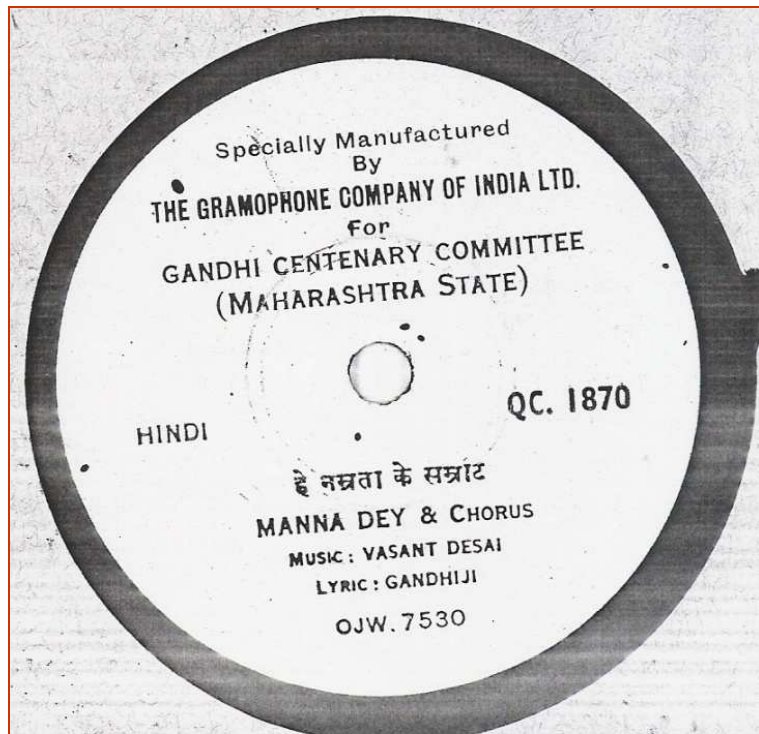


'He Namratake Samrat': August 1969– cut on a special 78 rpm record



**Specially mfd. By The Gramophone Company of India Ltd.
For Gandhi Centenary Committee (Maharashtra State)
Hindi / QC 1870 / OJW 7530.
Manna Dey and chorus
Music: Vasant Desai [Mfd. C. 1970]**

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Transcript of the song from this gramophone record is

He Namrata ke Samrat, He Namrata ke Samrat

Deen bhangi ki heen kutiya ke nivasi,
Deen bhangi ki heen kutiya ke nivasi,
Ganga yamuna aur godavari ke jalonse
Sinchit isa sundar deshmen
Tujhe sab jage khojanemen, hamen madad de
Hamen grahan sheelata aur khula dil de
Teri apni namrata de, teri apni namrata de,
Bharat ki janatase ekroop honeki,
Shakti aur utkantha de, shakti aur utkantha de, he bhagvan
He bhagvan,

Tu tabhi Madad ke liye aata hai
Jab manushya shunya bankar teri sharan leta hai
Hamen vardan de, hamen vardan de
Ki Sevak aur mitrake naate,
Isa janataki hum seva karna chahate hain
Usa se kabhi alag na pad jaye,
Usa se kabhi alag na pad jaye,
Hamen tyag bhakti aur namrataki moorti bana
Taki isa deshko hum jyada samjhe aur jyada chahe
Hamen vardan de hamen vardan de
He bhagvan, He bhagvan, He Bhagvan

Clearly this is not a poem but reads like a prose.

Recently I talked to Mr. Bal Deshpande on Phone. He lives at Nasik. As soon as I asked him about this record and the song, he began to sing it. This is because he was closely associated with Mr. Vasant Desai and was present at the recording of this song in Mumbai.

He told me that this is neither a poem nor a bhajan, but a letter. Gandhiji wrote it to Maniben Patel, daughter of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. Young Mani had asked gandhiji some questions about the God. How does he look like, where does he stay? Where can I find him? What should I ask him?

This letter was found by Mr. Madhukar Rao Chowdhury who was the President of the "Gandhi Centenary Committee" set up in 1968. Vasant Rao Desai was closely associated with the cultural and music department of Maharashtra State and had launched 'Ek Sur Ek Taal' movement among school children. Mr. Chowdhury requested him to set tune to this letter and thus the letter took the form of a song. Special records were made by state Government and distributed to its institutions. Many copies were lying in godown and later on scrapped. Die hard record collectors found few copies in Mumbai 'Chor Bazaar' and thus this part of the history was preserved.

- **Dr. Suresh Chandvankar**

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