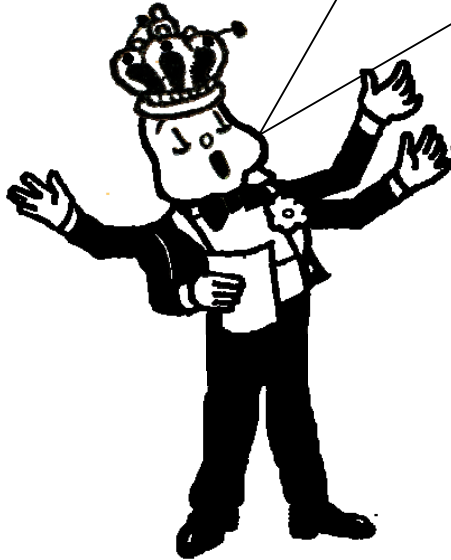




“Ah! Hoooo!” “Himalayan odyssey”
 “crossing the barriers” “the healing touch”
 “the brotherhood of man”... “let’s put the little things right”

It’s all here!!!!!!



HIMALAYAN ODYSSEY
by
**THE KENAKI SINGERS OF THE
 COMMONWEALTH**

Adapted from an informal entertainment organised by members of the Commonwealth Expedition, Comex 9, from Canada, India, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Zambia in 1979, at The Gaiety Theatre in Simla, Himachal Pradesh, this programme continues the celebration of *The Green Pennant Awards* (*‘the little green flags’*) *‘identifying the spirit of adventure with crossing the barriers that divide people’* and is taken from *‘the Story of Comex in Song’* as recorded on the road. To acknowledge the special roles played by Canada (the largest country in the Commonwealth) and India (the largest democracy) it is presented as a programme for radio and/or television by children. The lead song, *‘little green flags’*, the theme of the expedition, is sung (pre-recorded by African voices) and played on bagpipes by the late Pipe Major Angus MacDonald MBE from Edinburgh Castle. *‘Let’s Put The Little Things Right’* is a ballad - performed in song

and dance by King Kamilo and the Ants to the tune of Gregory’s Frolic - also played by Pipe Major Angus MacDonald. The Africans sing *‘little green flags’* - - following a brief extract from His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh’s speech at the inauguration of The Green Pennant Awards in London on 18 December 1980 – and India carries it on as a Commonwealth Raga on Sarod and Tabla. Kenaki is an anagram of Ki Kehna which means *‘what can I say’* - an expression of excellence.

Leader	Kamal Kant Sharma
Music Master	Vijay Atitt
Translation and arrangements	Vachaspati Sharma
Lead Singer	Pallavi Laxman
Sarod	Gulfam Ahmed
Flute	Kailash Sharma
Synthesizer	Vinod Kumar Babli
Vocals	Poonam, Payal Sharma, Sharmishta Singh and additional volunteers
Recordist	Depak Samson



INTRODUCTION

***Singing on a mountain, or dancing on a mountain,
Manifestly is the same thing.***

And as the people of Himachal know how to dance,
They naturally know how to sing.
These irrepressible thoughts settled deep in my mind
To some great purpose - who can tell?
A little poem perhaps, to uplift the spirits
Of so many old friends as well!

***It was a tabla player, who played 'the healing touch' -
In honour of posterity -***

And commanded his fingers to race over the *thals*:
Surfing, inspirationally.
Gaon Ki Jyoti, the notes cried, to friends long forgotten -
Memories in the mists of time –
Evocative scents, of coffee beans and baking bread,
Recovered in the mores of rhyme.

What, one might wonder, were the tabla player's own thoughts?

What was he thinking about then?
The people, the places, the hospitable faces!
Or the questions: Why? How? or When?
But wait, I remember, for was I not there too,
A *pahari* like all the rest?
We sang our hearts out, and did indeed dance as we sang:
A Himalayan Odyssey. Ah yes!



KING KAMILO AND THE ANTS



'LET'S PUT THE LITTLE THINGS RIGHT'

(King Kamilo speaks the *verses* and the King & children (ants) sing & dance the chorus - to the tune of Gregory's Frolic: *'Let's put the little things, teeniest-weeniest things: Let's put the little things right. Let the bells ring it, everyone sing it: Let's put the little things right. That's Right!'*)



We have entered the nuclear, or space age perhaps,
The journey to Mars is in sight;
Time now for thinking, to stop ourselves blinking:
Let's put the little things right. Chorus



National emergencies, rumours of wars,
Men wrestle with these day and night;
Clarion-call speeches - the pity of these is
They don't put the little things right. Chorus





Unrest, agitation, in a world of inflation;
On these our own sanctions must bite:
Till the God of creation, and new revelation
Comes to put little things right. Chorus



Every beginning must have its own end,
Success still depends on foresight;
Keep the object in view, sift the false from the true,
In putting the little things right. Chorus



To wake up in the morning, bad tempered and yawning,
Will hardly lend strength to the fight.
The moral of this is, a kiss for the missus,
Ah! That's putting little things right! Chorus



Moaning and groaning, eternal postponing,
Puts the devil himself to flight.
Ranting and raving, or cringing and craving,
Will not put the little things right. Chorus



Office at seven, at eight, nine or ten!
Cheerful and breezy and bright!
Arrive an hour late, and then slink through the gate -
A small thing, but simply not right. Chorus.



