

A Song of Love for God and His World

In the Hausa Language With English Translation

This is the only song—not the only poem—I ever composed, music and all. It represents one of the major themes of our 30-year ministry in Nigeria. Without planning to do so, one day I just sat down and wrote it. I experienced it as genuine inspiration, which was confirmed by the way the congregation embraced it with enthusiasm. It was first introduced in the Jos congregation of the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria when it was still meeting in the TEKAN building.

It was written originally in the Hausa language and it flows better in that language than it does in its English translation. It does not come out that well in the latter, but I present it so non-Hausa speakers can catch its drift.

1

**Kana kaunar duniya
Amma ba ka kaunar Allah
Kaunarka banza ce (2x)
Banza, banza, banza, banza¹
Kaunarka banza ce.**

**You're in love with the world,
But you don't love the Lord,
Your love is worthless (2x)
Worthless, worthless, worthless, worthless--
Your love is worthless.**

2

**Kana kaunar Allah
Amma ba ka kaunar duniya**

¹ 4th line of each stanza to be sung in increasing crescendo with robust voice.)

**Kaunarka rabi ce (2x)
Rabi, rabi, rabi, rabi
Kaunarka rabi ce.**

**You're in love with the Lord
But you don't love the world
Your love is only half (2x)
Half, half, half, half—
Your love is only half.**

3

**Kana kaunar Allah
Da kuma kaunar duniya
Kaunarka cikakke ce (2x)
Cikakke, cikakke, cikakke, cikakke (as in verse 1)
Kaunarka cikakke ce.**

**You are in love with the Lord
And also with His world
Your love is perfect (2x)
Perfect, perfect, perfect, perfect—
Your love is perfect**

4

**Wane irin kaunarka? (2x)
Banza, banza, banza, banza?
Rabi, rabi, rabi, rabi?
Ko kuwa Cikakke ce (2x)?
Cikakke, cikakke, cikakke, cikakke?
Kaunata cikakke ce !!**

**What is your greatest love (2x)
Worthless, worthless, worthless, worthless?
Is it half, half, half, half?
Or is it perfect? (2)
Perfect, perfect, perfect, perfect?**

My love is perfect!

5

Ina kaunar Allah

Tare da kaunar duniya

Kaunata cikakke ce (2x)

Cikakke, cikakke, cikakke, cikakke—

Kaunata cikakke ce. (2x)

I'm in love with the Lord

Together with His world

My love is perfect (2x)

Perfect, perfect, perfect, perfect—

My love is perfect (2x)