

# TANSEN

## HANDOUT

MODULE 1/1

Tansen is one of the greatest musicians of our country. He was the only son of Mukandan Misra, a great singer. They lived in Behat, near Gwalior. Tansen was a very naughty child. He learnt to imitate (copy) perfectly the calls of birds and animals. Swami Haridas, a great singer, realised his talent and taught him music. He married Hussaini, one of the ladies of the court. They had five children. They were also talented singers.

Tansen became a great singer. He often got a chance to sing in front of Emperor Akbar. The emperor was greatly impressed and asked Tansen to join his court. Akbar was very fond of him. He gave him many presents. Some other courtiers were jealous of him. They wanted to get rid of Tansen.

Shaukat Mian, a courtier, had an idea. Tansen was a good singer. If Tansen sang *Rag Deepak*, it would make the ambience hot and the singer would be burnt to ashes. He joined hands with a few other like-minded courtiers. They convinced the emperor to ask Tansen to sing *Rag Deepak*. Tansen saw through this dangerous ploy. He trained his daughter Saraswati and her friend Rupvati to sing *Rag Megh*.

On the appointed day, Tansen sang in front of a huge audience. Everyone present there could feel the effect. The air became hot, leaves dried up and fell and lamps were lit. At once, Saraswati and Rupvati started singing *Rag Megh*. The sky clouded over and rain came down. Tansen was saved.

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