

Bhagat Kabir – Sabad 18
aaiso acharaj dekhio kabeer ||
Raag Gauri, Bhagat Kabir, Guru Granth Sahib, 326

aaiso acharaj dekhio kabeer ||
dadh kai bholai birolai neer ||1|| rahaau ||
haree a(n)gooree gadhahaa charai ||
nit uTh haasai heegai mrai ||1||
maataa bhaisaa a(n)muhaa jai ||
kud kud charai rasaatal pai ||2||
kahu kabeer pargaT bhiee khedd ||
lele kau chooghai nit bhedd ||3||
raam ramat mat paragaTee aaiee ||
kahu kabeer gur sojhee paiee ||4||1||14||

Summary: Satire is a term that embodies a form of humour designed to compel the audience to engage in critical reflection. The use of irony and sarcasm challenges and ridicules societal norms, institutions, or individuals by highlighting the social flaws, political contradictions, and religious absurdities inherent in a subject. Bhagat Kabir's use of satire and metaphors provokes thought and inspires change. The vivid imagery and ironic twists stimulate the mind, making his messages relatable and accessible to a broader audience. Through satire, he exposes the pretentiousness of society, and his metaphors highlight spiritual concepts that encourage contemplation on one's life and relationship to spirituality.

aaiso acharaj dekhio kabeer ||
Kabir says he sees such strange and wondrous things.

dadh kai bholai birolai neer ||1|| rahaau ||
In ignorance, mistaking it for cream, the water is being churned to produce butter, highlighting that efforts without critical thinking do not yield wisdom. (1)(Pause)

haree a(n)gooree gadhahaa charai ||
The donkey grazes on the unripe green grapes, symbolising that simply having access to knowledge does not equate to wisdom or transformation.

nit uTh haasai heegai mrai ||1||
Every day, it wakes up, laughs, and brays, and then it dies, representing a spiritual death, as the mind fails to embrace life's opportunities, ending each day without growth or awareness. (1)

maataa bhaijaa a(n)muhaa jai ||

An unbridled, intoxicated bull goes haywire, symbolizing a mind misled by ego and straying from wisdom.

kud kud charai rasaatal pai ||2||

Leaping with excitement, it keeps grazing and falls into the deep abyss. Allured by worldly illusions, the mind is consumed by materialism. (2)

kahu kabeer pargaT bhiee khedd ||

Kabir says the play has been revealed, indicating that the absurdity of spiritual ignorance becomes apparent to those who engage in self-reflection.

lele kau chooghai nit bhedd ||3||

The sheep constantly suckle the lamb, a metaphor for inverted roles and misguided nurturing, where the unknowing are mistaken for guides, perpetuating ignorance under the illusion of care. (3)

raam ramat mat paragaTee aaiee ||

By immersing ourselves in all-encompassing awareness, the potential of our intellect is revealed, highlighting how discernment allows us to perceive unity.

kahu kabeer gur sojhee paie ||4||1||14||

Kabir says he has gained this understanding through the wisdom that guides him from ignorance to awareness. (4)(1)(14)

Essence: Bhagat Kabir addresses a world where ignorance is celebrated, and wisdom is overlooked. In this society, rituals often take precedence over the understanding and application of philosophical insights. It's like churning water to extract cream; effort is made, yet no true value is gained. He encourages us to think critically, enabling us to reject hollow traditions and instead awaken to the profound truths that remain invisible to the eyes but clear to the awakened mind. Wisdom, the Guru, whether within or in our external pursuits, holds the key to deciphering life's absurdities and reclaiming clarity. He advises embracing this transformation and seeking the essence that transcends the superficial, rather than relying on societal approval.

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