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Hindoo Student's Prayer

By KATHARINE C. TURNER

Blacken not my face before my father,
O my teacher!
I'm a great-boled Lebanon cedar to my father,
O young teacher!
I'm the amber dust beads to his hand,
The whitest camel on his land;
Blacken not my face before him, master.

I'm the black-loamed Ganges plain to you,
My teacher!
I'm a long-eared stubborn ass to you,
Young teacher!
The blind-eyed beggar on his perch,
The whirling dervish in his church,
I'm the crippled coolie porter to you, master.

But please blacken not my visage to my father,
Worthy teacher!
I'll pray for thee at matins; spare my father,
O young teacher!
You're a staff to some old man;
Were you ne'er youth-warped in your plan?
Smear me not with blackened soot before him, master.