

Guru Nanak - Sabad 64
vanaj karahu vanajaariho vakhar leh samaal ||
Raag Siriraag, Guru Nanak, Guru Granth Sahib, 22

vanaj karahu vanajaariho vakhar leh samaal ||
taisee vasat visaahaaai jaisee nibahai naal ||
agai saahu sujaan hai laisee vasat samaal ||1||
bhaiee re raam kahahu chit lai ||
har jas vakhar lai chalahu sahu dhekhai pateeaaai ||1|| rahaau ||
jinaa raas na sach hai kiau tinaa sukh hoi ||
khoTai vanaj vana(n)jiaai man tan khoTaa hoi ||
faahee faathee mirag jiau dhookh ghano nit roi ||2||
khoTe potai naa paveh tin har gur dharas na hoi ||
khoTe jaat na pat hai khoT na seejhas koi ||
khoTe khoT kamaavanaa aai giao pat khoi ||3||
naanak man samajhaieeaai gur kai sabadh saalaeh ||
raam naam ra(n)g ratiaa bhaar na bharam tinaeh ||
har jap laahaa agalaa nirabhau har man maeh ||4||23||

Summary: The metaphor of a good trader carries spiritual significance. Successful merchants engage in ethical transactions and embody righteousness. By trading between communities, they facilitate the exchange of goods and foster connections, symbolising the acquisition of knowledge and the integration of diverse philosophical ideas. Merchants carefully inspect their merchandise and safeguard their goods. Similarly, we should be mindful of the knowledge we absorb, ensuring it aligns with truth rather than illusion, and protect the valuable insights gained, as without practical implementation, they can be like unprotected wealth that is easily lost or misused.

vanaj karahu vanajaariho vakhar leh samaal ||
Merchants engage in trade while carefully safeguarding the merchandise. This metaphor illustrates the importance of acquiring knowledge while protecting core values.

taisee vasat visaahaaai jaisee nibahai naal ||
Engage in the trade of perpetually beneficial goods, symbolically advising adopting qualities that continuously enrich life.

agai saahu sujaan hai laisee vasat samaal ||1||
Thereafter, the wise dealer will take care of the commodities. This metaphor highlights that our conscious reflections safeguard our actions. (1)

bhaiee re raam kahahu chit lai ||

Fellow beings, let's explore all-encompassing oneness and connect with it through our shared awareness.

har jas vakhar lai chalahu sahu dhekhai pateeaaai ||1|| rahaau ||

When honouring Oneness is presented to consciousness as valuable merchandise, it will evaluate its essence and approve it like a discerning merchant. (1)(Pause)

jinaa raas na sach hai kiau tinaa sukh hoi ||

How can those who have not acquired honesty as their valuable asset achieve peace?

khoTai vanaj vana(n)jiaai man tan khoTaa hoi ||

When one engages in dishonesty, both the mind and body become corrupted.

faahee faatthe mirag jiau dhookh ghano nit roi ||2||

A deer trapped in a noose suffers greatly, always crying out in pain, metaphorically illustrating how a mind caught in falsehood constantly feels the pain of negative thoughts. (2)

khoTe potai naa paveh tin har gur dharas na hoi ||

A fake coin cannot be added to the treasury; similarly, the dishonest cannot experience the wisdom of the omnipresent divine presence.

khoTe jaat na pat hai khoT na seejhas koi ||

The dishonest do not deserve social status or respect, and no one can achieve success through deceit.

khoTe khoT kamaavanaa aai giao pat khoi ||3||

Indulging in practising falsehood, one gets trapped in the cycle of spiritual regression and progression, losing the worthiness of honour. (3)

naanak man samajhaieeaai gur kai sabadh saalaeh ||

Nanak advises the mind to reflect on the significance of wisdom in spiritual insights.

raam naam ra(n)g ratiaa bhaar na bharam tinaeh ||

Those immersed in contemplating the Oneness of the all-pervading energy are free from the burdens of doubt.

har jap laahaa agalaa nirabhau har man maeh ||4||23||

Through contemplative reflection on the oneness of creation, one can gain profound insights into the fearless, all-pervading awareness that resides in our hearts. (4)(23)

Essence: Guru Nanak reminds us that just as a counterfeit coin holds no value in a treasury, those who lack integrity cannot experience the true essence of Oneness. Falsehood entraps individuals in a cycle of spiritual advancement and regression, preventing them from achieving genuine spiritual fulfilment and causing them to undermine their sense of self-worth. To overcome doubt and illusion requires embracing truthfulness, humility, and contemplation, enabling us to experience the brilliance of the all-encompassing Oneness.

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