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This translation of Gita Govindam into Tamil by Smt. D. Pattammal has come to me as a surprise. Gita Govindam is a famous Prabhandam well known all over India and its poetry and music, as we know it now, are exquisite. The sentiment of deep devotion expressed through Sringara Bhava evokes a great response in each one of us. Even the Sringara portraying the love of Krishna and Radha in songs transcends physical love and the residue of feeling in the listener is of highest devotion. How Jayadeva composed this music and what it was like originally is impossible for us to know now. It is sung in the North Indian style in Orissa and elsewhere. The tradition in South India as I have learnt it from Papanasam Sivam is about 250 to 300 years old. The music is obviously inspired and one feels this must have been the music composed by Jaydeva. A great exponent of this music was the late C.R. Srinivasa Iyengar. He taught the late Smt. Alamelu Jayarama Iyer from whom Pattammal learnt the songs. The Gita Govindan songs as taught to me by Papanasam Sivam are almost the same in the Raga Bhava.

It is indeed surprising how with that same music and with the same sense of beauty and keeping the sentiments of the songs in tact, Smt. Pattammal has been able to translate and sing Gita Govindam in beautiful Tamil. Obviously she is inspired and I am sure this Tamil version now called "Madhava Gitam" will be appreciated by all. It is only right that inspired poetry inspires others to compose just as Valmiki's Ramayana finds many inspired versions in different languages. I wish to congratulate Smt. Pattammal on this gift which she gives to the world of music and I hope many will benefit from it.

*Rukmini Devi*