The Titanic

|| तातानिकेयम् ||

|| अथ तातानिकेयम् नामः सर्गः ||

Version 2.0

नन्द्या नरेस्वम्य नरतकुमारां
वामी प्रायाचे रसयुक्तवाचीम्।
सखामी तथायुण्य वचनायन्तिक्षः
शल्किन च काय्यायन्यथायोजकम्॥ १॥

काश्यपु सत्कथेय महाकवीनां
नयं च काय्यं सुदर्नितं के वा।
शिश्नादिमनायं न रोचयेत ततः
भाषाभिके-यस्तु रुचाय सत्यम्॥ २॥

आदी गणेश-वामी-सखामी-शल्किक-वन्नं कुत्ता काय्यरचनं आरम्भते। नरेस्वम्य नरात्मकस्य नरतकुमारां नरत्नं पुंज गणेशं
नन्द्या प्रणम्य बामाच्या रसयुक्तवाचीं प्रायाचे, तथा च अन्य लक्ष्मीं वचनायन्तिक्षं प्रचाचे, अथ च शल्किन काय्यायन्यथायोजकं प्रयाचे।
There is a small amount of word play here. नन्द्या नरेस्वम्य नरतकुमारां। After bowing to the dancing son (Ganesha) of the Lord of Dance (Maheswara),
वामीं रसयुक्तवाचीं प्रायाचे I beg Vani (the Goddess of speech)
I beg Vani (the Goddess of speech) for speech filled with rasa, तथा च अन्य लक्ष्मीं वचनायन्तिक्षं प्रचाचे I beg Lakshmi (the Goddess of beauty) for
beauty in my words, शल्किन च काय्यायन्यथायोजकं प्रयाचे and I beg Shakti (the Goddess of power) for power in composing poetry.

महाकाव्यामां काश्यपु सत्तु एव When there exist the great mahakvyas of mahakavis,
के वा तु नयं च काय्यं दशिनः Does any one read new works of poetry? तत् शिश्नाय निमन्त्रणम् न रोचयेत। Such new poetry is not
easily enjoyed by those who just want to learn (for examinations’s sake) or just want to teach (to coach for examinations). भाषाभिके यस्तु रुचाय सत्यः True it is, however, that such new poetry is a joy to lovers
of the language. Another unintended meaning, which is also interesting: those that are interested
only in aspects of vedanta do not enjoy literary poetry.

काय्यार्थं रत्नानि महाकवीनां
संपूर्णभावनं न स्थिरतानि।
शिश्नादिमनायं न सु नीतानाथं
काश्यपं भरंगं प्रकटेकिल्यनं॥ ३॥

काय्यार्थं रत्नानि महाकवीनां संपूर्णभावनं न स्थिरतानि Publishers are not printing mahakavya-gems of mahakavis as complete volumes.
काय्यार्थं अथ्यायं न तु नीतानाथं शिश्नायं नभयं प्रकटेकिल्यनं। Only for the sake of
mere pedagogic purposes and not for the sake of enjoyment, poems are broken up into a few cantos
and are printed here and there.

काय्यार्थं महाकवीनां शिश्नादिमनायं न स्थिरतानिः Let the poems of the great poets and also of other poets परिपूर्णार्थं
प्रकटेकिल्यम् ज्ञानाभिमानं युक्तयुक्तं प्रयुक्तयुक्तं। be printed in their complete versions (with commentaries, notes, translations,
etc.) at very low cost (to both the publishers and readers)। गणाधिपताः प्रयुक्तयुक्तं युक्तयुक्तं। प्रयुक्तयुक्तं। (प्रयुक्त = software or strategies.)
Shame on the Commissioners of Education of the various State Governments who are involved in continually reducing the prescribed syllabii for the teaching of Sanskrit. Even the immortality of Sanskrit is now in doubt. Sanskrit is also called amrvā, which can be translated as the language of the immortal gods or the immortal language.

This is certainly true. I have no doubt that, for sure, among thousands of composers of poetry like me, there will be just only one mahakavi. Therefore let connoisseurs (of poetry) keep a balanced mind, give up the pride of their scholarship, and review new works of poets in a critical manner.

This is the actual beginning of the story of this poem.

The steamship Titanic, the centerpiece of everyone’s eyes, was looking forward with great eagerness to its maiden voyage of a restful and leisurely trip like a newly married bride, who is also the centerpiece of everyone’s eyes and is eagerly looking forward to restful, leisurely first trip to her husband’s house.

