It is the same light

the enlightening wisdom of

Sri Guru Granth Sahib
(SGGS)

an interpretation by
Daljit Singh Jawa

Volume 7: SGGS (P 1201-1430)
Dedicated to the loving memory of my parents

SARDAR HARI SINGH JAWA

&

SARDARNI KARTAR KAUR

who provided an atmosphere in which their children could grow spiritually
## GLOSSARY

Of Some Non English Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Approx. Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amrit</td>
<td>Nectar, holy water used at the time of Sikh initiation ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashtpadis</td>
<td>Stanzas with eight phrases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chautukaiy</td>
<td>Stanzas of four phrases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutukaiy</td>
<td>Couplets of two phrases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghar</td>
<td>Beat for the musical measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granth</td>
<td>Holy Scripture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurbani</td>
<td>Guru’s word (or composition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guru</td>
<td>Spiritual Teacher, Sikh prophet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maya</td>
<td>Worldly riches and power, worldly attachment, worldly illusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mehla</td>
<td>Term followed by a number indicating the Guru-who authored a particular hymn in Sri Guru Granth Sahib</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nanak</td>
<td>The first Sikh Guru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchpada</td>
<td>A stanza of five phrases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paurri</td>
<td>Step of a stair case, stanza in an epic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rag, Raag</td>
<td>Musical measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahib</td>
<td>Suffix for Respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salok</td>
<td>Couplet or short stanza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shabad</td>
<td>Sound, word, hymn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikh</td>
<td>Disciple, Follower of Sikhism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri</td>
<td>Prefix for Respect, such as Sir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS)</td>
<td>Sikh Holy Scripture and eternal Guru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turya</td>
<td>A high spiritual state of mind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaar</td>
<td>Epic, a long poem with stanzas and Paurris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waheguru</td>
<td>Wondrous preceptor, God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sikhism comes to us from history and the lives of the Founder-Gurus along with their writings; as also some selected compositions of saints and bards revered in that time and culture.

Many of these poets and bards, came from all castes and divisions of Hinduism, others were from Islam. In the Indian culture of the day, these men would never ever sit together to share their beliefs and practices, nor break bread together, and absolutely would not be caught on the adjoining pages of the same holy book. Yet that is exactly what the Guru Granth, the Sikh scripture, does. When Guru Arjan compiled the first recension of Sikh scripture in 1604, he included the writings of Hindus – both of low castes and high – and also of Muslims. If Judeo-Christian scriptural writings had been freely available at that time, I have little doubt that some would have found inclusion and commentary in this tome – the Adi Granth.

Fully a century later, with minor modifications and the inclusion of the writings of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Master, the living Word of the Adi Granth was anointed as the Guru Granth (now respectfully referred as Sri Guru Granth Sahib). Three centuries have now passed.

Even though the northwest part of the Indian subcontinent is where they arose, historically Sikhs were never really limited to Punjab. The past century has seen large and significant Sikh communities in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, with impressive pockets in much of the European Union, and also in East Africa and many parts of South East Asia.

There is now a sea change in reality. There are generations of Sikhs being raised outside Punjabi ambience all across the world. Almost three million Sikhs now live outside Punjab and India. Adding complexity to this narrative is the fact that Sri Guru Granth Sahib was compiled in the language and the cultural context of the times, yet its message speaks across the bounds of time, geography, and culture.

Guru Nanak, the Founder of the faith, was born in 1469. His writings form a large corpus of the Guru Granth that was finalized by the tenth Master, Guru Gobind Singh in 1708. The script of Sri Guru Granth Sahib is the Guru-designed Gurmukhi; the languages used are many – the lexicon comes from most of the languages extant in India at that time, including Arabic, Persian, the scholarly language of Sanskrit, the language of poetry Braj Bhasha and of course, Punjabi – the native language of Punjab, which itself is a fascinating mélange of the languages of the many invaders who found their way into Punjab through the Khyber pass. These include the Caucasians and Greeks, as well as people from Iran, and what we now term the Middle East. There are many more.
Much of Sikh teaching, therefore, is cast in the metaphoric structure of Indic mythology. Not that this mythology is integral to the Sikh message, but the teaching has to be in the contextual framework of the language, vocabulary and culture of the times. Only then can a student find meaning in it. The entire teaching is in the form of inspired, divine poetry, and like all good poetry that is not doggerel, the reader needs to pause a moment to make sense of the metaphoric language along with its many possible meanings and applications. A literal rendering just will not do.

Keep in mind that Sri Guru Granth Sahib deals with eternal themes that have occupied mankind forever, matters that we are seemingly hard wired for in our DNA: the sense of self, the nature of God and man and the relationship between them, the Creator and Creation and mankind’s fragile but crucial place in it -- from which we then find ways to interpret life and death and principles by which to live and die. This is heavy-duty stuff – though we sometimes dismiss it simply as the “meaning of life” or the “MOL” moment that every life has. The meaning is in the interpretation, and every generation has to explore it anew. This also means that good people will fight over minutiae as well as differ over the broader context.

Obviously then, for a new generation of Sikhs growing up outside the cultural and linguistic milieu of Punjab and Punjabi language, discovering and nurturing a sense of intimacy with the Guru’s message is not so simple a matter. I know of what I speak, for I’ve been there. This is exactly what Daljit Singh Jawa has to contend with. It is no easy task. It’s the kind of work that no one can claim or hope to finish entirely. So Jawa has tried a different tack. He provides the original text (reproduced from Dr. Kulbir Singh Thind’s seminal work in one column and in the next column he gives a transliteration of the original in Romanized script (schematically developed by Dr. Kulbir Singh Thind), so that the novice can read the text reasonably competently.

I have to add that this transliteration is easy on the eyes; it skips most diacritical marks and the bells and whistles that are so critical to a linguist. One could argue that it leaves the reader without the ability to read or mine the words for their exact meaning, but it helps the reader over the greatest of hurdles without the complexity of fine embroidery. This approach undoubtedly benefits the average reader and perhaps whets his/her appetite to delve further into the intricacies of the language and that’s all to the good. And then there’s the icing on the cake: Jawa reserves sufficient space on every page to provide not a literal translation of a hymn (shabad), but a conceptual statement of its essential message in serviceable English, often minus the mythological baggage. I find this an essential and most attractive feature of Daljit Singh Jawa’s painstaking work.

Many complete translations of Siri Guru Granth Sahib in English are available; I know of at least five, and many more translations of selected parts exist. There is no official, approved version. Personally, I like this. I celebrate them all. We may not always agree with any one translation; I don’t, and hope that nor will you. What the many viewpoints do is to propel you, the reader, on a path for yourself. And what can be better than that? This is a large canvas that Daljit Singh Jawa has painted. I hope readers will enjoy it as I have done – particularly the millions who now live outside Punjab and Punjabi ambit and yet are intimately attached to or curious about the Sikh message.

I.J. Singh
July, 2014
Dear Readers,

This brief explanation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib is the author’s humble submission to you after a continuous effort of more than nineteen years. Right at the outset, let me confess that I am no scholar, and no literary figure, who could truly and accurately translate, interpret, or explain what is written in the great scripture called Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS). This is merely a modest attempt to address the need of those readers who want to understand, enjoy, and appreciate what is written in this holy book but being born and raised outside Punjab, India, are not familiar with the language, culture, history or context in which SGGS was originally composed and written more than 500 years ago. The one message, which is both implicit, and explicit in this holy scripture, and which the author particularly wants to share with the rest of the world is that we have been all created by the same one Creator, and “It is The Same Light” which pervades in us all. As such, we are the children of the same parent. Therefore, we should all live like brothers and sisters, always loving each other, and our Creator.

The author is very much grateful to the great Punjabi and English translators whose works he consulted, and kept in front of him while completing this explanation. These eminent scholars include Dr. Sahib Singh, Gyani Harbans Singh, Dr. Bhai Vir Singh, Sardar Manmohan Singh, and Dr. Gopal Singh. In addition the author is grateful to all his family members, friends, and other well wishers, who helped him in this effort.

The author acknowledges the work done by S. Gurbaksh Singh Saggu of Patiala (India), for putting together the Gurmukhi text, and English transliteration of each shabad in Sri Guru Granth Sahib from the Gurbani CD authored by Dr. Kulbir Singh Thind, MD and its English interpretation by the author in its present printable form.

The author is very grateful to S. Ranbir Singh Kaberwal of Lawrence Kansas for creating and maintaining the web site www.gurbaniwisdom.com”, uploading all the volumes of “It Is The Same Light”, and other information about the author on this site.

Finally the author gratefully acknowledges, the painstaking editing work done by his brother Dr. Manjit Singh Jawa in carefully going over the entire volume, and ensuring that no unintended mistakes in grammar, spelling, or meaning of the text have escaped the author’s notice.

I hope the readers would find this work to be helpful in better understanding the divine message, which the Sikh Gurus, great Hindu devotees, Muslim mystics, and other saints want to convey to us for the enrichment of our worldly life, and the eternal peace of our soul.

Daljit Singh Jawa
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February, 2015
## CONTENTS

### Volume 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Sub Group</th>
<th>Page SGGS</th>
<th>Page Vol. VII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pronunciation Key</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raag Sarang</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehla 4</td>
<td>1201</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashtpadian</td>
<td>1232</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarang Ki Vaar M:4</td>
<td>1237</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baani Bhagtan Kee</td>
<td>1251</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raag Malar</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chaupadey M:1</td>
<td>1254</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malar M: 3</td>
<td>1257</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raag Malar M:4</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raag Malar M: 5</td>
<td>1266</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashtpadian</td>
<td>1273</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raag Malar Chhant M:5</td>
<td>1278</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vaar Malar Kee</td>
<td>1278</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baani Bhagat Naam Dev jeo kee</td>
<td>1292</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baani Bhagat Ravidas Ji Kee</td>
<td>1293</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raag Kanrra</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chaupdey M:4</td>
<td>1294</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kanrre Kee Vaar</td>
<td>1312</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bani Nam Dev Ji Kee</td>
<td>1318</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raag Kalyan</strong></td>
<td>Methla 4</td>
<td>1319</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raag Parbhati</strong></td>
<td>Bibhaas M:1</td>
<td>1327</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parbhati M:3</td>
<td>1334</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parbhati M:4 Bibhaas</td>
<td>1335</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parbhati M:5 Bibhas</td>
<td>1337</td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baani Bhagat Kabeer Ji Kee</td>
<td>1349</td>
<td>594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raag Jaijavanti</strong></td>
<td>Methla 9</td>
<td>1352</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salok Sehskriti M:5</td>
<td>1353</td>
<td>612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehla 5 Gaatha</td>
<td>1360</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funhaiy Mehta 5</td>
<td>1361</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chouboailey M:5</td>
<td>1364</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salok Bhagat Kabir Jee Key</td>
<td>1364</td>
<td>662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salok Shekh Farid Key</td>
<td>1377</td>
<td>726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Savayaey</strong></td>
<td>Mukh Baak Mehta 5</td>
<td>1385</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehley Pehley Key</td>
<td>1389</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehley Doojey Key</td>
<td>1391</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehley Teejey Key</td>
<td>1392</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehley Chouthey Key</td>
<td>1396</td>
<td>795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehley Panjavey Key</td>
<td>1406</td>
<td>824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salok Vaaraan Te Vadheek</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehta 1</td>
<td>1410</td>
<td>833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehta 3</td>
<td>1413</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehta 4</td>
<td>1421</td>
<td>872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salok Mehta 9</td>
<td>1426</td>
<td>891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mundaavani Mehta 5</td>
<td>1429</td>
<td>906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salok Mehta 5</td>
<td>1429</td>
<td>907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raag Maala</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1429</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurmukhi Character</td>
<td>Symbols used for romanization</td>
<td>Examples of Pronunciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>அ, ಅ, ।</td>
<td>A, A, E</td>
<td>abut, ago, abroad, achieve, adopt, agree, alone, banana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>அ (a)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ஓ (o)</td>
<td>Ao</td>
<td>oak, oath, oatmeal,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ஓ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ஸ</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>source, less, simple, some</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ஹ</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>hat, head, hand, happy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>க</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>kin, cook, ache, kick, cat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>Kh</td>
<td>German ich, Buch (deep palatal sound of k) Khaki (a yellowish color), Khomeni (Ayatula)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ி</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>go, big, gift, gag, game</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>஘</td>
<td>gh</td>
<td>Deep palatal sound of ‘g’ something like in ghost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>ny</td>
<td>Must be learnt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>ch</td>
<td>chin, nature, church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>chh</td>
<td>Similar to sh in shin, must be learnt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ஜ</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>job, gem, edge, join, judge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ஜ</td>
<td>jh</td>
<td>Deep labial sound of ‘j’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>ni</td>
<td>Must be learnt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>tie, attack, tin, tap,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>th</td>
<td>thug,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>did, adder, deed, dam, double,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ங</td>
<td>dh</td>
<td>Deep palatal sound of ‘d’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>n</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>Must be learnt.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>th</td>
<td>thin, thick, three, ether,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>the, then, either, this, there</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dh</td>
<td>Deep labial sound of ‘the’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>no, own, sudden, nib,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>pepper, lip, pit, paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>fifty, cuff, phase, rough, fit, foot, fur</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>baby, rib, bib, button,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bh</td>
<td>Deep palatal sound of ‘b’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>mum, murmur, dim, nymph</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>yard, young, union</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>red, car, rarity, rose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>lily, pool, lid, needle, lamb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>vivid, give, live</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>rh</td>
<td>Deep palatal sound of ‘r’ (must be learnt)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sh</td>
<td>shy, mission, machine, special</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>kh</td>
<td>Deep palatal sound of ‘kh’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Deep palatal sound of ‘g’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>zone, raise, zebra, xylem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>Deep labial sound of ‘f’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>Deep palatal sound of ‘l’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Same as ‘h’ but of short duration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>H</td>
<td>Same as ‘h’ but of short duration</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>ch</td>
<td>Same as ‘ch’ but of short duration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Like the previous shabad, in this shabad Guru Ji repeatedly urges his mind (and indirectly us) to meditate on God’s Name and he lists many more benefits and blessings of following this advice.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on the God of all gods, the Master of all, (who even appeared as) a man-lion (to save His devotee Prehlad. That God is) my beloved Spouse.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji now lists some of the blessings received by those who from the core of their hearts sing praises of God. He says: “(O’ my mind), that house (of the heart) in which are sung praises of God, such is the bliss in that house (that heart, as if) an orchestra with all the five kinds of music is being played there. Great is the destiny of those (who are blessed with such a state). Gone are the sins, the sorrows, the ailments, and the (impulses for) lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego of those devotees, (as if) God has beaten out all the five thieves (from their minds).”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by repeatedly urging us to meditate on God. He says: “O’ saints of God, utter the Name of the Master of the universe. O’ saints of God, meditate on and repeatedly utter the Name of that Creator, and remember Him with every thought, deed and word of yours. By repeatedly uttering the Name of that all pervading God, you would get rid of all your sins. Therefore every day wake up to repeat God’s Name and enjoy the bliss of meditating on the Master of the universe. (By doing so), you would obtain all the fruits of your desire, (including) righteousness, riches, success, and salvation. Nanak says, (in this way) O’ God, Your devotee is united with You.”(2-2-9)
It is the same light

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want that all our sins and sorrows are dispelled and all our wishes fulfilled, then we should repeatedly meditate on God’s Name with full concentration of our mind and body.

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want that all our sins and sorrows are dispelled and all our wishes fulfilled, then we should repeatedly meditate on God’s Name with full concentration of our mind and body. In this *shabad* again, Guru Ji urges his mind (and indirectly us) to meditate on God’s Name. He describes the kind of longing, deep love, and craving with which he meditates on God. He also relates what happened when he obtained the guidance of his Guru and meditated on God with full love and devotion.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God, the Destroyer of demons, the Spouse of goddess *Lakshami*, and the Inner knower of all hearts. Yes, sing praises of that beloved God who is the Destroyer of all pains and Giver of all comforts.”(1-pause)

Expressing, how much he desires to see his Beloved God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I have a longing to see that God, who abides in each and every heart, abides in all lands, waters, and spaces. O’ saints, (I wish that) some saint and devotee of God may come and show me the way to (reach) my beloved God. I would again and again massage and shampoo the feet (and most humbly serve) that devotee.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by telling us what kind of persons have met God, what they had to do, and whose help they had to seek. He also describes his own experience in this regard and says: “(O’ my friends), it is only the devotees of God, whom He has met. It is because of their devotion for Him and by the grace of the Guru that God has met them. (I) devotee Nanak have also been blessed with (Guru and) God’s grace. Therefore day and
night I have meditated on God’s Name, and because of that, bliss has welled up in my mind and body and I have seen God the King.”(2-3-10)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the bliss of union with that God who is the Dispeller of all pains and the Giver of all pleasures, then we should humbly serve (and follow) our Guru, who would show us the path to God’s door. Then as per Guru’s guidance, we should meditate on God’s Name with full devotion and dedication, so that He may bestow His mercy upon us and bless us also with His vision.

**Sarang Mehla-4**

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the bliss of union with that God who is the Dispeller of all pains and the Giver of all pleasures, then we should humbly serve (and follow) our Guru, who would show us the path to God’s door. Then as per Guru’s guidance, we should meditate on God’s Name with full devotion and dedication so that He may bestow His mercy on us and bless us with His union. In this shabad, Guru Ji addresses his mind and indirectly tells us what exactly we need to do to obtain union with God.

Advising his mind (indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on the Fearless God who is everlasting and eternal. He is without enmity, His form is beyond death, He never falls into existences, and has manifested from Himself. O’ my mind, night and day meditate on that Formless God who doesn’t need any food (for His survival).”(1-pause)

Guru Ji now tells us how many and what kind of different people and entities are trying to find God, and whose effort has been fruitful. He says: “(O’ my friends), the three hundred thirty million gods, (innumerable) adepts, celibates, and yogis keep going around holy places and remaining hungry for the sake of seeing God. But only the service of those devotees becomes fruitful on whom God becomes gracious.”(1)
In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), blessed and sublime are those saints and devotees of God, who are pleasing to the all pervading God, the Destroyer of demons. O’ Nanak, whose side my Master takes, their honor He saves.”(2-4-11)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to have God on our side and want Him to always save our honor, then we should meditate on Him day and night so that He may show mercy on us and bless us with His sight.

SGGS P-1202

This shabad is in Parraal, which means to repeat a certain thing or message. Here it means that while singing, the rhythm of the drums changes many times. In this shabad again, Guru Ji repeatedly urges his mind (actually ours) to meditate on the Name of that God who is the treasure of all virtues.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on that God of the universe who is the Treasure of all merits and Master of the entire universe. Yes O’ my mind, utter the Name of that Imperishable Being who is pervading everywhere.”(1-pause)

However, not everybody is fortunate enough to taste the elixir of God’s Name. Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), the Name of God is (life giving water like) nectar. But only that person drinks (this nectar), whom God (Himself) makes to drink. Showing mercy whom the Merciful (God) unites with the true Guru, that devotee tastes the nectar of God’s Name.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by listing the blessings of meditating on God. He says: “(O’ my mind), the devotees who always serve (meditate on) my God, all their pain, doubt, and fear goes away. Just as a Chaatrik (pied cuckoo) is satiated when it finds water, similarly devotee Nanak feels rejuvenated by meditating on (God’s) Name.”(2-5-12)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to unite us with the true Guru, so that under his guidance we may meditate on God’s Name day and night. Then all our doubts and sufferings would go away, and we will be fully satiated (from worldly desires).
This is the last shabad in Parntaal series, in which along with the change in rhythms of the drums, Guru Ji instructs us to meditate on the Name of Raam, the all pervading God of the universe.

So once again addressing his mind (and indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on that Raam, that God who is pervading everywhere, who is eternal and everlasting. O’ my brothers, utter again and again the Name of that God who is pervading in all and knows everything.”(1-pause)

Shedding light on the greatness of God and His all powerfulness, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that God is all by Himself, He Himself is the Creator of everything and He Himself is present in all places of the world. The person on whom that God of mine shows mercy, that devotee gets attuned to the love of God’s Name.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by pointing to the greatness of God. He says: “O’ saints of God, look at the glory of God’s Name, which saves the honor of His devotees in the midst of the fire (of evils) in Kal-Yug (the present age). My God, the King has taken the side of devotee Nanak and all my enemies and sorrows have hastened away.”(92-6-13)

The message of this shabad is that if we want that all our enemies and pains to vanish, then we should meditate on God’s Name again and again.
In the previous many shabads, Guru Ji advised us to meditate on God's Name under Guru's guidance. Because without Guru's guidance we cannot really grasp what is meant by God's Name, and without Name we cannot obtain true peace or salvation. That is why in this shabad, he expresses his respect and praise for his Guru and God.

He says: "(O' my friends), I am a sacrifice to the sight of my true Guru. Just as a Chaatrir (cuckoo bird) has the thirst for water, similarly I keep wondering, when shall I obtain the fruitful vision (of that Guru-God)?" (1-pause)

Acknowledging the greatness of God, he says: "(O' God), You are the Support of the supportless, Sustainer of all, and Your Name is the lover of Your devotees. Whom no human being can protect, You provide support to that person." (1)

Continuing to state the merits of God, Guru Ji says: "(O' God), You are the Patron of the patron less, Emancipator of those who couldn't be emancipated (by anyone else), and the Home for the homeless. In all the ten directions, wherever I go, I find You in my company. (Therefore by Your grace), I do the deed of singing Your praise." (2)

Next expressing his wonder at the amazing deeds of God, Guru Ji says: "(O' God), from one You become millions (of galaxies), and from millions (of galaxies), You become one again. I cannot describe Your state and extent. You are limitless, Your worth cannot be appraised, all what I see is Your play, (O' my God)." (3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: "(O' God), I join (only) the company of Your saints, I converse (only) with the saints, and attune myself to the love of Your devotees. Nanak says (that it is through) Guru's instruction that devotees have obtained You. (O’ God), in my mind is a craving that You may bless me also with Your sight."
The message of this *shabad* is that we should seek the guidance of our Guru and meditate on God’s Name, so that He may show mercy on us and bless us also with His sight. (4-1)

This *shabad* is perhaps the mirror of our own life, which Guru Ji is showing to us. It is particularly applicable to those who from the outside, appear to be holy and religious, but privately indulge in all sorts of vices. They don’t realize that like air, God is present everywhere, is a witness to all their deeds and will punish them sooner or later.

So cautioning us, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God is the Inner knower of all hearts. A person may do an evil deed and hide it from another man, but like air, God is present everywhere and is a witness to everything.”(1-pause)

Commenting on those who call themselves very holy persons and outwardly observe all the faith rituals, but in their hearts is falsehood and evil, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, they who) call themselves *Vaishnavs* (devotees of god *Vishnu*) and do all the six (prescribed ritualistic) deeds (of their faith), but within them is the pollution of greed, and who indulge in the slander of saints’ company, due to (spiritual) ignorance, drown (in the worldly sea).”(1)
Continuing his comments on such people, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, outwardly they exhibit so much purity), that they (insist on) cooking their own food. (But in actual life), they steal others’ wealth, and within (their mind) is falsehood and self-conceit. They don’t understand (the essence of) the tradition (established by) Shastras and Vedas, but remain caught in the conceit of their own mind (and think that whatever they do is perfectly all right and righteous}).”(2)

Commenting further on their conduct, Guru Ji says: “Such apparently holy people say the daily prayers and observe all the required fasts. (But all this effort of theirs is like) the false show of a wandering magician. They have been strayed by God and put on bewildering paths and all their (ritualistic) deeds are fruitless.”(3)

Now Guru Ji tells us who is a truly learned person or a true devotee of god Vaishnovo. He says: “(O’ my friends, that person alone is truly) wise and (a true) Vaishnav, or a learned person, on whom God has shown His grace. By following the true Guru, they have obtained supreme (spiritual) status and the entire world is saved (in their company).”(4)

However Guru Ji concludes the shabad by acknowledging human inability to say anything about God. He says: “(O’ my friends), what can we say? We don’t know what to say (about God). As it pleases God, so He makes us speak. Devotee Nanak has sought (God’s) shelter, and he only begs for the dust of the feet of the congregation of saints.”(5-2)

The message of this shabad is that instead of indulging in outer signs and practices of righteousness while our inside is full of evil and sinful thoughts, we should seek the guidance of the Guru and humble service of holy congregations. Only then would we become truly wise and obtain sublime spiritual status.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of indulging in outer signs and practices of righteousness, while our inside is full of evil and sinful thoughts, we should seek the guidance of the Guru and humble service of holy congregations. Only then would we become truly wise and obtain sublime spiritual status. In this shabad, he shares with us his own experience and tells us what happened when he reflected on Gurbani, the word of the Guru.

He says. “(O’ my friends, by reflecting on Gurbani) the word of the true Guru, I have easily found my lively Beloved. Now my dancing (wandering around for the sake of worldly wealth) has ceased.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji cites a beautiful example of those days to illustrate his newly acquired steady state of the mind. In those days, girls used to be very shy. They might laugh and talk very gregariously in front of other girlfriends about their spouses, but used to stop talking in the presence of their spouses, as if they don’t know how to speak. So quoting this analogy, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), just as an unmarried girl may talk and joke about her spouse before her (girl) friends, but as soon as the Beloved groom comes inside the house, she (immediately) covers her face in shyness. (Similarly, since God has manifested in me, my mind has become steady and quiet).”(1)

Guru Ji now gives another example to illustrate the stability and poise we obtain when we become perfectly pure and fit to merge in God. He says: “(O’ my friends), just as when (unpurified) gold is put in the hot crucible (for melting), it keeps moving around madly, but when it becomes hundred percent pure it stays steady in a place. (Similarly before meeting God, one keeps wandering in all directions in search of worldly riches, but when by reflecting on Guru’s word, one becomes immaculate, one becomes satiated and wanders no more in search of material things).”(2)

Giving yet another example of those days when only a few people used to have clocks or watches and the city managers used to appoint a special person to strike a big bronze bell after certain preset intervals. This person would keep the bell ringing all the twenty-four hours but when he went away somewhere, the bell would stop ringing till his replacement was appointed. Citing this metaphor, Guru Ji says: “As long as there are days and nights, (the bell) keeps ringing with every hour and set interval. But when the bell-ringer (soul) rises up and departs, then there is no more ringing.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by explaining his merging in God with yet another metaphor. He says: “Just as, when a pitcher is filled with water and pulled out (from an open well), it appears different (than the rest of the water). But O’ Nanak, when the pitcher is put back into (the main) water, the water (of the pitcher) merges in the water (of the river or the well, and you cannot distinguish between the two. Similarly I have become one with the Almighty.”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain the supreme state of peace and bliss, then like gold we would have to put ourselves in the crucible of purifying deeds and follow the true Guru’s words (or Gurbani). So that showing His mercy God may unite us with Him, and all our wanderings for worldly riches may end.
In the previous many *shabads*, Guru Ji advised us that this human birth is a rare opportunity for us to reunite with that God from whom we have been separated for such a long time. But in spite of all such advice from Guru Ji and all other holy people, we human beings generally forget the true objective of our lives and get strayed into false worldly pursuits.

The result is that in the end, instead of having God’s Name to our credit, we depart from the world with the load of additional sins and evil deeds in our account. In this *shabad*, putting himself in our situation, Guru Ji chastens his mind about this critical problem and suggests a way to extricate itself from this situation.

As if talking to himself, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), now what answer would you give, if someone were to ask you and say, O’ fool, you had come (to this world) to obtain (the rejuvenating) elixir of the nectar (of God’s Name), but you have remained clinging to the poison (of worldly wealth, why)?”(1-pause)

Now addressing human beings in general, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), after a very long time you obtained this (invaluable human) birth, but it is (going waste, as if being) exchanged for a shell. (Your situation is like that) customer, who comes (to a market to buy) musk, but departs after loading (useless things like) saline clay and barley weeds.”(1)

Continuing his address to the strayed human beings like us, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), you had come here (to earn) the profit (of God’s Name), but you have been entangled by the
It is the same light

Captivating poison (of worldly riches. As if) for the sake of glass, you have lost the ruby. (I wonder), when would you get such a valuable opportunity again?" (2)

Commenting further on our situation, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, we) are full of all sins and don’t have even a single virtue in us. Forsaking (God) the Master, we run after His maid -servant (worldly wealth). Just as a thief becomes unconscious on being beaten when caught red handed while breaking into a house, similarly we become unconscious and unaware like dead matter (when the question of meditation on God’s Name arises).” (3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by suggesting the way to get out of this situation. Again putting himself in our situation, he says: “I cannot think of any other way (except that) I should humbly seek the shelter of (God’s) servants. Nanak says, O’ my mind, we are emancipated (from the worldly attachment), only when we drive out all our faults.” (4-4)

The message of this shabad is that we are wasting away our precious time doing sinful things for the sake of worldly riches and power. If death suddenly over takes us, we would have nothing to say in our defense. Therefore, if we want to save our selves from severe punishment, then we should seek the shelter of saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji), and following the advice contained therein, drive out our faults and meditate on God’s Name.

saarag mehlaa 5.
maa-ee Dheer rahee pari-a bahut biraagi-o. anik bhaaat aanooop rang ray tin si-o ruchai na laagi-o. ||1|| rahaa-o.
nis baasur pari-a pari-a mukh tayra-o nee’d palak nahee jaagi-o. haar kajar bastar anik seegaar ray bin pir sabh hai bikh laagi-o. ||1||

SGGS P-1204
poochha-o poochha-o deen bhaat k kar ko-oo kahai pari-a daysaa’gi-o. hee’o day-u sabh man tan arpa-o sees charan par raakhi-o. ||2|| charan bangnaa amol gaasro day-u saaDhsangat ardaagi-o. karahu kirpaa mohi parabho milaavhu nimakh daras paykhaagi-o. ||3||
darisat bha-e tab bheetar aa-i-o mayraa man an-din see’tlaagi-o. kaho naanak ras mangal gaa-ay sabad anaahad baaji-o. ||4||5||
Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Sarang Mehla-5

In this shabad again, Guru Ji uses his favorite metaphor of a young lonely bride who so much pines for the sight of her beloved groom, that day and night, she keeps uttering his name and keeps looking for and asking about his whereabouts from everybody. But when in spite of her efforts she cannot find any clue, she loses her patience. Guru Ji imagines himself to be that lonely bride and God as his beloved Groom and shares with us the feelings of his heart.

