

## Grantha - 7 - Summary I



॥ ॐ நமோ ஹவதே ॥

| ॐ नमो भगवते । ॐम्' नमो प<sup>4</sup>क<sup>3</sup>वते ।



ரவிவாநு ந வ்யூயக் ஸூநூதா

ஸூநூதாயா ந வ்யூயத் ரவிவஃ

रूपान् न पृथक् शून्यता । रूपां न् न प्'रू'त<sup>2</sup>क् शून्यता

शून्यताया न पृथग् रूपम् । शून्यताया न प्'रू'त<sup>2</sup>क् रूपां

Form is not different from Voidness

Voidness is not different from Form

~ From Prajñāpāramitā Hṛdaya | प्रज्ञापारमिता हृदय । ப்ரஜ்ஞாபாரமிதா ஹ்ரு'த<sup>3</sup>யம்

In the previous lessons we had covered all the Vowels, Consonants and the Ayogavāha-s.

In this lesson, we will be seeing a complete summary of all that we have seen in the previous lessons.

### Vowels

There are fourteen Vowels in Sanskrit. They are called Svara-s स्वर स्वरम्. Tamil: உயிர் எழுத்து uyir eḷuttu उयिर् ऐकुत्तु

a ī i u ū r̥ | अ आ इ ई उ ऊ ऋ ॠ । अ आ इ ई उ ऊ ऋ ॠ

! | e ai o au | ए ऐ ओ औ । ए' लृ' ए' ऐ' ओ' औ' । ए' लृ' ए' ऐ' ओ' औ'

क कृ इ ऋ ए ए

ग गृ ऋ ऌ ए ए



In Tamil, the corresponding short vowel is added to make the preceding vowel over-long. Depending on the Mātrā-s to be extended, the equivalent number of short vowels should be added. As in மரூஉ மரூ௩ marūu (with 3 Matras). Since, the long vowel must get one extra Mātrā, a single short 'u' is added.

However in Sanskrit, the corresponding Mātrā length should be appended. For instance, the Tamil example, if written using Sanskrit convention, will be written as मरु३ marū3 मरु३. In Grantha, the corresponding Tamil numeral is added. But sometimes, the following sign is also seen in some Manuscripts.



(Note: Tamil & Grantha share the same numerals - 0 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 :: ௦ ௧ ௨ ௩ ௪ ௫ ௬ ௭ ௮ ௯ )

## Ayogavāha

Ayogavāha are letters in Sanskrit which do not exist independently. They depend on a Vowel to exist. In Tamil, the equivalent term is சார்பெழுத்து.

There are four Ayogavāha-s :

1. Anusvāra अनुस्वार அநுஸ்வாரம்
2. Visarga विसर्ग விஸர்கம்
3. Jihvāmūliya जिह्वामूलीय ஜிஹ்வாமூலீயம்
4. Upadhmānīya उपध्मानीय உபத்<sup>4</sup>மாநீயம்

am aḥ a(h) | अं अः अ(ः) | அம்' அ: அ(ः)

अं अः अः

The symbol Ardha-Visarga is used to denote both the Jihvāmūliya & Upadhmānīya.

## Other Symbols

The are 2 more symbols in Grantha

1. Candrabindu चन्द्रबिन्दु சந்த்<sup>3</sup>ரபி<sup>3</sup>ந்த்<sup>3</sup>
2. Avagraha अवग्रह அவக்<sup>3</sup>ரஹம்

am̐ | अँ s | அம்'' (அ)

ॐ <

(Summary of [Lesson 1](#) & [Lesson 2](#) )

## Consonants

The Consonants of Sanskrit, can be summarized with all their Attributes as follows.

### Sparsa

Sparśa : Plosives - The 25 Varga Consonants from Ka to Ma. They are classified into five based on the place of articulation.

kaṅṭhya  
tālavya  
mūrdhanya  
dantya  
oṣṭhya

kaṅṭhya\* : Velar - ka kha ga gha ṅa | क ख ग घ ङ | क क<sup>2</sup> क<sup>3</sup> क<sup>4</sup> ङ

(\* Though they are usually termed as kaṅṭhya < kaṅṭha : Glottal. They are articulated at the Velar Position i.e Jihvāmūla.)