The Titanic was called tenderly by many names by the good people around her - Tataani, Taataani, Tataanika etc. Who will tenderly call a baby by just one name?

The Titanic shone like a courtezan, giving out sounds sounding sit-sit emanating from her exhalong through the steam pipes of her engines, and undulating her large lower body (in the ocean.). In Sanskrit poetry, courtesans and their lovers make secret communications with sounds that sound sit-sit.
The Titanic was greeted by boats whose masts were torn by the gusting winds, and was beaming with the beauty of a thousand windows for its eyes and looked verily like another Indra, attended upon by celestial damsels whose dresses were slipping from the wind, and who bore the beauty of a thousand eyes. (a=srA boat or celestial damsel.)

The Titanic was verily like Brahma- it was useful for crossing the ocean ahead (it was useful for crossing the ocean of samsara that lies ahead), it was tasted by swans white like the autumn cloud (it is the place enjoyed by the great hamsa souls), it did not care whether one was rich or poor.

The Titanic was like the garagantuan Shiva lingam: Its more than ten luxurious storeys could actually go down the ocean and dig into the patala loka and its upper storeys could break through the highest clouds. (The reference is to the event where Shiva extended himself as a huge lingam whose top and bottom were not to be found by either Brahma or Vishnu. The Titanic, with its many storeys extending to the patala loka and piercing through the clouds, was very huge.)

The Titanic was equal to Maha Vishnu. EkMB tyA?

The Titanic was was harder than even Vajra, the weapon of Indra. However, in its inside could be found the ultimate in softness and luxury.
The Titanic was like the mind of Sri Ramachandra.  

The four fire-steam engines (later I also use the word वाण - यज्ञः; there were four huge engine rooms on the Titanic that provided its power.  They were fed by coal.)  

whose hair was the smoke going up the chimneys दाहाराजीतिः विसुज्ज्विति  भूमया  

The laborers are shovelling अवश्यं वसुज्ज्विति ब्रह्मा  

The fire with bright flames यथा-सुचुल्यः निजावकुशलः  

emanating from the cavities of the bellies of the steam engines of the Titanic which rested its beautiful foot in the middle of the ocean 

As if by the sword of her foot यथा दर्शनेच्छुः त्यथविदधिः  

the Titanic was desirous of ripping the Ocean यथा विविप्पितामत्वामसि  

As if by the sword of her foot यथा दर्शनेच्छुः: the Titanic was desirous of ripping the Ocean विविप्पितामत्वामसि  

fully capable of making the Titanic cross the ocean सरयेः-सिंहः इव गाजिन्ति  

The four fire-steam engines तथा-उत्तमकम्  

like the mind of Sri Ramachandra.  

were bringing coal mined from the belly of the Earth ब्रह्माणि पहाराय सिलसिलं चिन्तिन्ति।  

there is the Vadava fire in the middle, (i.e. inside) the ocean. The first part of the first and last lines of this sloka look the same.)
and who was the hero that gave refuge to his friend Minaka. (Modern Sanskrits identify Minaka with an iceberg, which comes up as it pleases wherever it wants, and so must be like one of those original mountains with feathers and who escaped Indra’s wrath with Ocean’s help.)

In the Titanic прत्येककोट: each storey वनस्पति - भाजनन प्रभाकित: एव was divided into three classes - first, second and third class. नृत्य मनोत्सवम The cruelty of humans यथा तोक्ये in this world is very strong indeed. जीवन भर उन्नत वनस्करठि Where does a rich man bow to an indigent?

In the Titanic तैत्तिक: the Lords of the four directions, Indra, Agni, Yama and Varuna श्रवण: enter श्रवण: वृन्द- चक्रासंसार: the first class of the Titanic अवश्याप्रविष्टिः to enjoy विशिष्टप्रभावितसुवोन्मभोजऽन्तिः pleasures that better anything that would be avialable in heaven and महाहर्षि to bear ममुस् निराशि their rejection by Damayanti, the daughter of King Bhima? (This idea behind this sloka must have entered my imagination because I had been reading the Naishadam. I finished it after almost 6 years!)

The cruelty of humans यथा तोक्ये in this world is very strong indeed. जीवन भर उन्नत वनस्करठि Where does a rich man bow to an indigent?

