

Hindi transcript:

होली जो है, वह last month of Hindu calendar – फागुन – उसकी पूर्णिमा पर होती है; full moon। उसकी कहानी है। उसकी कहानी है कि वह... भक्त प्रह्लाद थे। प्रह्लाद... भक्त थे, और उनके पिता, हिरण्यकश्यप जो हैं, वे राक्षसों के राजा थे, उस ज़माने में। वह अपना भगवान की पूजा करते थे तो हिरण्यकश्यप... वे कहते थे कि भगवान तो है नहीं॥ बच्चा था, वह माने नहीं॥ बहुत मार पड़ती थी, ढाँट पड़ती थी। फिर वह ad...adamant हैं, वह मानता नहीं था। तो, नहीं माना तो, एक... वहाँ पे एक राक्षसी ऐसी थी, कि जिसको कि वरदान प्राप्त था – आग में जलेगी नहीं॥ नाम था होलिका। उसको आदेश दिया कि बड़ी भारी... लकड़ी की चिता बनाई गई। तो उस चिता पे होलिका, प्रह्लाद को लेके गोद में, बैठी। उसमें आग लगा दी गई। (अस्पष्ट) होलिका was fireproof, (अस्पष्ट) कितने भी वरदान हों, कितने भी वह... भगवान की शक्ति के आगे चलता नहीं है। भगवान जो हैं, वह तो भक्तों की रक्षा करते हैं। तो क्या उसमें चक्कर हुआ, कि होलिका तो जल गई – वह fireproof थी। और प्रह्लाद जो हैं, उनके लिए ऐसी हो गई चिता, जैसे कि चट्टन हो। चट्टन, you know, is very cool. तो वह निकल आए। वह भी सांकेतिक है – symbolic है – कि बुराई के ऊपर अच्छाई की विजय।

... फिर वह... आज भी वह लोग जलाते हैं। चौराहों चौराहों पे लकड़ी के ढेर लगा के गद्दी चीजें, पुरानी चीजें, ऐसे उसमें ढाल के, जलाते हैं उसको। तो उसके... उसका परिवा... परिवा means next day, एकम्... परिवा को... उसको फिर वही... छुट्टी का माहौल होता है। लोग एक दूसरे के ऊपर रखा ढालते हैं। गीले रखा, पानी में घोल के, सूखा गुलाल। खूब मस्ती का (अस्पष्ट) होता है। उसमें लाइसेंस होता है कि किसी को भी कुछ बोल दो, सब माफ़ है – “बुरा न मानो होली है”। ... बहुत लोग भाँग-वाँग पीते हैं। फिर वह दोपहर के बाद फिर वह... बड़ा अच्छा होता है, लोग मिलते हैं एक दूसरे से। और greet करते हैं। प्रणाम करते हैं बड़ों को। (अस्पष्ट वाक्य।) तो यह... अपने हिन्दुओके त्योहार जो हैं, बड़े colorful हैं।

English translation:

Holi is [celebrated] on the *poornima* – full moon night – of the last month of the Hindu calendar – in *Phagun* (*Phalgun*: February-March). There is a story about it. The story is that there ... there was the devotee,¹ Prahlad. Prahlad ... was devoted to God, and his

¹ भक्त प्रह्लाद has the sense of ‘the devoted Prahlad’ or ‘the faithful Prahlad’. The character Prahlad is often referred to in this way.

father, Hiranyakashyap, was the father of the *rakshasas*² at the time. When he (Prahlaḍ) worshipped God, Hiranyakashyap ... he would say that there is no God. He was a child; he did not listen.³ He would suffer many beatings, [and] scoldings. But he was adamant; he would not listen. So, when he didn't listen, a ... there was a *rakshasi* there, who had received a boon (from a god or similar being), namely, that she wouldn't get burnt by fire. Her name was Holika. So she was ordered that a very big ... wood was piled into a funeral pyre. So, Holika sat on the pyre with Prahlaḍ in her lap. [The pyre] was set alight. (Unclear) Holika was 'fireproof', (unclear) but no matter how many boons one has, no matter how many ... nothing stands up to the might of God. God, he protects his devotees. So what happened was in reverse [of what was expected]: Holika was burned [to death, even though] she was 'fireproof'. And as for Prahlaḍ, to him it was as though the funeral pyre were sandalwood paste. And sandalwood paste, as you know, is very cool. So he walked out [unharmēd]. This, too, is symbolic (repeats in English); [it represents] the victory of good over evil.

... [So,] that ('Holika') ... is burned even today. Woodpiles are made at street-crossings⁴, and dirty, old things are thrown in, and that is set on fire. So on the *pariva* [to Holi] – *pariva* meaning the next day, the first (day of the waxing phase in a lunar month) – on the *pariva* ... on that day again ... there is holiday [cheer]. People daub each other with color. Wet paint – [colors] mixed with water, dry red powder. It is a (unclear) of great joy. There is a license to say anything to anybody; everything is excused – 'don't mind, please, it's Holi.'⁵ ... Many folks drink *bhang*⁶ and stuff. Then, once the afternoon has passed, it is ... very good; people go to meet each other. They greet [each other]. People seek the blessings of their elders. (Unclear sentence.) So this ... our ... the Hindu festivals, they are very colorful.

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² Also called the *asuras* – ungodly, or hubristic individuals; 'demons'. A *rakshasi* is a female *rakshasa*.

³ The speaker appears to switch back and forth between था and थे, हैं and था etc.

⁴ चौराहों चौराहों पे should have been चौराहे चौराहे पे.

⁵ This is the cry with which one sprays someone with color, for instance.

⁶ An intoxicating drink made out of hemp.