

Bhagat Kabir – Sabad 17
asathaavar ja(n)gam keeT pata(n)gaa ||
Raag Gauri, Bhagat Kabir, Guru Granth Sahib, 325

asathaavar ja(n)gam keeT pata(n)gaa ||
anik janam ke'ee bahu ra(n)gaa ||1||
aaise ghar ham bahut basaae ||
jab ham raam garabh hoi aae ||1|| rahaau ||
jogee jatee tapee brahamachaaree ||
kabahoo raajaa chhatrapat kabahoo bhekhaaree ||2||
saakat mareh sa(n)t sabh jeeveh ||
raam rasain rasanaa peeveh ||3||
kahu kabeer prabh kirapaa keejai ||
haar pare ab pooraa dheejai ||4||13||

Summary: Regardless of the status, religious or spiritual path, all journeys can be sincere and fulfilling only if they transcend the ego. However, they can be disappointing and incomplete if spent in mindless repetition of beliefs or pride in individuality. True seekers do not pursue accumulating knowledge or chasing identities; they surrender to understand and embrace the essence of the eternal wholeness. Their quest, rooted in humility, is a willingness to let go of their self-image and dissolve into the truth that all separation is an illusion. Awareness leads to a state of completeness; this awakening leads to realising the eternal wholeness that was never absent, only forgotten.

asathaavar ja(n)gam keeT pata(n)gaa ||

As rooted plants, wandering animals, crawling bugs, and winged insects symbolize the diverse states of mind that inhabit various characteristics.

anik janam ke'ee bahu ra(n)gaa ||1||

I have experienced countless lives in multiple colours, representing the embodiment of identities, beliefs, and behaviours that change with each circumstance, but none have been permanent. (1)

aaise ghar ham bahut basaae ||

I have lived in many such houses, which metaphorically suggests experiencing a variety of thoughts and emotions.

jab ham raam garabh hoi aae ||1|| rahaau ||

Until I was conceived in this divine womb. This represents the sacred space of awakening where oneness is nurtured. (1)(Pause)

jogee jatee tapee brahamachaaree ||

I have been a celibate, an ascetic, and an austere practitioner, an indication of exploring diverse paths on a quest for enlightenment.

kabahoo raajaa chhatrapat kabahoo bhekhaaree ||2||

Sometimes I am a ruler, with a royal umbrella; at other times, a beggar with nothing, this duality illustrates that a positive mindset fosters abundance, while a negative outlook leads to a sense of deprivation. (2)

saakat mareh sa(n)t sabh jeeveh ||

The ignorant face spiritual death, while those who are enlightened remain spiritually alive.

raam rasain rasanaa peeveh ||3||

Contemplating the essence of the all-pervading force, they absorb and express the exhilarating state of unity. (3)

kahu kabeer prabh kirapaa keejai ||

Kabir says, O omnipresent consciousness within, please be gracious.

haar pare ab pooraa dheejai ||4||13||

Disappointed, I surrender all pride with humility, now grant me the complete gift, this plea embodies a seeker disillusioned with ego and disunion, now seeking unity for fulfilment. (4)(13)

Essence: Bhagat Kabir uses vivid examples to illustrate how the countless forms of creation, such as rooted plants, wandering animals, crawling creatures, and winged insects, reflect our varying realms of awareness. The many births and myriad colours symbolize the ever-changing identities, beliefs, and emotional patterns we adopt. Many houses represent various forms of ego, shaped by internal impressions and external influences, that appear real but ultimately fade. The duality in our minds chases these illusions, continually building and dissolving a sense of self. However, beneath all change lies an enduring reality: pure consciousness, eternal, formless, and omnipresent. Bhagat Kabir urges us to look beyond appearances, recognize this unchanging truth, and return to the stillness of Oneness.

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