

You Take Him

BY SERA KANDRO



Tib Shelf
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Translated by Tib Shelf

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In 1905, when Sera Khandro was thirteen years old, or fourteen by Tibetan reckoning, her family arranged for her to marry the young lord of Kyirong. Although she allowed her relatives to believe that she had accepted the match, she had privately resolved to escape and devote herself to the Dharma. A visionary dream had instructed her to travel east, and a lama had confirmed that she should resist her family's pressure and follow this path. Soon afterwards, while being publicly honoured as the future lady of Kyirong, she slipped away from the gathering and stopped to rest at Norbu Ling. There she dreamed of a beautiful young woman who claimed to be Dorje Yudrön. When the woman praised her prospective husband's youth and handsome appearance, Sera Khandro became annoyed and answered with this sharp, humorous song, dismissing his physical attractions as impermanent and declaring that she had no need of him. The woman afterwards revealed that she had merely been testing Sera Khandro's resolve.

Hehe, you deceitful girl!
 No way are you Dorje Yudrön!
 Lusting after a man's body like that,
 You appear to be nothing but a common whore!

Though the young lord of Kyirong may be handsome,
 He is impermanent, like a summer flower.
 When the autumn frost arrives, its lustre fades;
 Just so, change is the very nature of things.

I know nothing of his past births or merit,
 But by every outward sign, he is a householder.
 For all his youth and brilliant splendour,
 I have no need for him—you take him!



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