

Bhagat Kabir - Sabad 64
jiau kap ke kar musaT chanan kee lubadh na tiaag dhio ||
Raag Gauri, Bhagat Kabir, Guru Granth Sahib, 336

jiau kap ke kar musaT chanan kee lubadh na tiaag dhio ||
jo jo karam ke'ee laalach siau te fir gareh pario ||1||
bhagat bin birathe janam gio ||
saadhasa(n)gat bhagavaan bhajan bin kahee na sach rahio ||1|| rahaau ||
jiau udhiaan kusam parafulit kineh na ghraau lio ||
taise bhramat anek jon meh fir fir kaal hio ||2||
eiaa dhan joban ar sut dhaaraa pekhan kau ju dhio ||
tin hee maeh aTak jo urajhe i(n)dhree prer lio ||3||
aaudh anal tan tin ko ma(n)dhar chahu dhis ThaaT Thio ||
keh kabeer bhai saagar taran kau mai satigur oT lio ||4||1||8||59||

Summary: The self can easily become ensnared by what it clings to, as desire often leads to bondage. While possessions may promise joy, they also trigger the anxiety of loss, turning pleasure into a form of dependency. The ironic truth is that the tighter we grip our belongings, the more they begin to control us. However, as our awareness expands, we can shift from dependence to active participation, transforming the fear of impermanence into a source of profound wisdom. True liberation emerges when we replace clinging with deep trust.

jiau kap ke kar musaT chanan kee lubadh na tiaag dhio ||

Like a monkey that grasps a fistful of grain and, because of greed, refuses to let go of it. This reflects how attachment becomes self-imprisonment through our own unwillingness to let go.

jo jo karam ke'ee laalach siau te fir gareh pario ||1||

Whatever actions are undertaken driven by greed eventually become the very trap that binds us. This illustrates how choices made out of desire create their own bondage through the law of cause and effect. (1)

bhagat bin birathe janam gio ||

Without inward devotion, life passes without realizing its deeper purpose. This suggests that any activity done without mindfulness remains irrelevant and purposeless.

saadhasa(n)gat bhagavaan bhajan bin kahee na sach rahio ||1|| rahaau ||

Without the company of the inwardly attuned and contemplation of the pervasive reality, what is expressed is not the truth. This suggests that supportive resonance of insights and sustained contemplation are the anchors through which inner clarity endures. (1)(Pause)

jiaa udhiaan kusam parafulit kineh na ghraau lio ||

Just as a flower that blooms in the wilderness, no one receives its fragrance. This illustrates the untapped potential within us when our attention doesn't draw near enough to appreciate its beauty.

taise bhramat anek jon meh fir fir kaal hio ||2||

In the same way, one wanders through countless forms of existence, again and again, until time overtakes the journey. This suggests a cycle of repeated patterns continues, yet awareness never ripens into enduring realisation. (2)

eiaa dhan joban ar sut dhaaraa pekhan kau ju dhio ||

Wealth, youth, children, spouses, and children are gifts to be experienced. This neither rejects nor glorifies worldly life; it warns against making them the basis of identity and possession.

tin hee maeh aTak jo urajhe i(n)dhree prer lio ||3||

Becoming attached to these very things, we become entangled with them, driven by the senses. This reflects how what is meant to be experienced becomes bondage when attachment becomes dependence and manipulates the conscience rather than freeing it. (3)

aaudh anal tan tin ko ma(n)ddhar chahu dhis ThaaT Thio ||

Life burns like fire while the body is as fragile as a house of straw, even though elaborate structures are built all around it. This exposes the contradiction between our existence's vulnerability and the misplaced confidence we place in our lives' stability.

keh kabeer bhai saagar taran kau mai satigur oT lio ||4||1||8||59||

Kabir says that to cross beyond this fearful ocean of existence, I take refuge in transformative wisdom. This points to inner guiding clarity as the shelter through which the conscience moves beyond feelings of insecurity, attachment pain, and the illusion of permanence. (4)(1)(8)(59)

Essence: Bhagat Kabir expresses a profound truth that we encounter throughout life: our bodies change, circumstances shift, relationships evolve, and material possessions cannot provide lasting security. When we base our identity on status, health, wealth, or control, change can feel like a threat to our sense of self. Wisdom then lies in grounding ourselves in the inner clarity that remains available through both gain and loss, and in accepting to live fully with what we have while remaining inwardly prepared for change.

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