

Appreciating Carnatic Music
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Lecture – 61
Tanam

(Singing Starts: 00:23) (Singing Ends: 01:07)

(Refer Slide Time: 01:15)



Tanam is a manodharma element, that actually is derived from veena presentation. Veena is an instrument, that is, on which the tanam sounds is very good, and it is there that is manodharma aspect has developed. Tanam is essentially, this is a place where pulsation is introduced. There is a certain pulse, though there is no tala as such, no rhythm, but there is pulsation.

And this pulsation, can be irregular, but you can feel that, there are these stresses, which give it a very different texture, a different musical sound. Let us first listen to Tanam on the Veena.
(Music Starts: 02:15) (Music Ends: 05:44)

Now interestingly, the North Indian form of “Dhrupad” they have something very similar to the tanam, as part of their Alap. It is sometimes called the ‘Nom-Tom’ Alap. Though, it is really part of the entire alap that they present. And there also, they use syllables, like we do in tanam, to create pulses and to creates stresses. The style is very different, but the ideas is the same. And

there too it is derived from the veena. In fact, the syllables that we pronounce are supposed to be the counterpart of the plucks of the veena. That is how, this tanam form of manodharma has evolved.

And today Sanjay Subrahmanyam, is a leading exponent of tanam and he has come up with lot of innovations in producing tanam in the voice. Let us listen to his tanam.

(Music Starts: 07:04) (Music Ends: 17:01)