As if talking to his mother in the metaphor of that lonely bride, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, I am feeling extreme pain of separation from my Beloved, so much so that my patience is exhausted. (Even though) all kinds of exceptionally entertaining events are going on, I don’t feel interested in these at all.”(1-pause)

Describing his present state of mind, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), day and night I repeatedly utter the name of my Beloved. I cannot sleep even for a moment and remain awake (the entire night). Without (the company of my) Beloved, all (such embellishments as) necklaces, eye powder, clothes, and innumerable decorations, seem like poison to me.’(1)

Telling how desperately he is searching for his beloved Groom, Guru Ji says: “Again and again, I am wandering around like a most humble person and ask if anyone can (at least) tell me about the country in which my Beloved (lives). I would surrender my heart and offer all my mind and body (to that person) and would place my head at his feet (in respect).”(2)

Now describing what final effort he made in his search for his Beloved, Guru Ji says: “(I finally approached the saint Guru and said to him, “I am like your) priceless slave, I bow to your feet and pray to you to bless me with (the company of your) holy congregation. (So that I may pray before it and say, O’ saintly persons), please show mercy (on me), unite me with my Beloved, and let me see Him just for a moment.”(3)

Describing the result of his prayer before the holy congregation of the saint (Guru), he says: “(On hearing this prayer), the merciful glance of God fell upon me, then He came (to reside) within me and my mind became cool and calm (at all times of) day and night. Nanak says, then with great relish I sang songs of joy, and now (I remain absorbed in a state of divine bliss at all times, as if) within me keeps playing the melody of non stop divine music.”(4-5)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to unite with our beloved God and enjoy a unique state of bliss and happiness, then we should have such a deep and intense longing for Him that we should be ready to sacrifice anything for His vision and pray to the holy congregation (of the saint Guru), to unite us with our Beloved. Then God would show His mercy upon us and would bless us with His most comforting and blissful sight.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji shared with us how desperately he was longing for and searching for his beloved God, and how, ultimately, when he humbly prayed to the holy congregation (of the saint Guru), God showed mercy and blessed him with His blissful sight. Therefore in this shabad, he describes how like God, the word of the saint (Guru) is true and everlasting and can always unite us with the invisible and incomprehensible God.

As if again talking to his mother, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, true and eternal is that God. Also true and eternal are God’s saints. Therefore, whatever word (or instruction) the perfect Guru has given me, I have firmly enshrined in my mind.”

Stating how everlasting is the word of the Guru, he says: “(O’ my mother), the days and nights, the stars shall perish and the sun and the moon would vanish. The mountains, earth, water, and air would pass away, but only the word of the saint (Guru) would last forever (and would continue to provide spiritual guidance forever).”

Continuing to describe how everlasting is the word of the Guru, he says: “(O’ my mother, all the creatures born) through eggs, fetus, earth, or sweat would perish (one day). Also the four Vedas, and six Shastras would perish, but the word of the saint (Guru) is everlasting.”

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my mother), all the (three modes of human nature for) virtue, vice, and power would vanish. (In fact, whatever is) visible would all perish, but only the word of the saint (Guru) would remain unfathomable (and eternal).”

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother, that God) who alone is like Himself, and who has Himself shown this play of the world cannot be obtained in any way. He is obtained only by meeting (and following) the Guru’s advice.”
The message of this shabad is that we should recognize the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Our ten Gurus have blessed us with the eternal and imperishable word of God in Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Even when all other creatures of the world and all that we see would perish, the advice contained therein would remain. Therefore, we should always listen, understand and act on the advice (given in Guru Granth Sahib).

In this shabad, Guru Ji shares with us the bliss he is enjoying as a result of experiencing the presence of God in him. He also compares the state of those people who sing praises of God in the company of saintly persons with the plight of those who forsake God and keep running after false worldly riches and pleasures.

On the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji observes and says: “(O’ my friends), within my mind is residing the Guru God. (I feel that) wherever there is the meditation of God, in that city (of the mind) is peace and bliss.”(1-pause)

Comparing the state of those who forsake God with those who sing God’s praises, as if showing both sides of the picture, Guru Ji says: “Where ever the loving Master is forgotten, there all kinds of miseries and calamities prevail. But where there is singing of praises of that Blissful and Joyous God, there are all kinds of comforts and enjoyments.”(1)

Continuing the above comparison, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), where we don’t hear the gospel of God with our ears, that place is like a dark dreadful jungle. But in the society of saints, where they sing praises (of God), and the relish of the congregation of saintly
persons is present, (that place is like a garden) where there is an intense fragrance of fruits.’”(2)

Now commenting on many persons’ desire to live for a long time, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, even if) one lives for millions of years, without meditating (on God), all one’s life is a waste. But if one (sincerely) meditates on God just for one moment, one lives (a spiritual life) forever.”(3)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by praying to God for the company of the saintly persons. He says: “(O’ God), showing mercy, please bless me with the company of saints, so that I may always obtain Your shelter. O’ Nanak, that (God) is pervading in all and He knows the way to bless anybody with all kinds of merits.”(4-7)

The message of this shabad is that where there is singing of praises of God with full dedication and sincerity, there is peace and bliss. On the other hand, where God is forsaken there is pain and suffering.

**Sarang Mehla-5**

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that where there is singing of praises of God with full dedication and sincerity, there is peace and bliss. On the other hand where God is forsaken, there is pain and suffering. In this shabad, he relates his own experience and tells us what kind of faith and trust he has developed in his mind about the protection of God, and blessings He bestows on those devotees who meditate on His Name and seek His shelter.
He says: “(O’ my friends), now I have developed so much faith in the all pervading God that whosoever seek the shelter of that Ocean of mercy, He has ferried them across the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”(1-pause)

Describing his present happy state, he says: “(My) Guru has rid me of all doubt, so now I sleep in peace and remain absorbed in a state of poise. Whatever I wished, God has done that and I have obtained the fruit of my heart’s desire.”(1)

Stating how he leads his life now, Guru Ji says: “(Now), in my heart I meditate (on God). With my eyes, I focus on Him. With my ears I listen to (His) discourse. With my feet, I walk to my Master and my tongue sings the praises of God.”(2)

Also expressing his gratitude to his Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends, since the time) the saint (Guru) turned (my mind) back (from worldly desires), I have seen God the embodiment of all bliss with my own eyes. I have obtained the loving and priceless diamond of (God’s) Name, which doesn’t abandon me.”(3)

But Guru Ji doesn’t claim any credit for receiving God’s grace. Instead he says: “(O’ my friends), what kind of praise, what glory of His, may I state, or mention which of His merits to please Him? Devotee Nanak says that on whom the merciful Master becomes gracious, He makes that person the servant of His servants (and blesses with glory).”(4-8)

The message of this shabad is that we should most humbly follow the advice of God’s devotees (Gurbani included in Guru Granth Sahib). Then our mind would turn away from worldly desires and would remain absorbed in meditation of God’s Name, and we would enjoy a state of true peace and bliss.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should most humbly follow the advice of God’s devotees. Then our mind would turn away from worldly desires and would remain absorbed in meditation of God’s Name and we would enjoy a state of true peace and bliss.

In this shabad, he tells us what kind of inexplicable peace and bliss a person enjoys by meditating on God’s Name and experiencing the presence of God within.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the person) who, upon seeing God, experiences a state of divine bliss and (celestial) pleasures in the heart sings songs of joy, but cannot give the description of that bliss to anybody.” (1)

Describing his own state of total delight on seeing God, he says: “(O’ my friends), I went into a state of ecstasy upon seeing that astounding and merciful God who is pervading everywhere. (When) I drank the nectar of His priceless Name (I became like a) dumb person who smiles on tasting (a delicious sweet, but cannot describe its taste).” (1)

Citing another example to explain how the state of bliss being enjoyed by a person who has experienced God within, cannot be estimated, he says: “(Just as people) cannot guess (where in the body, a yogi) has held his breath, and cannot understand how he is inhaling or exhaling, (similarly) in whose heart manifests (God), their state cannot be described.” (2)

Guru Ji now tells, how unique is the way to experience and enjoy the presence of God in one’s own mind, as compared to learning other techniques.

He says: “(O’ my friends), all other skills, which we talk about can be acquired by learning (from others). But in whose heart the jewel like (God) has become manifest, (the state of mind of that person) is beyond comprehension.” (3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that God who is beyond the three qualities (of Maya), is without form and is imperishable, He is inestimable and His worth cannot be estimated. Nanak says, it behooves only that person to describe his or her state, who has endured the unendurable (bliss of God’s sight).” (4-9)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy such a unique experience of peace, poise, bliss, and ecstasy, which is beyond words, then we have to pray to God to bless us with His Name, so that one day on His own, He may come and manifest Himself in our heart and we may enjoy that most wonderful experience.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji described the state of bliss and ecstasy experienced by a person who meditates on God’s Name and experiences the manifestation of God within him. In this shabad, he describes the state and fate of a person, who forsaking God’s Name remains involved in all kinds of vices, such as drinking, slandering, and adultery.

Guru Ji says: “A vicious person spends day and night (and wastes his or her life) in vain. Being intoxicated with haughty intellect, he or she doesn’t meditate on God and loses his or her life like a gambler (losing all wealth).”(1-pause)

Commenting on the conduct of such a person, Guru Ji says: “(Such a person) has no love for the priceless (God’s) Name, but is infatuated with slandering others. (That person may do many other good deeds, but because of the habit of slandering, that person’s state is like the one who) after carefully building a straw hut lights fire in front of its door.”(1)

Continuing to comment on the conduct of a vicious person, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, a slanderer is like the one who casts away the nectar (of Name) from the mind, but carries a load of saline earth (of sinful deeds on the head. Outwardly such a person appears to be very honest and virtuous, but inwardly commits many sins and then tries to wash these off by bathing at pilgrimage places again and again). Such a person is like the one who, wearing (clean) clothes, enters (a room full of) soot and then tries to shake it off again and again.”(2)

As for the terrible fate awaiting such a sinner, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the state of such a wicked person is like the one) who, while standing on the branch of a tree, is cutting the same while eating (its fruits) and smiling. (But when the tree is cut down completely), falls down headlong and (his or her bones) are shattered into small bits.”(3) Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing how such a person picks quarrels even with innocent saints. He says: “A sinner even brooks enmity with (a saint) who bears no enmity (toward anyone), but the fool cannot reach (the blissful state of the saint and) cannot harm him at all. Nanak says that the formless God is the protector of (His) saints.”(4-10)
The message of the shabad is that we should not waste our time in any kinds of sinful pursuits such as drinking, doing drugs, illicit sex, or slandering others. By doing these things, we would waste our precious life in vain, and our state would be like those who set their own houses on fire. Therefore, we should use this wonderful opportunity of human birth to meditate on God’s Name and enjoy the bliss of reunion with our Creator.

In this shabad, Guru Ji explains why meditating on God’s Name is more important than involvement in worldly affairs and why without it, none of our ritualistic worships or reading of scriptures can bring us salvation.

Comparing the state of those who meditate on God’s Name with those who do many rituals, but don’t meditate on the Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all others (who are engaged in any kind of ritualistic worships) are strayed (from the right path). They are lost in doubt and have not realized (God. On the other hand), in whose heart is enshrined the one pure Word (of God’s Name, that person has) understood the essence of (all holy scriptures like) Vedas.”(1-pause)
Some people spend all their lives running after worldly affairs. Regarding this kind of life, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all what happens in the way of life (of remaining) involved in worldly affairs, is for the sake of pleasing other people (and keeping false prestige). But so long as one’s mind is not illuminated (with divine knowledge), there is pitch darkness (of ignorance in one’s spiritual life, and one keeps wasting one’s time in useless pursuits.”(1)

Guru Ji cites another common day example to explain the absolute necessity of meditating on God’s Name. He says: “(Just as a farmer) prepares his land in many different ways, but without (sowing) the seed nothing grows in it, (similarly) without meditating on God’s Name, salvation is not obtained and one’s ego is not ended.”(2)

Next commenting on the importance of the guidance of the Guru for meditating on God’s Name, he says: “Even if one makes an utmost effort, but if one is churning water, (there is no way one can) obtain butter. (Similarly) without seeing the Guru (and following his guidance) no one ever meets the God of the universe, nor achieves salvation.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “After searching (and reflecting) again and again, I have realized that God’s Name is (the source of) all comforts. But Nanak says, that one alone obtains (this gift) in whose destiny it has been so ordained.”(4-11)

The message of this shabad is that only by meditating on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance, we can obtain salvation. All other kinds of ritualistic worships are of no use. However one obtains the gift of God’s Name only if one has been so pre-ordained to obtain it.
Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad by saying: “After searching (and reflecting) again and again, I have realized that God’s Name is (the source of) all comforts. But Nanak says, that one alone obtains (this gift) in whose destiny it has been so ordained.” In this shabad, he lovingly invites us to come and join him in singing praises of God and lists many more blessings and virtues of meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), everyday we should utter praises of the all-pervading God. (So that we may) obtain all the things (we need), all comforts, miraculous powers, and the fruits of our heart’s desire.”(1-pause)

Now affectionately inviting us to join him in singing praises of God, he says: “Come O’ my dear saints, let us meditate on the imperishable God, who gives comfort to our life-breaths. (That God) is the support of the supportless, destroyer of pains of the meek, pervading everywhere, and is residing in the hearts (of all).”(1)

Stating how fortunate they become who sing God’s praises, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my dear saints), they who sing and recite God’s praises with devotion, become very fortunate by drinking the elixir of God’s (Name). Their bodies are rid of all pains and sufferings and they remain awake in the love of God’s Name.”(2)

Listing other vices and faults we get rid of by meditating on God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when we meditate on God, we discard lust, anger, falsehood, and slander and we are liberated from the (worldly) bonds. By Guru’s grace we are also emancipated from (the evils of) intoxication of worldly wealth, arrogance, and blind worldly love.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji humbly prays to God and says: “O’ God, You are the all-powerful, all-pervading Master. Please show mercy (on me), Your servant. Nanak says that the Master, who is pervading in all is near (us all).”(4-12)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our weaknesses and vices, such as lust, anger, greed, falsehood, slander, and worldly attachments, then joining the company of saintly persons, we should daily sing praises of God with great love and devotion.
In the previous shabad Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our weaknesses and vices, such as lust, anger, greed, falsehood, slander, and worldly attachments, then joining the company of holy saints we should daily sing praises of God. In this shabad, he tells how much and why he loves and respects his Guru. He also tells us what kinds of blessings the devotees obtain who, under the guidance of the Guru, meditate on God's Name.

Guru Ji says: “(O' my friends), I am a sacrifice to the feet of my Guru (his immaculate words). Because in his company, we meditate on the all-pervading God and whose sermon emancipates us (from worldly bonds).”(1-pause)

Describing other benefits, a person obtains who comes to the Guru's shelter, he says: “(O' my friends), one who comes to the shelter of God's saint (the Guru), all that one's sorrows, ailments, and fears are destroyed. (That person) himself meditates and makes others to meditate on that God's Name, who is very capable, and is like a ship to ferry us across.”(1)

Continuing to describe the merits of the Guru, he says: “(O' my friends, I am a sacrifice to that Guru), whose mantra dispels one's doubt and fills to the brim (with merits), the one who is empty (and bereft of any virtue). In short, they who obey the command of God's servants don't fall into the womb (and go through rounds of birth and death) again.”(2)

Guru Ji adds: “They who serve (and follow the advice of) the devotees and sing (praises of God), their pains of birth and death are removed. They on whom God has become gracious, bear the unbearable (bliss of) God's Name.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by briefly explaining the bliss and conduct of such persons who are blessed by the grace of Guru and God. He says: “(O' my friends), they who have been satiated with the relish of God and have merged in a state of poise, cannot describe (this experience). Nanak says, by Guru's grace they are blessed with contentment, and by meditating on God again and again are emancipated.”(4-13)

The message of this shabad is that we should humbly serve (and follow the advice of) saint (Guru) and meditate on God's Name. By doing so we would get rid of all our doubts and dreads, obtain freedom from any future pains of birth and death, and enjoy such a state of peace and bliss, which is beyond description.
**Sarang Mehla-5**

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised that we should humbly serve (and follow the advice) of saint (Guru) and meditate on God's Name. By doing so we would get rid of all our doubts and dreads, obtain freedom from any future pains of birth and death, and enjoy such a state of peace and bliss, which is beyond description.

In this *shabad* he shares with us his personal experience in this regard, and tells us what kind of happiness and bliss he is enjoying as a result of singing God’s praises. He also tells us how the saint Guru helped him to get rid of all his weaknesses, and helped him to be imbued with true love of God.

He says: “(O' my friends), I have sung songs of joy in praise of God, the treasure of virtues. (I feel that) blessed were those favorable circumstances and blessed were those days, when I pleased God the Master of the earth.”(1-pause)

Describing how this happened, he says: “(O' my friends), I simply placed my forehead at the feet of the saint Guru (and surrendered myself to him). Then the saint placed his hand on my forehead (and blessed me with God’s Name).”(1)

Stating what happened after that, Guru Ji says: “Now the saint (Guru’s) mantra (the essence of his sermon) is enshrined in my mind, and because of that, the three impulses (of *Maya* for vice, virtue, or power) have vanished.”(2)

Now stating what other blissful things happened in the company of saints, he says: “Seeing the sight of devotees, my eyes have been filled with such love that I have parted company with greed, attachment, and doubt.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O' my friends), removing the curtain (of ego from my mind), God of sublime bliss has met me, and (I) Nanak say that (I am enjoying a state of) peace, poise, and bliss.”(4-14)
The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to enjoy a true state of peace, poise and bliss, and want our mind to be free of greed, anger, doubt, or the three impulses of *Maya*, then we should seek the blessings of our Guru (Granth Sahib) and following his advice, meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy a true state of peace, poise and bliss, and want our mind to be free of greed, anger, doubt or the three impulses of *Maya* then we should seek the blessings of our Guru and following his advice, meditate on God's Name with true love and devotion. In this *shabad*, Guru Ji tells us and also indirectly teaches us what kind of deep craving and longing for God we need to have in our heart and what kind of sacrifices we should be ready to make to that person (the Guru) who can perform this miracle and unite us with God.

Describing the state of his mind before meeting his Guru and as if talking to his *Gursikh* friend, he says: "(O' my friend), how may I tell you about the pain in my heart. Within me is the craving for the sight of my captivating Beloved (God. Without seeing Him) my mind cannot remain calm and yearns (to meet Him) in many different ways."(1-pause)

Continuing to describe how sad he feels without the sight of his Beloved (God), Guru Ji says: "(O’ my friend), in my heart I so passionately keep thinking about my beloved that I have become totally aloof (from other worldly matters and only keep wondering) when I would obtain the sight of (my beloved) God. I make many efforts but this mind (of mine)
doesn’t get consoled (without seeing God. So I keep wondering) is there any saint who may unite me (with Him)?”(1)

Stating what kind of price he is ready to pay to that person who can unite him with God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), I would be a sacrifice to that saint who could show me even for a moment the sight of my Beloved. I would sacrifice (all) the merits of my) worship, penance, austerity, charities, sacrifices, and would offer all my places of comfort to him.”(2)

Not only that, Guru Ji describes how humbly he would beg that person to tell him about his Beloved. He says: “(O’ my friends), I would renounce all my pride and ego before that person who narrates to me anything about my beloved. I would make a very humble request, would implore him or her and would serve him or her day and night.”(3)

Above was the state of his mind, before he met his Guru. But now describing what happened after he met the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), the true Guru united me with (God) the supreme Being, and I was in ecstasy upon seeing that wonder, when I obtained the merciful beloved Master right in the home (of my heart. Then His sight) quelled the pain of Nanak’s separation (from his beloved God).”(4-1-5)

The message of this shabad is that we should have such a sincere and deep love for the sight of our beloved God that we should always be craving for His sight and most humbly keep praying to the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji), to unite us with Him. One day showing His mercy the Guru would show us that God residing within our heart, and upon seeing Him we would be totally amazed.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should have such a sincere and deep love for our beloved God that we should always crave to see Him, and most humbly pray to the saint (Guru) to unite us with Him. One day showing His mercy, the Guru would show us God residing within our heart. However, we are always so obsessed with amassing worldly wealth or pursuing other worldly affairs, that we have completely forgotten about God who created us, and whom we used to worship day and night while we were in our mother’s womb.

So reminding us about our pitiable condition before birth, Guru Ji says: “O’ foolish one, why don’t you meditate (on God) now? When you were in the dreadful hell (of your mother’s womb, at that time you were) doing penance hanging upside down and used to sing (God’s) praises at every moment.”(1-pause)

Admonishing us further, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), after wandering through innumerable existences you have obtained the invaluable human birth. But when after leaving the womb, you came out (into the world, then instead of meditating on God), you got involved in other things.”(1)

Showing us the mirror of our life and how day and night we indulge in evil deeds which, ultimately make us suffer, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), day and night you practice evil and deceit and do useless deeds. (Your state is like those farmers) who start thrashing the husk, which has no grain in it, and suffer pain wandering here and there.”(2)

Therefore warning us about our impending fate, he says: “(O’ man), you are so attached to the false illusory things (of the world), as if you have been entangled in the safflower (weeds, which look pretty, but soon their color fades). O’ foolish one, when (you die and) the judge of righteousness catches hold of you, then you would arise and depart in shame.”(3)

However Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends, the human beings are also helpless, because that person) alone meets Him, whom God Himself unites with Him and in whose destiny it has been so written. Nanak says: “I am a sacrifice to those devotees who remain detached in their mind (from false worldly pursuits).”(4-2-16)

The message of this shabad is that we should remember that this human birth is the most unique and invaluable opportunity for us to unite with God and become one with Him. Therefore instead of wasting our time in useless worldly pursuits we should seek the company of saints and devotees and meditate on God in their company.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should remember that this human birth is the most unique and invaluable opportunity for us to unite with God. Therefore instead of wasting our time in useless worldly pursuits we should seek the company of devotees and meditate on God in their company. In this shabad, he describes how he feels without his Beloved and how much he loves and respects those devotees of God who meditate on His Name.

Expressing the absolute necessity of God in his life, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, how can I live without my Beloved, upon separation of whose (light the body) becomes dead and cannot remain in the house?”(1-pause)

Therefore making an earnest prayer to the saint (Guru), he says: “O’ saint (Guru), please show Your kindness (and bless me that) I may sing songs of joy (in praise) of God, who is the Giver of soul, mind, and life breaths, and in whose company (this body) looks beauteous.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by expressing his unique wish. He says: (O’ my mother, I wish that I may most humbly and faithfully serve the saints and act on their advice, as if) the feet of the saints are on my forehead and the dust of their feet is falling in my eyes. In short, by whose grace we meet God, (I) Nanak am a sacrifice to them again and again.”(2-3-17)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to unite with God, the Giver of our life breath, without whom our body is as good as dead, then we should most humbly serve the saints and seek their grace to unite us with Him.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to unite with God, the Giver of our life breaths, without whom our body is as good as dead, then we should most humbly serve the saints and seek their grace to unite us with Him. In this shabad, he expresses his gratitude to the saints after meeting whom he has obtained God and all his dreads have gone.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I am a sacrifice to that (auspicious) opportunity (when I was blessed with the company of saints, and as a result) I meditate on God at all times and by good fortune, I have obtained God.”(1-pause)

But Guru Ji wants to tell us that he is not the only one who has benefited from the company of saints. He says: “(O’ my friends), by becoming servant of the servants (of God), Kabir became praiseworthy, and the devotee barber Saain became a sublime person. (Similarly by the grace of saints) Nam Dev became highest of the high who viewed all as equal. (Again it was through the guidance of the saints that) Ravi Das was imbued with the love for God.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by again expressing his gratitude to the saints. He says: “(O’ my friends), my life, body, mind, and wealth are dedicated to the saints, and this mind seeks the dust of the saints’ feet. By the grace of saints all my doubts have run away and (I) Nanak have met the Master of universe.”(2-4-18)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our doubts and unite with God of the universe, then we have to seek the most humble service of the saintly people and meditate on God at all times, so that one day He may bless us with His sight and take us into His union.
and take us into His union. In this shabad, Guru Ji addresses his mind to have full faith in the true Guru for fulfilling all its desires. He also shows us how to humbly pray to God for His mercy and sight.

He says: “O’ my mind, the true Guru himself fulfills all our desires. Therefore at all times meditate on (that God), by contemplating on whom one can obtain all kinds of boons.” (1-pause)

Next Guru Ji affectionately addresses God, and acknowledging His unique powers and qualities says: “O’ my Master, immortalizing is the nectar of Your Name. Whosoever drinks it is satiated. That person’s sins of myriads of births go away, and is forgiven in God’s court.” (1)

Guru Ji therefore humbly prays: “O’ the all-pervading, perfect and imperishable Creator, I have come to Your shelter. (Please) show Your mercy upon me, that I may meditate on Your feet (Your Name), because in the mind and body of Nanak is a deep longing for Your sight.” (2-5-19)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get all our desires fulfilled, get rid of our sins of myriads of births, and want to be acquitted with honor in God’s court, then we should pray to God to bless us that at all times we contemplate on His immaculate Name.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised that if we want to get all our desires fulfilled, get rid of our sins of myriads of births, and want to be acquitted with honor in God’s court, then we should pray to God to bless us that at all times we contemplate on His immaculate Name. In this shabad, he counsels his own mind and indirectly us, not to be tempted by false worldly pleasures, and keep meditating on God, and also tells us where to do that.

First addressing his own mind (and indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, why should we be lured by things other (than God? You should remember) that God, who can always
get your tasks fulfilled, and who can help you both in this and the next world is always in
the company of your soul.”(1-pause)

Telling his mind (and ours), the best thing to do and the most appropriate place for
this purpose, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), captivating is the love of Beloved (God),
immortaliζing is the nectar of His Name, which is satiating to drink. (In other words
the best thing, which can satisfy all our desires, is the love of God and His Name). The place
of rest (the congregation) of saints and devotees is the sublime place to meditate on the
immortal Supreme Being.”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the word and mantra of the great persons (true
saints) is capable of removing the ego of mind. Nanak has searched out that God’s Name is
the best place (means) to obtain peace and bliss.” (2-1-20)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain a companion who will be our
help both in this and the next world, then in the company of the saints we should
meditate on God’s Name, which is the abode of peace and bliss.

The previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we want to obtain a companion who will be
our help both in this and the next world, then in the company of the true saints we should
meditate on God’s Name, which is the true abode of peace and bliss. In this
shabad also, he
instructs his mind and us to meditate on singing praises of God, under the guidance of the
saint (Guru), and lists some more blessings, which God bestows on the one on whom He
becomes gracious.

He says: “O’ my mind, always sing joyous songs (in praise of) God. Even if you meditate
on God’s Name for a moment, your ailments, sorrows, and all your sins will be erased.”
(1-pause)

Advising his mind, and us to forsake our own cleverness, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind),
abandon your wit and too much cleverness (don’t think that you are too smart. Instead)
go and seek the shelter of the saint (Guru). Because, when the Destroyer of pains of the
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), except for the One (God), there is no other, and no one can come close to Him. For Nanak, that same God is his mother, father, brother, sister and Giver of peace to his life breaths.”(2-2-21)

The message of this shabad is that abandoning our cleverness, we should seek the shelter of the saint (Guru), so God may show mercy on us, our sins and sufferings may end and we may obtain peace in this and the next world.

Sarang Mehl-5

In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji advised us again and again to seek the company of saint (Guru), and meditate on God’s Name. Many times, he even advised us to seek the most humble service of such devotees, who meditate on God’s Name. Naturally the question arises, why Guru Ji stresses so much on the guidance of the saints, and what is so great about their company? In this short shabad, Guru Ji answers those questions.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the devotees of God emancipate (not only themselves, but) all who are in their company. (Because, in the company of saints, they too) become pure and immaculate in their minds, and their pains of myriads of births are dispelled.”(1-pause)

Explaining further the blessings of joining the company of saints, and following their footsteps, Guru Ji says: “Whosoever walks on that path (which the devotees of God follow), obtains peace, and with whomsoever (the devotees) engage in conversation, they are emancipated. Even those who are sinking in the blind dark (well of Maya, and are hopelessly entangled in worldly affairs), in the company of saints, they also have been saved.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji makes this assertion and says: “O’ my brothers (and sisters), only those who are very fortunate, are engaged in a face to face conversation with the saints. Therefore every day Nanak, (too) craves for the dust of the feet (humble service) of such (saints, which one obtains only when) God shows mercy.”(2-3-22)
The message of this shabad is that if we want to wash off the sins and suffering of myriads of our births, and want to be saved from this dark ignorant well of Maya, then we need to pray to God to bless us with the service of the saint Guru, so that by listening to the immaculate words (Gurbani), we may also purify our mind and be freed.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to wash off the sins and suffering of myriads of our births, and want to be saved from this dark ignorant well of Maya, then we need to pray to God to bless us with the most humble service of the saint Guru, so that by listening to the immaculate words (Gurbani), we may also purify our mind and be emancipated. In this shabad, he explains why it is so and what the blessings are of joining the company of the saints, and meditating on God’s Name in their company.

