

Sheikh Farid – Sabad 47
ka(n)dh kuhaaRaa sir ghaRaa van kai sar lohaar ||
Salok, Seikh Farid, Guru Granth Sahib, 1380

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fareedhaa hau loRee sahu aapanaa too loReh a(n)giaar ||43||

Summary: Confusing means with meaning occurs when the tools we use to navigate life overshadow our true essence. We often mistake status, productivity, and relationships for fulfilment, forgetting that these are merely pathways to it. While they can provide stability, they cannot replace our sense of wholeness when we treat these symbols as our ultimate goal. Fulfilment arises when we allow external tools to support our inner selves rather than definitions of our existence. This shift transforms life from mere management into a meaningful journey toward authenticity.

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With an axe on his shoulder and a pitcher on his head, the blacksmith enters the forest to collect quality wood. This image illustrates the weight of thoughtless routines that we often accept as part of our daily existence.

fareedhaa hau loRee sahu aapanaa too loReh a(n)giaar ||43||

Farid says I seek my true companion, the all-pervading awareness, while you long for embers. This contrasts the quest for wisdom, which brings peace, with the misguided craving for temporary pleasures, which lead to restlessness. (43)

Essence: Sheikh Farid highlights the tragedy of misplaced priorities, urging us to distinguish between what truly matters and what distracts us. He points out the irony of human effort, as we often bear the weight of fleeting desires and accumulate resources that turn to ash. This challenges us to reflect: Are we just fuelling the fire of desire, or are we seeking true fulfilment?

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