

A Bangla song by Ajoy Chakrabarty worth listening to

A.H. Jaffor Ullah

While visiting New York City in late February 2006, I went to Jackson Heights in Queens to purchase some Bangla books and audio CDs. It did not take me long to find some fine music albums by Pundit Ajay Chakrabarty. In the 1990s, I heard some Nazrul songs rendered by maestro Chakrabarty and I immediately fell in love with his vocal style. The Pundit had mastered the art of classical music so well that it shows up in any song that he renders.

Of the four CDs by Pundit Ajay Chakrabarty one is on six seasons, one on *Nazrul Giti*, one on semi-classical songs, and the last one is a collection of modern Bangla songs. I like them all but the one that surprised me the most was the modern Bangla songs. The name of the CD is “Anandadhwani” or “The Sound of Happiness.” The CD has 8 songs; these are: 1. kholo obogunthon (remove your veil); 2. shiter porosh lagey praney (I could feel the touch of winter); 3. jodi abar jonmo nei (If I return to this world again); 4. ami ki ashay gaan geye jai (On what expectation do I sing); 5. nishidin shuni (I hear day and night); 6. keno moner akash jurey (Why cover the firmament of my mind); 7. ki ananda (What a joy!); 8. keno bajey bishader bashi (Why is the sad flute wails?).

Most of the lyrics excepting the cut number 3 were written by Atanu Chakrabarty. The compositions were done by the maestro (Ajay Chakrabarty) himself. I cannot express the joy this CD brings to my heart. I am an avid music fan who had been collecting music since early 1960s. I had a Grundig reel-to-reel tape recorder sent by my eldest brother from London in mid 1960s with which I made some fine recordings. This had become my lifelong hobby. I recorded the live music of Dwigen Muherjee in 1978 (in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois) and Kanika Banerjee also in 1978 (in Chicago, Illinois). Therefore, I could differentiate between a good and bad music. In

the past, I used to like the songs sung by Manna Dey and Manobendro Mukhopadhaya and I still like them. However, after listening to the songs by Pundit Ajay Chakravarty, I changed my mind. Mr. Chakrabarty is an exceptional vocalist who could do amazing thing with his voice. To illustrate this point I picked only one song. I made a MP3 version of the song so that you could audition it while you are visiting Mukto-Mona forum.

The lyric in Bangla is given here. I took the liberty to translate the same into English to show how pretty the lyric is. Like the tune, the poetry is superb. I would like to hear the forum members' comments on the poem, song, artist, etc. If the members want more sampling from the CD, I could make additional MP3 from other cuts. While listening, please turn up the volume and enjoy the ethereal sound.

A.H. Jaffor Ullah, an avid music lover, writes from Ithaca, NY

If I return to this world again...

Lyric: Laxmisri Bhattacharjee

Music and Vocal: Pundit Ajay Chakrabarty

Translation by: A.H. Jaffor Ullah

If I return to this world again, let me come as rain,
For, on your bosom I shall fall.
I shall keep on loving you again.

If I return to this world again, let me come as light,
For, I could fall on your face,
I shall keep on loving you again.

If I return to this world again, let me come as night,
A dream full color shall I weave,
If I were to blend with the wind,
I shall touch you, lovingly!

If I return to this world again, let me come as rain,
For, on your bosom I shall fall.
I shall keep on loving you again.

Let me return as a wave to rock you,
When I turn into music, the song will be our crossing boat.
If I were to return to this soil,
I am destined to meet you again,
It will be the same mind but in a different garb,
I shall keep on loving you again.

If I return to this world again, let me come as rain,
For, on your bosom I shall fall.
I shall keep on loving you again.

If I return to this world again, let me come as light,
For, I could fall on your face,
I shall keep on loving you again.

The original Bangla lyric is given in the
next page

যদি আবার জন্ম নিই

কথা: লক্ষ্মীশ্রী ভদ্রাচার্য ।

মুর ও কণ্ঠ: পন্ডিত অজয় চক্রবর্তী

যদি আবার জন্ম নিই বৃষ্টি হয়ে,
ফরবো তোমার বুকে এসে,
তোমাকেই যাব আমি ডালোবেসে।

যদি আবার জন্ম হয় আলো হয়ে,
পড়বো তোমার মুখে হেসে,
তোমাকেই যাব আমি ডালোবেসে।

রাত হয়ে যদি আমি আমি ফিরে,
রঙ্গীন স্বপ্ন দিয়ে রাখবো ঘিরে,
বাতাসের মাথে যদি থাকি মিলে,
তোমাকে ছুঁয়ে যাব ডালোবেসে।

যদি আবার জন্ম নিই বৃষ্টি হয়ে,
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শোমাকেই যাব আমি ডালোবেমে।

চেষ্টা হয়ে যদি আমি দোলাবো তোমায়,
মুঁড় হলে দেব পাড়ি গানের খেয়ায় ।
আবার জন্ম নিলে এই মাটিতে,
দেখা হবেই জানি তোমার সাথে,
একই মন নিয়ে ফিরে নুতন বেশে
শোমাকেই যাব শুধু ডালোবেমে।

যদি আবার জন্ম নিই বৃষ্টি হয়ে,
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