

## Ecstatic Poetry

by Mirabai via Zi Sunday, Jul 31 2011, 2:48am

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All mystic poets regardless of culture, time or gender deliver the same message and speak the same timeless, universal 'language.'

I have rendered two of Mirabai's poems into English. I hope the Hindu metaphors are not lost on Western readers, enjoy!



***Mystic Poet, Mirabai (1498-1550)***

### **Ankle Bells**

If Mira dances,  
how can her ankle bells not dance with her?

"Mira is insane," they say;  
"the family's ruin."  
One day poison came to my door, I drank it and laughed.  
I am now at the feet of my Lord;  
I offer my body and Soul to him alone.

The Lord is water to me, how I thirst [for Him];  
I am never satiated.

My Lord lifts mountains  
and removes evil from humanity;  
My Lord vanquishes the selfish and greedy;

I go only to Him for shelter.

## **Why Mira cannot return home**

The Dark One's colours  
have penetrated my body;  
all previous tones and shades  
have been washed away.

Making Love to the Dark One and eating little;  
those are my pearls and carnelians.

[Mala] prayer beads and religious markings  
these are my scarfs and rings;  
they are enough feminine wiles for me --  
my Beloved [Krishna] taught me this.

Condemn or accept me,  
approve or disapprove,  
I praise the Holy Mountain unceasingly.  
I have chosen Bhakti, the path of Ecstatic Love;  
many have followed before me.

I do not steal or injure any Being,  
what would you accuse me of?

I have ridden Elephants  
and felt their swaying power;  
now you would have me ride a jackass,  
please, try to be serious.



***Krishna***

<http://www.wisdomportal.com/PoetryAnthology2/Mirabai-Anthology.html>

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Cleaves Alternative News. <http://cleaves.lingama.net/news/story-2649.html>