He says: “The devotees of God meditate on God’s Name again and again. They deem the bliss of the saint’s company, as if they have obtained (the peace of) heaven.” (1-pause)

Commenting on the blessings of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “By meditating, the hard to obtain invaluable body gets sanctified, and one sheds the dread of the demon of death. Even the sins committed by the worst sinners are shed by enshrining God’s Name in their hearts.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whosoever listens to the immaculate praise of God, their pain of birth and death vanishes. But O’ Nanak, it is only by good fortune that we obtain (the merit of meditation, doing which) our mind and body are delighted.” (2-4-23)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to wash off the sins of myriads of our births, and want to enjoy the pleasures of heaven, then we should seek the company of the saints and meditate on God’s Name again and again.
In this shabad, Guru Ji once again uses the metaphor of a young innocent bride, who with extreme love and craving is most humbly praying and pining for her beloved to come home and bless her with his blissful sight. Many Sikh Raagis (musicians) sing this shabad in classical tunes with a spell binding effect on the listeners.

So touching the heights of poetry and imagery of that young bride calling for her Beloved Spouse, Guru Ji says: “O’ my beloved bewitching Spouse, with utmost respect I make a submission to You to come home, (my heart). I am indulging in self-conceit, and speaking arrogantly, but whatever errors or mistakes (I am making, still) O’ dear, I am Your hand-maiden, (therefore please pardon me).”(1-pause)

Describing the present state of his mind, and praying to his Guru to help him, he says: “(O’ God), I hear that You are very near, but I cannot see You, and wandering in doubt, I keep suffering in pain. Therefore, I pray to my Guru, and say: O’ my Guru, please be kind and remove this curtain (of ego from my mind), so that I may meet my beloved God and my mind may blossom forth.”(1)

Now Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing the intensity of his craving for his beloved God, and how ultimately he has been able to meet Him. He says: “(O’ my friends, even if) for a moment, my Beloved goes out of my mind, it appears as if millions of days and years have passed. But when (I) obtained the company of saints, then (I) Nanak was able to meet my Beloved (God).”(2-1-24)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to meet our beloved Spouse, then we should join the company of the saints and most lovingly pray to Him to abide in our heart, so that showing mercy He may bless us with His sight.
Many times, when we take a look at the mess in which the world seems to be so hopelessly mired, and see how swayed by *Maya* (craving for worldly riches and power), people keep doing all kinds of evil things, which many times result in their own suffering and pain, we start thinking, what can we do or should do to straighten out this mess? Guru Ji puts himself in this situation, and then shares the answer to this question with us for our guidance.

Addressing us, he says: "(O' God), now what may I think about (the worldly mess. After thinking for a long time, I have come to the conclusion, that) whatever (You) have to do, You are doing, (therefore) I have forsaken all deliberation (on my part, and I only say to You: "O' God) I am a sacrifice to You, (please) bless me with Your Name."(1-pause)

Comparing *Maya* (infatuation for worldly riches and power) to the snake poison, Guru Ji says: "(No doubt) the poison of *Maya* is spreading in all the four directions (of the world. From this poison, only that person has been saved), in whose mouth is the Guru' s Mantra (the Guru' s word, which acts like) Garurr Mantra (the antidote for snake poison). By extending his hand, whom (the Guru has saved from the evil influences of the world, that person remains so detached from worldly influences), as a lotus remains detached (from the dirty water surrounding it)."(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: "I am nothing and will never be anything, because it is all Your power, which is supporting me. (I) Nanak, therefore have hastened to the sanctuary of saints, please save me on account of Your saints."(2-2-25)

The message of this *shabad* is that this world is full of poison of worldly evils, which cause pain and suffering, and there is really not much anybody can do about it. Whatever is happening is happening by God's will. The only way to save ourselves from this poison is to act in accordance with *Gurbani* (the advice of saints and Gurus in Guru Granth Sahib Ji), and pray to God to save us for the sake of His saints (Gurus).
In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that whatever God has to do, He is doing; therefore he has forsaken all deliberation on his part. In this shabad, he elaborates on this idea and shares with us, ultimately from where did he find peace of mind?

He says: “I have now abandoned all efforts. (I have come to the conclusion, that my) Master is capable of doing and getting (everything) done, and it is from that one God (alone), I will obtain my emancipation.”

Expressing his praise for God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), I have seen myriads of beauteous and colorful forms, but none is as (beautiful) as You. O’ Master, the Giver of comfort to life and soul, You give peace and support to all.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad, by telling us, where he ultimately found peace. He said: “After wandering around, I got exhausted, and acknowledged defeat. Then meeting the Guru, I caught hold of (God’ s) feet (started meditating on God’ s Name. I) Nanak say, (then) I obtained total bliss, (and from then on), this night (of my life) passed in peace.”

The message of this shabad is that we should abandon all other efforts and clever ideas. Acting on the guidance of the Guru (following Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib), we should meditate on God’s Name. Then we will spend this life of ours in peace and bliss.
caught hold of (God’s) feet (started meditating on God’s Name, and he obtained total bliss. From then on), this night (of his life) passed in peace.” In this shabad, he shares with us his present state of mind and what kind of new insight he has obtained regarding God and this universe.

He says: “(I feel that since the time) the bliss-giving Guru has become gracious to me, (I have obtained such divine wisdom, as if a) blind person has seen a ruby. Because now I have discovered the support of God.”(1-pause)

Describing, what this divine wisdom did to his mind, Guru Ji says: “Dispelling the darkness of my ignorance, (that divine wisdom) rendered me immaculate, and there was delight and a sense of discrimination (between good and evil in my) intellect. (Now I have realized that) just as the waves and foam in water become water, similarly the servant and the Master have also become one.”(1)

In conclusion Guru Ji says: “(I have now realized, that) from where the creature originates, it (ultimately) comes back to the same place (merges into its original source), and everything has come from the same one (God. Now the Master) is visible to Nanak in all places, who is equally the Master of life of all.”(2-4-27)

The message of this shabad is that if we seek the shelter of the Guru and reflect on the wisdom contained in Gurbani, then we will realize that we all creatures have originated from the same one God, and like waves merging in the water from which these originally emerge, we will also ultimately merge in God, our original Source.
He says: “My mind craves only for (the sight of my) adorable Groom. I have visited and seen all places and countries, but nothing seems even close to my Beloved (God).” (1-pause)

Describing, how not even the most delicious of dishes interest his mind, and how it keeps asking for the sight of beloved God, Guru Ji says: “(Even when) innumerable dainty dishes are laid out before me, (my mind doesn’t want to) look at or show any interest in these, but just as a bumble-bee craves for the lotus flower, similarly my mind wants the relish of God’s nectar, and from its mouth (seems to be) uttering the name of its Beloved (God).”(1)

Just as many times, when we seek an interview with a very important person, we take some reference from a close friend or relative of that person with us, similarly, Guru Ji approaches God and most humbly says: “O’ my Beloved, the treasure of virtues, enticer of hearts, and Giver of peace to all, Guru has sent (me), Nanak to God (You). Therefore O’ my loving friend, please come and meet me by embracing me to Your bosom.”(2-5-28)

The message of this shabad is that we should have such an intense love and craving for our Beloved God in our heart, that all worldly possessions, foods or drinks shouldn’t be of any interest to us, unless we are able to see the blissful sight of our God. Further, we should keep praying to our Guru, to intercede on our behalf, and ask God to bless us, for the sake of His saint (Guru).

In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji advised us to seek the shelter of the Guru, and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. The question arises, why do we need shelter and guidance of the Guru at all? Why can’t we directly meditate on God’s Name on our own? The answer is that meditating on God’s Name doesn’t mean repeating any particular word or phrase. It has to be done with intense love, dedication, and respect for God. These things don’t arise in our mind, unless someone educates us about the excellent qualities and power of God, and helps us develop an intense love and appreciation for Him in our hearts. In this shabad, Guru Ji shares with us what kind of divine understanding his Guru has given him regarding his Master, and what is the present state of his mind after that.
He says: “(O’ my friends), my mind has been totally won over by my Master. (The) merciful saint (Guru) has become kind to me. He has destroyed the demon of duality (evil thought, which made me think of God as a stranger).”(1-pause)

Describing what kind of new and immaculate understanding he has obtained, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, I have now realized that) You alone are beauteous, You alone are (truly) wise, and You alone are (truly) sagacious. Those, who engage in Yoga, learning, or meditation, have not understood Your worth, even for a single moment.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by once again acknowledging God’s power and greatness. Stating his desire, he says: “(O’ God, I don’t care what others may think, but I know that) You alone are the (true) king, with a canopy over Your head, and O’ God, You are pervading everywhere. (My only wish is) that I may be blessed with the charity of service of saints, and (I) Nanak may always be a sacrifice (to You).”(2-6-29)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the guidance of the saint Guru, so that he may dispel our doubt and estrangement from God, and educate us about His wonderful qualities and virtues, so that our mind may truly love, respect, and appreciate Him, and by meditating on His Name, with true love and dedication, we may become one with Him.

Sarang Mehma-5

In the previous shabad Guru Ji stated that by his Guru’s grace, his mind has been totally won over by his Master. Then he described what kind of understanding he has obtained about God. In this shabad, he describes some of the blessings he is enjoying as a result of God coming to abide in his mind.

He says: “(Now) in my mind come the thoughts of wonders of my Beloved (God). Gone are all the affairs and bonds of Maya (worldly involvements), and battling with the (evil impulses).”(1-pause)

Describing what he does now, and what is the result, Guru Ji says: “(Since the time), I have obtained God in the saintly congregation, I serve (meditate on) God, and enshrine
God in my heart. I have obtained such a heart-captivating Beloved, that I have obtained the comforts for which I have been asking.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “The Guru has brought under my control my Beloved, and now I enjoy the pleasures of His company without any kind of reservations. Now, I Nanak say that I have become fear free, and all my fear has been erased, because by the recitation of (Gurbani, the Guru’s) word, I have obtained God.”(2-7-30)

The message of this shabad is that if we truly follow Guru’s advice and meditate on God’s Name, then one day a stage may come, when all our involvements and bonds of worldly Maya will be broken, and in our heart we will enshrine and enjoy the company of our most beauteous and playful God.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we truly follow Guru’s advice and meditate on God’s Name, then one day a stage may come, when all our involvements and bonds of worldly Maya will be broken, and in our heart we will enshrine, and enjoy the company of our most beauteous and playful God.

In this shabad he expresses his delight on seeing the sight of his Beloved (God), and the blessings he is now enjoying.

He says: “I am a sacrifice to the sight of the esteemed God. The music of His (sweet) word always keeps playing in my ears, and my body is merged in the bosom of my Beloved.”(1-pause)

Next expressing his gratitude to his Guru for bringing about this union between him and God, he says: “(I feel as if) from a deserted bride, the Guru has once again made me the happily united wife, and I have obtained the all-wise and sagacious God. The house (of God), in which I couldn’t even sit; now I have been given the same place to reside (God’s abode, where my mind could never reach before, now it remains always focused on it).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling the reason why he couldn’t reach God before, and what happens once our mind is imbued with His love. He says: “(O’ my friends, God is) the
It is the same light

lover of His devotees, who comes under the control of those, who have saved the honor of His saints. (1) Nanak say that once (our) mind reposes its trust in Him, all our dependence on others is ended.”(2-8-31)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to enjoy the company of that colorful and beauteous God, then we should seek the blessings of our Guru and faithfully follow his advice (*Gurbani* in Guru Granth Sahib Ji).

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji had narrated how delighted he was feeling on meeting his Beloved God. In this *shabad*, he describes what kinds of merits and virtues he is enjoying as a result of his union with God, by Guru’ s grace.

He says: “Seeing (God’s) sight, bliss has welled up in my mind, and I have been released (from evil desires. Yes), now I have been freed from the company of the five demons (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego).”(1-pause)

Comparing God’s Name to a very precious jewel in a very well guarded fort, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the jewel of Name) is placed in a fort, which is very difficult to reach, and guarded by innumerable warriors (evil impulses). It is surrounded by many deep pits (of worldly attachment, over which) our hand cannot reach. But through the help of the saints, I have conquered the fort, and robbed (obtained that treasure of Name).”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “I have come across many precious treasures, and I have obtained the priceless jewel of inexhaustible wealth. When God showed his mercy on Nanak, in my mind I sucked the God’s elixir.”(2-9-32)

The message of this *shabad* is that the jewel of God’s Name is very difficult to obtain, because our mind is afflicted with the evil impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego. But if we seek the help and guidance of the Guru, then we can overcome all these impulses and worldly attachments, and achieve the state of mind, in which we can enjoy the bliss of God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that the jewel of God’s Name is very difficult to obtain, because our mind is afflicted with the evil impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego. But if we seek the help and guidance of the Guru, then we can overcome all these impulses and worldly attachments, and achieve the state of mind, in which we can enjoy the bliss of God’s Name. In this shabad, he describes how his Guru has helped him to get rid of his evil impulses, and how his mind is now totally attuned to God’s meditation.

He says: “(O’ my friends), now my mind remains attuned to my Master. The perfect Guru has given me the charity of (spiritual) life, and has involved (me with God), as a fish is involved with water (cannot survive without it).”(1-pause)

Describing, what happened when his Guru made him internalize his mantra, he says: “After making me internalize his mantra, when the Guru gave me the medicine of God’s Name, I met (the Creator), who is perfect in all qualities. (Then I discarded all my vices like) lust, anger, greed, ego, and jealousy, (as if) I have given away all these) in charity.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by expressing his gratitude to his Guru, and says: “The Guru has helped me to get rid of my ego, and has united me with God. (Now, I say to

Him: “(O’ God), this home (my heart), is Yours, and You are my Master. Nanak says, (by Guru’s grace), I have obtained the Source of poise, the treasure of God’s meditation.”(2-10-33)

The message of this shabad is that when the perfect Guru shows his mercy upon us he blesses us with a God’s Name. Then our sense of lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego goes away, and our mind is attuned to His devotion, which is the real source of peace, poise, and bliss.
It appears that Guru Ji uttered this shabad, in a state of extreme compassion and pity to pray for the suffering humanity, which was being subjected to the cruel tyrannies of the rulers of that time and was crying for help.

On behalf of all humanity, Guru Ji says: “O’ my enticing God, all the creatures belong to You and it is You who can emancipate them (from their pain and suffering). Even with a trace of Your mercy, the cruelest beings cease from their tyrannies and (in this way) You save millions of universes.”(1-pause)

Pointing out how all the creatures remember Him and pray for His mercy, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, these poor creatures) pray and make many requests and remember You at each and every moment. O’ the Destroyer of pains of the meek, be gracious and emancipate them (from oppression) by extending Your hand.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by expressing his complete confidence in God and asking Him to save this world of His. He says: “(O’ God), what are these poor persons (before You) whom we call kings, whom can they kill? Nanak says, O’ the Giver of bliss, save them, save them all, the entire world is Yours.”(2-11-34)

The message of this shabad is that even when some tyrannical rulers are trying to terrorize us we should have full faith in God and keep praying for His help and He would surely save us in the end.
In this world, people enter different kinds of businesses with the main and perhaps the sole purpose of earning more and more money. Often all these businesses fail to satisfy one’s hunger for worldly wealth and end up causing pain and misery. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us about a different kind of business, by entering which, one always obtains profit, and enjoys a state of complete satisfaction and peace.

So talking about that unique wealth and business. Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, by Guru’s grace) now I have obtained the wealth of God’s Name. (By virtue of which), I have become carefree and all my desire (for worldly wealth) has been quenched, (as if) such was the destiny written on my forehead.” (1-pause)

Describing how he came across this wealth of Name, he says: “Searching again and again (for such wealth), I had become (sad) and detached (and then) I came back to the village of my body (and looked inside). Then the merciful Guru, arranged this ware (of Name for me) and I came across this incomprehensible ruby (of God’s Name).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by making an observation on the basis of his personal experience. He says: “(O’ my friends, except for God’s Name), how many other kinds of businesses we do, that many pains we suffer. (But, they) who are the dealers of (God’s) praise remain fear free, because O’ Nanak, God’s Name is their capital (in trade).”(2-12-35)

The message of this shabad is that instead of running after worldly wealth, we should devote time to meditating on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. We would find that we have such a wealth, which quenches all our thirst for worldly wealth and blesses us with a state of peace, fearlessness, and contentment.
In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that by Guru’s grace he has obtained the wealth of God’s Name. (By virtue of which) he has become carefree and all his desire for worldly wealth has been quenched. In this shabad, he describes how much he has fallen in love with God and how he is ready to surrender to His will.

He says: “(O’ my friends, now) the words of beloved (God) seem pleasing to my mind. Holding my hand the Guru has yoked me to the service (and devotion) of God, (and I have realized) that the beloved God is always merciful.” (1-pause)

Next humbly addressing God Himself, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), You are the Master and Sustainer of all; along with my wife (and other family members), we are Your slaves. (O’ God), You alone are my pride and honor, and Your Name alone is my shield (and protection).” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, the Creator, O’ the unfathomable and immeasurable Master of devotee Nanak, if You make us sit on a throne, we still would remain Your slaves, (and if You) make us cut grass (for our sustenance, even then), what can we say (or about what can we complain)?” (2-13-36)

The message of this shabad is that we should be in so much love with God that whether He blesses us with honor and fame like that of a king, or makes us poor and destitute like a grass cutter, we should always remain humble and faithful servants of God and His will should always seem sweet and pleasing to us.
Now acknowledging how much liking he has developed for God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), the one who is imbued with Your love, has obtained peace and all his or her sorrow goes away. (O’ God, You are such that) listening about whose wonders one’s mind is extremely amazed and the arrogance of the mind and all one’s sorrows are destroyed.”(1)

Summarizing the blessings obtained by him, Guru Ji says: “The Guru has driven out (of me) the guiles and the deceits for the sake of Maya (the worldly riches and power), my sins have been removed, and my mind has become immaculate. Nanak says I have obtained that God, who is powerful to do or to cause anything (to happen).”(2-14-37)

The message of this *shabad* is that we should sing praises of God and reflect on His wonders. When we do so, we would be so wonderstruck and filled with praise of God that we would fall in love with Him. Then our mind would become pure and all our sins, fears, and sorrows would disappear.

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**Sarang Mehlaa 5.**

nainhu daykhi-o chala tamaasa.
sabh hoo door sabh hoo tay nayrai agam agam
ghat vaasa. ||1|| rahaa-o.

abhool na bhoolai likhi-o na chalaavai maataa na karai pachaasaan.
khin meh saaj savaar binaahai bhagat vachhal
guntaasaan. ||1||

anDh koop meh deepak bali-o gur riGai kee-o
pargaaan.

kaho naanak daras paykh sukh paa-i-aa sabh
pooran ho-ee aasaan. ||2||15||38||

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In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we should sing praises of God and reflect on His wonders. When we do so, we would be so wonderstruck and filled with praise of God that we would fall in love with Him. Then our mind would become pure and all our sins, fears, and sorrows would disappear. In this *shabad*, he shares with us his own astonishing experience and tells us what kinds of unique merits, he observed in the Supreme Being.

He says. “(O’ my friends), I have seen with my (own) eyes, the wonderful play (of God. He is both) away from all, and yet near to all. He abides in each and every heart and yet is incomprehensible.”(1-pause)

Stating what other unique qualities he has observed in God Almighty, Guru Ji says: “(Unlike human beings), God is infallible and never makes a mistake. (Unlike other rulers), He doesn’t run His administration on the basis of any written orders, and doesn’t consult with fifty (many) advisors (before issuing His orders). In an instant, He creates, embellishes and destroys (anything), and that treasure of merits is the lover of His devotees.”(1)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru has so illuminated my mind (with divine knowledge, as if) a lamp has lighted in a pitch dark well (of ignorance). Nanak says, that seeing the sight (of God, he has) obtained peace and all his desire has been fulfilled.”(2-15-38)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the guidance of the Guru, so that he may enlighten us with such spiritual wisdom, that we might see the sight of God with our own eyes. Then we would enjoy and revel in the wonderful plays and merits of God and would feel so blessed as if all our desires have been fulfilled.

Many times we ask ourselves, what is the best way to lead our lives? Is it best to only care about our family, and business, and nothing else? Or should we give top priority to observing rituals and customs of our faith and doing some charity work? No doubt all these things are important and we have to invest reasonable time and resources in discharging all such duties, but if we are looking for the most immaculate thing to do, and the most productive use of our body parts and faculties, then Guru Ji provides quite a different answer in this shabad.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the feet look beauteous, only when they are treading on the path leading to God, (where His praises are being sung). The more we tread upon other paths, the more we suffer and repent.”(1)

Now listing the things and deeds which are most appropriate and sanctifying for other parts of our body, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the eyes are sanctified on seeing (God’s) sight, and hands become sacred by serving (the saints). That heart is holy in which resides God, and the forehead is sanctified by the dust of saints’ feet.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all (peace giving) treasures lie in meditation of God’s Name, but only those in whose destiny it is so pre-ordained, obtain (this treasure). As for devotee Nanak, he has met with the perfect Guru (by virtue of which), he is passing his life in peace, poise, and bliss.”(2-16-39)
The message of this *shabad* is that if we desire to tread on the most immaculate and rewarding path in this world, and pass our life in peace, poise, and bliss, then we should join the congregation of saintly persons, sing God’s praises and meditate on God’s Name in their company.

### Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we desire to tread upon the most immaculate and rewarding path in this world and pass our life in peace, poise, and bliss, then we should join the congregation of saints, sing praises of God, and meditate on God’s Name in their company. In this *shabad*, he tells us, how God’s Name is not only most rewarding during our lifetime, but is also our best friend and companion in the end, at the time of our death.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), in the end (Your) Name has become the friend and companion (of the one who has) meditated (upon You). Where neither mother, father, son, nor one’s brother can reach, there You become one’s Savior.”(1-pause)

However, Guru Ji notes: “(O’ God), in the deep well (of ignorance of one’s heart, that person) alone has meditated (upon You) on whose forehead it has been so written. (The one who does that), all that person’s bonds are released, the Guru emancipates that person and then everywhere he or she sees You alone.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by describing his own experience. He says: “(O’ God), my mind has been satiated by drinking the nectar of Your Name. Nanak says: “I have obtained peace and poise, (because) the Guru has removed all my thirst (for worldly things).”(2-17-40)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to have a friend who is our helper, both in this and the next world, and who can bless us with such an elixir of God that our mind and tongue are satiated and all our desires are fulfilled, then following the guidance of our Guru (Guru Granth Sahib Ji), we should meditate on God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to have a friend who is our helper, both in this and the next world, and who can bless us with such an elixir of God that our mind and tongue are satiated and all our desires are fulfilled, then following the guidance of our Guru we should meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he shares with us how his Guru inspired him to meditate on God and what the result of his meditation was.

He says: 
“(O’ my friends), meeting my Guru I so meditated upon God (with each and every breath) that the merciful God, the destroyer of pains became so kind to me, that no hot wind (of pain or suffering) touched me.”(1-pause)

Describing the intensity of his meditation, he says: “As many breaths as I breathe, that many times I sing (God’s) praises. He doesn’t get separated and is not forsaken even for a moment and wherever I go, He always accompanies me.”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “I am again and again a sacrifice to the immaculate feet of God (His Name) and a sacrifice again and again to the sight of my Guru. Nanak says, why should I care about anyone else when I have obtained the ocean of comforts?”(2-18-41)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of dependence on any worldly person or power, and want that not even a shadow of pain should ever come near us, we should meet the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God with such intensity and steadfastness that we don’t forget Him even for a single breath. Then we would see Him residing with us at each and every place and at each and every moment.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of dependence on any worldly person or power, and want that not even a shadow of pain should ever come near us, then we should meet the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God with such intensity and steadfastness that we don’t forget Him even for a single breath. Then we would see Him residing with us at each and every place and at each and every moment. In this shabad, he describes his experience of acting on the advice of his Guru and for that, the blessings he is enjoying.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru’ s word sounds pleasing to my mind (and I feel happiness in following Guru’ s advice and while meditating on God’ s Name. I feel as if) my destiny has awakened and my mind has been so illuminated (with divine light) that I have seen God abiding in each and every heart.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on his present blissful state, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, by Guru’ s grace, I have realized that the) all-pervading God, who is never born and is self-created, is residing in all places and all hearts. I have been blessed with the nectar (of God’ s) Name, and again and again I am a sacrifice to God’ s immaculate feet (His Name).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends, by Guru’ s grace, I have been so blessed with the humble service of the saints, as if) my face has been anointed with the dust of the feet of the congregation of saintly persons (and I feel, as if) I have bathed at all the holy places. In short, Nanak says that I have been so imbued with (intense love of God, as if I have been) dyed in His fast red color (of deep love), which never fades.”(2-19-42)

The message of this shabad is that we should listen and act on (Gurbani) the word of the Guru with sincere love and devotion. Then our mind would be so illuminated with divine wisdom that we would see the sight of the all-pervading, unborn, and self-created God in each and every heart and place.
Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad (2-19-41), by stating that he is again and again a sacrifice to the immaculate feet of God (His Name) and a sacrifice again and again to the sight of his Guru. He now doesn’t care about anyone else, because he has obtained the ocean of all comforts. In this shabad, he tells us exactly what his Guru gave him and in what way the Guru helped him that his destiny has been awakened and he feels so blessed.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru has blessed me with God’s Name as my companion. With the enshrining of God’s Name just for a moment, all my hunger (for worldly things) has been removed.”(1-pause)

Addressing God and expressing his full confidence in Him, Guru Ji says: “O’ the Treasure of mercy, the Master of merits, and Provider of all comforts, I depend only on Your support”; any other support seems useless (to me).”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji once again describes the blessings he obtained from his Guru. He says: “(O’ my friends, when) my Guru (blessed me by) placing his hand on my forehead, my eyes were satiated on seeing the sight (of God). Nanak says that I have obtained inestimable peace and my fears of birth and death have been removed.”(2-20-43)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the bliss of God and want that all of our fears of birth and death be removed, then we should pray to our Guru to bless us with God’s Name as our companion.

Sarang Mehal-5

Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad (2-19-41), by stating that he is again and again a sacrifice to the immaculate feet of God (His Name) and a sacrifice again and again to the sight of his Guru. He now doesn’t care about anyone else, because he has obtained the ocean of all comforts. In this shabad, he tells us exactly what his Guru gave him and in what way the Guru helped him that his destiny has been awakened and he feels so blessed.

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The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the bliss of God and want that all of our fears of birth and death be removed, then we should pray to our Guru to bless us with God’s Name as our companion.
In previous so many *shabads*, Guru Ji told us that after death, neither our relatives nor any of our worldly possessions would accompany us. It is only God’s Name, which would accompany and help us in the end. But still we keep running after worldly wealth and relations, and we don’t care much about acquiring God’s Name. Therefore in this *shabad*, Guru Ji admonishes us for our foolish conduct and reminds us to imbue ourselves with the love of God instead of being infatuated with worldly riches and relatives. Guru Ji says: “O’ foolish one, why (forsaking God), you are wandering elsewhere? Right beside you lies the heart-pleasing nectar (of God’s Name), but going astray again and again, you are partaking in the poison (of evils).”(1-pause)

Once again stressing this point, Guru Ji says: “O’ foolish one, that God who is beauteous, wise and an unparalleled Creator, for Him you haven’t shown any interest, but your mind has been enticed by the heart captivating (worldly riches, as if you have) administered to yourself the poisonous herb of falsehood.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by once again impressing upon the grace of God and guidance of saints (Guru) to emancipate us from all our false pursuits and problems. He says: “(O’ my friends), when the merciful Destroyer of pains becomes gracious, then one likes to associate with saints (Guru), and obtains all the treasures (of God’s Name) in one’s own heart. Nanak says, then one’s soul merges in (God’s prime) soul.”(2-21-44)

**The message of this *shabad* is that instead of running after short-lived worldly (riches and relatives), we should seek and act on the guidance of the saint (Guru) and acquire the wealth of God’s Name. Then we would enjoy the bliss of all kinds of treasures within our own heart and our soul would ultimately merge in God’s prime soul.**

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**Sarang Mehla-5**

In previous so many *shabads*, Guru Ji advised us to listen to the advice of the Guru and meditate on God’s Name with true love, humility and dedication. In this *shabad*, he explains how the Guru awakens the love for God in us and unites us with Him.
So acknowledging his Guru’s help in rekindling love for God in him, Guru Ji says: “(Even though) the love for the beloved Creator has been in me from the very beginning, yet O’ my true Guru, when you blessed me with your word (of advice, I decorated and embellished myself with (immaculate spiritual) conduct (and character).”(1-pause)

As if making a confession on our behalf, Guru Ji humbly says: “(O’ true Guru), we always make mistakes, but You are always infallible. We are sinners, but You are the redeemer of the sinners. We are (like) low-quality trees, and You are like a Sandal tree who saves the honor of (others) residing near you.”(1)

In conclusion, he says: “(O’ God), You are the profound and calm benefactor; what are we poor creatures (before You)? Nanak says, since the merciful Guru united me with God, the couch (of my heart) has become comfortable.”(2-22-45)

The message of this shabad is that even though we might be imbued with God’s love from the very beginning, it is only contact with the Guru and his guidance, which awakens this love in us and unites us with God.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that even though we might be imbued with God’s love from the very beginning, it is only contact with the Guru and his guidance, which awakens this love in us and unites us with God. Therefore in this shabad, he expresses his gratitude to his Guru and God.

