

Trisagion Qandīšā alāhā



Qandīšā alāhā Qandīšā hailsānā
Qandīšā la māyōsā Esrāham alayn

ഖന്ദീശാ ആലാഹാ ഖന്ദീശാ ഹൈൽസാനാ
ഖന്ദീശാ ലാ മായോസാ എസ്രാഹം അലൈൻ

Translation: Holy O God, Holy O the Mighty One,
Holy O the immortal One Have mercy on us.

Note: This hymn originated in the Greek-speaking Eastern provinces of the Roman Empire, sometime in the fifth century AD. The source of the text is the hymn of the angels in Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8. Due to its theological appeal, the Chaldean Church adapted the hymn in Syriac translation (without the verse, “who was crucified for us”), probably in the sixth century. The Thrice Holy was already a part of the Lord’s Prayer in the Chaldean liturgy. The hymn is usually sung three times with three different incipits. The Trisagion, which is common to many Eastern and Western rites, is like a thread in a garland that connects the songs and prayers as well as the earthly and heavenly liturgies. The composer of the famous and sublime melody is unknown. Until further evidence appears, we may presume that the tune originated in Kerala, India. Surprisingly, Indian Ocean, the international music group adopted the Syro Malabar (East Syriac) pronunciation of the Syriac text, although the sound of the voiceless alveolar fricative, š, did not sit well in the mouth of the lead singer.

Glossary

Qandīšā = holy; alāhā = God; Hailsānā = mighty (One)

La = not; māyōsā = mortal (One)

Esrāham = (have) mercy; alayn = on us

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see more information at

<http://christianmusicologicalsocietyofindia.com/component/content/article/80-aramaic-chants/k/689-kandisa-alaha-2?Itemid=101>