

Sheikh Farid – Sabad 49
paas dhamaame chhat sir bheree saddo radd ||
Salok, Seikh Farid, Guru Granth Sahib, 1380

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jai sute jeeraan meh the'ee ateemaa gadd ||45||

Summary: Egoic validation thrives on visibility, praise, and the feeling of superiority over others. The ego often confuses temporary control with lasting significance, leading to a fear of losing its image. What appears to be strength on the outside can often conceal deep insecurity on the inside. As a result, we may resort to manipulation to protect the fleeting and lose the everlasting integrity. The power lies in the maturity to recognise mortality, the great equaliser, where even the privileged and powerful eventually return to the same earth as the destitute and vulnerable.

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Drums beat at their sides, royal canopies above their heads, and trumpets blowing, and songs are sung to proclaim their glory. This scene symbolises the epitome of ego-driven validation, the allure of public power, and the deceptive promise of lasting authority.

jai sute jeeraan meh the'ee ateemaa gadd ||45||

They have gone to sleep in the graveyard, buried and mixed with the dust like helpless orphans. This imagery illustrates mortality as the ultimate equalizer, where the privileged and influential are reduced to the same soil as the destitute and the vulnerable. (45)

Essence: Sheikh Farid challenges the illusion of importance by contrasting the noise of power with the calm of humility. He reminds us that material possessions cannot shield us from life's inevitable changes; they may provide temporary distraction, but they cannot conquer impermanence. Ultimately, every identity and hierarchy will meet the same fate. In the end, we all return to dust, and what truly matters is the quality of our inner being and the love we shared during our lives.

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