He says: “O’ my mind, blessed and approved are those days, fruitful and auspicious are those moments of union with the Guru, when in the company of the true Guru, we obtain (divine) wisdom).”(1-pause)

Now expressing his admiration and gratitude to God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, blessed and very fortunate are those devotees, whom You bless with honor (in Your court. O’ God), this body belongs to You, my entire house and wealth are Yours, and I sacrifice even my heart to You.”(1)
In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), seeing Your sight just for a moment, (I feel as if) I have obtained the comforts of millions of kingdoms. Nanak doesn’t know the limit of bliss (he feels when You honor him in Your court and) from Your tongue You say, “O’ servant, sit here.”(2-23-46)

The message of this shabad is that our most auspicious and fruitful moments and hours are those in which we are in the company of the true Guru and imbibe God’s divine wisdom in us, and most valuable and peace giving is that state when God in His mercy shows His sight and asks us to sit near Him.

In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that blessed and approved are those days, fruitful and auspicious are those moments of union with the Guru, when in the company of the true Guru we obtain (divine) wisdom. In this shabad, he lists some of the blessings he has received since the time he sought the shelter of his Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), now all my doubt and pain has gone away. I have abandoned all other remedies and have sought the shelter of the true Guru.”(1-pause)

Describing what other blessings, he has obtained by Guru’s grace, he says: “(O’ my friends), I have obtained all the miraculous powers, all my tasks have been accomplished, and my malady of ego has been totally eradicated. When meeting with the Guru, I repeatedly uttered God’s Name; millions of my sins were destroyed in a moment.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “Bringing them under control, the Guru has made the five (demons, lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) as my servants and my mind has become immovable and fear free. Nanak says it doesn’t (wander or) come and go anywhere, nor wobble at all, as if it has obtained the eternal kingdom.”(2-24-47)

The message of this shabad is that if want all our pains and sufferings to go away and we get rid of all the five impulses (lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego), then we should seek the shelter of the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name again and again.
It is the same light

Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji described how his Guru had removed all his doubt and pain and helped him to have full control over his desires and instincts and how by singing God’s praises, all his sins were destroyed. Now Guru Ji shares with us the blessings he has received from God and how he is totally imbued with His love.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), my God is my helper both here (in this world), and there (in the next). That enticer of my heart is the beloved of my soul, which of His praises may I sing?”(1-pause)

Describing how our beloved God treats and protects us, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that ever bliss giving God plays with us and fondles us (like small babies). Like mother and father He sustains us like His children.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), we cannot live without Him even for a moment, and He should never go out of our minds. Nanak says that they who meet in saintly congregation, remain absorbed in Him by attuning their minds to Him.”(2-25-48)

The message of this shabad is that when following Guru’s advice we join congregation of saintly persons, meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises, He becomes so near and dear to us that like a true friend He always helps us and like a parent He sustains and fondles us.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that when following Guru’s advice, we join congregation of saintly persons, meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises, He becomes so near and dear to us that like a true friend He always helps us and like a parent He sustains and fondles us. In this shabad, he reconfirms that message and also tells us the consequences of forsaking Him and worshipping some lesser god or a human being.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should always sing praises of (God) our Friend and Master. (Except for God), we should not rest our hope on anybody else. We should meditate on our bliss-giving God (alone).”(1-pause)

Now cautioning us against forsaking God and seeking the help of anyone else, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), we should only seek the refuge of that God in whose power are all comforts, celebrations, and salvation. If forsaking Him we serve (or worship any) human being, then (we feel so embarrassed that we have to) lower our eyes (in shame).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by stating the benefits of acting on Guru’s instruction. He says: “(O’ my friends), meeting the Guru, who has enshrined (Guru’s) instruction and intellect, has held on only to the one support of the Master, and O’ Nanak, who has received the Treasure of virtues, all that person’s dependence (on others) has ended.”(2-26-49)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain happiness, comfort, or salvation we should depend only on God and seek only His refuge. We should not pin our hope on any other lesser god or human being. For obtaining the support of God we should meet the Guru and sing God’s praises in his company.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain happiness, comfort, or salvation we should depend only on God and seek only His refuge. In this *shabad*, he shows us how much he himself leans upon God, and also tells what kinds of blessings that person has received whom God has accepted as His own.

Addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ my God, (in my heart is only) Your most firm and powerful support. On the basis of Your glory and powerful support, I do not even look towards anybody else (for anything).”(1-pause)

Stating what kinds of blessings a person has obtained, whom God has accepted as His own, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, whom) God has accepted as His own He has pulled that person out of the whirlpool of the poison (of worldly attachments. Such a person) has gone and fallen at the feet of the Guru (and sought his protection. The Guru has rejuvenated that person, by making him (or her) meditate on God, as if he has) put the immortalizing nectar of God’s Name in (that person’s) mouth.”(1)

In closing, he says: “Which of the merits of the Benefactor of the meritless, may I utter with my one tongue? O’ Nanak, cutting who’s noose of death (God) has made His own, that person has obtained immense peace.”(2-27-50)

The message of this *shabad* is that we should depend only on God’s support and none else. Once God accepts anyone as His own, He pulls that person out of the vicious worldly affairs, blesses that person with the guidance of the Guru, and then by meditating on God’s Name, such a person enjoys immense peace and bliss.

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*Sarang Mehla-5*

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we should depend only on God’s support and none else. Because once He accepts anyone as His own He pulls that person out of the vicious worldly affairs, blesses them with the guidance of the Guru and by meditating on God’s Name such a person enjoys immense peace and bliss.
In this shabad, Guru Ji lists the kinds of merits and comforts he himself has obtained by meditating on God. He says: “By meditating on God, our pains are destroyed. On whom, the Giver of peace to the soul becomes merciful, (that person) is delivered from (evil and suffering).” (1-pause)

Sharing with us how much he depends on God for everything, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), except for God, I cannot think of anybody else, (tell me) except for God, where could anyone go? (Therefore, I pray to God and say): “Save me, O’ Master as You will, (because) everything is in Your (power).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), extending His own hand, whom God has saved they have obtained eternal and imperishable life. Nanak says that his mind is in bliss, because (God) has cut off his noose of death.”(2-28-51)

The message of this shabad is that we should always meditate on God’s Name so that showing His mercy; the all-powerful God may destroy all our pains, cut off our noose of death and bless us with eternal life.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should always meditate on God’s Name so that showing His mercy; the all-powerful God may destroy all our pains, cut off our noose of death and bless us with eternal life. In this shabad, he shows us how to approach and pray to that God.

Therefore addressing God in a most humble way, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God) whenever and where ever possible, my mind remembers You. O’ my God and Father, we are Your humble children, (please) take care of us as You wish.”(1-pause)

Citing the example of a child, Guru Ji says: “(Just as) when a (child) is hungry, it cries for food but when satiated it feels as if it has obtained all comforts. (Similarly), when (one remembers You and) resides in Your company, one feels (spiritually) healthy, but becomes (helpless like) dust on getting separated (from You).”(1)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, who has established and disestablished this universe, what other place or support, has the slave of Your slave? We obtain life only when Your Name is not forsaken (from our mind), and this in essence is the prayer of Nanak (that he should never forget to remember You).”(2-29-52)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy a true spiritual life and state of bliss then we should pray to God to bless us that we never forsake His Name.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji advised us to seek the shelter of the Guru, act upon his immaculate advice, and meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he describes his own experience when he followed this advice.

He says: “(O’ my friends, since the time), in a state of peace and poise, I have started singing praises of my beauteous, merciful and loving God, all dread and fear has vanished from my mind.”(1-pause)

Describing the effect of acting in accordance with (Gurbani), he says: “(O’ my friends), by God’s grace conducting myself in accordance with the Guru’s word, (my mind) doesn’t wander anywhere. Being without any afflictions, it remains absorbed in a state of peaceful meditation and I have realized (God) the lover of devotees in my heart.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing the bliss, his mind is now enjoying. He says: “(O’ my friends, my mind now remains absorbed) in such a state of meditation, peace, and poise, (as if it is enjoying) the bliss of millions of melodies, and has imperceptibly merged in a state of equipoise. Nanak says, (my mind has now realized that God) Himself is the Cause and Himself the Doer, and He Himself is everywhere.”(2-30-53)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our fear and enjoy the true state of peace and bliss, then we should act upon the immaculate advice of the Guru as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji and sing praises of God in a state of peace and poise.
Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our fear and enjoy the true state of peace and bliss, then we should act upon the immaculate advice of the Guru and sing praises of God in a state of peace and poise. In this shabad, he narrates to us what kinds of virtues and blessings he has obtained from his Guru.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), now the nectar Name of God has become the main stay of (my) mind. I am a sacrifice to that perfect Guru and salute him who has blessed me (with this gift of Name).”(1-pause)

Describing the present state of his mind and the kind of new understanding he has acquired by meeting the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends, by virtue of the Name), my thirst (for worldly riches) has been quenched. I find myself in a state of peace and poise, and I have burnt down the poison of lust and anger. (Now my mind) doesn’t wander (anywhere) and stays steadily (attuned to that) place (in the body) where the seat of the formless (God) is.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I have now realized) that it is the same one (God), who is both visible and invisible, and it was only that one, when there was complete darkness and chaos (in the universe). Nanak says, he has reached this true understanding, that it was the same (God), who was there in the beginning, is present now in the middle, and it will be that same (one God) after the end (of all ages).”(2-31-54)

The message of this shabad is that if we want that all our thirst for worldly riches is quenched, and the poison of lust and anger within us is burnt down, then we should seek the guidance and grace of the Guru who may bless us with the nectar Name of God and help our mind recognize the seat of eternal God within us.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want that all our thirst for worldly riches is quenched, and the poison of lust and anger within us is burnt down, then we should seek the guidance and grace of the Guru so that he may bless us with the nectar Name of God, and help our mind recognize the seat of eternal God within us. In this shabad, he tells us about the joys and comforts those people enjoy, in whose heart God comes to abide.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in whose heart God the source of all comforts comes to reside, all (that person’ s) desires for comforts are fulfilled. (Then, that person) cannot live even for a moment without (remembering) God.”(1-pause)

Describing some of God’s unique qualities, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that God is) the embodiment of joys. He is the mainstay of our life breaths, contemplating whom one enjoys immense bliss. That very powerful God is always with us, which of His merits may I utter with my tongue?”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), sanctified are those places (where Your Name is recited). Blessed are those who believe in (Your Name) and immaculate are those who listen or utter it.”

Nanak says, (O’ God), sacred are those houses in which reside Your saints.”(2-32-55)

The message of this shabad is that we should go to those immaculate places, where reside the saints (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and joining the holy congregation we should sing and listen to the praises of God, so that He may come to reside in our heart and we may enjoy all kinds of comforts and pleasures.
In the concluding lines of previous shabad, addressing God Guru Ji said: “(O’ God), sanctified are those places (where Your Name is recited). Blessed are those who believe in (Your Name) and immaculate are those who listen or utter it. Nanak says, (O’ God), sacred are those houses in which reside Your saints.” Therefore in this shabad, he describes how his tongue is always repeating God’s Name, how much he depends upon God, and how God is everything for him.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), my tongue keeps uttering only Your Name again and again. It is You who sustains the creatures in the womb of their mother and You alone (are their sustainer) in this mortal world.”(1-pause)

Stating how God is everything for him, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, You are (our) father and You are also (our) mother, You are our beloved friend and brother. You are our family and main stay and You alone are the Giver of life breath.”(1)

In conclusion, he says: “(O’ God), You are my treasure, You are my riches, and You are my pearls and rubies. Nanak was delighted, when through the Guru he obtained You the (the legendry all wish fulfilling) Elysian tree.”(2-33-56)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek Guru’s refuge, listen to his instruction, act upon it and keep uttering God’s Name again and again. By doing so we will obtain such peace and bliss, as if we have obtained all the riches, treasures and comforts of the world.
In the previous shabad addressing God, Guru Ji stated: “O’ God, You are (our) father and You are also (our) mother, You are our beloved friend and brother. In this shabad, he explains why he depends on God for everything.

So in a matter of fact way, Guru Ji states: “(O’ my friends, in the time of need), everyone remembers one’s own (friend or relative). If anyone is a disciple of some person, that one goes to his or her Master (alone).” (1-pause)

Extending this analogy further, Guru Ji says: “(It is natural that one) relates one’s sorrows, shares one’s pleasures, or narrates the state of one’s mind to those (whom one considers) one’s own. One feels proud of one’s own, leans on, and goes to one’s own to accomplish all one’s objectives. (Similarly I lean on and pray to God for everything).” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), some have (felt proud on account of their) kingdom, youth, wealth, or property, and some have depended upon their father and mother (for everything). But Nanak has obtained all the things (he needs) from the Guru, and all his desire has been fulfilled.” (2-34-57)

The message of this shabad is that instead of depending on our relatives, friends or possessions and riches, we should depend on God alone to meet our needs and share our thoughts. He would fulfill all our wishes and provide us with all we need.

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Sarang Meha-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of depending on our relatives, friends, or our possessions and riches, we should depend upon God alone to meet our needs and share our thoughts. He would fulfill all our wishes and provide us with all the comforts we need. In this shabad, he explains the reasons for this advice.

He says: “(O’ my friends), false (and short lived) is the intoxication and pride of worldly riches. Therefore O’ ignorant one, cast away your deceit and (worldly) attachment and always deem God of the universe in your company.” (1-pause)
Pointing to persons of riches and power, seemingly enjoying their power, rich clothes, and dainty dishes, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), false (and short lived are) are the dominions, youth, nobles, kings, and chiefs, (because soon they would depart from this world). So also false and transitory are the precious clothes, perfumes, wit, food and drinks.”(1)

But reposing his faith in God alone, Guru Ji says: “O’, the Patron of the meek, I the slave of Your slaves have sought the shelter of Your saints. O’ the Life of Nanak, becoming care-free, I beg You to bless me with Your sight.”(2-35-58)

The message of this *shabad* is that instead of being proud of worldly riches and power, we should shed our falsehood and intoxication of *Maya* and deeming God near us we should pray to Him to bless us with His sight.

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Sarang Mehla-5

In stanza (1) of the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji said to us: “(O’ my friends), false (and short lived are) are the dominions, youth, nobles, kings, and chiefs (because soon they would depart from this world). So also false and transitory are the precious clothes, perfumes, wit, food and drinks.” But still we keep running after these things and do not focus on meditating God’s Name, which alone is of permanent use and accompanies us even after death. Therefore in this *shabad*, he urges us to pay attention to our ultimate welfare rather than running after false short-lived worldly pleasures.

Cautioning us against running after the worldly tasks and not taking care of our spiritual welfare, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, so far you) haven’t taken even a little bit of care of your own (spiritual) welfare. You have been running after other tasks and have remained involved in the others’ entanglements.”(1-pause)

Now commenting on our relatives and friends, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, these people who) seem to be your friends and relatives would be your) companions only for a few days. They won’t be present when you are in big (trouble). But O’ foolish one, you have involved and imbued yourself with those who won’t be of any use to you (in the end).”(1)
But still in his compassion Guru Ji shows us how to pray to God to save us. He says: “(O’ God), I am nothing, nothing belongs to me, and nothing is under my control or power. Therefore O’ the God of Nanak and cause and doer (of everything), please save me by blessing me with the company of saints.” (2-36-59)

The message of this shabad is that we shouldn’t run after false short-lived worldly pursuits and riches or remain involved in the affairs of our short-lived friends and relatives who won’t be of any use to us in the end. Instead we should pray to God to save us in the company of saints.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we shouldn’t run after false worldly pursuits and riches or remain involved in the affairs of our short-lived friends and relatives, who won’t be of any use to us in the end. Instead we should pray to God to save us in the company of saints. In this shabad, he tells us how in spite of such repeated advice, not only the ordinary human beings, but also great sages and pundits are caught in the web of Maya (or the lust for worldly riches and power). He also shows us the way to get out of this trap and achieve a high spiritual state.

He says: “The enticer (Maya) is enticing everybody and it doesn’t stop even when one tries to stop it. (What to speak of others) it is even dear to all the adept yogis and ascetics. Even if someone tries, its bonds are not snapped.”(1-pause)

Commenting upon those who read and recite holy books, visit holy places, or do other ritual worships, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, even) by reciting all the six Shastras (the Hindu holy books) from one’s tongue, or going around holy places, the effect of Maya does not lessen. By doing ritual worship, making special holy marks (on the body), observing fasts, or doing penances, it doesn’t discard one’s company.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by showing us how to pray to saints (Guru) for help and what is the result of such a prayer. He says: “O’ saint (Guru), this world is (getting so trapped in the false worldly pursuits, as if it is) falling in the blind well, please save me and bless me with sublime (spiritual) status. Nanak says, (the person) who in the company of saints, sees (God’s) sight even for a moment, is liberated from worldly bonds.”(2-37-60)
The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to be liberated from the evil influences of *Maya* (or the attachment for worldly riches and power), then instead of doing ritual worships, we should seek the shelter of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and pray to him to liberate us from the clutches of this great enticer.

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to be liberated from the evil influences of *Maya* (or the attachment for worldly riches and power), then instead of doing ritual worships, we should seek the shelter of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and pray to him to liberate us from the clutches of this great enticer. In this *shabad*, he once again warns us against wasting our time in false worldly pursuits and losing this precious opportunity to reunite with our Maker.

Warning us against too much involvement in amassing worldly wealth, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man, just think), what would you do by amassing worldly wealth. (You don’t realize that) your (body) skin is puffed with air, and your pitcher (like body) is extremely fragile.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji now shows us the mirror of our life conduct by citing two beautiful metaphors. He says: (O’ man, just as a hawk like bird, called) *Baasha* snatches away meat with its swoop (and places it at a convenient place to eat, similarly), usurping (one’s wealth) you deposit it (in your bank). Or just as sitting at a restaurant a traveler starts eating his or her meal (and then forgets all about the remaining journey, similarly) O’ the blind one, you have forsaken your Giver, (who has given you all this food and other necessities of life).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by reminding us about our impending death, and where we have to ultimately go. He says: “(O’ my friend), you are involved in the relish of false pleasures of sinful deeds. (The path), which you have to tread is very narrow, (difficult, and treacherous). Nanak says, O’ the ignorant one, understand (this thing, that very soon) today or tomorrow the knot (of your life breaths) would get opened (and you would die).”(2-38-61)

The message of this *shabad* is that instead of wasting our time in the useless worldly pursuits or committing sins for worldly riches and power, we should realize that any
day we could die. Therefore, we should try to seek the guidance of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name, which is our real destination and purpose of life.

In many previous shabads, Guru Ji advised us to seek the guidance of the Guru, who gives us divine knowledge, removes our evil tendencies, teaches us how to meditate on God’s Name, and brings us closer to God. In this shabad, he expresses his gratitude to his Guru for helping him realize God, know the reality of a mortal, and obtain salvation.

Expressing gratitude to his Guru, he says: “O’ respected Guru, it is in your company that I have realized (God). I have been recognized in that God’s court, where millions of warriors roam around and nobody cares about them.”(1-pause)

Sharing with us how his Guru has made him appreciate the power and significance of God’s light, Guru Ji says: “(Just think), what is the reality of the beginning of life of a human being, (which starts from the dirty looking semen of father and egg of his mother)? But when the divine light shines in the earthen body, it is known as priceless human body.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my true Guru), it is from you that I have learnt the (way) to serve (God), from you I have learnt the way of worship or penance, and it is through you that I have realized the essence (of the way of life). In short, placing your hand on my forehead (and showing your grace, you have) cut off my noose (of death). Therefore, Nanak is (so much thankful to you that he feels himself to be) the slave of your slaves.”(2-39-62)

The message of this shabad that we should attentively listen to (Gurbani) the divine words of our Gurus (as contained in Guru Granth Sahib), then we would know the reality of everything. We would be recognized in God’s court and our rounds of births and deaths will come to an end.
In the previous shabad Guru Ji described some of the virtues and merits of his Guru, and how he blessed him with divine knowledge, and gain recognition in God's court. In this shabad, he lists some of the excellences of God Himself, and tells how God has been protecting and preserving the honor of His devotees from the very beginning.

Expressing his gratitude to God, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, God) has blessed His servant with the (gift of His) Name. O' brother, what (harm can) any poor human beings do to the one whose savior is God Himself?"(1-pause)

Describing how God is everything to His servant, he says: "(O' my friends, God) Himself is the banker, Himself the leader, and Himself does all the tasks of the devotee. The Master and inner knower Himself slays all the demons."(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, God) has Himself saved the honor of His servant, and He Himself has made this permanent arrangement. In short, the all-wise God of Nanak has been saving the honor of His servants since the beginning of ages and even before that."(2-40-63)

The message of this shabad is that instead of having faith in any one else, we should have full faith in God for our protection and for any of our needs because from the very beginning it is God's tradition to protect the honor of His devotees and bless them with the gift of His Name.

Sarang Mehl-5

In the previous shabad Guru Ji described some of the virtues and merits of his Guru, and how he blessed him with divine knowledge, and gain recognition in God’s court. In this shabad, he lists some of the excellences of God Himself, and tells how God has been protecting and preserving the honor of His devotees from the very beginning.

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Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of having faith in any one else we should have full faith in God for our protection and for any of our needs because from the very beginning it is God’s tradition to protect the honor of His devotees and bless them with the gift of His Name. In this shabad, he shows us how to repose our complete faith in God and expresses our gratitude for His so many gifts and blessings. He also indicates how much he respects the saints who have realized God and are close to Him.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), You are my friend, mate, and the breath of my life. O’ God, (my) mind, wealth, soul, and body are Yours, and this body of mine has been nourished by the provisions bestowed by You.”

Expressing his gratitude to God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), it is You who has blessed me with innumerable kinds (of gifts), and it is You who has blessed me with honors. O’ the Inner Knower of all hearts, You always save my honor.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing how much he respects those saints who have realized God. He says: “O’ Master, approved is the advent of those saints in the world, who have realized You. It is by great good fortune that we obtain the company of (God’s) devotees and Nanak is a sacrifice to (such) saints.”

The message of this shabad is that fortunate are those who have been blessed with the company of the saint (Guru). In our case the saint (Guru Granth Sahib) is always with us, so all we have to do is to listen, understand, and act upon the Gurbani, sing God’s praises with love and dedication and meditate on God’s Name.
the company of (God’s) devotees; therefore he is a sacrifice to (such) saints. In this shabad, he indirectly tells us why he has such great regard for the saints (Guru).

Addressing his Guru, he says: “O’ merciful saint (Guru), bless me with a high (spiritual) state. You are all-powerful (embodiment of God), the cause of all causes. It is you, who has reunited the separated ones (with God).”

Restating his belief, Guru Ji says: “(O’ saint Guru), you have emancipated those who have been committing sins birth after births, because in your company they obtained sublime wisdom. Even those, who, being separated (from God), had been wandering around for many births, started singing God’s praises with every breath of theirs.”

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “Whosoever obtained the company of saints, from sinners they became virtuous. Therefore Nanak says, they who are fortunate, (by remaining in the company of saints) have won the object of life (the reunion with God).”

The message of this shabad is that even if we have been sinning for many births, we should still most humbly and sincerely serve the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and following Guru’s advice sing praises of God, day and night so that God may show mercy on us and save us also.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that even if we have been sinning for many births, we should still seek the humble and sincere service of the saint (Guru) and following the Guru’s advice, sing praises of God day and night so that God may show mercy on us and save us. But as stated before, the service or company of saint (Guru) is obtained by the grace of God. Therefore, in this shabad Guru Ji shows us how to pray to Him for that gift.

So addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ Master, Your servant has come before You to make a prayer. (O’ God, just) by listening to Your Name one obtains all comforts, bliss, and relish of equipoise.”
Continuing his praise, Guru Ji says: “O’ the Treasure of mercy, the Ocean of peace, Your glory is spread over in the entire (world). In the company of saints You have played many interesting games and have made Yourself manifest.”(1)

Now stating what he really wants from God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, all I want is that) with my eyes I may see the company of the saints, and dust their feet with my hair. (In short), Nanak may obtain this comfort that at all times he may keep seeing the sight of the saints (Guru).”(2-43-66)

The message of this shabad is that when we pray to God, instead of asking Him for worldly riches or fixing our worldly affairs, we should pray to Him to bless us with the company and the opportunity to most humbly serve the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji). Then we would obtain all kinds of peace, poise, and bliss.

In many previous shabads Guru Ji advised us to seek the company of saints, and meditate on God’s Name in their company. In this shabad, he lists the blessings obtained by a person who is imbued with the love of God's Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the one whose mind is attuned to God’s Name, imperceptibly he or she becomes a good hearted virtuous person, and should be considered very fortunate.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the qualities of such a person, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, such a person) sheds away all vices, remains detached from Maya (the worldly riches and power), and abandons the poison of self-conceit. (Within that person) is the thirst and desire only for the sight of the one (God), and in (such a person’s) heart is only the support of his or her Beloved’s feet.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “Such a detached person, whether asleep or awake, sitting or standing is always carefree and smiling. O’ Nanak, God’s devotees have beguiled that Maya, which has cheated the entire world.”(2-44-67)
It is a known fact that many people including his own elder brother Prithi Chand tried to harm fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji in every possible way. When they themselves couldn’t do anything, they went in a deputation to king Akbar and made all kinds of false accusations against Guru Ji. But being a wise king, Akbar properly investigated the matter before taking any action. His investigation revealed that all these allegations were baseless and in fact those who had complained were themselves mischief mongers. So the king severely admonished and warned them against any such deeds in future and they returned home in disgrace. It appears that Guru Ji uttered this shabad, in this or similar context to thank God and provide assurance to other devotees when they face a similar situation.

Guru Ji says: “Now no one makes a complaint against God’s devotee, because whosoever makes an effort to complain (against the) devotee, the Guru God destroys him.”(1-pause)

Stating a general principle, he says: “Whosoever harbors enmity with the one who has enmity towards none, that person loses in God’s court. From the beginning of ages this is the glory of God that He saves the honor of His devotees.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “On the support of God’s immaculate feet (His Name), my fear is removed. Following Guru’s advice, Nanak has meditated on God’s Name, (and) has become known in the world.”(2-45-68)

The message of this shabad is that even if we are surrounded by all kinds of enemies and slanderers who try to harm us in every possible way, we shouldn’t loose faith in God and keep meditating on His Name. As per His great tradition, ultimately God would save our honor and our enemies would suffer defeat and disgrace.

**Sarang Mehla-5**

It is the same light
Sarang Mehta-5

In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that people had stopped making any complaints against him, because whosoever tried, suffered defeat and disgrace. In this shabad, he explains how this change came about and what the blessings are, which he is still enjoying as a result of that change.

Guru Ji says: "(O' God, Your) devotees have renounced all their self (conceit). O' the Master of the universe, please save me as You will, I survive seeing Your glory."(1-pause)

Stating what kinds of blessings he has obtained in the company of saints and by acting on Guru's advice, he says: "O' God), by joining the company of saints and following Guru' s advice, all my distress has been removed. Now seeing friends or foes, I view them alike and all my utterance is (Your) meditation."(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing his present state of mind. He says: "The fire of desire (in me) has been quenched and listening to the nonstop (divine) melody, my mind feels calm and contented and I am absorbed in God’s wonders. The eternal God has come to reside in Nanak’s mind, (and as a result) a state of bliss has welled up in him, as if within him are fully playing the divine melodious tunes.’(2-46-69)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to quench the fire of worldly desires and get rid of all our worries and fears, we should act upon the immaculate advice of the saint (Guru). Then God would so bless us that we would view friends and foes alike and our mind would enjoy the wonderful non-stop melody of divine music.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to quench the fire of worldly desires and get rid of all our worries and fears then we should act upon the immaculate advice of the saint (Guru). In this shabad, he describes how his Guru has removed all his fears and fulfilled all his wishes and how thankful he is for that.

He says: “(O’ my friends), my Guru has removed all my dread. Therefore, I feel that we should be a sacrifice to that Guru, so I am always a sacrifice to him.” (1-pause)

Describing how he always remembers his Guru and keeps his advice in mind, he says: “(O’ my friends), day and night I meditate on the Name of the Guru and (respectfully remember him, as if) I have enshrined Guru’s feet in my mind. Every day I (so reverently listen to Guru’s sermon, as if) I bathe in the dust of the Guru’s feet which has (so dispelled all the sinful thoughts from my mind, as if it has) removed the dirt of all my sins and vices.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I daily serve the perfect Guru and pay homage to my Guru. (For his part), the perfect Guru has given me all the fruits (of my heart’s desire) and has emancipated Nanak.” (2-47-70)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our dread and the dirt of evils and sins from our soul, then we should perform the most humble service of the Guru; enshrine his immaculate advice into our heart and act upon it with sincerity and commitment. Fortunately now we have the advice of all the Gurus, and other true saints included in Guru Granth Sahib. So we don’t need to go out and search for any new physical Guru. All we need to do is to listen to the advice contained therein and meditate on God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our dread and the dust of evils and sins from our soul, then we should perform the most humble service of the Guru; enshrine his immaculate advice into our heart and act upon it with sincerity and commitment. Fortunately now we have the advice of all the Gurus, and other true saints included in Guru Granth Sahib, so we don’t need to go out and search for any new physical Guru. All we need to do is to listen to the advice contained therein and meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he describes the blessings, and virtues, which one obtains by meditating on God’s Name and loving the company of saints.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating on God’s Name, one obtains that (high spiritual) state, which sanctifies one’s life breaths. The one who imbues oneself with the love of the congregation of saintly persons, all that one’s woes are removed and all dreads vanish.” (1-pause)

Continuing to describe the benefits of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in one’s mind, who repeatedly meditates on God’s Name and sings God’s praise from the tongue, renouncing arrogance, lust, anger, and slander, imbues oneself with love of God.” (1)

Therefore, Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends, you too should) meditate on the merciful God because one looks beauteous while uttering God’s Name. Nanak says, one who becomes (so humble, as if he or she is) the dust of the feet of all, by repeating God’s Name that one merges in the vision of God.” (2-48-71)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our anxieties and passions for lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, we should seek and love the company of the saints and meditate on God’s Name at all times. But we should remain most humble and keep meditating on God so that ultimately we merge in that God.
In the previous shabad (2-40-70), Guru Ji listed some of the virtues his Guru bestowed on him. In this shabad, he describes what other blessings he has received from his Guru and how thankful he is for them.

