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Namaste Sun

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सुबह का पहला निशान,
रात का आखरी अंत,
आता है, जाता है,
सताता है हमेशा ॥

तकिये पे सिर जो धूमता फिरता है
आरती के साथ,
नाच,नाच- जी भर के नाचिये,
मुन्ना की आंखें खुला है,
छाया दीजिये घूघंट ॥

काजल हो या बरफ हो- सजना या सवरना,
पिघल न जाये त्रिगंगार,
रूप से जलने वाली बिन्दिया,
तुलसी की पूजा ॥

सागर आप का शीशा,
अंधे की माया,
और बुजुर्ग की शांति,
इसलिये सुखाना बाल ॥

बसाना दिल में,
ज्योतिर्मय आशिर्वाद,
रूठ न जाना,
रे प्यारे स्वादिष्ट लड्डू ॥

Namaste Sun

[Translated from Hindi]

Rita Shankar

First mark of morning,
Finale of night,
Coming and going,
Always niggling and nagging,
On the pillow a head that swerves to and fro,
Uniting with the sanctified plate of light,
Dance, dance—dance to your contentment,
The little one's eyes are open,
Please, veil endow me with shade,
Be it kohl or be it snow—adornment or
beautification,
Melt not the pulchritude,
Bindis laden with jealousy,
Prayer to the tulasi*,
Ocean serving as your mirror,
Illusion to the blind,
Tranquility to the aged,
Thus dry the drops of damp dripping off my
hair,
Remain planted in the heart,
Light-educing blessing,
Leave not, growing the seed of upset,
Oh! affectionate, delectable laddoo**.

*an Indian basil plant used in Hindu rituals

**a yellow, round sweetmeat