

# ENGLISH HYMNS:

## THEIR AUTHORS AND HISTORY.

BY

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AUTHOR OF "THE LATIN HYMN-WRITERS AND THEIR HYMNS," "THE HEAVENLY LAND,"  
"WAVE AND WOOF: A BOOK OF VERSE," "THE BURIAL OF  
THE DEAD," ETC., ETC.

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"But the great Master said, 'I see  
No best in kind but in degree.  
I gave a various gift to each  
To charm, to strengthen and to teach,

"These are the three great chords of might,  
And he whose ear is tuned aright  
Will hear no discord in the three,  
But the most perfect harmony.'"

LONGFELLOW: *The Singers.*

FUNK & WAGNALLS.

NEW YORK :  
18 AND 20 ASTOR PLACE.

1888

LONDON :  
44 FLEET STREET.

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his published discourses, 1841-43, mark the trend of his thought. In 1843 he went to Germany, and on his return in 1844 he was urged to become the minister of a New Society formed in Boston. To this he consented, and was installed as pastor, January 4th, 1859. His congregation had no house of worship, but met first in the Melodeon and then in the Music Hall. The audiences were always large, and Mr. Parker not merely held them together, but lectured before lyceums in various parts of the country, and took an active share in the Abolition movement, and whatever partook of the nature of reform. An attack of hemorrhage from the lungs finally compelled him to seek Vera Cruz, in January, 1859, and thence to visit Europe, where he spent some time in Switzerland. He then stayed the winter of 1860 in Rome, and repairing to Florence, in April, found himself much enfeebled and died there, May 10th, 1860. He was buried in the cemetery outside the walls.

Biographies of Theodore Parker have been written by Rev. John Weiss and Rev. O. B. Frothingham. His vigorous and incisive style left a deep impression upon the generation which grew up under his ministry—an impression which it is not easy to efface. It is related of him that while he denied anything like Godhead to our Lord Jesus Christ, he was fond of keeping a bust of the Saviour upon his desk. And certainly the language of this hymn has a pathetic power when we remember who wrote it and how much he "hoped ever for the perfect day."

The hymn is really a sonnet. No date can be assigned to it with certainty. It is taken from Dr. Frothingham's *Life of Theodore Parker*.

O THOU, my soul, forget no more. —MARSHMAN, *tr.*

The first Hindoo convert to Christianity was Krishna Pal. Dr. John Thomas had labored from 1783 to 1800 with no success, when at last this man's heart was gained. Dr. Thomas had been reinforced by the more famous Baptist missionaries, William Carey and Joshua Marshman, and it is this Dr. Marshman who translated Krishna Pal's hymn from its original Bengalee. This first convert became a successful evangelist among his countrymen, and wrote several hymns which were very popular. He was a carpenter, of about thirty-five years of age, and while at his work he

broke his arm. Dr. Thomas was called upon to set it, which he did, and then took occasion to preach the Gospel to the crowd. Krishna's gratitude led him to listen to an invitation to return and visit the Mission. He not only did this, but brought his wife and daughter, and on the 22d of December, 1800, he and his brother, Goluk, renounced their caste and sat down at table with the missionaries. This created a wild storm of rage, under which Goluk and the two women became intimidated, but Krishna persisted, and was baptized in the Ganges by Dr. Carey, in the presence of the Governor of India and many Hindoos and Mohammedans. Carey then addressed the multitude, pointing out that this was only a ceremony, and that none but Christ could save from sin. That evening, December 28th, the Lord's Supper was celebrated for the first time in Bengalee.

This hymn is peculiarly adapted to the communion, and for more than twenty years its author continued steadfast in the faith. He died of cholera in 1822. Mr. Butterworth, in his *Story of the Hymns*, has taken pains to secure these particulars from Baptist papers and magazines, and merits the honor due to his work.

Dr. Marshman was one of the translators of the Bible, and he prepared dictionaries of the Mahratta and Bengalee languages, and afterward rendered the New Testament into Chinese. He was born in Wiltshire, England, April 20th, 1768, and landed at Serampore in 1799, where he died December 5th, 1837. During the last years of his life—indeed, from 1826—he was at variance with the Baptist Missionary Society upon matters of polity. The Serampore Mission had been secured by the personal devotion and gifts of the missionaries, and they naturally objected to transferring the title of it to the society. When it is remembered that they had given fifty thousand pounds to the work, as well as sacrificed their own lives in it, there is at least room for question whether they were not justified in some of their views. But when Carey died, in 1834, and Marshman was left alone, the shock was ultimately fatal. The survivor of this deep friendship was a broken man from that moment, and died three years later. At the last his mind perceptibly failed. In his final hours he forgot his English, and used the language of his adopted land, talking and praying in Bengalee. One of his daughters married General Havelock.