



Voice of Indian Song

sudokshina and subrata - thumri explanation

Sudokshina Chatterjee:

The thumri is as I told you a kind of romantic song, the raga on which this particular thumri was based is a Khamaj, it is very typical, there are many thumris in Raga Khamaj, it is a typical raga for thumri. The mood of the raga is of course romantic and the thumri is kind of a frivolous, you know the singing style is more frivolous, it's not so strict like khyal as I told you and the words also here this is a kind of complaining about that "you have been somewhere else, Jao (different language) don't talk to me, go away and don't talk to me". Tum to bhai sautan ka meet... "Sautan" is the other lady with whom her lover is also intimate, Tum to bhai sautan ka meet... "you have been friends with my enemy and now you have come to me. Go away." This is like that. The antara is (different language) that means don't come to me and try make me believe that you were somewhere else, no, I don't believe you, I know where you were.

Jhuthi (different language) you are my enemy, you actually are my enemy of my life you know, so I don't believe you, just go away, that's it. And so the raga Khamaj you know, I tell you, it's very romantic and definitely the song is romantic, it's a lovers complaint in a romantic way of course, not really quarrelling, but in a romantic way. So it both synchronises very well.

This thumri, 'Jao kadara na bolo', the lover is saying here, 'Jao kadara na bolo', 'Don't talk to me, you've been to some other girl's house the whole night and just don't talk to me'. And so here you have the 'jao', which is "go away", so this "go away" you should say in different expressions, or give it different mood or intonations like that (5 she sings)

Most, sometimes with anger, sometimes with tears in her eyes, sometimes maybe a little laughter, sometimes like a lover's tiff (6 she sings). Like this, you know? Different expressions you can say it, how would I say it? Kind of talking, she is talking to the lover and she has different expressions in the talking, so it's like a conversation.

Since thumri's a light form and thumri has more scope of conversation when I sing Thumri I think that I'm, you have to, there's an element of drama in thumri. So you have to think in that context that this is happening to your life, this is happening in your life you are talking to your lover and then only the expression of the thumri, the expression of thumri will come out and then you can attain that height in thumri.