He says: “(O’ my friends), I am sacrifice to my perfect Guru. (Because he has) made manifest the glory of (God’s) Name and the Savior (God) has saved (His devotees).”(1-pause)

Continuing to describe the blessings the perfect Guru bestows on his devotees and what the duty of the devotees is, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru makes his servants fearless, and destroys all their pains. Therefore, abandoning all other efforts (a devotee) enshrines the lotus feet (of the Guru’s immaculate advice) in the heart.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that one and only Creator is the support of our life breaths, friend, and mate (of us all. In short), highest of the high is the Master of Nanak (to whom, he) bows again and again.”(2-49-72)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our fears and pains, then we need to seek the shelter of perfect Guru God (Guru Granth Sahib Ji), and following the advice contained therein, meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises again and again.
Continuing his advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), sing praise of that God under whose law are governed all creatures. Worship that Master who has given (you) everything; why do you go to anyone else?”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by assuring us that God’s service or worship never goes waste. He says: “(O’ my friends), fruitful is the service (and worship) of my Master. (By doing this), you would obtain the fruits of your heart’s desire. Therefore Nanak says, (O’ my friends), depart from here with the profit (of God’s Name), so that you may reach your (real divine) home in comfort and (without any problems on the way).”(2-50-73)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want all our desires fulfilled and we are blessed with peace and comforts, then we should sing the praises of God. Only then would we earn the profit of God’s Name and reach our home (the mansion of God) peacefully without facing any problems on the way.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous, *shabad* Guru Ji told us that if we want our desires fulfilled and we are blessed with peace and comforts then we should sing praises of God. Only then we would earn the profit of God’s Name and reach our home (the mansion of God) peacefully without facing any problems on the way. In this *shabad*, he shows us how to seek the shelter of that merciful God and how without his uttering even a single word, God has known his problems and blessed him with all kinds of peace and bliss.

So expressing his gratitude to God, Guru Ji says: “O’ Master, I have come to Your shelter. Since the time I obtained Your sight, all the doubt of my mind has been removed.”(1-pause)

Now describing what happened when he sought the shelter of God, he said: “(O’ my friends), without (even) my uttering, (God) understood the pain of my heart and made me meditate on His Name. (As a result, all my) sorrows have disappeared and by singing (His) praises in a state of bliss, I remain merged in peace and poise.”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), holding them by their arms, (God) has pulled His (devotees) out of the blind well and home of *Maya* (the worldly riches and power).
Nanak says, that the Guru has snapped his (worldly) bonds and has united the separated one (with God once again).”(2-51-74)

The message of this shabad is that if ever we are in trouble we should go before Guru (Granth Sahib) and pray to him: “O’ Guru we have come to your shelter. Please extend your hand and pull us out of this deep well of trouble.” Then God Himself would remove our worries and pains and would grant us peace, poise and bliss.

Personal Note: - This reminds the author, about his personal experience in this regard. When I was relatively young, my father’s health took a turn for the worse. Being the only male member present in the house, I called the best doctor in town. After examining my father, he told me that he was not in immediate danger, but I should prepare myself to the fact, that he is not going to live more than a few months. He also asked me to later come to his house to pick up the prescription. This news that my father was not going to live more than a few months, struck me so seriously, that I went to Guru Granth Sahib room, and prayed to Guru Ji, saying: “O’ Guru Ji, I know that everybody has to die including my father, but so far, I have not had the sense or opportunity to serve my father. So please give me just three years in which I could serve him. If necessary, take these three years from my life.” At this point, I felt a sudden cool and calm wave running through my body, as if indicating that my prayer had been accepted. But still, I resolved that I would go to the doctor’s home three times, if all the three times, he didn’t meet me, I would assume that my father didn’t need any medicine, and he would be alright. That is exactly what happened; every time I went to the doctor, I missed him by a few minutes, because he had gone to attend another emergency. Anyhow, after that my father lived for six years.

Sarang Mehla-5

In previous many shabads, Guru Ji has advised us to seek the shelter of saints (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name under their guidance. The question arises, why does he stress this point again and again? What special effect or bliss do we obtain by meditating on God’s Name, which we cannot obtain any other way? In this shabad, he answers all such questions.

He says: “(O’ my friends), cool (and soothing) is the effect of God’s Name. After researching again and again, this is what (the Hindu scriptures) Vedas, Puranas, Simritis, and the saintly people have found.”(1-pause)
Contrary to some people’s belief regarding the happiness, one may enjoy in any of the three heavens, named after gods, Guru Ji says: “Even in the cities of Shiva, Brahma, and Indira, one roams around burning in the fire of jealousy. But by meditating on the Master again and again (the devotees) become calm and their sorrow, pain, and doubt is dispelled.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whether belonging to the past or recent time, whatever devotee was emancipated, it was due to his or her loving devotion for God the embodiment of divine light. Therefore, O’ my respected God, the humble request of Nanak is that he may be blessed with the service of the saintly people (so that under their guidance he too may meditate on God’s Name).”(2-52-75)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain such a peace and bliss which cannot be obtained even in the so called heavens of Hindu belief, then we have to seek the shelter of the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain such a peace and bliss, which cannot be obtained even in the so called heavens of Hindu belief, then we have to seek the shelter of the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. Therefore in this shabad, he tells himself (actually us) to sing praises of God and meditate on His Name with full concentration and devotion of all physical and mental faculties.

First addressing his tongue (and indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my tongue, sing the life rejuvenating praises of God. Again and again utter God’s Name, listen to the gospel of God, and recite God’s Name.”(1-pause)

Instead of running after worldly wealth or pleasures, Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), amass the wealth of the jewel like (precious) God’s Name and imbue your mind and body with (God’s) love. Deem all other kinds of wealth as illusory, only this (wealth of God’s) Name is everlasting.”(1)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God) is the Giver of life breath and salvation, attune your mind to that one (God) alone. Nanak says, seek only the shelter of that (God), who gives (us) all necessities (of life).”(2-53-76)

The message of this shabad is that all kinds of worldly wealth are illusory. Therefore we should try to amass only the wealth of God’s Name. This alone is the true object of life.

Many times, we think of doing good deeds and meditating on God’s Name, but in spite of our best intentions, we are so overpowered by our laziness and evil impulses that we neglect God’s meditation and remain involved in worldly affairs and evil pursuits. In this shabad, putting him in our situation Guru Ji shows us what we should do.

He says: “(O’ my friends, I have concluded that) no good (deed) can be done by me. Therefore, meeting with the saints (Guru), I have found only this support that it is best to seek only the shelter of one God.”(1-pause)

Commenting upon the general situation of human beings, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), within this body (of ours) are five evils (of lust, anger, greed, ego and attachment) and other vices, so our conduct is full of sinful and vicious deeds. Our hopes and desires are unlimited, but our days are numbered, and old age keeps eroding our vitality.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by praying to God and saying: “O’ the Support of the supportless, merciful Ocean of peace and Destroyer of all maladies and fears, slave Nanak keeps wishing in his mind that he may live (so humbly serving You and meditating on You Name, as if he is living under the shelter of) God’s feet.”(2-54-77)

The message of this shabad is that we should realize that our days are numbered, but our hopes and desires are limitless, and being over powered by our enemies of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, we are spending our lives in sinful deeds. The only way to get out of this mess is to seek the shelter of God and meditate on His Name.
Most of us keep spending our time and financial resources enjoying the relish of big bank balances, magnificent houses, the latest cars, elaborate dinners in fancy restaurants, or other places of erotic entertainment. But still we don’t feel satiated, and keep looking for something else.

In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us about a thing, which so satiates us that after enjoying its relish, all other relishes or forms of entertainment seem insipid to us.

He says: “(O’ my friends), except for the (relish of) God’s Name insipid are all other relishes. We should sing the nectar sweet praise of God, (by doing which) blissful (divine) melodies keep playing in our mind day and night.”(1-pause)

Listing some other benefits of meditating on God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating (on God’s Name), we obtain peace, great calmness, and all our worldly conflicts are ended. But only in the company of saints, do we obtain the profit of God’s Name and bring it safely home (and enshrine it in our heart).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God) is the highest of the high; there is no end or limit to His status. (I) Nanak cannot describe His glory, because I get wonder-struck (immediately upon) seeing it.”(2-55-78)

The message of this shabad is that insipid are all the worldly relishes as compared to the relish of God’s Name. Therefore instead of running after false worldly riches we should try to earn the profit of God’s Name.
In the previous shabad (2-53-76), Guru Ji told us that all kinds of worldly wealth are illusory. Therefore we should try to amass only the wealth of God’s Name. This alone is the true object of life. But still forsaking God’s Name, we are lured by worldly riches and keep wasting our lives in vain. In this shabad, Guru Ji reminds us about the real objective of human birth and once again asks us to realize our mistake and engage in meditating on God’s Name.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), mortal has come (to this world) to listen and recite the (Guru’s) word (in praise of God). Fruitless is the birth of those mortals, who forsaking God’s Name are lured by other (worldly) greed.”(1-pause)

Therefore, addressing his own mind (and indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my unconscious mind, wake up (even now), and remember His indescribable discourse, which the saints have described. (O’ my friends), earn the profit of remembering Him in your heart, so that your coming and going (or rounds of birth and death) may cease.”(1)

However Guru Ji wants us to realize that on his own, a human being cannot do anything. It is by God’s grace that one obtains the will power and wisdom to meditate on God’s Name. Therefore, he humbly prays to God and says: “(O’ God), all effort, (will) power, and wisdom are Yours, only if You give me these that I can utter (Your) Name. O’ Nanak, they alone are (true devotees) and they alone engage in His meditation, who are pleasing to God.”(2-56-79)

The message of this shabad is that our real purpose in this life is to listen and sing Gurbani and meditate on God’s Name. But we are wasting away our life in all kinds of worldly greed. We should also realize that only as a result of God’s grace, we could meditate on God’s Name. Therefore we should pray to God to bless us with inspiration, energy, and wisdom to meditate on His Name.

Sarag Mehta-5

In the previous shabad (2-53-76), Guru Ji told us that all kinds of worldly wealth are illusory. Therefore we should try to amass only the wealth of God’s Name. This alone is the true object of life. But still forsaking God’s Name, we are lured by worldly riches and keep wasting our lives in vain. In this shabad, Guru Ji reminds us about the real objective of human birth and once again asks us to realize our mistake and engage in meditating on God’s Name.

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In this world most of us try our utmost to be wealthy, rich, and prestigious. Some, who themselves cannot become rich, try to become partners of the rich or at least their acquaintances so that under the protection or possible help from the latter they might also get some worldly favor or advantage. But it is often seen that the kind of riches, which the human beings gather, such as big mansions, cars, gold and silver ornaments, or big bank balances, often do not last long and do not bring true or lasting happiness, but many times bring sorrow. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us who are truly rich persons and what the true wealth is, which would not only bring us lasting happiness in this world, but would also bring honor in God’s court, and what we should do to acquire that kind of riches.

He says: “(O’ my friends), truly rich are the dealers in God’s Name, (who meditate themselves and inspire others to meditate on God’s Name. Therefore) enter into partnership (with such people, and) earn the wealth of God’s Name by reflecting on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word.”(1-pause)

Another thing that Guru Ji wants us to do is to abandon all our falsehood and deceit in which we often engage while conducting our business. He says: “(O’ my friends), becoming enmity free, renounce deceit, because that God is always abiding with you and (closely) watching (all your deeds). Trade in and amass the true wealth (of God’s Name; in this way) you would never come home as losers (and would reach God’s mansion as winners).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by mentioning another unique quality of the wealth of God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends, unlike the worldly riches, this wealth of God’s Name) never falls short in spite of enjoying and spending it (lavishly, because there are) innumerable storehouses which are brimful (with this wealth in God’s mansion). Nanak says (by dealing in and amassing this wealth, you would) go with honor to God’s mansion.”(2-57-80)

The message of this shabad is that instead of trying to amass worldly riches, we should associate with those who meditate on God’s Name and reflect on the Guru’s word (Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib), and try to amass the wealth of God’s Name. This wealth would never get exhausted and would bring us lasting happiness in this world and ensure us honor and recognition in God’s court.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of trying to amass worldly riches, we should associate with those who meditate on God’s Name and reflect on Guru’s word (the Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib), and try to amass the wealth of God’s Name. This wealth would never get exhausted and would bring us lasting happiness in this world and ensure us honor and recognition in God’s court. However, one thing, which Guru Ji strongly warns us against, is indulging in any kind of ego or arrogance, even if we are doing all the right things as per Gurbani, and meditating on God’s Name day and night. In this shabad, he shows us how to approach God with utmost humility and ask for His grace and mercy so that we are saved from falling into the trap of ego or arrogance.

He says: “O’ God, (without Your grace, what is the significance of a) poor patron less creature like me. It is Your glory that from such a (lowly) origin (of father’s semen, You) turned me into a human being.”

Continuing to express his admiration of God, Guru Ji says: “O’ the Giver of life and breath to all, Your merits cannot be described. You are the Beloved (Master) and Sustainer of all, and support of all hearts.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by making a humble prayer. He says: “(O’ God), nobody knows Your state or extent, because it is You alone who has made the entire expanse (of the world. Please bless me with the company of saints and) seat Nanak in the boat of saints, which may ferry him across the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”

The message of this shabad is that we should most humbly pray to God to bless us with the company of saints (Guru), so that in their company we may meditate on God’s Name and thus be ferried across this worldly ocean.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we should most humbly pray to God to bless us with the company of saints (Guru), so that in their company we may meditate on God’s Name and thus be ferried across this worldly ocean. In other words, Guru Ji is asking us to seek the shelter of God for our salvation. In this *shabad*, he tells how fortunate are those who seek God’s shelter, and what kinds of blessings they obtain.

He says: “(O’ my friends, it is only a) very fortunate person who comes to the shelter of God. Except for one (God), such a person doesn’t care for anything else and abandons all other efforts.”(1-pause)

Commenting further on the state and conduct of such a person, Guru Ji says: “By meditating (on God with full concentration of the) mind, word, and deed, in the company of saints (that person) obtains peace, and by enjoying the bliss and joy of the relish of the indescribable discourse (of God); gets absorbed in the eternal (God Himself).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “Showing His mercy, whom (God) makes His own, that person’s speech becomes sublime. (In short), O’ Nanak, we are ferried across this worldly ocean in the company of those saintly persons who are imbued with the love of desire free God.”(2-59-82)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to be ferried across this worldly ocean and get out of the rounds of births and deaths, then we should seek the shelter of God and join the company of His saints who are imbued with His love and meditate on God’s Name with full dedication of our mind, body, and deeds.

**Sarang Mehla-5**

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to be ferried across this worldly ocean and get out of the rounds of births and deaths, then we should seek the shelter of God and join the company of His saints who are imbued with His love and meditate on God’s Name with full dedication of our mind, body, and deeds. In this *shabad*, he shares with us his own experience and describes the blessings he has received since he obtained the shelter of the saint (Guru).
Guru Ji says: “Since the time I have grasped on to the refuge of the saint (Guru), I have obtained peace and poise, my mind has been illuminated (with divine knowledge), and there is nothing which pains me now.”(1-pause)

Describing what exactly he prayed for and what was the result, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, when I sought the shelter of God), I made this supplication, “O’ God, be kind and bless me with Your Name”. (Then I) forgot about (all) other affairs and by meditating on God I obtained the true profit (of His Name).”(1)

Stating the end result of the above blessings, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, now my soul) craves for that very thing (of God’s Name, by virtue of which) it has merged in that (source) from where it was created. Nanak says, the Guru has dispelled my doubt and my light has merged in (God’s supreme) light.”(2-60-83)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the shelter of saint (Guru) and following his advice, meditate on God’s Name, then all our sufferings would end and our soul would merge in His prime soul.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should seek the shelter of saint (Guru) and following his advice, meditate on God’s Name, then all our sufferings would end and our soul would merge in His prime soul. In this shabad, he tells us how to meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), sing praises of God with your tongue. (Except for the relish of Name), forsake all other relishes, because the relish of God’s Name is the most sublime.”(1-pause)

Continuing his advice, he says: “Enshrining God’s lotus feet (His merits) in your heart, attune your mind to the one (God). By joining the company of saints, you would become immaculate and wouldn’t fall into existences again.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by lovingly and devotedly saying: “(O’ God), my body and mind depend only on Your support, You are the support of the support less. With each and every breath (I) Nanak contemplate on God and am always a sacrifice to Him.”(2-61-84)
The message of this shabad is that abandoning all worldly relishes we should sing praises of God in the company of saints. By doing so we would forget all other relishes and would not fall into existences again.

Sarang Mehaa-5

In many previous shabads Guru Ji advised us to join the company of saints and sing God’s praises in their company while focusing the mind on God’s lotus feet (His merits). One might wonder, what is so special about all these things, why Guru Ji stresses these things again and again. In this shabad, he provides answers to all such questions.

He says: “(O’ my friends), every day I meditate on God’s lotus feet (His merits). For me this is heaven. (Because to meditate) on God’s Name in the company of saints (is the best way) to obtain the objective of salvation.”(1-pause)

Now Guru Ji shows us how to pray to God for this boon and what is the benefit of doing that. Addressing God, he says: “O’ God, show Your mercy that with our ears we may listen to Your sublime gospel, (because by doing so) both the objectives of coming and going are fulfilled (and instead of wandering in existences, we) obtain rest and peace.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “After deliberating on it again and again, I have reached this conclusion: only God’s devotion is perfect and sublime. Nanak says that except for God’s Name, any other way of life is incomplete.”(2-62-85)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain salvation and a stable place in God’s heaven, then we should pray to Him to bless us that we always listen to His immaculate gospel, meditate on His Name and sing His praises in the company of saints.
In previous many *shabads*, Guru Ji advised us to sing praises of God and meditate on His Name in the company of saints. In this *shabad*, he summarizes the reasons for this advice.

He says: “(O’ my friends, God) my true Guru is the eternal Giver. Seeing Him, all one’s pains vanish. I am a sacrifice to His immaculate feet (His Name).” (1-pause)

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), God is eternal, eternal are His saintly devotees, and imperishable is the Name of God. Therefore sing praises of the imperishable (God) with (true) love and devotion.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that God is unperceivable and incomprehensible, we cannot find His limit. He is the main stay of all hearts. Nanak says, hail glory (of that God), who has no end or limit.” (2-63-86)

The message of this *shabad* is that only God, His Name, and His saints are immortal. Seeing God, all our pains vanish. Therefore joining the company of saint (Guru) we should meditate on His Name.

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that only God, His Name, and His saints are immortal. Seeing God all our pains vanish. Therefore joining the company of saint
(Guru), we should meditate on His Name. In this _shabad_, Guru Ji shares with us his own experience of doing so and the blessings he received.

He says: “(O' my friends, since the time, _Gurbani_) the Guru’s immaculate feet have been enshrined in my heart, (I have realized that God) the Master is pervading everywhere and is near to us all.” (1-pause)

Now stating what the blessings are which he has received since the time he developed friendship with his saint (Guru), he says: “(O’ my friends), breaking my (worldly) bonds the Guru has attuned my mind to God, and now I feel happy in the company of saints. (My human) birth has become immaculate and all my desire has been fulfilled.” (1)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad with the remark: “O’ my God, on whosoever You show Your mercy, that person sings God’s praises at all times and Nanak is always a sacrifice to (such a person)” (2-64-87)

The message of this _shabad_ is that when we truly enshrine Guru’s immaculate advice in our heart and following his advice we sing God’s praises, we realize that God is pervading everywhere and is near to us all. Then our life becomes immaculate and all our heart’s desires are fulfilled.

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_Sarang Mehta- 5_

Different people define success differently. Most of us deem that person to have a successful life, who has earned billions of dollars. Others define success as reaching the height of their particular profession or attaining the seat of highest authority, such as becoming a king or president of a country. In this _shabad_, Guru Ji tells us what his definition of a successful life is and what the traits of those are whom he considers successful.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should count our life (as successful only) if we have seen God. Therefore, O’ my enticing Beloved, please show mercy and destroy the wall of doubt (between You and me).” (1-pause)
Cautioning us against mere lip service and ritual worship, he says: “(O’ man, just by) doing or listening (to religious sermons), no peace arises (in one’s mind). There is no special merit (in doing ritual worship) without faith (in God). Forsaking God, one who desires anything else is (so disgraced, as if) that one’s face has been smeared with ashes.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by stating the traits of those for whom the wealth of God’s Name is the true wealth.

He says: “(O’ my friends), one who has the wealth of the Name of the Master of all comforts, doesn’t care for any other (false holy) garbs. O’ Nanak, such a person’s mind remains absorbed in God’s captivating sight. (Because by God’s grace, all that person’s) objectives (of life) are fulfilled.”(2-65-88)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to really make this precious life of ours successful and approved in the eyes of God, then we should abandon all other desires for worldly riches and fame and instead, pray to God to show His mercy and bless us with His sight.

Different people worship different gods, do different rituals, and adopt different holy garbs to wash off their sins and obtain salvation. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us what the most effective way is to obtain all these objectives.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating on the Name (of God) alone, all one’s sins are burnt off in an instant (as if one has earned the merit of) doing millions of charities and ablutions (at holy places).”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the merits of God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all other entanglements, in which one keeps putting in hard labor, without (meditation on) God are empty knowledge. The one who attunes one’s mind to the bliss of meditation on the Master of this world, is emancipated from the problem of birth and death.”(1)
mercy and bless Nanak with this bounty that he may live meditating upon You again and again and his ego may vanish.”(2-66-89)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want that all our sins are burnt off and our painful rounds of birth and death are ended, then we should pray to God to show His mercy upon us and bless us that we keep meditating on Him again and again and become free of any self-conceit and arrogance.

*Saarag Mehla 5.*

Dhoorat so-ee je Dhur ka-o laagai.
so-ee DhuranDhar so-ee basunDhar har ayk
paraym ras paagai. ||1|| raha-o.

balbanch karai na jaanai laabhai so Dhoorat nahee
mooeh'aa.
su-aarah ti-aag asaarath rachi-o nah simrai
parabh roorhaa. ||1||

so-ee cha'tur si-aanaa pandit so sooraa so daanaa".
saaDhsang jin har har japi-o nanak so parvaanaa.
||2||67||90||

*Sarang Mehla-5*

People take pride in different qualities. Some feel that they are very clever. Others feel proud of their wealth, knowledge, or bravery. In this *shabad*, Guru Ji tells us, who in reality is truly wise, brave, or knowledgeable.

First referring to those who used to pride themselves as Dhoorats (the intelligent ones or connected to God), Guru Ji says: “In my view that person alone is Dhooratt (intelligent) who is truly attuned to the Primal Being. Similarly that person alone is Dharundar (brave warrior), and that person alone is Basundhar (wealthy person), who remains absorbed in the relish of one God’s love.”(1-pause)

Commenting further on the conduct of those who call themselves as Dhooratts, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who practices deceit, doesn’t know what is to one’s real advantage, that one is not a Dhooratt (intelligent person), but is a fool. One who doesn’t meditate on the beauteous God, forsaking the real objective, is involved in a useless pursuit.”(1)

In conclusion, he says: “(O’ my friends), that one alone is intelligent, wise, a learned (person), a brave warrior and a sagacious person, who in the company of saints has meditated on God’s Name. O’ Nanak, “Such a person is approved (in God’s court).”(2-67-90)

The message of this *shabad* is that instead of calling ourselves very wise, learned, or brave, and trying to deceive others, we should really attune our mind with the true source or God, and for that we should meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints, only then we will be accepted in God’s court.
In previous so many shabads Guru Ji has been advising us that the only way to obtain peace and bliss both in this and the next world is to meditate on God’s Name under the guidance and shelter of saintly people. The question arises why is this guidance and company of the saintly people so beneficial? What is so special about the saint’s way of life that makes others who are in their company also pure and immaculate? In this shabad, Guru Ji answers this question and tells us what kind of life the saintly people lead and what are the things, which truly please them and satiate them?

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the way of life of the saints is to remember God again and again. (Instead of enjoying) the sinful worldly relishes, they drink the relish of the Name of God, the ocean of bliss giving nectar.” (1-pause)

Now describing what kind of wealth or possessions the saints love and try to acquire, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, unlike the worldly people, God’s devotees) amass the wealth and jewels of God’s Name (and so enshrine it in their hearts, as if they) sew it in their minds and bodies. They are so imbued with the love of God, (as if they have been dyed) deep red (in God’s love), and they remain intoxicated with the relish of God’s Name.” (1)

In closing, he says: “Just as a fish remains involved in water, (the saints) remain attuned to God’s Name. O’ Nanak, the saints are like chaatriks (sparrow hawks) who are only at peace after drinking the drop of God’s (Name).” (2-68-91)

The message of this shabad is that the life of God’s saints is such that instead of false worldly pleasures and wealth, they relish and acquire the wealth of God’s Name. Just as a fish loves water, or a sparrow hawk loves the special drop of rain, similarly the saints love God’s Name. That is why Guru Ji repeatedly urges us to seek the company of saints (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name in their company.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that the life of God’s saints is such that instead of false worldly pleasures and wealth, they relish and acquire the wealth of God’s Name. Just as a fish loves water or a sparrow hawk loves the special drop of rain, similarly the saints love God’s Name. That is why Guru Ji repeatedly urges us to seek the company of saints (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name in their company. In this shabad, he shows us the opposite side of the picture and tells us about the state and fate of those who live their lives without meditating on God’s Name.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, they) who are bereft of God’s Name are (like) ghosts. Whatever they do or get done, gets them caught in more and more (worldly) bonds and entanglements.”(1-pause)

Therefore addressing us directly Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, whatever) time you spend in serving others except for serving (worshipping) God, you are wasting your time. Therefore O’ mortals, (just think) what your condition would be when the demon (of death) comes and hits you?”(1)

However Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling us from where we can acquire the wealth of God’s Name and how to pray to God to save us and bless us with this gift.

Addressing God on our behalf, he says: “O’ ever merciful God, please save Your servant. Nanak says, my God is the treasure of bliss and it is in the company of saint (Guru) that the wealth and possession (of His Name) is obtained.”(2-69-92)

The message of this shabad is that to spend life without meditating on God’s Name is like living a life of ghosts and a complete waste of time. Therefore we should pray to God to bless us with the company of saint (Guru). So that we may also meditate on God’s Name and save ourselves from the tortures of the demon of death.
In the previous *shabad* (2-68-91), Guru Ji described the way of life of God’s saints. In this *shabad*, he sheds some more light on their conduct and lists the blessings they enjoy. He also shows us how we should pray to God for His Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends, the saints) remain engaged in the business of God’s (Name). They are so accustomed to singing praises of God with a loving relish that the worldly allurements don’t touch (or afflict them at all).”(1-pause)

Commenting on the conduct of God’s saints, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), to listen to praises of God with their ears, and to recite (with tongue) their Master’s Name; this is the life conduct of the saints. God’s lotus feet (His immaculate Name) always remains enshrined in their hearts (and God’s) worship is the main stay of their life breaths.”(1)

Therefore, Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by praying to God and saying: “O’ the merciful God of the meek, please listen to my prayer and bestow Your grace upon me. (Please bless me that) with my tongue, I may daily utter the treasure of Your Name. Nanak is always a sacrifice to You.”(2-70-93)

The message of this *shabad* is that like the saintly people we should also pray to God to show His mercy upon us and bless us that day and night we may keep singing God’s praise and meditating upon His Name.
It is the same light
He says: “(O’ my friends), in my mind, I long for that opportunity when I may meet those saintly people who joining together, keep singing God’s praises daily.” (1-pause)

Now Guru Ji tells us why he has such a strong desire for God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), without worshipping God, any (other) deeds which we do all go to waste. (Because), within whose mind God the perfect embodiment of bliss sounds sweet, (to that person) no other (person or power seems so pleasing).” (1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by categorically stating that all other ritualistic worships are no match to God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), all worships, penances, austerities and other deeds for the sake of peace do not compare to the profit (of God’s Name). Therefore Nanak says that the mind (of God’s devotees) is pierced with the (love of God’s) lotus feet and they remain absorbed in His lotus feet (His loving adoration).” (7-72-95)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy true pleasure and relish of God’s company, then instead of performing ritualistic worships and austerities we should sing praises of God in the company of saints.

The previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy true pleasure and relish of God’s company, then instead of performing ritualistic worships and austerities we should sing praises of God in the company of saints. In this shabad, he describes his own experience and tells what happened when he sang praises of God in the company of saints.

