

Prepared for Rev Candance Mc Kibben's World Religion Discussion Group Gathering

Scheduled for Sunday, Nov 1, 2009, 6:00 –7:30 PM

*By Thayumanasamy Somasundaram, Wednesday, October 28, 2009*

Starting prayer:

*Vaishnava jan tho, A Hindu devotional Song*

*Vaishnava jan tho* is a very popular *Hindu* devotional song. Mahatma Gandhiji was very fond of this song. It was composed by the poet-saint Narsingh Mehta in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in Gujarati (language of the Northwestern Indian state of Gujarat) but can be understood by people who know Hindi. I have given below both the lyrics and lyrics with its meaning in English.

**Lyrics-only with cue for reciting**

Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe ray,

(Music and vocalization)

**Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe ray, | 2 times**

Par-dukkhe upkaar kare toye, Manu abhimaan na aaNe ray,

*Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe ray,*

(Music)

**SakaLa lok maan sahune vande, Nindaa na kare keni ray, | 2 times**

Vaach kaachh man nishchaL raakhe, dhan-dhan janani teni ray,

*Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe ray,*

(Music vocalization)

**Sams-drishti ne trishna tyaagi, Para-stree jene maath ray, | 2 times**

Jivha thaki asatya na bolay, Par-dhan nav jhaalee haath ray,

*Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe ray,*

(Music and vocalization)

**Moh-maaya vyaape nahi jene, DruDh vairaagya jeyna man maan ray, | 2 times**

Ram naam shoon taaLi laagi, SakaL tirath tena tan maan ray,

*Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe ray,*

(Music)

**VaN-lobhi ney kapaT-rahit chhe, Kaam-krodh nivaarya ray, | 2 times**

BhaNe Narsaiyyo tenun darshan karta, KuL ekoter taarya ray,

*Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe ray,*

*Par-dukhkhe upkaar kare toye, Manu abhimaan na aaNe ray.*

**Lyrics with meaning in English**

Vaishnava jan tho, tene kahiye je, PeeD paraayi jaaNe re,

*[A Vaishnava (Hindu) is one who knows the pain of others]*

Par-dukhkhe upkaar kare toye, Man abhimaan na aaNe re,

*[Who does good to those who are in misery and does not let pride enter his mind]*

Vaishnava jan tho ...

SakaL lok maan sahune vande, Nindaa na kare keni re,

*[He tolerates and praises the entire world, and doesn't say bad things about anyone]*

Vaach kaachh man nishchaL raakhe, dhan-dhan janani teni re,

*[One who keeps his/her words, and actions and thoughts pure, blessed is the mother who begets such a one]*

Vaishnava jan tho ...

Sam-drishti ne trishna tyaagi, Par-stree jene maat re,

*[He sees everything equally, rejects greed and avarice, and having rid himself of lust, he treats and reveres every woman as his mother]*

Jivha thaki asatya na bole, Par-dhan nav jhaalee haath re,

*[His tongue may get tired, but will never speak lies and not even touch someone else's property]*

Vaishnava jan tho ...

Moh-maaya vyaape nahi jene, DriDh vairaagya jena man maan re

*[He does not succumb to worldly attachments and his mind is deeply rooted in renunciation]*

Ram naam shoon taaLi laagi, SakaL tirath tena tan maan re,

*[Every moment he is intent on reciting the name of the Lord Rama. All the holy places are ever present in his body]*

Vaishnava jan tho ...

VaN-lobhi ne kapaT-rahit chhe, Kaam-krodh nivaarya re,

*[Who has no greed and deceit, and has renounced lust and anger]*

BhaNe Narsaiyyo tenun darshan karta, KuL ekoter taarya re,

*[The poet Narsi will like to see such a person, with who's virtue, the entire family gets salvation]*

Vaishnava jan tho ...

Concluding prayer:

பா லு ம் தெ ளி தே னு ம் பா கு ம் ப ரு ப் பு மி வை  
நா லு ம் க லந் து னக் கு நா ன் த ரு வே ன் - கோ லம் செ ய்  
து ங் க க் க ரி மு க த் து தூ மணி யே நீ எ னக் கு  
ச ங் க த் த மி ழ் மூ ன் று ம் தா

Thayumanasamy Somasundaram

October 28, 2009

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