

## VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR'S POEM, BEDI

TRANSLATION BY ANURUPA CINAR

"उजळित उजळित जें । काय करीं  
लालिसी तूं दिवसभरी  
बंदी, चांदीचे । किंवा ते  
अलंकार सोनेरी ?"

"Oh how you pamper them all day  
Polishing them over and over.  
What, are these fetters or  
Ornaments of gold and silver?"

अजि नचि । केवल ती । लोखंडी  
बेडी माझी, खंडी  
जखडोनी माझ्या । या पायां  
स्वेच्छ गती जी चंडी

These are not just for today;  
Break these iron fetters of mine,  
Gripping my legs in a vice  
My free will they do confine.

"फोडुनि तोडुनि जी । जाळावी  
तीच कशी उजळावी  
आपण अपुलिची । रे बेडी ?  
हौस तुझी ही वेडी !"

"Should we ourselves indeed  
Such care upon our fetters lavish—  
Fit only to be shattered they are!  
'Tis an insane fancy you cherish."

सुटते सुटते ही । नचि हो ती  
परि जोंवरी तोंवरतीं  
गंजे ती तरि कीं । गांजी या  
अधिक आपल्या पायां

Break they will one day,  
For ever they are not,

Only add to the distress it will,  
Why then let the fetters rot?

"चरणासि सतत इच्छेच्या । जी वेढी  
घडि कवण विधिनिषेधांची । ही बेडी "  
जाणे कोण अजी । निश्चित तें  
परंतु कीं मज गमतें  
इच्छे घडि त्याची । इच्छाची  
वा बेडी तदिच्छेची!

"Forever encircling the Feet of our Desire,  
Are fetters that laws of ethics decree."  
Who knows why it is so today  
Ordained it be.

But I do indeed believe,  
That we certainly can aspire  
To choose betwixt desire  
Or fetters for that desire!