Stating his present state of mind, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I feel that) my God the inner knower of all hearts is always with me. Previously I have been enjoying peace and pleasure (and am confident that) by meditating on my Master’s Name I would keep enjoying health and happiness in the future (as well).” (1-pause)

Describing how intimately he is connected with his Beloved Master, Guru Ji says: “The meritorious God and King is now my friend. (Since the time) the perfect Guru united me with (Him) Even for an instant, He doesn’t go out of my mind.” (1)
On the basis of his personal experience and study, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), under His control are all the beings and creatures, showing His mercy, He protects His servants. Therefore Nanak says, they who have attuned their minds to the one perfect God alone, don’t have any fear (in them).”(2-73-96)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be free from any fear and always enjoy health and happiness, then we should seek the grace of the perfect Guru and meditate on God’s Name so that showing His mercy, He may accept us in His shelter and we may feel that He is always with us like our friend, mate, and helper.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to be free from any fear and always enjoy health and happiness, then we should seek the grace of the perfect Guru and meditate on God’s Name so that showing His mercy, He may accept us in His shelter and we may feel that He is always with us like our friend, mate, and helper. In this shabad, he tells us about the blessings a person enjoys who has full faith in God’s protection and how beneficial it is to seek the company of such a devotee.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in whose heart is (the confidence) of God’s support, all that (person’s) objectives are accomplished and no sorrow afflicts him or her.”(1-pause)

Describing, how much he respects such devotees and how valuable their sight is, he says: “(O’ my friends), I feel rejuvenated upon hearing the glory of that person who becomes (like a) personal servant and devotee of God. I make efforts to see that person’s sight but it is only by God’s grace that one obtains (the chance to see such a person).”(1)

Therefore, Guru Ji concludes the shabad by humbly praying to God Himself. He says: “(O’ God), by Guru’s grace I see with my own eyes that except for You there is no other (true Power). Please bestow this charity on Your (devotee) Nanak, that I may live washing the feet of (humbly serving) the saint (Guru).”(2-74-97)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to bless us with the most humble service of the saints (Guru) so that in their company, we may learn to
meditate on His Name and develop full faith in God’s protection. Then all our desires would be fulfilled.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to bless us with the most humble service of the saints (Guru) so that in their company we may learn to meditate on His Name and develop full faith in God’s protection. Then all our desires would be fulfilled. In this shabad, Guru Ji shows us how to fully surrender ourselves to the protection of God and live as per God’s will.

He says: “(O’ my friends), a person lives a (true) life by singing praises of God. (Therefore I pray to God and say), O’ my beloved Master of the universe, please show mercy (and bless me) that I may never forsake (Your Name).” (1-pause)

Next surrendering completely before God, he says: “O’ Master, all this mind, body, and wealth are Yours, (Except for You) I don’t have any other place (to go). I have to live as You keep me and eat and wear what You give (me).” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “I am a sacrifice again and again to the company of saint (Guru, because by meditating on God’s Name in his company, one) doesn’t wander in existences again. Slave Nanak has sought Your shelter; make him live as You please.”(2-75-98)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of the future pains of births and deaths, then we have to meditate on God’s Name in the company of saint (Guru) and surrender ourselves completely to God’s will and lead our life in the way He wants us to lead it, whether in poverty or riches, sickness or health, weal or woe.
गरीहि अंद्र खुश फरखंद प्रभूति तरव चेव खेति ||
अनित लेहि बुधु गरिहि बुधु वर्ण वर्ण ||
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सारंग मेहला-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of the future pains of births and deaths, then we have to meditate on God's Name in the company of saint (Guru), surrender ourselves completely to God's will and lead our life the way, He wants us to lead it, whether in poverty or riches, sickness or health, weal or woe. In this shabad, Guru Ji shows us how the pursuits of worldly wealth are useless and only God's Name can bring us true peace of mind.

Addressing his own mind (and indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, the peace of God’s Name is the most sublime. All other deeds for the sake of worldly riches and power are useless and all of these seem (useless like) ashes.”(1)

Commenting on the state and fate of a person who remains absorbed in worldly pursuits, Guru Ji says: “The person who (keeps running after worldly riches is like the one) who falls in the dark, blind well of the household where there is pitch darkness of hell. Such a person gets exhausted after wandering again and again in innumerable existences.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by showing us how to pray to God and what to ask from Him so that we could be saved. He says: “O’ the Sanctifier of sinners, and Lover of Your devotees, please show mercy on this humble (being). With folded hands Nanak begs You to emancipate him (by uniting him with the) company of saints (Guru).”(2)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy true peace of mind and want to get rid of painful rounds of births and deaths then we should pray to God to bless us with the company of saints (Guru) so that in that company we may meditate on God’s Name, which is the true means of obtaining happiness and salvation.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy true peace of mind and want to get rid of painful rounds of births and deaths, then we should pray to God to bless us with the company of saints (Guru) so that in that company we may meditate on God’s Name, which is the true means of obtaining happiness and salvation. In this shabad, he describes what kind of health and happiness one enjoys by enshrining God’s Name in one’s heart.

He says: “(O’ my friends, within whom) is abiding the glory of God’s (Name, from within that person) all the three kinds of (psychological, physical, and social) afflictions flee away.”(1-pause)

Describing what other blessings, such a person enjoys, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, within whom is enshrined the support of God’s Name, that person’s fire like desire) is quenched, all desire is fulfilled, and all sorrows and sufferings are ended. By singing praises of the eternal and imperishable God, one’s body, mind and soul are fully satiated.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji prays: “O’ the Lover of devotees, the Destroyer of fear, (and cherisher of) Nanak like his mother and father, (by meditating on Your Name) in the company of saints all my lust, anger, greed, arrogance, and jealousy has been eradicated.”(2-77-100)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be free of all kinds of physical, psychological or social ailments then we should seek the company of the saints (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name in his company.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we want to be free of all kinds of physical, psychological or social afflictions, then we should seek the company of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name in his company. In this shabad he comments on the state of the world, which is suffering so badly and suggests how it can find peace.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), without meditating on God’s Name, the world remains miserable. Its dog like greed never gets satiated and it remains attached to the love of ash like perishable Maya (the worldly riches and power).”

Pointing to the real source and cause of this trouble, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, actually man is helpless, because it is God Himself who) by administerimg this deceitful potion (of worldly riches and power) has strayed the world; therefore it keeps being born (and dying) again and again. (Being strayed, the human being) doesn’t meditate on God’s Name even for an instant, therefore the demon of death punishes him or her severely.”

Therefore showing us the way to get out of this misery, Guru Ji prays to God and says: “O’ the Destroyer of pains of the meek, please be merciful and bless me with the dust of the feet (most humble service) of Your saints. Slave Nanak, begs for Your sight, which is the support and anchor of his body and mind.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be free from the sufferings and the misery through which the rest of the world is going, and want to get rid of the future pains of births and deaths, then we should beg God to bless us with the company of His saints so that in their company we may meditate on His Name.
of not meditating on God’s Name, and what we can do to save ourselves from these consequences.

He says: “(O’ my friends), without meditating on God’s Name a mortal remains soiled (with sinful tendencies. But the mortal is also helpless, because) the eternal God has Himself strayed the human being (and coerced him or her to) keep drinking the poisonous herb (of greed for worldly possessions).”(1-pause)

Describing the consequences of drinking this poison of greed for worldly riches and power, Guru Ji says: “Even after wandering through millions of existences (a power hungry person) finds no place of rest. Such a person doesn’t get to meet the perfect Guru who could help him or her obtain a state of equipoise so the egoist keeps coming and going.”(1)

But in his compassion Guru Ji shows us the way to end this otherwise unending circle of births and deaths, and on our behalf, he says: “O’, the all-powerful God and benefactor, You are the unperceivable and limitless God, please save us. Slave Nanak says that one who seeks Your shelter crosses over (the dreadful worldly ocean).” (2-79-102)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to end our continuous rounds of births and deaths then we should seek the guidance of the true Guru, purify our soul with the soap of Name, and pray to God to show His mercy and ferry us also across this dreadful worldly ocean.

In eastern philosophy, great stress has been laid on meditation for peace of mind and spiritual advancement. For this reason, different faiths and their sects advocate the meditation upon different mantras, gods and goddesses, and other such powers. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us what he recommends and why.

He says: “(O’ my friends, in my view) to utter God’s praises is the most sublime form of meditation. (I recommend, that) in the company of saints, we should meditate on (the merits of) God, nectar like (sweet) is whose relish.”(1-pause)
Stating some of the benefits of singing praises of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating on the one imperishable and eternal God all the intoxicating effects of Maya are destroyed. A divine nonstop melody starts ringing within us and we start enjoying a state of poise and bliss, and after that we don’t suffer from any more conflicts.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by quoting examples of great Hindu devotees and gods who sing praises of God. He says: “(O’ my friends, even such known devotees as Sanak, Sanatan, Sanandand and Sant Kumar), the sons of (god) Brahma (and also sages like) Sukk and Prehlad sing praises (of God). Because O’ Nanak, (by singing praises of the wondrous God and thus) drinking the heart enticing nectar of God’s relish, one goes into ecstasy.”(2-80-103)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy a relish which is most pleasing to our mind and our tongue and which can bring us peace, poise, and bliss, then we should sing praises of God in the company of His saints.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the opening lines of previous shabad (2-79-102), Guru Ji stated that without meditating on God’s Name a mortal remains soiled with sinful tendencies, and greed for worldly possessions). In this shabad, he comments further on the state and fate of such a human being and tells how one can avoid the terrible punishment awaiting him or her.

He says: “(O’ my friends, a human being) has committed so many sins (during past lives), as if he or she has built forts (of sins. Even now, the human being) never gets tired committing (these sins) day and night; (therefore) cannot find release anywhere.”(1-pause)

Commenting on the state of an ordinary human being, he says: “(O’ my friends, one commits so many sins, as if) one is carrying a load of poisonous sins and sorrows on the head. (But when) the demon of death seizes one by the hair, then in an instant one’s eyes get opened wide (and one sees the account of one’s misdeeds in front of him or her).”(1)

Stating the kinds of punishments, which await one and how one can avoid these, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, a sinner) suffers through innumerable existences of animals and ghosts. Therefore Nanak says, (O’ mortal), in the company of saints meditate on God and you would not be hit by the blows of (the demon of death).”(2-81-104)
The message of this shabad is that we should realize that we have committed so many evil deeds, as if we are carrying an unbearable load of sins on our heads. So before the demon of death catches us by our forelocks and shows the picture of our own misdeeds and starts severely punishing us, we should join the company of saints and sing praises of God in their company.

Note: Once the author happened to visit a police station. There he saw three normal looking teenagers being interrogated by the police inspector regarding some recent theft. They were all claiming their innocence, but when the inspector asked his soldiers to hit them with special wooden pedal and a roller they all started crying and confessing. Then they not only confessed their parts in the recent theft, but also their previous thefts and misdeeds. This incident made the author realize the fate awaiting us when our sins would be exposed sooner or later.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that we should realize that we have committed so many evil deeds, as if we are carrying an unbearable load of sins on our heads. In this shabad, he shows us further the mirror of our life conduct and tells us how we are harming and injuring ourselves.

He says: “O’ blind fool, (you commit so many sins, as if) you are eating poison in big gulps. Your eyes, ears, and body have all become weak, and the vitality in your breath has diminished, (but you still keep committing sins).” (1-pause)

Addressing such worshippers of power, Guru Ji says: “(O’ fool, blinded by the greed for worldly riches), by usurping the right of orphans (and poor helpless persons), you fill your (own) belly, (but remember that ultimately this sinful) wealth would also abandon you. (Even though after) committing sins again and again, (some time) you do repent, but still you are never able to weed this (bad habit) out of you.” (1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing the end fate of such a sinner, particularly a slanderer who always tries to speak ill of others and harm them. He says: “Ultimately the demons of death come and beat the slanderer by hitting the him or her on the head. O’ Nanak, (in a way, a slanderer) hurts him or herself with his or her own dagger and
inflicts wounds on his or her own mind (and thus brings pain and suffering on him or herself.’(2-82-105)

The message of this shabad is that if we continue committing sins and keep usurping the rights of humble and poor people in order to fulfill our own desires, then we would suffer a very dreadful fate at the hands of the demon of death and for that fate we ourselves would be responsible.

Sarang Mehla-5

Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad by stating that ultimately the demons of death come and beat the slanderer by hitting him or her on the head. (In a way a slanderer) hurts himself or herself with his or her own dagger and keeps inflicting wounds on his or her own mind and thus brings pain and suffering on himself or herself. In this shabad, Guru Ji might be referring to the fate of Sulhi Khan who came to kill Guru Ji but was himself killed on the way.

So Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the life of the slanderer was cut short in the middle. God Himself became the savior of His devotee and death overcame the self-conceited one.”(1-pause)

Describing the disgrace and sorrow the slanderer has to suffer, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), nobody listens to (or believes) what the slanderer says, and no one welcomes him or her anywhere. He suffers pain (in this world), and suffers in hell in the yond and wanders in many existences.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(That slanderer) was defamed in all the continents and the worlds, and reaped what he had sown. But seeking the shelter of fearless Creator, Nanak kept singing songs of joy and (God’s) praise.”(2-83-106)

The message of this shabad is that we should remember that if we indulge in slander of any person particularly saints, we would spoil our own reputation, and nobody would believe us. We would suffer pain here in this world and pain of hell after death. So instead of indulging in slander or any other evil deeds, we should seek the company
of saints and sing the praises of God. Then we will enjoy a state of peace, poise and bliss.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad Guru Ji told us about the fate one suffers if one indulges in slandering others, particularly the saints. In this shabad, he comments on another universal impulse of human beings, the burning desire for worldly riches and power and how it keeps degrading one’s conduct till the end. This desire may sometimes appear to be subsiding in one way but shows its ugly head in another. For example, sometimes we may feel satisfied with worldly riches and possessions but then we start burning with the desire for worldly power, influence, or worldly praise and recognition.

Therefore Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the worldly) desire keeps running (in a person) in many different ways. It doesn’t get quenched in any way and in the end (man’s life) falls down defeated.”(1-pause)

Commenting further on the ill effects of this impulse of the human being, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), such is the normal effect of this (impulse for worldly desire) that no contentment, peace, or poise arises in one’s mind. (This habit) so burns one in lust and anger that one doesn’t know what belongs to him or her and what belongs to others.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by showing us how to pray to God to save us from this and other serious worldly problems. He says: “(O’ God), Nanak has sought the shelter of Your lotus feet (Your immaculate Name), he is always a sacrifice to You. Please ferry Your servant across the worldly ocean, which is afflicted with sorrows.” (2-84-107)

The message of this shabad is that we should realize that human desire for worldly riches and power never gets quenched. Because of this fire like desire the entire world keeps suffering in pain. The only way out is to humbly pray to God to show mercy on us and save us.
In many previous shabads, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy peace in this world and honor in God’s court then we should seek the company of saints and meditate on God’s Name under their guidance. But we human beings keep busy spending our lives eating, drinking, and enjoying other worldly pleasures. When anybody, or our own inner conscience reminds us about the necessity of remembering that God who has blessed us with our life, and so many other pleasures, we come up with one excuse or another. In this shabad, Guru Ji harshly admonishes the mortal for this serious lapse, and once again urges us to meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “O’ sinner, from whom have you acquired such (a bad) intellect that even for a moment you do not remember that Master, who blessed you with your body and soul.”(1-pause)

Commenting further on man’s ungrateful nature, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), you are in comfort while eating, drinking or sleeping, but when it comes to remembering God’s Name, you feel too weak. When you were in the (mother’s) womb you used to cry and becoming very humble, you (used to pray to God to save you).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by once again reminding us that it is because of our own evil habits that we are suffering through so many existences and the only way we can find peace is by meditating on God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friend), being bound in the intoxication of great sins, you are wandering around in innumerable existences. (O’ my friend), which of the sufferings may I count with which one would be afflicted if one forsakes God? Nanak says, peace is only obtained by reflecting on God’s status (and meditating on His Name).”(2-85-108)

The message of this shabad is that we should not waste our life in enjoying false worldly pleasures or committing sins to satisfy our worldly desires. We should realize that it is because of our previous sinful lives that we have been wandering in innumerable existences. The only way we can find peace is by meditating on God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should not waste our life in enjoying false worldly pleasures or committing sins to satisfy our worldly desires. We should realize that it is because of our previous sinful lives that we have been wandering in innumerable existences. The only way, we can find peace is by meditating on God’s Name. In this shabad, he shares with us the peace and bliss he is enjoying by meditating on God’s Name in the shelter of saints.

As if addressing his mother, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, (since the time) I grasped the support of God’s feet (His immaculate Name), seeing Him, my mind has been captivated and my bad intellect has been washed off.” (1-pause)

Next listing some of God’s excellences and describing his delight on seeing Him, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), ungraspable, unfathomable, and highest of the high is that imperishable (God) whose worth cannot be described. Seeing Him pervading in lands and waters, my mind has been delighted (and I see Him) pervading everywhere.”(1)

Sharing with us how he succeeded in obtaining God and what kinds of blessings he is now enjoying by meditating on Him, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), it was upon meeting (the congregation of) saints that I succeeded in rightfully (seeing the) merciful Beloved of the meek and Enticer of hearts. Now Nanak lives meditating on God again and again, (by doing which) one is not caught in (the noose of) the mob of demons of death.”(2-86-109)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be free from any worldly problems or fear of death then we should join the congregation of saints and meditate on God’s Name. Then we would see God pervading everywhere and upon seeing Him, we would enjoy a state of eternal bliss and freedom from bondage.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we want to be free from any worldly problems or fear of death, we should join the congregation of saints and meditate on God’s Name. Then we would see God pervading everywhere and upon seeing Him, we would enjoy a state of eternal bliss and freedom from bondage. In this shabad, he describes further this delight and state of intoxication on seeing the blissful sight of his Beloved.

He says: “(O’ my mother, I feel as if) my mind has gone crazy. Yes, upon seeing (the sight of) that merciful Master, (my mind is enjoying a state) of bliss and complete peace and is intoxicated with the relish of God’s love.”(1-pause)

Describing further the blessings he is enjoying, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), by singing (God’s) praises (my mind has) become immaculate and sparkling and wouldn’t become black (or soiled) again (with evils. Since the time) I beheld the infinite Being, my mind has been attuned to His lotus feet (His immaculate Name).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother, accepting me as His own and) holding me by His hand, God has blessed me with everything, and in my mind has lighted the lamp (of divine wisdom). Nanak has become a detached lover of the relish of His Name, which has ferried across all his lineages.”(2-87-110)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the wonderful sight of God and save all our lineages then joining the company of saints we should meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises with love and devotion.
on God’s Name under the guidance of the Guru. But ignoring this repeated advice, many people keep worshipping statues or some lesser gods and goddesses. In this shabad, he tells us what kind of pains and sufferings those people go through who, forsaking God worship other lesser gods and goddesses and what kinds of blessings those people enjoy who following Guru’s guidance, seek only the shelter of God.

He says: “O’ my mother, forsaking the Master of the universe and Giver of gifts to all beings, they who cling to Maya (the worldly riches and power) and meditate on other (lesser gods and goddesses), die (a spiritual death).”(1-pause)

Describing the terrible consequences, they suffer who forsaking God’s Name adopt other ways of life, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), forsaking God’s Name, they who tread other paths (such as remaining involved in worldly affairs, worshipping lesser gods and goddesses, or practicing ritual worships), are thrown into the worst of hell. They suffer so many punishments which cannot be counted and they keep wandering from one existence to another.”(1)

However describing the honor and bliss enjoyed by those who seek the shelter of God only, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother, truly) rich and honorable are they who merge in the shelter of God. Nanak says, by Guru’s grace they have won over the world and don’t come and go (or suffer through rounds of birth and death) again.”(2-88-111)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy true riches and honor and end our painful rounds of births and deaths forever, then instead of running after worldly riches or power and worshipping other lesser gods and goddesses, we should seek the shelter of the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name alone.

Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad (2-87-110) by saying: “(O’ my mother, accepting me as His own and) holding me by His hand, God has blessed me with everything, and in my mind has lighted the lamp (of divine wisdom). In this shabad he tells us what kinds of other blessings one obtains on whom God shows His grace and removes one’s doubts.
Talking in figurative terms, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, from within whom) God has so completely driven out the deception, (as if He has) cut it down with an axe, (from within that person all the doubts are so fully driven out instantly, as if) with the single strike of God’s Name all the forests of doubts (within) have been burnt down.”(1-pause)

But that is not all. Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, on whom God shows His mercy), through the company of saints (Guru, that person) drives out lust, anger, and slander. In short, by Guru’s grace such a person attains the object of (human) birth, and doesn’t lose it in gamble. (That person doesn’t go through the rounds of birth and death) again.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by inviting us to join him in singing God’s praise and paying respect to His devotees. He says: “(Come O’ my friends), let us sing praises of God at all times, while fully reflecting on (Gurbani), the (Guru’s) word. Nanak says, “O’ God, I am a slave of the slaves of Your devotee, and I salute him again and again.”(2-89-112)

The message of this shabad is that we should salute God’s devotees and while reflecting on (Gurbani) the word of the Guru, we should sing praises of God. Because if God becomes merciful on us, He would drive away all our evil impulses, burn down all our doubts and fears, and ultimately bless us with the supreme state of salvation.

It appears that the Fifth Guru (Arjan Dev Ji) uttered this shabad while compiling the present holy book (Guru Granth Sahib). He so much respected this sacred book that when it was first read in (Golden temple) Hari Mander Sahib he came down from his seat and sat on the floor like other people. Even at night he seated the holy book on the couch and for himself he got spread a sheet on the floor. The reason was that he truly believed that the hymns included in this book are Dhur Ki Baani (words coming directly from God Himself). That is why he believed this book to be the abode of God in the form of divine word. At the time of his death, the tenth Guru (Gobind Singh) officially anointed this sacred book as the next Guru of the Sikhs for all time. Since then the Sikhs hold Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru and they no longer believe or follow any Guru in physical form.
So telling us about the high status of the sacred book (Guru Granth Sahib), and the blessings those persons obtain who sing praises of God (as included in the hymns in this book).

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, this sacred) book is the abode of God. In the company of saints, they who sing praises of God obtain perfect (divine) knowledge.”(1-pause)

However commenting on the ability to see God, he says: “(O’ my friends, many) seekers, adepts, and all the sages long for (God’s sight), but rare are those who get attuned to Him (in meditation and are able to experience God). But on whom my Master becomes merciful that person’s (every) task is accomplished.”(1)

In closing, he says: “(O’ my friends), the entire world knows the one in whose heart abides (God) the destroyer of fears. Nanak begs for this charity: “Don’t go out of my mind even for an instant or a moment, O’ my Creator.’”(2-90-113)

The message of this shabad is that we should not have any doubt about the supremacy of Guru Granth Sahib before any person or a book. Because Guru Granth Sahib is the abode of God Himself. If in the company of saintly people we sing praises of God as included in this sacred book, and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion, then all our tasks would be accomplished.

In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that this sacred book (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) is the abode of God. In the company of saints they who sing praises of God, obtain perfect (divine) knowledge. In this shabad, he describes the bliss one experiences when one sings the shabads, (hymns) from this holy book in praise of God.

Describing his own experience Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, while singing hymns in praise of God I am experiencing such a great joy as if) a rain (of God’s bliss) has fallen on me. (Therefore I recommend that you too) should sing joyous songs in praise of God. By doing so your love for (Him) would become manifest.”(1-pause)

Commenting on God’s excellences, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God) the treasure of (life giving water of His Name) is pervading in all the four corners and ten directions (of the
It is the same light

world) and no place is without Him. That perfect God is the treasure of mercy and He gives the boon of life to all (creatures).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God the Master was existing (in the past), is present (now), will be there in the future, and everlasting is the congregation of saints. Also eternal are those devotees in whom has welled up faith in that eternal (God). O’ Nanak, they don’t wander (in existences).”(2-91-114)

The message of this shabad is that we should sing God’s praises in the company of saints. At one stage such a state of love and joy would arise as if a bliss giving rain of God’s mercy is falling on us, and we would see His presence both inside and outside us and we would no longer wander in existences.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that while singing hymns in praise of God, he was experiencing such a great joy as if a rain of God’s bliss had fallen on his body. In this shabad, he expresses his gratitude to God for this state of bliss and reposes complete faith and trust in His help and protection.

He says: “O’ God, You are my life breaths. You are my friend, my mate, my helper and my family.”(1-pause)

But instead of claiming any credit for achieving such a state of bliss, Guru Ji humbly says: “O’ God it was (only) when You placed Your merciful hand upon my forehead (and bestowed Your grace upon me) that I sang Your praises in the company of saints. By Your mercy I obtained all the fruits (of my desire) and meditated on Your Name with relish.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad, by stating how stable the state of his bliss and love for God’s Name is. He says: “(O’ my friends), the true Guru has laid the unshakable foundation (of God’s Name in me) which never wobbles. In short, when the Guru became merciful on Nanak, he obtained the treasure of all comforts.”(2-92-115)

The message of this shabad is that when following the advice of the true Guru we sing praises of the eternal God with love and relish, the Guru lays such a firm foundation
of God’s Name in our mind that it never wobbles, and one always feels safe and contented in the help and protection of God.

Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad Guru Ji advised us that when following the advice of the true Guru we sing praises of the eternal God with love and relish the Guru lays such a firm foundation of God’s Name in our mind that it never waivers and one always feels safe and contented in the help and protection of God.

In this shabad, he compares God’s Name to a commodity, which a seller takes to market, and feels very happy when the entire shipment gets sold at a very good profit, and the seller returns home in a state of joy and satisfaction. Guru Ji compares himself to that merchant who has returned after reaping a rewarding fruit of his shipment of Name and shares his experience with us.

He says: “(O’ my friends, my meditation on God’s Name has been approved in God’s court, as if my) everlasting shipment of (God’s) Name has been completely sold out. I have earned profit by singing praises of God. I have found that the treasure of (God’s) wealth is everlasting, (it keeps one) detached amongst poisonous worldly affairs.”(1-pause)

Continuing to describe the blessings obtained by meditating on God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends, by meditating on God’s Name), all the creatures and beings are fully satisfied by meditating on their God. They win the invaluable jewel of human birth and don’t fall into existences anymore.” (1)

In conclusion, he says: “(On whom) God became gracious, that one was blessed with the company of saints. Nanak says such a person obtains the commodity of God’s feet (His Name), and is imbued with God’s love.”(2-93-116)

The message of this shabad is that instead of running after the poisonous worldly riches, we should sing praises of God in the company of saints and earn the riches of God’s Name. One day God would accept our wares of Name and we would be spared from any more pains of births and deaths.
Sarang Mehla-5

In the closing lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that on whom God became gracious, that person was blessed with the company of saints. Such a person obtains the commodity of God’s feet (His Name) and is imbued with God’s love. In this shabad, Guru Ji describes the bliss and joy he obtained when he saw the wonderful sight of God.

He says: “O’ my mother, I am in ecstasy on seeing (the amazing sight of God). The nonstop melody (of His Name) has captivated my mind. Astonishing are the relishes of that (tune).”(1-pause)

Describing how delighted and safe he is feeling in the company of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother, for me now) He is my mother, father, kinsman, and in my mind is the bliss of God’s (presence). By singing praises of God in the company of saints, all my delusions have been destroyed.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “My mind is attuned to God’s feet (His Name, and) all my doubts have been dispelled. O’ Nanak, the devotee who leans on the support (of God’s Name), doesn’t wander in existences anymore.”(2-94-117)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy a real state of bliss, the relish of nonstop melody of divine word, and see the astounding sight of wonderful God, then we should sing praises of God in the company of saints with true love and devotion.
Sarang Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy a real state of bliss, the relish of unstuck melody of divine word, and see the astounding sight of wonderful God, then we should sing praises of God in the company of saints with true love and devotion. In this shabad, he shares with us his present state of mind and tells us what kind of blessings he is enjoying while being attuned to God’s feet in loving devotion.

He says: “O’ my mother, I am fully intoxicated with (God’s) feet (His Name). Except for the one (God), I don’t recognize anyone else, I have burnt down all sense of duality (love for anything other than God).”(1-pause)

Stating his belief and how the longing for God’s sight has blessed him, he says: “(O’ my mother, I believe that) if we forsake God whatever we do (entangles us in harmful affairs and is) like falling into the wells of poison. Therefore my mind is now obsessed with the thirst for (God’s) sight which has pulled me out of hell (of worldly affairs).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my mother), by saint (Guru’s) grace, I have met the Giver of peace (by virtue of which all the disturbance or) noise of ego has vanished (from my mind). In short, Nanak has (concluded that) the devotees who are imbued with God’s love their mind and body blooms like a pasture (after heavy rains).”(2-95-118)

The message of this shabad is that when we obtain the shelter of saint Guru and following his instruction, become imbued with the love of God’s Name, God shows mercy upon us. He pulls us out of the well of poisonous worldly affairs, destroys all our sense of ego, and evil intellect. Then our body and mind bloom in bliss and happiness like a pasture in bloom.
It is the same light
It is the same light
Now as if speaking on behalf of saints and devotees, Guru Ji addresses God and says: “O’ the all-pervading infinite Master, Your state and limit cannot be described. The mind (of Your saints) has been pierced with the love of Your lotus feet (Your immaculate Name) and deeming this love to be their entire wealth, they keep it enshrined in them.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes this *shabad* by stating that not only he, but also all the holy books and saintly persons say the same thing. He says: “(O’ my friends, even) the Vedas, Puranas, Simritis, and (other) saintly persons, have said this thing from their tongue: that O’ Nanak, (only) by meditating on God’s Name, are we ferried across (this worldly ocean) and all things other than this (method) are useless.”(2-98-121)

The message of this *shabad* is that for God’s saints, God’s Name is their entire wealth. Since meditation of Name alone is a sure method which can ferry us across this worldly ocean, we should always try to seek the company of saintly people and meditate on God’s Name.

