

Guru Nanak – Sabad 91
mukaam kar ghar baisanaa nit chalanai kee dhokh ||
Raag Siriraag, Guru Nanak, Guru Granth Sahib, 64

mukaam kar ghar baisanaa nit chalanai kee dhokh ||
mukaam taa par jaaneeaaai jaa rahai nihachal lok ||1||
dhuneaaa kais mukaame ||
kar sidhak karanee kharach baadhahu laag rahu naame ||1|| rahaau ||
jogee ta aasan kar bahai mulaa bahai mukaam ||
pa(n)ddit vakhaaneh potheaaa sidh baheh dhev sathan ||2||
sur sidh gan ga(n)धार mun jan sekh peer salaar ||
धार kooch koochaa kar ge avare bh chalanahaar ||3||
sulataan khaan malook umare ge kar kar kooch ||
ghaRee muhat k chalanaa dhil samajh too(n) bh pahooch ||4||
sabadhaeh maeh vakhaaneeaaai viralaa ta boojhai koi ||
naanak vakhaanai benatee jal thal maheehal soi ||5||
alaahu alakh aga(n)m kaadhar karanahaar kareem ||
sabh dhunee aavan jaavane mukam ek raheem ||6||
mukaam tis no aakheaaai jis sis na hovee lekh ||
asamaan dharatee chalasee mukam ohee ek ||7||
dhin rav chalai nis sas chalai taarika lakh paloi ||
mukaam ohee ek hai naanaka sach bugoi ||8||17||

Summary: Everything passes through our hands, even things that once felt certain. Lives are built, names are remembered, and status is honoured, but eventually, they all fade. Life is always in motion; moments do not wait for certainty; they come and go. Therefore, the wise advise us not to delay what truly matters. In our busy lives, we often become entangled in the external world, focusing on the surface and neglecting its more profound significance. We are not meant to hold onto everything forever; instead, if we seek understanding while things are present, clarity grows, and we cease to negotiate with our values. And, in times of change, meanings deepen through attention rather than control, allowing something within us, our conscience, to remain unshaken. A life well lived begins the moment we choose not to postpone it.

mukaam kar ghar baisanaa nit chalanai kee dhokh ||
Assuming this world is eternal, we consider it our home and constantly fear leaving it. This motivates us to nurture our conscience as our everlasting sanctuary, freeing us from the fear of death.

mukaam taa par jaaneeai jaa rahai nihachal lok ||1||

The concept of permanence can only be considered valid if no changes occur in creation. This is a reminder that change, evolution, and death are the only constants in this world; the rest is all transitory. (1)

dhuneaa kais mukaame ||

How can this world be a permanent place? This is a profound question to reflect on our purpose in life.

kar sidhak karanee kharach baadhahu laag rahu naame ||1|| rahaau ||

Practice trustworthiness and good deeds as your sustenance, and commit to continuously devoting yourself to practice contemplation. This emphasizes that the qualities we nurture within ourselves are the true legacy that endures through time. (1)(Pause)

jogee ta aasan kar bahai mulaa bahai mukaam ||

The yogi engages in a meditation posture, while the mullah observes in stillness. This illustrates the different approaches to ritualistic practices.

pa(n)ddit vakhaaneh potheaa sidh baheh dhev sathan ||2||

Scholars delve into scriptures, while mystics visit sacred sites. This symbolizes diverse pathways to gain wisdom. (2)

sur sidh gan ga(n)धार mun jan sekh peer salaar ||

Angels, mystics, celestial musicians, sages, seers, saints, and leaders. These symbolize the various roles of power and knowledge.

dhar kooch koochaa kar ge avare bh chalanahaar ||3||

They have departed after fulfilling their roles, and others will follow too. This underscores the fact that mortality is universal; ignoring it only delays spiritual growth. (3)

sulataan khaan malook umare ge kar kar kooch ||

Kings, rulers, emperors, and elites, they, too, after doing their duties, left one by one. This imagery reveals that death does not discriminate between the mighty and the powerless.

ghaRee muhat k chalanaa dhil samajh too(n) bh pahooch ||4||

In a moment or two, we shall also depart; my mind, you must reach this understanding. This realization suggests that living wisely means embracing the truth of impermanence. (4)

sabadhaeh maeh vakhaaneeai viralaa ta boojhai koi ||

Spiritual insights have clarified this, yet only a rare few truly understand. This indicates that grasping the essence of truth requires sincere embodiment of wisdom.

naanak vakhaanai benatee jal thal maheal soi ||5||

Nanak expresses his devotion by recognizing that the omnipresent energy pervades the water, the land, and the sky. This highlights that our consciousness is part of the universal energy, which means it lives on forever. (5)

alaahu alakh aga(n)m kaadhar karanahaar kareem ||

The all-pervading, imperceptible, and inaccessible source is the creator, sustainer, and benevolent awareness.

sabh dhunee aavan jaavaneer mukaam ek raheem ||6||

All things in the world come and go; only the singular, omnipresent consciousness remains constant. This highlights that amidst all the changes, only the universal awareness stands as the ultimate truth. (6)

mukaam tis no aakheerai jis sis na hovee lekh ||

The concept of permanence applies to the individual who does not bear a mark of fate on their forehead; this symbolizes enduring thoughts free from the burdens of destiny, ego, and attachment.

asamaan dharatee chalasee mukaam ohee ek ||7||

The sky and the earth will fade; only one omnipresent awareness remains permanently. This reinforces the idea that our focus on mindfulness is timeless. (7)

dhin rav chalai nis sas chalai taarikaal lakh paloi ||

The sun moves by day, the moon by night, and countless stars scatter across the sky. The entire cosmos dances through time. All forms participate in change. Nature reminds us that everything passes.

mukaam ohee ek hai naanakaal sach bugoi ||8||17||

The only permanent aspect is the singular, omnipresent awareness, says Nanak, which expresses the truth. This understanding leads us to recognize that our conscience remains the sole constant in presenting our reality to us. (8)(17)

Essence: Guru Nanak presents that the beauty of evolution lies in our gradual transformation, intricately woven into the fabric of our journey toward self-discovery. We evolve through moments of joy and loss, our daily choices, and the shifting landscape of our beliefs, values, and identities. Yet, amid these changes,

our conscience remains the unwavering constant that shapes our reality. By embracing change and tuning into this inner guide, we unlock the profound richness of being human, fully grasping the impermanence of our physical forms and the timeless essence of universal awareness.

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