

Keno Hare Kṛṣṇa Nām
"Oh Why While Chanting Hare Kṛṣṇa...?"

by Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura

(refrain) *keno hare kṛṣṇa nām hari bole*
mano prāṇ kānde nā

SYNONYMS

keno—why?; hare kṛṣṇa nām—the names Hare Kṛṣṇa; hari bole—chanting the name of Lord Hari; mano prāṇ—my inner heart; kānde nā—does not weep.

TRANSLATION

(refrain) Oh, why does my heart not weep from chanting the holy names Hare Kṛṣṇa?

(1)

pakhi nā jāni kon aparādhe
mukhe hare kṛṣṇa nām bolo nā

SYNONYMS

pakhi—the bird of my heart; nā jāni—I do not know; kon aparādhe—by some offense; mukhe—with the mouth; hare kṛṣṇa nām—the names of Hare Kṛṣṇa; bolo nā—does not chant.

TRANSLATION

1) The bird of my heart does not know what past sinful activities it has committed to cause this inability to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa properly.

(2)

baner pakhi re dhare rāklām hṛdoy mandire
madhu mākhā ei hari nām
pakhi re śikhaile śikhe

SYNONYMS

baner pakhi—a bird of the forest; re—O!; dhare—holding; rāklām—I have kept; hṛdoy mandire—in the temple of my heart; madhu mākhā—smearred with honey; ei—this; hari nām—name of Lord Hari; pakhi re—O bird!; śikhaile—upon being instructed; śikhe—learns.

TRANSLATION

2) O forest bird! I have kept something for you very carefully within the cottage of my heart—the holy name of Lord Hari, which is overflowing with pure sweet honey. O bird, you could learn the chanting of this name if you were taught.

(3)

*pakhi sakal nām bolte paro
keno hare kṛṣṇa nām bolo na
keno hare kṛṣṇa nām hari bole mano prāṇ kānde nā*

SYNONYMS

pakhi—a bird; sakal nām—all names; bolte paro—is able to speak; keno—why?; hare kṛṣṇa nām—the names of Hare Kṛṣṇa; bolo na—does not chant.

TRANSLATION

3) A bird is easily able to speak all names; why then does this bird of my heart refuse to chant Hare Kṛṣṇa? Oh, why does my heart not weep from chanting the holy names Hare Kṛṣṇa?

(4)

*chalo pakhi rūper deśe jāi
je deśete maner mānuś āsā jāoyā nāi*

SYNONYMS

chalo—please go; pakhi—O bird!; rūper deśe—to the land of true beauty; jāi—I go; je deśete—at which place; maner mānuś—the mentally-imagined man; āsā jāoyā—comes and goes (as in repeated birth and death); nāi—not.

TRANSLATION

4) O bird! Come, let us go to the spiritual world, the land of true and everlasting beauty. It is the place where the imaginary man of my mind will never again come and go on the revolving cycle of birth and death.

(5)

*pakhi re tor maraṇa kālete
carabi vāser dolāte
ore cār janete kandhe kore
loye jābe smaśan ghāṭete*

SYNONYMS

pakhi re—O bird!; tor—your; maraṇa kālete—at the time of death; carabi—you will be placed; vāser dolāte—on the funeral stretcher made from slips of bamboo; ore—oh!; cār janete—by four persons; kandhe kore—placing on the shoulder; loye—carrying; jābe—will proceed; smaśan ghāṭete—to the cremation landing.

TRANSLATION

5) O bird! At the time of death, your body will simply be placed upon a funeral stretcher, lifted on the shoulders of four persons and carried to the cremation grounds.

(6)

*ore o tor mukhe āguna jihve tule
ki korobi tāi bolo nā*

SYNONYMS

ore o—alas!; tor—your; mukhe—in the mouth; āguna—fire; jihve—the tongue; tule—obliterate; ki korobi—what can you do?; tāi—at that; bolo nā—you do not speak.

TRANSLATION

(6) Alas! The cremation fire will then enter your mouth and totally consume your tongue. There will be nothing you can do to save yourself, for at that time it is too late—you will be unable to speak any more.