

Sheikh Farid – Sabad 68
ha(n)s uddar kodhrai piaa lok viddaaran jai ||
Salok, Seikh Farid, Guru Granth Sahib, 1381

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gahilaa lok na jaanadhaa ha(n)s na kodhraa khai ||65||

Summary: Humans often let fear guide their reactions, jumping to conclusions before truly observing the situation. This tendency to make assumptions acts as a shortcut, avoiding the depth of self-reflection. We rely on surface cues as evidence, mistaking them for reality, and end up making judgments based on preconceived beliefs rather than facts. Transcending this instinctive behaviour requires deeper observation and a graceful embrace of life's complexity and nuance.

ha(n)s uddar kodhrai piaa lok viddaaran jai ||
A flying swan lands in a millet field, and people chase it away. This moment highlights our tendency to react with fear, often driven by assumptions and forming judgments based solely on appearances.

gahilaa lok na jaanadhaa ha(n)s na kodhraa khai ||65||
The heedless people are not aware that the swan does not eat millet. It serves as a reminder of the importance of looking beyond the surface before reaching conclusions. (65)

Essence: Sheikh Farid shows that a person's character is often perceived either positively or negatively based on surface impressions. A single action can define their reputation, and one flaw can overshadow their identity. Quick judgments prioritize certainty over depth, focusing on the most visible attributes. When we rush to conclusions, we confine others to our narrow perspective and compromise our own conscience. True understanding begins where superficial assessments end.

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