Watching files gaily, grow visibly daily,
On your bottom you'd rather sit tight;
And let all those letters, insidious feters,
Prevent little things ever being right. Chorus





The telephone tinkles! Smiles bursting with wrinkles
 Of course! Right now! With my might!
 Like silk turned to cotton, that promise forgotten,
 Will not help put little things right. Chorus



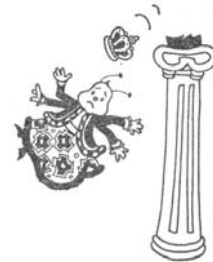
To avoid each decision, with subtle derision,
 And trust things will turn out all right:
 Then claim all the glory, in another man's story,
 Let's put the little things right! Chorus



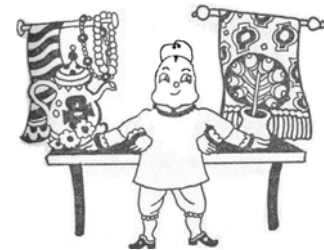
To shout and to bellow, and blame the next fellow
 When courage is shocked by a fright;
 An offering votive, let love be the motive
 For putting the little things right. Chorus



Sooner or later, each little dictator
 Will fall from a jolly great height;
 Their epitaphs cite them, and history indict them,
 For not putting little things right. Chorus



In company, factory, or small village store,
 Fair dealing's a joy and delight.
 Erupt them, corrupt them, shock or upset them -
 The little things cease to be right. Chorus



The cynic, the wit, the critic or the nit;
 Each one has his own brand of kite:
 To sneer and to chatter, confound the whole matter
 Of putting the little things right. Chorus





Write them, recite them, ad infinitum,
Little things that shed little light;
But put them together, and then decide whether
We ought to put little things right. Chorus.



LITTLE GREEN FLAGS

The symbol of Comex.

KENAKI

Adapted from ki kehna - an expression of excellence meaning 'what can I say?'
Theme song of the Kenaki Singers.

TOGETHER UNAFRAID

Travelling on the Old Silk Route, now the United Nations Asian Highway and more
commonly known as The Long Dusty Road

VILLAGE LIGHTS (GAON KI JYOTI)

A Ballad celebrating the villages of India

HOW MANY

Describing the events of every day in the manner of mediæval singers, or Indian
qawals

MY FRIEND

A tribute to the bullock drivers of India

THERE MUST BE A REASON

For everything, but who can tell you why? Inspired by a Brahman tabla player and
a Franciscan Priest

TABLA WALLAH

The indispensable musician bringing a wealth of meaning and understanding to
every occasion

RIVER OF DESTINY

The rivers of India reflecting an image of life for anyone gazing into their depths::
forever moving onwards, yet forever standing still



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US?

If the world stopped turning; if the stars ceased to shine and the waters ran dry: what would happen to us?

SILVER TRAIN

Twelve silver vehicles travelling from London to Delhi, and then on to Himachal Pradesh and the Nilgiri Hills (Blue Mountains) of South India: a remarkable journey later extended by rail (courtesy of Indian Railways) and named the Commonwealth Express covering 16,000 miles of India. The final verse reads

*The miles have gone behind us, far away but still remind us
That some journeys have a beginning but no end.
'Til that final destination, every man in every nation
Learns to call a wayside brother blessed friend'.*

The Commonwealth Expedition, Comex, (1965 – 2002) was initiated by the late Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1963/4 'to organise a new consciousness in the Commonwealth' (the healing touch), and launched under the patronage of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1965 to preserve that initiative, supported by the first Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tengku Abdul Rahman, the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, the first Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Professor Arnold Smith of Carleton University in Canada, the President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Margaret Thatcher.

**'IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS PLAYED
TOGETHER UNAFRAID AS A COMMONWEALTH MARCH ON THE
FORE COURT OF BUCKINGHAM PALACE AT THE CHANGING OF
THE GUARD. THOSE DISTANT ECHOES STILL CONVEY A SIMPLE
MESSAGE: FOR NOW, TOMORROW, AND FOREVER:**

**TOGETHER LET US GO WHERE THE GREEN PENNANT FLIES
AND FRIENDSHIP'S BANNER RAISE
TOGETHER UNAFRAID**