

A Striking feature of Kathakali is the use of elaborate make-up and colorful costumes. This is to emphasize that the characters are super beings from another world, and their make-up is easily recognizable to the trained eye as satvik or godlike, rajasik or heroic, and tamasik or demonic. Kathakali is a harmonious combination of five forms of fine art. They are:

1. Literature (Sahithyam)
2. Music (Sangeetham)
3. Painting (Chithram)
4. Acting (Natyam)
5. Dance (Nritham)

## Make-up of Kathakali



The make-up of Kathakali character is peculiarly native to the Kerala folk-art. In folk theatrical varieties, huge marks and make-ups were as much prevalent during the historic span of time. Elaborate make-up heightens dramatic effects. Colour symbolism reflect certain categories of emotions and gunas. The green colour represents Saattvika reveals godliness, white represents spirituality. Red represents Rajasic reveals violence. Black represents Tamasic reveals evil. Yellow represents the combined character of Saatvika and Rajasic. Thus Kathakali

characters are grouped into five major role-types, each having a specific make-up and costume. These role types are Minukku, Paccha, Kathi, taadi (has three varieties viz. Velupputaadi, Chuvannataadi and Karupputtadi) and Kari.

A remarkable feature of the Kathakali make-up is the reddening of the white of the eyes of all characters by putting in a few young seeds of chunda puuv (sollanum pubescence) crimson eyes stand in contrast to the colour scheme of the face. The practice is usually followed in pacha and minukku faces.

**Musical Accompaniments** for Kathakali include Chenda, Madhalam, Ilathalam, Idakka, Chenila and Srithu Petti

In the repertoric of its technique Kathakali has seven items to be presented in the following sequence:

1. To'dayam- the basic nritt;
2. Purappaadu- debut of the hero and the virtuous character;
3. Tirano'kku- 'curtain look' by evil characters and demons;
4. Kummi- permeable for the female character's appearance
5. Kathakali- the main play
6. Kalaasham- a passage of vigorous dance which serves as a hyphen between two pieces of verse-play and
7. The concluding benediction dance

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# MY MAIDEN CRUISE TO ALASKA

By **Dr. GOPINATH MENON**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> May, my wife and I with our son and family reached the check-in desk leaving our baggage at the appropriate place for loading to the ship. The SHIP!!! I got astounded! I was born and brought up in a port city (Kochi) where huge oil tankers and cargo ships were a common sight in close vicinity. Nevertheless, it was difficult to accept at the first sight, the gigantic NORWEGIAN STAR, as a ship.

We went up to Oasis, the pool side restaurant for the lunch as the time then was past 4.30 PM. All the items of the food were sumptuous, very delicious. Only liquor had to be bought. The cabins were like posh rooms as in any star hotel with all convenience, but slightly small in size. We had a close circuit TV, intercom phone, a king size double bed well made with fresh white linen and 4 soft pillows, side tables, dressing table with half and full mirror attached with a table and chair to write or keep things; wooden wardrobes with draws to keep and hang clothes. A fairly big glass window provided view of the outside horizon, far off through the vibrant waves of the ocean or landscapes / snow capped mountains and what not occupants get a claustrophobic feeling in them.

A daily "news letter" kept at our door every night detailed all the programmes and activities of the next day. There were 14 restaurants, ice cream parlours; fitness centre, walking and jogging tracks and a theatre We saw also basket ball court and an amazing 8ft X 8ft square chess

board on the floor with 2ft. tall chessmen for players to stand and move.

One evening we visited the theatre - the STARDUST THEATRE. The hundreds of red velvet seats from the balcony level to the foremost on an inclined floor gave all the audience an uninterrupted view of the large stage.

The thousand and odd members of the crew consists of also Indians apart from other nationals from China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. It was interesting to find Malayalis among them. The first officer (second to the Captain who is from Sweden) was one Mr. Jiji Thomas from Kaloor (Ernakulam). One day when the ship was in the harbour (not sailing) he took us all to the BRIDGE (like cockpit in a plane) on deck 11 and we were introduced to the Captain. Admission to that area is strictly prohibited. Bridge is a spacious hall with glass windscreen on the three sides providing clear view of the sea. Large consoles of sophisticated equipments (very much similar to the cockpit instruments) are there in two three places to control the movement of the ship. Mr. Thomas, as he explained the details, showed us a small gear lever like thing with which the ship is controlled, really amazing !!

In the Market cafe kitchen one of the executive chefs was Bijesh from Tellicherry. One morning he specially served us "upma" and the next day

special omelette and "poori masala". During the chat he said they needed 1,25,000 eggs alone for the 7 days cruise. He invited us for dinner to "Aqua" restaurant, an elite one in another deck. The atmosphere there was elegant with diffused lighting and well dressed guests. All others are similar restaurants. A few charged nominal entrance fee. A well equipped gymnasium (fitness centre) with many machines for exercises/workout was mostly crowded. Interested people spent time in Casino for gambling. Those interested could book shore excursions in their office on one side. The reception desk is quite big with three or four men and women to entertain many guests at a time. Violin, organ and also light songs with ovation at the end of each. "Spinnaker Lounge" was another hall. Welcome aboard dance, meeting, briefing to guests, dancing with music and BINGO (Our Housie Housie or Tambola in a different style - there were also electronic tickets which by itself marked the called numbers and showed 'Bingo' if won the prize [ the highest was 10,000 Dollars apart from small prizes).

To move to various decks there are spacious lifts in service, four in a row, in the mid ship, front and aft (rear) - total 12. It is a delightful sight to watch the frequent up and down movement of the lifts with illumination and glass walls; each can carry about 10 persons. The view from the lifts while going up or down was also beautiful. Most of the common areas are having glass walls and can see the sea and other sides.

