

Bhagat Kabir – Sabad 19
jiau jal chhodd baahar bhio meenaa ||
Raag Gauri, Bhagat Kabir, Guru Granth Sahib, 326

jiau jal chhodd baahar bhio meenaa ||
poorab janam hau tap kaa heenaa ||1||
ab kahu raam kavan gat moree ||
tajee le banaaras mat bhiee thoree ||1|| rahaau ||
sagal janam siv puree gavaiaa ||
martee baar maghar uTh aaiaa ||2||
bahut baras tap keeaa kaasee ||
maran bhiaa maghar kee baasee ||3||
kaasee maghar sam beechaaree ||
ochhee bhagat kaise utras paaree ||4||
kahu gur gaj siv sabh ko jaanai ||
muua kabeer ramat sree raamai ||5||15||

Summary: Confronting our dependence on societal norms and clinging to material possessions forces us to face our fear of uncertainty. We often seek security in these attachments, believing they protect us from change, but they often lead to more fear than comfort. By resisting a constantly changing world, we disconnect from the present. We confuse holding on with purpose and attachment with love. True clarity comes from letting go, not as a way to escape life, but as a means to engage with it more fully, free from attachments, and to live authentically.

jiau jal chhodd baahar bhio meenaa ||

Being like a fish out of water symbolizes a sense of disconnection from one's inner clarity.

poorab janam hau tap kaa heenaa ||1||

My previous mindset, characterized by a lack of discipline and reflection, is a confession that much of life has passed without realization. (1)

ab kahu raam kavan gat moree ||

Now tell me, my all-pervading consciousness, what will be my condition? This reflects a moment of self-inquiry seeking grace amid uncertainty.

tajee le banaaras mat bhiee thoree ||1|| rahaau ||

Having left my hometown Benares (Kashi), my understanding seems diminished, a challenge to reliance on societal norms and emptiness of holding on to them. (1)(Pause)

sagal janam siv puree gavaiaa ||

My entire life was spent in Shiva's city, but it seems wasted, symbolizing a lifetime of religious adherence and appearance without any inner awareness.

martee baar maghar uTh aaiaa ||2||

And now, as I approach death, I've come to the village Maghar. This represents a state of rejecting fear associated with blind faith and superstition. (2)

bahut baras tap keeaa kaasee ||

For many years, I dedicated myself to the practice of austerity in the revered city of Kashi; this statement reflects following and practising ritualism.

maran bhiaa maghar kee baasee ||3||

As I approach the end of my life, I dwell in the city of Maghar, a place deemed inauspicious, a reminder that the location of our physical departure does not determine liberation, but rather by the awakening of our consciousness. (3)

kaasee maghar sam beechaaree ||

I see Kashi and Maghar as the same after contemplation, expressing that insight has dissolved duality.

ochhee bhagat kaise utras paaree ||4||

How can superficial devotion help one overcome ignorance, emphasizing that reliance on external rituals without sincerity hinders enlightenment? (4)

kahu gur gaj siv sabh ko jaanai ||

Some claim to understand who the enlightened mentor, creator, and destroyer are. This statement emphasizes that our perception of truth is a projection of our beliefs, often limited by our identification with external forms, appearances, and names.

muaa kabeer ramat sree raamai ||5||15||

Kabir says that he lost his identity while immersed in the all-pervading reverence of oneness, suggesting that his ego vanished in the unity he practised within diversity (5)(15)

Essence: Bhagat Kabir courageously questioned the age-old belief that dying in Kashi guarantees liberation, while death in Maghar leads to spiritual downfall. He defied this superstition not just with words, but through action by choosing Maghar as the place of his death. With this bold decision, he challenged the clergy and conveyed a powerful truth that it is not the place of death, but the state of consciousness at that final moment that determines liberation. In doing so, he

reminds us that even a single moment of awareness outweighs a lifetime spent in hollow rituals and fearing superstitions. His choice continues to resonate through time as a call to awaken from the illusion of seeking externally and instead shifting the focus inward, being sincere and seeking truth within.

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