

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 15th 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

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