*Saarag Mehla 5.*

maakhee raam kee too maakhee.
jah durganDh taha too baisheh mahaa bikhi-aa mad chaakhee. ||1|| rahaa-o.

kiteh asthaan too tikan na paavahi ih biDh daykhee aakhee.
sanTaa bin tai ko-ay na chhaadi-aa sant paray gobid kee paakhee. ||1||

jee-a jant saglay tai mohay bin sanTaa kinai na laakhee.
nanak daas har keerTaan raatia sabad surat sach saakhee. ||2||99||122||

**Sarang Mehla-5**

It is apparent that most of the problems in this world are due to *Maya* or the worldly riches and power. In order to accumulate *Maya*, human beings commit all kinds of sins and vices, and still it eludes them. It may come to a few people for some time but soon forsakes them and entices others. In this *shabad*, Guru Ji compares this worldly *Maya* to a fly. After commenting on its nature he tells us who the people are who keep themselves safe from its evil influence.

So addressing *Maya*, Guru Ji says: “O’ *Maya*, you are (like) a fly created by God. Yes, wherever there is the foul smell (of sin like a fly), you sit there and taste the relishes of poisonous (worldly) pleasures.”(1-pause)

Commenting further on the nature of *Maya*, Guru Ji says: “(O’ *Maya*), I have seen with my own eyes that (like a fly), you never stay in any one place, except for the saints, you have not spared anyone (from your evil influence). The saints have taken the shelter of God of the universe.”(1)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ Maya), you have enticed all the creatures and beings, except for the saints nobody has understood (your nature). But O’ Nanak, (God’s) saint remains imbued with the love of singing God’s praise and fixing his or her attention in the shabad, keeps seeing the eternal (God) in his or her presence.”(2-99-122)

The message of this shabad is that this worldly Maya has enticed the entire world. Like a fly it doesn’t stay in one place and keeps misleading one person after another. In the end, it abandons that person also. But the saints, who are always imbued with the love of God’s Name, have understood its nature. Therefore we should also seek their company and learn from them the art of saving ourselves from the evil influences of Maya.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that this worldly Maya has enticed the entire world. Like a fly it doesn’t stay in one place and keeps misleading one person after another. In the end, it abandons that person also. But the saints who are always imbued with the love of God’s Name have understood its nature. In this shabad, he tells us how the saints deal with the worldly enticements and what kinds of blessings and virtues they obtain by meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “O’ my mother, (saints) have cut off the noose of death. By meditating on God’s Name again and again, they have obtained all comforts and while living in the household they have become detached (from the world).”(1-pause)

Describing the blessings and virtues acquired by those whom God accepts as His own, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), showing His mercy, those whom (God) has made His own, within them wells up the desire for His sight. So joining the company of saints they who sing praises of God, their desire for anything else vanishes.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ mother), whom the saints have told the (right) way of life, (that way has) pulled them out of the dense forest (of worldly problems). O’ Nanak, upon seeing the sight (of God) all their sins have vanished and they have found the jewel of God’s (Name).”(2-100-123)
The message of this shabad is that we should follow the advice of saints (as conveyed in Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and sing God’s praises in their company. Then even while living in the household we would get detached from the worldly entanglements. We would find the jewel of God’s Name and see God’s sight.

Saarag Mehla 5.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should follow the advice of saints and sing God’s praises in their company. Then even while living in the household we would get detached from the worldly entanglements. We would find the jewel of God’s Name and see God’s sight. In this shabad, he describes how his mind remains imbued with God’s love and tells us how useless is the life of those who remain bereft of the taste of such divine love.

Sarang Mehla-5

Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, (my mind) is obsessed with the intoxication of love (for God). Such is the craving in my mind for the sight of the beauteous God that no one can break it.”(1-pause)

Describing how essential and valuable the love for God is, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), for me God is my life breath, honor, pride, father, son, relative, and everything. (I feel) that accursed is that body, which recognizes anybody else except God, (and is nothing but) bones, ordure, and worms.”(1)

But instead of claiming any credit for such intoxication of God’s love, Guru Ji thinks this thing as a result of some past blessing by God. Therefore, he says: “(O’ my mother), it must be the power of some divine blessings in my past life that (God), the destroyer of pains of the meek has become kind (to me. That is why), Nanak has sought the shelter of that Ocean of mercy and my dependence on all others has vanished.”(2-101-124)

The message of this shabad is that if we want our dependence on others to cease and we remain intoxicated with the love of God, then we should pray to God to show His mercy upon us and imbue us with such love and devotion for Him that except for Him, we don’t care for anyone else.
In the opening lines of the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji said that his mind is obsessed with the intoxicating love for God. Such is the craving in his mind for the sight of the beauteous God that no one can break it. In this *shabad*, he describes how obsessed he is with the love of God and what kind of blessings one obtains by meditating on God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), most beneficial is the obsession for the all-pervading God. By meditating on the lotus feet (the Name) of that Master of unparalleled beauty, one becomes a saint (like virtuous person).”

Listing some of the blessings received when one meditates on God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, when one) cherishes God’s sight (in the mind, one) washes out (all) sinful (thoughts) from inside, and God destroys all sinful thoughts in one’s mind and (the rounds) of birth and death (from one’s destiny).”

However, Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by saying: “O’ Nanak, it is only a rare person in whose destiny it has been so pre-ordained from the very beginning, who sings praises of God the Creator and sees that eternal (God).”

The message of this *shabad* is if we want to wash off our sins and any bad thoughts arising in our mind, then we should fall in such intense love with God that at all times we keep thinking about God. However, we should never feel self-conceited about this divine love, rather deem it as manifestation of some past favor of God on us.
In the opening lines of the previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that most beneficial is the obsession for the all-pervading God. In this shabad, he again stresses this point and provides additional benefits of meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), sublime is the intellect, (which motivates one) to meditate on God’s Name. Forsaking God, they who get involved in other (worldly) things, false (and useless) are all their ostentations.” (1-pause)

Now listing some of the blessings, one receives by meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friend, sitting) in the congregation of saints, meditate on the Master. (By doing so), all your sins would be eroded. By enshrining (God’s) lotus feet (His Name), you won’t have to suffer the blows (or pain) of birth (and death) again.” (1)

In conclusion, he says: “(O’ my friends), showing mercy on whom God has saved, they have the support of (God’s) Name. O’ Nanak, by contemplating Him day and night, they obtain honor in the (God’s) court.” (2-103-126)

The message of this shabad is that if we don’t want to suffer the pain of birth and death again and obtain honor in God’s court, then we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name in the company of saints.
Addressing his soul, Guru Ji says: “O’ honorable bride (soul), you have been honored in God’s court. Because joining the society of saints, you have sung praises of God, and all your sense of ego has vanished.” (1-pause)

Listing some of the blessings the soul received by God’s grace, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my soul), showing His mercy God has made you His own. Through Guru’s grace you have become perfectly wise (in divine knowledge). By your meditation on God’s sight you have obtained all comforts and immense bliss.” (1)

Therefore on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the bride soul) who resides near God (and always remembers Him), is like an eternally wedded bride. She is known in all the ten directions. Nanak is a sacrifice to such (bride) who remains imbued with the love of Beloved (God).” (2-104-127)

The message of this shabad is that when joining the society of saints, we sing praises of God and remember Him; we are given respect and honor in His court.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that when joining the society of saints, we sing praises of God and remember Him; we are given respect and honor in His court. In this shabad, he expresses his full faith in God’s protection and tells us that for us God is everything.

He says: “O’ God for us Your feet (Your immaculate Name), is our only support. You alone are our acquaintance, relative, and companion and O’ God of the universe, You are our only savior.” (1-pause)

Continuing to express his complete devotion and dedication, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, You are ours and we are Yours. Whether here or there, it is You who are our protector. You are the infinite, limitless Master, but it is only through Guru’s grace that a rare one understands (this thing).” (1)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), without speaking, the inner knower of hearts knows (everything). O’ Nanak, whom God unites with Himself, those persons are recognized in (God’s) court (with honor).”(2-105-128)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain honor in God’s court and be united with Him then we should express our full confidence in His protection and love Him as our everything.

In previous many shabads, Guru Ji has advised us to meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints. He has also been telling us about the blessings and virtues of doing so. In this shabad, he shows us the opposite side of the picture and tells us what kinds of sins one commits and then suffers the consequences, by forsaking God’s Name.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), meditate on God, (because except meditation on God) all other deeds are useless (for the soul. Without meditation on God’s Name) ego, worldly attachment, and avarice don’t get quenched and the world remains gripped (in the rounds of birth and) death.”(1-pause)

Commenting on the state and fate of an ordinary human being Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, generally a mortal’s) life passes in ignorance while eating, drinking, laughing, and sleeping. (That is why) when the demons of death take care of (the mortal), he or she keeps burning in the hell like womb (again and again).”(1)
Now stating the reasons for the above state of an ordinary human being, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, generally forsaking meditation on God’s Name, one) deceives others and indulges in vices including slander. Imbued with sins one commits evil deeds with abandon. (In short), without the (guidance of the) true Guru one doesn’t get (true understanding and lives in the) pitch darkness of ignorance and (worldly) attachment.” (2)

Continuing to show us the mirror of our life, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, generally one remains so infatuated with worldly wealth and affairs, as if) after eating the poisonous herb one has become unconscious and has been cheated (out of spiritual wealth) and the Creator is not in one’s mind (at all). Because of one’s inflated egoistic intellect one remains intoxicated like an elephant. God is invisibly abiding within, but one remains absolutely unaware (of Him).” (3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling us who those are whom God has saved, and how we should pray to Him to save us. He says: “(O’ my friends), showing His mercy God has saved the saints whose main stay is God’s lotus feet (His immaculate Name). Therefore O’ the limitless God of universe, with folded hands Nanak has come to Your shelter, (showing Your mercy please save him also).” (4)

The message of this shabad is that if we continue indulging in all kinds of sins and slander, or wasting our time in laughing, drinking, eating and wearing, and don’t remember God, then we keep suffering through the unending pain of repeated births and deaths. The only way to save ourselves from such a terrible fate is to pray to God to show His mercy by blessing us with the company of His saints and meditation on His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we continue indulging in all kinds of sins and slander, or wasting our time in laughing, drinking, eating and wearing, and don’t remember God, we would keep suffering through the unending pain of repeated births and deaths. The only way to save ourselves from such a terrible fate is to pray to God to show His mercy by blessing us with company of His saints and meditation on His Name. In this shabad, using the metaphor of a human bride soul Guru Ji asks us why do we indulge in sinful thoughts and don’t utter sweet words in praise of God, which could help us obtain a place of honor in the mansion of God our Groom?

Affectionately addressing a human bride, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my dear friend), utter sweet words (of Gurbani, which are full of) priceless virtues. (O’ the bride soul, who has) become like a maid servant of evils, think about it and see for yourself that (the bride soul) who has meditated on (God) through the Guru’s word, has obtained the mansion of God, and imbued with love, she plays great frolics with God.”(1-pause)

Once again reminding us about the false transitory nature of this world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my dear friend, understand) that this world is like a dream and all this expanse (of the world) is an illusion. Why have you been enticed by the (worldly) attachment? Instead, unite your heart with the love of your Beloved (God)?”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), imbue yourself with love and affection for that all-pervading God who is merciful. Why should we get involved in other things? We should only get ourselves merged (in the love of) God. O’ Nanak when we obtain the company of saints, we meditate on God. Then end our meetings with the demons of death. (We become one with the eternal God and don’t suffer any more pains of birth and death).”(2-1-130)

The message of this shabad is that we should understand that this life is but a dream and its entire expanse is illusory. Therefore instead of being attached to the world or anybody else we should love the company of saints. In their company we would meditate on God’s Name and would ultimately get united with Him.

saarag mehlaa 5.
kanchnaa baho ḍaṭ karaa.
bhoom ḍaan arap Dharaa.
man anik soch paviṭar karat.
naahee ray naam ṭul man charan kamal laagay. ||1|| rahaa-o.

chaar bayḍ jihav bhanay.
gas asat ḍhasat sarvan sunay.
naahee ṭul gobid naam Dhunay.
man charan kamal laagay. ||1||
Throughout Gurbani, Guru Ji has repeatedly stressed meditation of God's Name and has listed so many blessings and virtues of doing so, including salvation and union with God. The question may arise in many minds, about the other forms of worship which many people adopt such as giving alms, bathing at holy places, observing fasts, and reciting mantras. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us how meditation on God's Name is superior to all these things.

He says: "(O' my mind, even if a person) gives gold in charity, makes a donation of land, or tries to purify the body in innumerable ways, (none of these) are comparable to God's Name; therefore O' my mind, attach yourself to the lotus feet (of God, His immaculate Name and keep meditating on Him).”

Now commenting on the ritualistic reciting of and listening to holy books, Guru Ji says: "(O' my mind, even if a person) utters all the four Vedas, or listens to eighteen Puranas and six Shastras, still these are not equal (in merit to) the melody of God's Name; therefore O’ my mind, attach yourself to (God’s) lotus feet.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by commenting on other ways of works and rituals. He says: "(O’ my mind), observing fasts, doing daily prayers, bathing at holy places in all the four directions, remaining without food, and cooking food remaining untouched by anybody, with great detail performing yogic cleansing of arteries, burning incense, and lighting lamps (before gods, none of these things) equal God’s Name (in merit). Therefore slave Nanak says, O’ merciful God, listen to my prayer and bless me so that I may see You and Your Name may keep sounding sweet to me.”

The message of this shabad is that none of ritual worships, charities, fasts, or pilgrimages equals the merit of meditating on God’s Name. Therefore, we should pray to God to bless us so we always meditate on His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that no ritual worships, charities, fasts, or pilgrimages equals the merit of meditating on God’s Name. Therefore we should pray to God to bless us that we always meditate on His Name. In this shabad, he lists some of the blessings and virtues obtained by those who have meditated on God’s Name.

First advising us all, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), meditate on God’s Name again and again, because when we meditate that all-pervading God becomes our helper.”

Now describing the blessings obtained by those who have faithfully followed the saint (Guru’s) advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, they who have so humbly listened to the immaculate words of the saints, as if) they who have attached themselves to the feet of the saints and have shed their lust, anger and greed, on them the Guru God has become merciful and they have obtained (the commodity of God’s Name) as per their pre-ordained destiny.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “O’ Nanak, they who, attaching themselves to the feet of the saints, keep singing (God’s) praises. The Master becomes pleased and their pains of births and deaths come to an end. Their darkness of doubts vanish, their worldly bonds are snapped, they see the Master pervading everywhere, and no one seems to them as their enemy.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want our doubts, attachments, and bonds of Maya snapped, and we are freed from the pains of future births and deaths, then we should listen most respectfully to the words of saint (Guru, the Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib), and abandon our lust, anger, and greed. Then God would become pleased and fulfill our destiny (of merging into Him).
In the opening lines of the previous shabad Guru Ji advised us to meditate on God’s Name again and again because when we meditate that all pervading God becomes our helper. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us exactly how God becomes our helper and what kinds of blessings He bestows upon us when we meditate on His Name.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), always utter God’s Name from your tongue and enshrine God in your mind.”(1-pause)

Explaining the importance of the shelter of saints (Guru) and God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), listening to God’s Name with one’s ears and worshipping God (is the best means of) atoning for myriads of sins. When we seek the shelter of the saints (Guru and follow his guidance) we forsake all other bad habits.”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, to meditate on God’s Name) every day and imbue ourselves with the love God’s feet is the most sacred thing of all the holy deeds. (The love of God’s Name) dispels all the fears of the devotee and burns down all his or her sins and evil deeds. All those who recite (God’s Name) or listen to it are emancipated, immaculate is their way of life and therefore they are not subjected (to the pain of) birth (and death again. Therefore Nanak says that the essence of all thoughts is that God’s Name is the most sublime (worship)).”(2-4-133)

The message of this shabad is that if we want that all our previous sins be washed off and we don’t suffer the pains of birth and death again, then we should attach ourselves to the shelter of the saints (Guru) and repeat God’s Name every day with full concentration. This alone is the essence of all true worship of God.

Many people go to different saints, fakirs, and mendicants to beg from them the boons of worldly wealth, influence, power, or fulfilling their other worldly desires such as having a son, good job, or victory in their lawsuit. But in this shabad, Guru Ji tells us what we should ask for when we seek the shelter of the saint (Guru).
He says: “(O’ my friend), shedding all other desires, ask for (God’s) worship and Name from the saint (Guru).” (1-pause)

Guru Ji further advises: “(O’ my friend), imbuing yourself with love, meditate on God and always sing praises of God. From the benefactor Master, beg for the dust of the feet (the most humble service) of God’s devotees.” (1)

Now listing the blessings of following the above advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), God’s Name is the source of all joys, comforts, peace, and supreme bliss. By meditating on the inner Knower of all hearts, one doesn’t have any fear of the demon of death. (In fact, just) the one support of God’s feet (His Name) is capable of removing all worldly fears. O’ Nanak, the congregation of saints (is like a) boat in (which) one crosses over (this worldly ocean).” (2-5-134)

The message of this shabad is that instead of asking for any worldly boons from the saint (Guru), we should beg for God’s Name and His loving devotion. By doing so we would have perfect peace and bliss in our family life, all our wishes would be fulfilled, and we would be free from any fear of future births and deaths.

saarag mehlaa 5.

saarag mehlaa 5.  
gun laal gaava-o gur daykhay. 
panchia tay aky chhootaa ja-o saaDhsang pag ra-o. ||1|| raha-o. 
garisat-a-o kachh sang na jaa-ay maan ti-aag mohaa. 
aykai har pareet laa-ay mil saaDhsang sohaa. ||1||  
paa-i-o hai gun niDhaan sagal aas pooree. 
naanak man anand bha-ay gur bikham gaarah toree. ||2||6||135||

Sarang Mehla-5

In many previous shabads Guru Ji has been advising us to seek the shelter of the saint (Guru) and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he shares with us his own experience and tells us what happens when he sees the sight of his Guru and what kinds of blessings he enjoys.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when upon seeing the sight of the Guru I sing praises of my Beloved (God), when in the company of saints, I grasp on to the (God’s) feet (His Name) then this one (mind of mine) is liberated from the five (evil impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego).” (1-pause)

Describing the divine wisdom he has obtained by seeing the sight of his Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends, after death) none of what we see goes with us, therefore) renounce the ego or attachment (for worldly things). Joining the company of saints, imbue yourself with the love of the One (God. In this way), your life would become beauteous.” (1)
In conclusion Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I have found (God) the treasure of virtues, and all my wish has been fulfilled. The Guru has loosened the difficult knot (of worldly attachment and) there is bliss in Nanak’s mind.”(2-6-135)

The message, of this shabad is that seeking the shelter of the saint (Guru), we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. By doing so we would get rid of the evil impulses of lust, anger, and greed and all our doubts would be removed. Our worldly bonds would be loosed, and we would be in a state of peace and bliss.

Sarang Mehla-5

In many previous shabads, Guru Ji has advised us that we should love God like a young faithful bride and like her, so crave and long for His sight that except for God, we don’t feel interested in any other worldly thing, and for us the sight of our Beloved should be the most joyous pleasure of all. In this shabad, Guru Ji expresses similar sentiments and indirectly shows us the way to love God and His Name.

Using the metaphor of a young faithful bride in search of her Beloved (God), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), I am looking for (my Beloved. While doing so) my mind has become detached (from worldly affairs).”(1-pause)

Stating the steps already taken by him in this direction and what he is hoping for, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), while serving the saints and holy persons I have meditated on (my) Beloved in (my) mind. (So now I hope that after seeing (God) the embodiment of bliss, I would obtain (entry) into His palace (and get united with Him).”(1)

As if preparing him for his response on the anticipated sight of God, Guru Ji says: “(When I see God), abandoning all other worldly tasks I would fall at His feet, and O’ Nanak, when my Master embraces me to His bosom, I would worship my Guru (and would thank him in my mind for uniting me with my Beloved).”(2-7-136)

The message of this shabad is that if we really want to enjoy the bliss of uniting with God our true Spouse, then we should follow the Guru’s advice and remember God from the core of our heart. Only then we can hope to enjoy the sight and the loving embrace of (God) our eternal beloved Spouse.
In the previous _shabad_, Guru Ji advised us that if we really want to enjoy the bliss of uniting with God our true Spouse, then we should follow the Guru’s advice and remember God from the core of our heart. Only then can we hope to enjoy the sight and the loving embrace of (God) our eternal beloved Spouse. In this _shabad_, Guru Ji shares with us his state of mind after following the advice of the Guru and meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friend), such has become (my state of mind that nobody) but God knows about it.” (1-pause)

Describing how detached and uninterested in worldly affairs and even his close relatives he feels, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), shedding my attachment even for my mother and father, I have sold (and dedicated) my mind to the saints (and I do whatever they say even if it conflicts with the wishes of my parents). I have lost (all pride) in my caste, birth, or lineage, and (now) I sing God’s (praises again and again).” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “God has so blessed and gratified me that I am now detached from worldly people and family. The Guru has instructed me and said O’ Nanak, serve only the one God.” (2-8-137)

The message of this _shabad_ is that if we want to enjoy the sublime status and bliss of God’s union, then we should obey our Guru and abandoning all other considerations of caste or lineage, we should do only what God wants.
In many previous shabads, Guru Ji has been advising us to meditate on God's Name and sing His praises with love and devotion. In this shabad, he gives us a small sample of his own loving devotion for God.

Addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O' my Beloved God, You are heart captivating God of the universe. O' the Sustainer of all, You are pervading (in all things, including tiny) insects, (mighty) elephants, and stones.”

Commenting further on God's beauty and how near He is, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), You are not far, You are pervading right in front of us, and with us. You are beauteous, and source of all relishes.”

Guru Ji concludes by telling us how God doesn’t belong to any particular caste, color, or race. He says: “(O’ God), among the (worldly) castes, You don't belong to any caste, You do not belong to any particular (worldly) lineage. Nanak says, O’ God, You are gracious to all (irrespective of their caste, color, race, gender, or species).”

The message of this shabad is that we should be so much in love with God that we see Him in all big and small creatures and places and keep singing the praises of the most beauteous and enchanting God of the universe.

In many previous shabads, Guru Ji has been telling us how the entire world is trapped in the enticing net of Maya or the greed for worldly riches and power and how it has overpowered and ruined many human beings including great sages, yogis, and even many gods and goddesses. In this shabad, he once again comments on the power of Maya and tells us the one and only way to save ourselves from its grip.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, like a most enchanting vicious woman), Maya plays its deceiving plays, and arouses evil desires (in a person. What to speak of ordinary human beings), it has even captivated (gods like) the Sun and the Moon. (Just as on seeing a voluptuous woman) wearing ankle bells, (evil passion of lust gets aroused, similarly upon seeing the opportunity for easy money), evil passion (of greed) arises in a person.
(Like a hooker), *Maya* also keeps wandering, making innumerable exposures and facial expressions. Therefore except for God, it has beguiled all.”(1-pause)

Commenting further on the power of *Maya* and how most of the human beings remain engrossed in it, Guru Ji says: “(This *Maya*) has gripped all the three worlds (in its web), and by flimsy means (such as observing fasts, or bathing at holy stations, its temptations cannot be avoided, and) its blows cannot be borne. Therefore being intoxicated in the blinding (worldly) affairs, (people keep suffering through its ups and downs, like being) tossed in the high seas.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by telling us about those who have been saved from the evil effects of *Maya* and how we can save ourselves also. He says: “(O’ my friends, only) the saints and servants of God have been saved (from the clutches of *Maya*. God has) cut off their noose of death (and saved them from rounds of births and deaths). Therefore, Nanak (says, you should also) meditate (on that God) whose Name is the sanctifier of sinners.”(2-10-139-3-13-155)

The message of this *shabad* is that *Maya* is very powerful. The only way to escape from its enticements and vicious net is to meditate on God's Name in the company of saints and devotees of God.

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**Rag Sarang Mehta-9**

In the previous *shabad*, fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji advised us that *Maya* is very powerful. The only way to escape from its enticements and vicious net is to meditate on God's Name in the company of saints and devotees of God. By *Maya*, Guru Ji doesn’t mean only money; it includes all those worldly possessions, power, and even relatives, the attachment for which takes us away from the love of God and meditation on His Name. In this *shabad*, ninth Guru Teg Bahadur Ji cautions us that except for God, none of these forms of *Maya* would accompany us or help us in the end.

He says: “(O’ my friend), except for God, there is no one who is your true helper. (It doesn’t matter) who is anybody’s mother, father, son, daughter, or brother, (because at the time of death no one can help you).”(1-pause)
Continuing his comments, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), when the soul separates from the body, none of the wealth, land, and possessions, which you deem as your own, accompanies you, so why do you remain attached to these?”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by admonishing us and saying: “(O’ my friend), why haven’t you enhanced your love with the merciful Master of the meek and the eternal Destroyer of pains (of His devotees). Nanak says that this entire world is illusory like a night dream, (and by remaining attached to it, you would repent in the end).”(2-1)

The message of this shabad is that at the time of death, neither any of our relatives, nor our wealth, nor worldly possessions would be of any help to us. It is only God who can help us and save us from any suffering or pain. Therefore we should always meditate on Him and shouldn’t allow worldly Maya to distract us from His love.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that at the time of death, neither any of our relatives, nor our wealth, nor worldly possessions would be of any help to us. It is only God who can help us and save us from any suffering or pain. Therefore we should always meditate on Him and shouldn’t allow worldly Maya to distract us from His love. In this shabad, Guru Ji addresses his own mind and indirectly asks us to realize that all these worldly possessions are very short lived and if we want to enjoy real peace, then we should meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “O’ my mind, why are you engrossed in the poison (of Maya or worldly riches and power? I tell you) that nobody is able to stay in this world (forever, while) one comes in, another other departs (from here).”(1-pause)

Commenting upon the short-lived nature of all the things we see, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man, in the end) neither your body, nor your wealth, nor possessions, would remain yours. (Just think), with whom are you imbuing yourself with love? Whatever is visible would perish one day like the shadow of a cloud (which doesn’t last long).”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “Shed your arrogance and seek the shelter of saints. Then you would be liberated (from worldly bonds). Devotee Nanak (says) that without meditation on God, (one never) enjoys peace, even in a dream.”(2-2)
The message of this shabad is that none of the worldly possessions, including our body would last forever, or would be of any help to us in the end. We can find eternal peace only by shedding our ego and attachment for worldly things if we seek the shelter of saints and meditate on God’s Name under their guidance.

In the previous two shabads, Guru Ji stated unequivocally that except for God, nobody is our true helper and all the worldly relatives, riches and power are of no help to us in the end. All that we see is just like a dream or the shade of a cloud, and so he advised us to seek the shelter of the saints and meditate on God’s Name for our peace and salvation. In this shabad, Guru Ji notes that in spite of all such advice, man remains engrossed in the love of worldly riches and relatives, and thus gets bound in the rounds of birth and death. He wonders why any person still remains engrossed in the love of worldly things, which are like poison, and why one doesn’t seek the shelter of God and save oneself.

He says: “(O’ my friends, I don’t understand) why a man wastes his (or her human) birth in vain. (I see that he or she remains) engrossed in the relish of (worldly) poison, but doesn’t seek the shelter of God.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji further says: “This entire world is (short lived like a) dream, (I don’t know why then), seeing it one is lured by it. (One should realize that) whatever is born, that all perishes and nobody is able to stay here (forever).”(1)

Summarizing the problem and stating the remedy, Guru Ji says: “(The problem is that man) has deemed the short-lived body as everlasting, and in this way he or she gets tied (to worldly things). Slave Nanak (says, that) only that person is emancipated (from worldly bonds) who attunes his or her mind to God’s worship.”(2-3)

The message of this shabad is that if we want salvation (from worldly bonds), then instead of deeming our body as everlasting, or letting it be lured by worldly riches and power, we should attune our mind to God’s worship.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want salvation (from worldly bonds), then instead of deeming our body as everlasting, or letting it to be lured by worldly riches and power, we should attune our mind to God’s worship. But the problem is that for most of our life we don’t listen to any such advice and keep doing things including sinful deeds, as per the dictates of our mind. Only when we realize that our life is about to end do we start repenting, and don’t know what we can do to save ourselves from impending punishment. In this *shabad*, Guru Ji puts himself in our situation and shows us what we ought to do to save ourselves.

So first acknowledging how we have spent our life in sinful ways, Guru Ji says on our behalf: “(O’ God), I have never sung Your praises with my heart (really) in it. Instead, day and night I have been engrossed in the poisonous worldly affairs and have been doing whatever pleased my mind.”(1-pause)

Continuing to confess on our behalf, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), I never listened to the advice of the Guru with my ears and have remained involved with the wives of others. I was running around slandering others, and in spite of many efforts (by others) to make me realize (my mistake), I didn’t realize it.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), what may I say about my conduct, and how I have wasted my (human) birth? Nanak says, in me are all the faults, (O’ God, please) take me in Your shelter.”(2-4-13-139-4-159)

The message of this *shabad* is that even if so far we have been ignoring the advice of the saint (Guru) and have been indulging in all kinds of vices and sins, still we should approach God, confess our faults in real earnest, and seek His shelter. He still may show mercy and spare us from any punishment.