Some cruel king अतिक्रमण exceeding मन्यत्व - चाप - शीघ्राधि: the beauty of the bow of Mānmata मन्यत्व - श्रवण: by the beauty of his mustach, असमृत - वर्ग - वष्कृती and exceeding the conduct of the demon clans कृत - आचरण by his cruel behavior, देश - रेत्या: and the conqueror of many countries वनस्कृता कुपशक्षा by force and by devious methods, चक्रासंसार: भूत - च न्यायः was carried on a palanquin and placed यथा - भवत् - न्याय - विश्रान्ति - कर्मेव निष्ठितवीर्यम् in a large room लित् with crystal lamps in the interior of the huge body of the Titanic कालवृत्त: वन - दासिके: by his tired slaves कार्यालय - वर्तमान - कालशृंखला: whose backs bore the markings of lashing with whips.
In the second class of the Titanic many neveu riche lords are enjoying the pleasures of the palaces of great kings and the luxurious suites with plush beds.

Several old people who having served governments in high positions for many years are now enjoying, in their retirement years in the second class of the Titanic.

Some people having earned plenty of wealth by right or by foul means are now ready to spend that same wealth in that second class of the Titanic.

Some people, eager to make the crossing, with eyes wide with curiosity having bought passenger tickets with great difficulty with money acquired by rightful means, by begging or by deceitful means are sitting on benches in the third class of the Titanic.
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A passenger of good conduct still keeps his values. A little thing could be found on the Titanic. When the rope, holding the water pitcher in a well, breaks, the pitcher just falls down.

Many different behaviors could be found on the Titanic. When the rope, holding the water pitcher in a well, breaks, the pitcher just falls down.

The swimming pools of the Titanic, which was surrounded by an ocean useless for swimming, gave pleasure to many different beautiful women clad in meager clothing and to the bull like men who had come there to see them.

The same men and women would not touch each other even once, have given up their shame and are now relishing the experiences of dancing, and holding each other in their embrace, in the dance halls of the Titanic.

Some Christian nun from Kerala not used to drinking, has now started to slowly taste wine on the Titanic.
It is clear from just a look at the couple that they are Valli and Rama, as they are known in their country, and that they are coming from Southern India from the region of Kancipuram, the kingdom of Tondaiman. (Tondaiman region.)

Seeing that the Titanic has been filled with crowds of passengers arriving from sunrise and noticing that the rays of the Sun are turning red in color and figuring that the fickle maiden, Evening Twilight, will be arriving soon for her embrace with the Sun, the ship employee now approaches the Government customs duty house.
Technical notes

This attempt at writing a poem on a fictional Titanic will give us full freedom to explore human problems and the human condition, without fear, shame or retribution, while still retaining the rich structure of Sanskrit poetry. In other words,

निन्दन्तु कामयनिपुषा यदि वा स्तुवन्तु
कृष्णचत पदन्तु रचनानभवा त्यजन्तु।
वायी समाविषजन्तु लहुतु वा मदीयान्
शक्तिमालित मिदं ताभवहूँ लिखामिः॥

Sloka 39: Clearly this couple is from South India and from तुण्डीरपीम् the Tondaiman region (i.e. Kanchpiuram.) This word is not in Apte’s, but see मूककुशिगायणं स्वतितगतकं द्वारिणः झोकः।

मञ्जितसरित्कुलों नीवोत्यलमभयाः भया
नतजनतमःबङ्कि तुण्डीरपीम्यक्षिष्ठो विजुम्भिते।
अचलतमस्मावः पाकं प्रसुनश्रासनं -
प्रतिभतमोहारी नारीकुलेवंकीमानि:॥

I have also composed these two slokas for use in a later sarga

॥ आगामिप्रत्स्वयं कांक्षि किस्तुमतानुसारी नरो (कांक्षि किस्तुमतानुसारी नरो वा) एवं प्रार्थयति - आहूऽभाषाः:
अनुवादित: भुजज्ठुः॥

अवेमे (अवेमो) जने मां मरीयेपुनीते
द्वापुर्णमात: सदा देवकुहे॥

व्याथाया कर्मों मर्गीयेति पत्ता
फलोभुतकुक्षिं देशस्य माता॥ ४१॥

प्रतीक्षे क्षणमें त्वत: एवाधुनां
मध्ये च पापाज्ञेयों मजेमें॥

कृपां काव्यययःम्थता विस्मणं
भक्तिमें च थोरान्तकले मदीये॥ ४२॥

The original Latin and English versions are


Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and in the hour of our death. Amen.