

VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR'S POEM:

PAHILA HAPTA (FIRST INSTALLMENT)

TRANSLATION BY ANURUPA CINAR

Savarkar was considered by the British as "One of the most dangerous men India had produced." The whole might of the British was required to squash him.

Indian laws, British laws, and even International laws had to be broken before they could trap Savarkar in their claws. The British retribution was brutal—Savarkar was sentenced to a total of fifty years transportation to the Andaman Islands. Not many survived, never mind escaped, there.

At such a time, in 1910, Savarkar, whose every heartbeat, every thought was devoted to the freedom of his beloved India, poured out his feelings in his poem, Pahila Hapta.

मानुनि घे साची । जननि गे । मानुनि घे साची
अल्प स्वल्प तरि सेवा अपुल्या अर्भक बालांचा ॥ धृ ॥

Accept, O Mother, accept these trifling but true
Services from your young sons, do

ऋण हे बहु झाले । तुझ्या स्तनींचे स्तन्य पाजुनि धन्य आम्हा
केले

Vast a debt to you we owe,
Nurtured at your breast,
Blessed by your milk so!

ऋण ते फेडाया । हप्ता पहिला तप्त स्थंडीलिं देह अर्पितो हा

As but a first installment of this debt
I offer my body in the blazing fire yet.

सर्वेचि जन्मुनियां । त्वन्मोचनहवनांत हवी करुं पुनःपुन्हा काया
सारथी जिचा अभिमानी । कृष्णाजी आणी । राम सेनानी

O'er n' o'er every lifetime give it I will,
Into the holy pyre of your liberty still.
With Shri Krishna as the valiant charioteer,
With Shri Ram as their very Commander,

अशि तीस कोटि तव सेना
ती अम्हांविना थांबेना
परि करुनि दुष्टदलदलना

Your army of thirty crore
Will not halt if I be no more!
Instead vanquish t'fiend they will for sure!

रौविलची स्वकर्ी । स्वातंत्र्याचा हिमालयावरि झेंडा जरतारी ॥ १ ॥

And atop the Himalayas with their own hand,
Hoist they will the freedom saffron flag grand!