

Bhagat Namdev – Sabad 12
gaharee kar kai neev khudaiee uopar ma(n)Dap chhaae ||
Raag Dhanasri, Bhagat Namdev, Guru Granth Sahib, 692

Summary: Material accumulation can create a sense of control, but it rarely settles the deeper unease; it depends on conditions that constantly shift. Wisdom, however, is not tied to possession but to comprehension. Rooted in the inward, it remains steady amid changing circumstances. Ownership is an illusion; wealth and power cannot secure a true and lasting identity. Wealth can be lost, and power can be diminished. However, wisdom continues to guide, refine, and stabilise. It carries forward through time, not as something owned, but as something lived.

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Deep foundations are excavated to construct mansions for shelter. This symbolises how the ego crafts illusions that appear to be reality, fostering the sense that life is permanent and secure.

maaraka(n)dde te ko adhikaiee jin tiran dhar moo(n)D balaee ||1||

Is anyone greater than Markandeya, a mythical sage who, with a simple act, overcame the calamity looming over his head? This reference indicates that material accumulation does not guarantee security, while wisdom endures through the ages. (1)

hamaro karataa raam sanehee ||

My creator is the all-pervading energy, beloved within. This suggests that our conscience is a constant companion, the force shaping our thoughts.

kaahe re nar garab karat hahu binas jai jhooThee dehee ||1|| rahaau ||

Why does the human mind swell with pride when this body is false and eventually fades away? This reveals the contrast between humility, which accepts our mortality, and arrogance, which ignores our inevitable physical decline. (1)(Pause)

merree merree kairau karate durajodhan se bhaiee ||

By claiming 'mine and ours,' the Kauravas mirrored their brother, Duryodhan. This example from the epic Mahabharat highlights how attachment and possessiveness can cloud judgment, leading to destruction.

baareh jojan chhatr chalai thaa dehee girajhan khaiee ||2||

While a grand canopy accompanied them, their bodies still fell prey to vultures. This stark reality illustrates the perishing of status and accumulations in the face of the unyielding law of impermanence. (2)

sarab suoin kee la(n)kaa hotee raavan se adhikaiee ||

Even if one were to possess the legendary golden city of Lanka and surpass its ruler, Ravana, this imagery serves as a reminder that wealth and power alone cannot secure a true and lasting identity.

kahaa bhio dar baa(n)dhe haathee khin meh bhiee paraiee ||3||

What happened to the elephants at his gate? In an instant, everything he thought he owned was taken away. This highlights a crucial truth: ownership is an illusion; what we possess can vanish quickly and be claimed by someone else. (3)

dhurabaasaa siau karat Thagauree jaadhav e fal paae ||

By deceiving Durvasa, the Yadavs brought upon themselves such consequences. This mythological tale illustrates that arrogance and deceit lead to ruin, highlighting that every action has significant repercussions.

kirapaa karee jan apune uopar naamadeau har gun gaee ||4||1||

When inner grace awakened, the humble Namdev says he expressed the presence of the all-pervading energy. This suggests that transformation begins when receptivity to unity emerges. (4)(1)

Essence: Bhagat Namdev powerfully conveys that when we awaken to inner grace, we cultivate a profound humility that allows us to sense the all-pervading energy surrounding us. Our conscience becomes a steadfast companion, a force that shapes our thoughts and guides our perceptions from within. This journey of transformation begins when we embrace unity by recognizing the illusion of separation and opening ourselves to the wisdom in every aspect of life.

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