

Tembang Macapat *Pangkur Ngrenas*

(Wedhatama)

*Mingkar mingkur ing angkara
akarana karenan mardi siwi
sinawung resmining kidung
sinuba sinukarta
mrih kretarta pakartining ngelmu luhung
kang tumrap neng tanah Jawa
agama ageming aji*

*Jinejer neng Wedhatama
mrih tan kemba kembenganing pambudi
mangka nadyan tuwa pikun
yen tan mikani rasa
yekti sepi asepa lir sepah samun
samangsane pakumpulan
gonyak-ganyuk nglilingsemi*

*Gugu karsane priyangga
nora nganggo paparah lamun angling
lumuh ingaran balilu
uger guru aleman
nanging janma ingkang wus waspadeng semu
sinamun ing samudana
sasadon ingadu manis*

*Si pengung nora nglegawa
sangsayarda denira cacariwis
ngandhar-andhar angendhukur
kandhane nora kaprah
saya elok alangka longkanganipun
si wasis waskitha ngalah
ngalingi marang si pinging*

Turning away from selfish motives,
as one is pleased to give instruction to sons,
it is cast in the form of a delightful song,
finely furnished and well turned,
in the hope that they may prosper in their practice of noble sciences
that pertain to the land of Java,
as the spiritual tradition adhered to by its kings.

It is set out in the Wedhatama,
so that they should not weary of turning it over in their minds,
whereas though a man be old and bent,
if he has not grasped the essence,
truly he is as empty and insipid as an abandoned quid,

and when people are gathered together in company
he is embarrassingly free-and-easy.

He pleases himself what he does
and takes no forethought when he speaks,
he is unwilling to be called ignorant
and is always out for compliments,
but a person who has learnt to observe appearances
hides his feelings behind a pleasant expression
and his conversation is in good taste.

The Fool pays no attention
but prattles all the harder,
they stretch on and on, pile up and up,
those tall stories of his,
ever stranger, with seldom a break for breath;
the Wise Man finds it prudent to give in,
and thus he shields the Fool.

(Translated by Stuart Robson, taken from *The Wedhatama: An English Translation*, KITLV
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