

Bhagat Namdev - Sabad 36
sabhai ghaT raam bolai raamaa bolai ||
Raag Mali Gaura, Bhagat Namdev, Guru Granth Sahib, 988

sabhai ghaT raam bolai raamaa bolai ||
raam binaa ko bolai re ||1|| rahaau ||
ekal maaTee ku(n)jar cheeTee bhaajan hai(n) bahu naanaa re ||
asathaavar ja(n)gam keeT pata(n)gam ghaT ghaT raam samaanaa re ||1||
ekal chi(n)taa raakh ana(n)taa aaur tajahu sabh aasaa re ||
pranavai naamaa bhe nihakaamaa ko Thaakur ko dhaasaa re ||2||3||

Summary: Beneath the clamour of identity, a profound understanding of our existence can arise, that the same living awareness manifests through countless forms. Embracing this perspective allows us to break free from the divisive habits of separating “self” from “other” and “high” from “low.” What seems like diversity rests on a shared foundation, akin to many vessels crafted from the same clay. By recognizing this unity, we can ease our insecurities, as the mind learns to relinquish its control over an isolated existence and begins to trust in a greater order. This transformative shift reduces the hierarchy that enforces our illusion of separateness, revealing it as an assumption rather than a truth. In doing so, we can align ourselves with a single voice that resonates throughout all of creation, embodying the profound oneness that exists within our diversity.

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In every aspect of creation, the all-pervading energy resonates, and omnipresence resounds. This suggests that divinity is not confined to a body, a community, a ritual, or a name; it breathes, speaks, and lives through all.

raam binaa ko bolai re ||1|| rahaau ||

Without a universal reality, who would have the capacity to speak? This thought-provoking question compels us to consider whether any being can claim existence or agency independent of the singular life force that unites us all. (1)(Pause)

ekal maaTee ku(n)jar cheeTee bhaajan hai(n) bahu naanaa re ||

The clay is a singular substance; whether formed as an elephant or an ant, the vessels crafted from it are many and varied. This metaphor shows that, despite our diverse forms and abilities, the essence of consciousness is the same for all.

asathaavar ja(n)gam keeT pata(n)gam ghaT ghaT raam samaanaa re ||1||

In the stationary, the moving, the insects, the moths, in every single aspect, the universal reality is contained. This shows that the omnipresent source is not limited to higher intelligence but permeates the entire spectrum of life, devoid of hierarchy. (1)

ekal chi(n)taa raakh ana(n)taa aaur tajahu sabh aasaa re ||

Direct your attention to the singular, infinite, and omnipresent force, and let go of dependence on everything else. This advises the mind to detach from fragmentation and rely only on the oneness of our source.

pranavai naamaa bhe nihakaamaa ko Thaakur ko dhaasaa re ||2||3||

Namdev humbly asks, "When one becomes free from attachments, who is the master and who is the slave?" This dissolution of hierarchy reflects the state of realization of oneness. (2)(3)

Essence: Bhagat Namdev urges us to transcend our dependence on the illusion of creation's fragmentation and embrace the profound oneness of our true source. In our everyday lives, we often find ourselves entangled in worldly attachments that lead only to divisiveness, confusion, and dissatisfaction. If we focus on recognising our source as a singular, universal force, then the need for validation from fleeting sources diminishes. By nurturing this relationship with oneness, we can achieve lasting inner peace and fulfilment that remain independent of our ever-changing external surroundings.

Sabad Interpretation by **Vininder Kaur & Amardeep Singh**

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