क व ण ष ञ

tālavya : Palatal - ca cha ja jha ña | च छ ज झ ञ | ச ச² ஜ ஜ² ஞ

உ உ ஜ ங சூ

mūrdhanya : Retroflex - ṭa ṭha ḍa ḍha ṇa | ट ठ ड ढ ण | ட ட² ட³ ட⁴ ண

ட ட² ட³ ட⁴ ண

dantya : Dental - ta tha da dha na | त थ द ध न | த த² த³ த⁴ ந

த த² த³ த⁴ ந

oṣṭhya : Labial - pa pha ba bha ma | प फ ब भ म | ப ப² ப³ ப⁴ ம

ப ப² ப³ ப⁴ ம

The Un-Voiced (Aghoṣa) Varga Consonants are known as Kaṭhina (Hard Consonants).

ka kha ca cha ṭa ṭha ta tha pa pha | क ख च छ ट ठ त थ प फ | க க² ச ச² ட ட² த த² ப ப²

க க² ச ச² ட ட² த த² ப ப²

The Tamil Equivalent term would be வல்லினம் valliṇam वल्लिनम् (வல்\* < வன்மை means Strong/Hard in Tamil) . The Tamil Valliṇam class consists of க ச ட த ப ற | ka ca ṭa ta pa ṛa | क च ट त प र (Tamil lacks Aspirated (Mahāprāṇa) Consonants & ṛa is unique to Dravidian languages)

The Voiced (Ghoṣa) non-nasal Varga Consonants are called Mṛdu (Soft Consonants)

ga gha ja jha ḍa ḍha da dha ba bha | ग घ ज झ ङ ड ढ ब भ | क<sup>3</sup> क<sup>4</sup> ज्ञ ज्ञ<sup>2</sup> ल<sup>3</sup> ल<sup>4</sup> प<sup>3</sup> प<sup>4</sup>

ம வ ஜ ங ங<sup>2</sup> ல<sup>3</sup> ல<sup>4</sup> ப<sup>3</sup> ப<sup>4</sup>

In Tamil, the Voiced consonants are mere positional variant of the Unvoiced consonants. Hence, they are not distinctly represented in Tamil.

The Nasal Varga Consonants are called Anunāsika. They are considered Alpaṛṇa (Unaspirated) and Ghoṣa .

ṅa ṅa ṇa na ma | ङ ञ ण न म | ங ஞ ண ந ம

ங ஞ ண ந ம

They Equivalent Tamil classification is மெல்லினம் mēllinam मैल्लिनम्. This Mēllinam class consists of ங ஞ ண ந ம ன (The extra consonant ன ன na is unique to Dravidian Languages). Interestingly, the Tamil name means மெல்\* < மென்மை Soft. The Tamils considered the Nasals as soft sounds while, for the Sanskritists the Voiced sounds were Soft .

## Antahstha

The next set of Consonants, are the Antahstha : Semi-Vowels.

ya ra la va ḷa | य र ल व ळ | ய ர ல வ ள

ய ர ல வ ள

The Equivalent Tamil Class is இடையினம் itaiyinam इट्टयिनम्. This itaiyinam class has ய ர ல வ ள | ya ra la va ḷa ḷa | य र ल व ळ ळ (ழ ḷa ḷ is again a unique Dravidian character). Antahstha carries the same meaning as well. Antahstha means -in between-.

Even in Tamil இடை\* implies -in between-. These letters that were between Vowels and Consonants i.e Semi-Vowels, hence named so.

The Antahstha are all Alpaprāṇa & Ghoṣa.

## Ushman

The last set of characters are the ūṣman : Fricatives.

śa ṣa sa ha | श ष स ह | ஸ²(ஸ) ஷ ஸ ஹ

ஸ ஷ ஸ ஹ

The Ushman consonants are all Mahaprāṇa. Among them śa ṣa sa are Aghoṣa, while ha is Ghoṣa.

## Characters same as Tamil

A number of Grantha characters are nearly same as the equivalent Tamil characters. However, do note the subtle differences from the Tamil Equivalent. (Grantha ட has a short vertical bar attached, & Grantha ஜ ,த ந, ஹ have their descenders above, to ease the Formation of Conjuncts.

உ ஊ ஜ ட ண த ந ய வ ஷ ஹ

## Characters similar to Tamil

There are some characters which are somewhat similar to the Tamil letters. These are listed below along with the Tamil characters.

சூ ஶ ஷ ஷள கூ ஶ ர ள ஸ

ஆ ஶ ஷ ஷள க ஶ ர ள ஸ

## Similar Characters

There are few characters which are closely remember in shape. However, do note the distinct variant strokes, and shaped that differentiate the characters.

கூ கூ | அக | அ க

ஊ ஐ | ஐஊ | இ ங

ய ய ய | யய | த<sup>2</sup> த<sup>4</sup> ய

வ வ வ | வவ | க<sup>2</sup> ப வ

Now that the Consonants and Vowels are completely covered. In the next lesson, we will move on with the Vowel Signs.

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|| யஜெஊ ரகூதி ரகூதஃ ||

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