We started sailing on a Saturday. Till Tuesday we were in the sea watching the horizon or the beautiful snow capped mountains off and on. Certain days we watched the sunset at 9 PM (the sun rise was at about 4 AM) in that area and in

(USA), It is in the valley of tall mountains and reminded me of Ooty or Kodaikanal in India. Every other shop sold those. There were excursion vehicles - two horses (big size) drawn bus like coaches; an old bearded fat man wearing a cowboy hat, holding a whip sitting in front ready to start any time; a dog sleeping behind his seat - a conspicuous sight we have seen in old cowboy movies, AC coaches, Boat shaped bus in which passengers were climbing up through a ladder as it was slightly raised. The view from the ship was a row of shops, mostly jewellery and one or two supermarkets selling fancies of Alaska. This place is also said to be rich in salmon fish and is called the "salmon capital" of the world.

At the exit and entrance to the ship, we had to pass through the security check (barrier) where our electronic cards and belongings - purchases/handbags etc. were scanned. This formality was repeated in every port. Norwegian Star resumed sailing at 4PM. That night we visited the 'Stardust Theatre' for an acrobatic show. The theatre was almost fully occupied by Guests. We somehow managed to get seats. The computerised lighting and sound from hundreds of speakers were amazing. It was tolerably loud with utmost clarity. Chinese and Japanese artists displayed their high acrobatic talents very miraculously and meticulously with utmost precision. The quick change of scenes went off smooth. Until the one and half hour show came to an end we did not remember that all these went on while our ship was quietly sailing through the ocean. As we walked out we noticed the lather waves pushed aside by the moving vessel under the side lights of the ship. Another evening we watched an interesting magic show by Bob Tuner, one of the noted magicians.

The sun rose at 4.30 AM as before. By 7AM our ship docked in the port of JUNEAU, another small city and capital of Alaska, north to Fairbanks, again a valley of the Mount Roberts. It looked like a small town from the ship. Apart from the jewellery shops and excursion vehicles, there was a tramway (ropeway) to go to the top of the mountain to enjoy the real view of the port and town. Many were found interested. Ice fields and whale watching tours were other attractions here.

Resuming sailing by 3 PM we headed towards a glacier. A glacier is a rare phenomenon to watch as we do not have snow in our area. It is thousands of years long accumulation of ice which transformed into a solid state. It often breaks with deafening sound and thick slices of ice in huge size fall into the sea and float. This causes strong waves which sometimes push and turn the ship. The one we saw was not that big since the path to the major ones was not safe that day since many floating pieces prevented the ship's movement. We could see many small pieces of those in bluish colour floating.

We came to our next port in Alaska - KAGWAY. Another city, very much similar to the last two we saw in appearance and weather. Here the scene from the ship was just the berth of the port and the mountain close by. It was a very pleasant surprise to watch the cute marble statues of Ganapathy and Srikrishna in the shops of Alaska, a US State. One noticeable thing here was a long train lying near the ship, brown in colour, "the White Pass railway" to take the tourists 40 miles around the place. Whale watching tour was another attraction.

In the morning I got up slightly disturbed. When I looked through the window, saw the sea fairly

discomfort and we were not able to stand without support. Fortunately it lasted only for an hour and all became relieved and happy, anticipating smooth sailing in the rest of our way.

At 4 PM the next day we reached PRINCE RUPERT, a Canadian city north to Vancouver. It was while in this harbour we were in the Bridge with Mr. Thomas. We did not find anything special in this city worth visiting though called the "city of rainbows". Maximum rain fall in Canada is here and hence also described as "wettest city". By 10 PM we left for Seattle skipping Vancouver from where we started, according to the original itinerary. On the eve of our reaching the final destination, there was a glorious and splendid show of bidding farewell. Thirty to forty artists under the flashing colourful spot lights went on singing and dancing in the stage - "you all came in as guests and now leaving as part of our family". That was indeed touching. Ship's crew, right from the captain to the staff; cooks and bearers falling in line on and also before the stage, all waving to us 'good bye' at the height of jubilation.

In the small hours of 14<sup>th</sup> May we started slowly moving by the side of a long row of lighted multi storied concrete jungle and soon our ship docked in the port of SEATTLE, ending the 7 day wonderful cruise. The TV showed the total distance sailed as 1473 MILES.

We then boarded a luxury bus as already arranged and safely landed back in Vancouver with the pleasant memories of the past seven days in the Pacific ocean on board.

# തെങ്ങു തിങ്ങി നിറഞ്ഞ നാട്

ഡോ. എ. പി. സുകുമാർ



തെങ്ങു തിങ്ങി നിറഞ്ഞ നാടതിൽ തമ്പുരാൻ വരവോണമായ്  
പണ്ടതൊക്കെയൊഴിഞ്ഞൊരുസവമേളമായ് തിരുവോണമായ്

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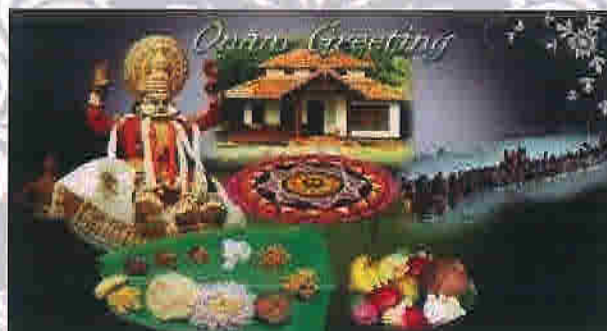
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