਿਲੋ
ਰਾਜਸਮਬੁਨ ਪੁਜ ਸੇਯੁ
ਰਾਜੁ(ਲ)ਨੁ ਗਜ ਰਾਜੁਲਕੁ ਮ੍ਰਗ
ਰਾਜ ਤਜਾਰਾਰਾਜ ਨੁਤ ਨਿ(ਨਨੇਲ)