**Detail of shabads:**

Guru Nanak Dev Ji=3, Guru Ram Das Ji=13, Guru Arjun Dev Ji=139, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji=4, Total=159
In one of the stories about Guru Nanak Dev Ji it is mentioned that he was staying awake even past midnight. When his mother asked him for the reason, he pointed to a bird
chirping outside and said: “O’ my mother, when this little bird cannot sleep without its mate how could I sleep being separated from my Beloved God?” In this Ashtpadi, using the metaphor of a young bride Guru Nanak Dev Ji is expressing similar sentiments and describes how restless he feels without the sight of his Beloved God and what kind of bliss he enjoys when he gets united with Him.

As if addressing both his mother and God, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, how can I live without God? O’ the Master of the universe, I hail Your victory and beg for (the boon of) Your praise. O’ God, I cannot live without You.”(1-pause)

Describing how his mind is craving for the sight of his Beloved God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), just as a young bride thirsts for the sight (of her groom), similarly in the thirst for God’s (sight) I keep looking for Him throughout my life. My mind is absorbed in the love of (God), the Master of Lakshami (the goddess of wealth. Without seeing Him I am in terrible pain, but it is) God alone who knows the pain in others’ (hearts).”(1)

Now as if answering his mother’s question about the accountings or worries in which he remains merged, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), whatever counting and the pain in my body is, it is all due to my being without God. (I have realized that it is through (Gurbani) the word of the Guru that I can reach God. (Therefore, I pray to God and say): “O’ my respect worthy God, bless me that I may always remain absorbed (in Your meditation).”(2)

Guru Ji then advises his own mind and says: “O’ my mind, live in such a way that you are always attuned to the lotus feet (immaculate Name) of God. Because they who have sung praises of the heart captivating (God), have been lost in His wonder, and have effortlessly merged in the fear free (God).”(3)

Describing what happens when once God’s Name comes to reside in one’s heart, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), if (God’s) Name gets enshrined (in one’s mind and) the unending melody of God’s love starts playing (in one’s heart), then it doesn’t diminish and its worth cannot be estimated. Without (the blessing of such unending music of) God’s Name everybody is (spiritually) poor; such is the understanding which my true Guru has imparted in me.”(4)

Now as if sharing with his closest friend the bliss his mind is enjoying since that love of God’s Name has come to reside in his heart, Guru Ji says: “Listen O’ my friend, (since God’s Name has come to reside in my heart), my Beloved God has become dear to me like my life breaths. All the demons (like lust and anger have so vanished from within me as if they have) died taking poison. Since the time (this love) has welled up in me it is still the same (in intensity), and being imbued with God’s love, I have become pleasing to His mind.”(5)

Describing further the state of his mind, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, now) I always remain attuned to God’s love and His meditation in a state of poise and I live singing God’s praises. Being imbued with His love through the Guru’s word I have become detached (from worldly affairs), and remain focused on my own house (God’s abode in me).”(6)

Now commenting on the instruction received from his Guru, he says: “(O’ God), I have obtained such instruction from the Guru, that my mind is (focused) where You have kept it (attuned). O’ Master of the universe, and essence (of the world, I have found You) in my own heart and the relish of Your Name seems immensely delicious to me.”(7)
Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by quoting the example of some legendary devotees that have inspired him. He says: “(O’ God), when (persons like) Sanak and Sanandan, (god) Brahma’s sons, and Indira were imbed with (God’s) devotion, they were imbed with God’s love. Therefore, Nanak says: “I cannot live without God even for a moment and for me (to meditate on) God’s Name is a (great) honor.”(8-1)

The message of this *Ashiptadi* is that if we want to obtain that God who can destroy all our fears, pains, and evil impulses, then we should love God so much that without seeing Him we cannot sleep.

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**saarag mehlaa 1.**

har bin ki-o Dheerai man mayraa.

kot kalap kay dookh binaasan saach drirh-aa-ay nibayraa. ||1|| raha-o.

kroDh nivaar jalay ha-o mamțaa paraym sađaa nă-o rangee.

anbha-o bisar ga-ay parabh jaachi-aa har nirmaa-il sangee. ||1||

chanchal maṭ ti-aag bha-o bhanjan paa-i-aa ayk sabad liv laagee.

har ras chaakh ṭarikhaa nivaaree har mayl la-ay badbhaaagee. ||2||

abhrat sinch bha-ay subhār sar gurmat saach nihaalaa.

**SGGS P-1233**

man rat naam raṭay nihkayval aad jugaad da-i-aalaa. |3||

mohan mohi lee-aa man moraa badai bhaag liv laagee.

saach beechar bālīk bāl bāt lagaay man nirmaal anraagee. ||4||

ghir gāmbeher saagar raṭnaagar avar naheee an poojaa.

sabad beechar bharam bha-o bhanjan avar na jaani-aa goojaa. ||5||

manoo-aa maar nirmaal pad cheeni-aa har ras raṭay aDhikaa-ee.

aykas bin mai avar na jaanaa\* satgur boojh bujhaa-ee. ||6||

agam agochar anaath ajonee gurmat ayko jaani-aa.

subhar bharay naahee chıč dolai man hee tay man maani-aa. ||7||
In the previous *Ashtpadi*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain that God who can destroy all our fears, pains, and evil impulses, then following the guidance of the Guru, we should love God so much that without seeing Him we couldn’t sleep. That is the state in which Guru Ji finds himself and he describes the blessings being enjoyed by him.

He says: “(O’ my friends), without God my mind doesn’t get pacified at all. (The Guru) has made me firmly realize and settled (once for all) that the eternal (Name of God) can destroy the sins of millions of ages.”(1-pause)

Describing the blessings those persons obtain who beg for God’s Name, he says: “One who has begged for God’s (Name), the immaculate God has become that one’s companion, (except God’s fear) all one’s other fears have vanished. One’s anger is dispelled and sense of ego and I am-ness is burnt down, and an evergreen love wells up within one.”(1)

Continuing to describe the blessings obtained by such persons, Guru Ji says: “Whose (mind) is attuned to the one word (of God’s Name), shedding the mercurial intellect, that person has obtained (God) the destroyer of fears. Tasting the relish of God, such a person has quenched his or her thirst (for worldly things) and God has united that fortunate person with Him”(2)

Guru Ji adds: “Following Guru’s instruction (such a person) has seen the eternal God and the sense organs of the insatiable mind have been so satiated as if) by irrigating with the (nectar like water of God’s Name, that person’s) unfillable tanks have been completely filled. They who are imbued with God’s love from (the core of) their hearts are imbued with the love (of that God), who is forever pure and has been kind throughout all the ages.”(3)

Now switching back to the state of his own mind, Guru Ji says: “By good fortune, my mind is attuned to the captivating God, who has charmed my mind. By pondering over (the merits of) the eternal (God), my sins and sorrows have been destroyed and my mind has become immaculate and a lover (of God).”(4)

Next stating at what kind of conclusion he has arrived after reflecting on his Guru’s word, he says: “After pondering over (Gurbani, the Guru’s) word (I have realized that God alone is) the destroyer of doubts and dreads and no other (god or goddess. Therefore) except for that God (who is like an) unfathomable and deep ocean of jewels (of divine wisdom) I don’t worship any other (god, goddess, or individual).”(5)

Stating what other immaculate instructions and blessings he has received from his Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends, my) true Guru has given me such understanding that except for the one (God), I don’t recognize any other. I have been imbued with the relish of God’s (Name) and stilling my mind I have realized the supreme (spiritual) state.”(6)
Guru Ji adds: “Through the Guru’s instruction, (I have realized that) there is but One (God, who) is inaccessible, incomprehensible, has no Master, and is never born. Now my sense faculties are filled (with divine wisdom), my mind doesn’t waver any more, and it has been convinced by the mind itself (about the supremacy of God).”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), it is only by Guru’s grace that we can describe (that otherwise) indescribable God and I say only what that (God) makes me say. (In short, I) Nanak say that except for my merciful Master of the meek, I haven’t recognized any other (lesser god, goddess, or power).”(8-2)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that we should reflect on the Guru’s word (the Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib). Then we would realize that it is one God alone who can provide us a true state of fearlessness and bliss. Therefore it is only that God whom we should love and worship and no other lesser god or power.

**Sri Guru Granth Sahib**

**Page - 1233**

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The message of this Ashtpadi is that we should reflect on the Guru’s word (the Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib). Then we would realize that it is one God alone who can provide us a true state of fearlessness and bliss. Therefore it is only that God whom we should love and worship and no other lesser god or power.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that we should reflect on the Guru’s word. Then we would realize that it is one God alone who can provide us true state of fearlessness and bliss. Therefore it is only that God whom we should love and worship and no other lesser god or power. In this Ashtpadi, he shows us how he is instructing his own mind, what is the appropriate conduct of God’s devotees, and how by meditating on God they merge in that true one Himself.

Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, one obtains (true) glory by meditating on God’s Name. Therefore except for God, I do not recognize any other (lesser god or goddess), it is through God’s Name that one obtains the state of salvation.” (1)

Describing how his Guru has helped him in this direction, he says: “(O’ my mind, it is through Guru’s) word that I have obtained (God), the destroyer of fears and slayer of the demon of death and have attuned my mind to God. Through Guru’s grace I have realized God, the Giver of comforts, and effortlessly I remain absorbed (in His meditation).” (1)

Telling us what the most important thing for the devotees of God is and how they conduct themselves, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), the immaculate Name of God is the food (for the soul) of the devotees and God’s praise is their wear (the means to protect their honor). By always serving (and meditating on) God, they obtain abode in their own home (the mansion of God) and obtain glory in God’s court.” (2)

Now Guru Ji compares and contrasts the conduct of the self-conceited people who follow the dictates of their own minds with that of the Guru’s followers or those who act in accordance with Guru’s advice. He says: “(O’ my friends), the intellect of a self-conceited person is immature, (therefore) his or her mind always waivers and never describes (utters praises of) the indescribable gospel of God. But by following Guru’s instruction one’s mind becomes immovable (and unwavering) and through the nectar of the true word (of the Guru), God comes to reside in the mind.” (3)

Therefore Guru Ji advises us and says: “(O’ my friends), the word (of the Guru) eradicates the waves (or the wanderings) of the mind (for worldly things, and by reciting Gurbani) the tongue is embellished and poised. Therefore we should always remain united with our true Guru’s (word) who has attuned his mind to God.” (4)

Describing further the glories of (Gurbani) the word of the true Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), when through the (Guru’s) word, one (so erases ego from one’s) mind, as if
one has died (to the self), then by attuning the mind to God’s feet (His Name), one gets emancipated (from evil thoughts. O’ my friends), God is like an ocean, which always remains filled with immaculate water (of His Name. One who bathes in it) remains absorbed in spiritual peace and poise.”(5)

But that is not all. Describing further the merits of Guru’s word, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by pondering over the word (of the Guru), they who have been imbued with (God’s) love, have forever stilled their ego and desire (for worldly things). Within them has come to abide the detached God, and they see that God pervading everywhere.”(6)

Now while addressing God, Guru Ji describes the conduct of the devotees who are pleasing to His mind, and what happens to those who remain imbued with duality or the love of worldly things. He says: “(O’ God), the devotees who are pleasing to Your mind, remain imbued with Your true love and keep serving (and worshipping) You. (But the bride soul), who remains in duality (or love of things other than God and who) cannot discriminate between merits and faults, is considered false in the world and never obtains to the mansion (of God).”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “Only when on His own, (God) unites us with Him that we are able to describe the indescribable through His true word (or sermon which is conveyed to us through Gurbani, the) true speech (of the Guru). In short, O’ Nanak, by uttering God’s Name the true ones have merged in the eternal (God Himself).”(8-1)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that only by pondering over Guru’s word (the Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib), and meditating on God’s Name, we can obtain peace, contentment, and emancipation from worldly affairs and evils. Therefore we should listen and act on (Gurbani) the word of the true Guru with such love and devotion that while meditating on the eternal God we may merge in Him.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that it is only by pondering over Guru’s word and meditating on God’s Name that we can obtain peace, contentment, and emancipation from worldly affairs and evils. Therefore we should listen to and act on the word of the true Guru with such love and devotion that while meditating on the eternal God we may merge in Him. In this Ashtpadi again, Guru Ji tells his own mind and ours how sweet and blissful God’s Name is and what kinds of virtues we acquire when under Guru’s instruction, we meditate on it.

He says: “O’ my mind, extremely pleasing is God’s Name. Through the Guru, (they who have meditated on God’s Name), have seen the one (God), who is the destroyer of sins (committed by them) birth after birth.”

Now describing the state of mind of such a person, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whom the true Guru has helped to realize the one (God), to that person except for God, no one else seems (to reside anywhere) and only the eternal (God), who is the destroyer of sins of millions (of births), seems pleasing to their mind.”

Continuing to describe the blessings enjoyed by those who are imbued with God’s love, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they in whose heart comes to abide the commodity of (God’s) love, remain absorbed in a state of poise. Being deeply imbued with the love of (Guru’s) word, they remain imperceptibly imbued with love (for God).”

Elaborating on the merits of reflecting upon the Guru’s word, he says: “(O’ my friends), by reflecting on the (Guru’s) word, whose tongue is imbued with the relish (of God’s Name; it is so) imbued with (God’s) love (as if it) has been dyed deep red (in His love. The person,
who) has realized the immaculate God’s Name, that person’s mind is satiated and rests in peace.”(3)

Now telling us, how reflecting on Guru’s word is more effective than any ritualistic worship, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the pundits have got tired reading (holy books), the silent sages (are tired of remaining silent), and all the adopters of holy garbs have exhausted themselves wandering in doubt, (but didn’t obtain God. On the other hand), by Guru’s grace, one who has reflected on the true word (of God’s Name) has obtained the immaculate God.”(4)

Describing the blessings obtained by such people to whom the true word (of God’s) Name sounds pleasing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they to whose mind the true word (of God’s Name) seems pleasing, get rid of their coming and going (or cycle of birth and death) and remain imbued with the love of the eternal (God. In this way, by following and) serving that true Guru they, who have eradicated their self-conceit, have obtained peace.”(5)

Elaborating on the merits of meditating on the true word of God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends, by focusing on) the true word (of God’s Name), a melody of equipoise wells up (in one’s mind, by virtue of which one) keeps one’s mind attuned to the eternal (God. In this way) a Guru’s follower enshrines the immaculate Name of the incomprehensible and unfathomable (God) in the mind.”(6)

Making an observation, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the entire world is contained in one (God), but only a rare person recognizes that one (God. By reflecting on Gurbani, if one erases one’s self-conceit and) dies to the world, that one understands everything and then day and night recognizes the one (God, behind everything).”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that one alone realizes (God) on whom (God) shows His grace, nothing else can be said or described. (In short), O’ Nanak, they who are imbued with (God’s) Name always remain detached (from worldly affairs) and remain attuned to the one word (of God’s Name).”(1-2)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the relish of nectar of God and want to enjoy a state of peace and bliss, then we should reflect on the Guru’s word (the Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib), erase our ego and remain attuned to the love of the One God.

saarag mehlaa 3.
man mayray har kee akath khaa-aa.
har nadar karay so-ee jan paa-ay gurmukh virlai jaanee. ||1|| raha-o.
har gahir gambhheer gunee gehee gur kai sabad pachhaan-aa.
baho biDh karam karahi bhaa-ay doojai bin sabgai ba-uraaani-aa. ||1||
har nam naa vai so-ee jan nirmal fir maila mool na ho-ee.
Sarang Mehla-3

Guru Ji concluded the previous *Ashtpadi*, saying: “That one alone realizes (God) on whom (God) shows His grace, nothing else can be said or described. They, who are imbued with (God’s) Name, always remain detached from worldly affairs.” In this *Ashtpadi*, he elaborates on these concepts and tells us who those are who obtain honor in God’s court.

First addressing his own mind and indirectly us, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, indescribable (and unending) is the discourse of God. Only the one on whom (God) shows His mercy obtains (the gift of understanding Him). But only a rare Guru’s follower has understood (this thing).”

Describing how important is the Guru’s word in understanding God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God is like an unfathomably deep ocean of virtues only through the Guru’s word is He recognized. Swayed by duality, they who perform ritualistic deeds in many ways, without (reflecting on Guru’s) word, keep wandering.”

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*It is the same light*
Next emphasizing the importance of meditating on God's Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that person) alone is immaculate, who bathes in (meditates on God’s) Name, and never gets soiled (with sins) again. Without Name, the entire world is soiled (with sins), and wandering in duality (the love of things other than God), loses honor.”(2)

But we often don’t realize the importance of God’s Name and keep running after short-lived false worldly pleasures. Acknowledging this fact on our behalf, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), I don’t know, what I should firmly instill in my mind, what (merits) should I amass and what (faults) should I renounce? I have not acquired this understanding (at all). But, O’ my respect worthy God, if becoming gracious, You show mercy (then I would understand that in the end) it is God’s Name which becomes (our true) helper.”(3)

However once again emphasizing God’s free will regarding whom He wants to bless with the gift of His Name or any other boon, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that true and eternal God alone is the Giver of fruits based on our past deeds. Whomsoever He wishes, He yokes to (meditating on His) Name. But coming to the Guru’s door, that person alone understands (this thing) whom He Himself imparts this understanding.”(4)

Commenting further on the ignorant nature of human beings, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), even after seeing the wonders (of God, and the nature) of the world that it keeps coming and going, this mind doesn’t remember (God). Only the one who serves (and reflects on the word of) the true Guru realizes (this thing and) finds the door to salvation.”(5)

Describing the conduct of such persons and the blessings obtained by them, Guru Ji says: “They who know about the court of God to them the true Guru has given such understanding, that they never spoil their life (by following sinful ways). They live a life of truth, self-control, and honest deeds, therefore their coming and going ends.”(6)

Comparing the conduct of the self-conceited persons and those who follow the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), they who, by Guru’s grace make the eternal (God) their support, practice truth and are held true (and honorable) in the court of the eternal God. But the self-conceited are lost in doubt and duality and do not understand the right way of life.”(7)

However Guru Ji concludes the shabad by once again stressing God’s will in everything. He says: “(O’ my friends), on His own (God) gives (any one the gift of His Name) through the Guru and He Himself does and looks over every deed (of His). O’ Nanak, they alone have reached their (rightful) place (and are approved in His court), whose honor He Himself takes into account (and considers worth saving).”(8-3)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that we should understand that indescribable and unperceivable is the gospel of God and we cannot obtain Him by any rituals or worship. We realize this thing only when God Himself shows His mercy on us through the Guru. Reflecting on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, we should try to live a life of truth and self-control so that God may bless us with the gift of His Name and save our honor in His court.
It is the same light

Sarang Mehla-5

Ashatpadia Ghar-1

In the opening lines of the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji stated that indescribable is the discourse of God. Only that one, on whom (God) shows His mercy, obtains (the gift of understanding His secret). In this Ashtpadi again, he marvels at the amazing glory of
God and notes how even the greatest kings and rulers fade away before His power and magnificence.

So praising God, he says: “O’ Master of the universe, I have seen Your magnificence. You are (capable) of doing and getting done or creating and destroying (everything). You are sitting as a king among all (creatures).”(1-pause)

Stating how short-lived and insignificant are all the kings and rulers of the world in comparison to God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, many times the ordinary) chiefs, kings, and emperors (of the world) have become paupers, (actually) they have falsely called and got called (kings). But my King is everlasting. All creatures sing His glory.”(1)

Next inviting us to listen to the praise of God, Guru Ji says: “O’ saints, listen to the praise of (God) the King. All those who utter His praise reach (His mansion). Infinite and highest of the high is that great King and Benefactor.”(2)

Now giving a few examples of God’s amazing power, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God has made all creatures dependent on the air they breathe, as if He) has woven all the worldly forms around the thread of air, has kept the fire and wood together. (Similarly) He has kept both water and land together, (even though) none of these is (a true) companion of the other, (yet one cannot harm the other. Water cannot dissolve land and fire cannot burn the wood).”(3)

Elaborating on the glory of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in each and every heart is going on the discourse (praise) of that King. “(O’ God), in every heart is the zeal for (seeing) You. (You are so great and thoughtful, that) You first provide for their sustenance and after that You create the creatures and beings.”(4)

Commenting on another unique quality of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, after) reflecting on the true evidence, (I have realized that one may) make and exhibit innumerable efforts (to change things according to one’s desires, but) whatever (God) has to do, He has done it all by Himself, and hasn’t consulted with anybody (for His doings).”(5)

Now cautioning us against ever trying to hurt His devotees, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), extending His hand (God) has protected His devotees and blessed them with the glory of (His) Name. (O’ God), whosoever has insulted the devotees, You have drowned (them in the sea of evils).”(6)

On the other hand, describing the blessings obtained by those who have respectfully joined the society of saints, Guru Ji says: “By associating with the company of saints (even the sinners) have become free (of evils, because God) has destroyed all their faults. Seeing them (singing His praises in the holy congregation, God) has become gracious and they have crossed over the dreadful (worldly) ocean (and have been emancipated from the rounds of birth and death).”(7)

Guru Ji humbly concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ God), we are low and insignificant (creatures), but You are the mighty Master. How can we reflect on Your expanse? Nanak says that upon seeing the sight of the Guru, (one’s) mind and body get soothed, (and one obtains) the support of (Your) Name.”(8-1)
The message of this shabad is that the glory and power of all worldly kings, rulers, and presidents is illusory. But kingdom of God is eternal. He saves His devotees as His own and destroys those who show disrespect to His devotees. Therefore joining the congregation of such holy people we should also sing God’s praises so that He may emancipate and ferry us also across the worldly ocean of Maya.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji told us that the glory and power of all worldly kings, rulers, and presidents is illusory. But the kingdom of God is eternal. In this Ashtpadi, he describes how vast and limitless is the kingdom of God, and He is not the king of just one city, state, country or world, but the unrivalled king of millions of universes, and whose glory is being sung by myriads of singers, gods, goddesses, and creatures.

Therefore addressing us, Guru Ji says: “O’ devotees (of God), listen to the discourse of that incomprehensible and unfathomable (God). Astonishing is the court of the all-pervading God.”(1-pause)

But before starting to narrate the limitless gospel of God, he advises us and says: “(O’ devotees), ever and forever bow to the true Guru, (because by) singing praises of the infinite (God) through Guru’s grace, the (light of divine knowledge) shines in the mind. The eye powder of (divine) knowledge destroys the (darkness) of ignorance.”(1)

Guru Ji begins to utter God’s praises by saying: “(O’ devotees), boundless and limitless is (that God’s) glory, whose expanse has no limit; whose innumerable wonders cannot be counted, (and) is beyond both happiness and sorrow.”(2)

Sarang Mehma-5 Ashtpadi
According to Hindu mythology, god Brahma has uttered the Vedas in God’s praise and god Shiva meditates on Him. Regarding such beliefs, Guru Ji says: “(O’ saints, it is not just one Brahma or one god who praises or meditates on Him, but) innumerable are the (gods like) Brahma who are uttering melodies of Vedas. Myriads are (gods like) Shiva who meditate on Him. There are myriads of gods who are His tiny incarnations. Millions of (gods like) Indira are standing at His door (waiting for His command).”(3)

Now talking about the natural phenomena, Guru Ji says: “(O’ saints), innumerable are the airs, fires, and waters, countless are the oceans full of jewels, yogurts, and milk. Myriads are the suns, moons, and planets, and innumerable are gods and goddesses (created by Him).”(4)

Stating some facts, which the scientists are now discovering after hundreds of years, Guru Ji says: “(O’ saints), countless are the earths and myriad are the Kaam dhens (the wish fulfilling cows). Myriads are the Paarjaats (the wish fulfilling trees) and myriads (are the Krishnas, who are playing) flutes. Innumerable are the skies, the underworlds. Innumerable are the tongues which are reciting God’s Name.”(5)

Commenting on the holy books and how myriads of people are listening to God’s praise, Guru Ji says: “(O’ devotees), myriads are the (holy books like) Shastras, Simritis, and Puranas, and in countless ways, sermons are being delivered (on Him). Myriads are the audience who are listening (to these discourses on the) Treasure of virtues. That perfect God is pervading in all creatures.”(6)

Commenting further on many Hindu beliefs, Guru Ji says: “(O’ dear saints, there is not just one, but) myriads are judges of righteousness, and myriads of Kumers (or gods of wealth). Countless are the Varunas (the gods of sea), and myriads are gold mountains like Sumer. Myriads of Shesnaags (the king cobras), which daily utter God’s new names, (according to His qualities), but still cannot reach the end (of qualities) of the all-pervading God.”(7)

Next talking about the speculations about other worlds, Guru Ji says: “(O’ dear saints), myriads are the towns and myriads the continents. Of myriad forms and colors are His universes. Countless are the forests and countless are the fruits and the roots. He Himself is manifest and Himself unmanifest.”(8)

Continuing his comments, Guru Ji says: “(O’ dear saints), countless have been the ages, and countless have been the days and nights. Countless have been destructions, and countless have been creations. (That God is such a householder) in whose home (the world) are countless of beings and the all-pervading God is fully pervading in all places.”(9)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ dear saints, that God is such) the myriads of kinds of whose Maya (the worldly riches and power) cannot be understood. That God and King amuses Himself by using myriads of powers. Myriads of melodious tunes are being played (in His court), and myriads of secret scribes (of deeds) are openly seen sitting there.”(10)

Elaborating on the bliss of divine music being played in God’s court, Guru Ji says: “(O’ dear saints, that) God is the highest of all, with whom abide His devotees. At all times they keep singing His praises with love. Myriads of blissful tunes of non-stop melodies keep playing at His door. There is no end or limit to the relish (of that bliss).”(11)
In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ dear saints), eternal is the abode of that eternal being. He is highest of high, immaculate and detached. He alone knows (about the world), which He has made. He Himself is pervading in each and every heart. O’ the Treasure of kindness and merciful Master of Nanak, they who have meditated on You, Nanak (says) they have been blessed.”(12-1-2-2-3-7)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to achieve true peace and bliss we should meditate only upon that God in whose court millions of lesser gods, goddesses and prophets are singing His praises, and who rules over myriads of kings and emperors.

Detail of Ashtpadis by:

Guru Nanak Dev Ji=2, Guru Amar Das Ji=3, Guru Arjun Dev Ji=2, Total =7

**saarag chhart mehlaa 5**

**ik-o-kaar satgur parsaad.**

sabh daykhee-ai anbhai kaa daataa.

ghat ghat pooran hai alipaataa.

ghat ghat pooran kar bistheeran jila _MR_ pagh ji-o rachan kee-aa.

habh ras maanay bhog ghataanay aan na bee-aa ko thee-aa.

har rangee ik rangee _thaakur_ saatsang parabhaa jaataa.

naanak _daaras_ leenaa ji-o jala meenaa sabh daykhee-ai anbhai kaa daataa. ||1||

ka-un upmaa _day-o_ kavan baddaa-ee.

pooran poor rahi-o sarab _tha_ee.

pooran mamnohan ghat ghat sohan jab khinchai_ MR_ _tab chhaa_ee.

**SGGS P-1237**

ki-o na aaraaDhahu mil kar saaDhahu gharee _muhtak_ baylaa _aa_ee.

arath darab sabh jo _kii chh_ deesai sang na kachhhoon jaa-ee.

Kaho naanak har har aaraaDhahu kavan upmaa _day-o_ kavan baddaa-ee. ||2||

poochha-o sant _maaro_ _thaakur_ kaisaa.

hee-o _araapa-o_ _dayh_ sadaysaa.

dayh sadaysaa parabha jee-o kaisaa kah mohan parvysaa.

ang ang _sukh_ -_d_ee pooran barahmaa-ee thanh _thaan_ thaan_ _d_ayysaa.

banDhun _taay_ _muktaay_ ghat ghat _jugthaay_ kahi na sakaa-o har jaisaa.

_daykh_ _charit_ naanak man moхи-o _poochh_ _deen_ _maaro_ _thaakur_ kaisaa. ||3||
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to achieve true peace and bliss we should meditate only on that God in whose court millions of lesser gods, goddesses and prophets are singing His praises, and who rules over myriads of kings and emperors. In this shabad, he tells us how can we see that almighty King and ruler of all.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, we can) see that Donor of fearlessness everywhere. That God is fully pervading in each and every heart and is yet detached from all. Just as waves arise in water (similarly God) has created this expanse (of the universe) and is pervading in all hearts. Abiding in all the hearts He enjoys all relishes, because (except for Him) there is no other. That Master who has created all the colors (and forms of life) is pervading in one continuous form in all beings. That God is known in the company of saints. Just as a fish (remains absorbed) in water, Nanak remains absorbed in His sight. That Provider of fearlessness is visible everywhere.”(1)

Now inspiring us to meditate on that wonderful God whose glory is beyond description, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my saintly friends, I don’t know) with whom may I compare Him, how may I glorify (that God) who is fully pervading everywhere. Yes, that perfect captivating (God) is embellishing each and every heart and when He withdraws (His innate power from within a creature, it becomes) all dust.”

Therefore, Guru Ji says to us: “O’ saints, why don’t you join together and meditate on Him, because in a moment or instant (after a short while, your) time (to die may also) come. All the possessions or wealth, which you see, would not accompany you (after death). Nanak says repeat the Name of that God, (but I don’t know) with whom may I compare Him (and how) may I glorify Him?”(2)

Just as when we don’t know anything about a subject matter we go and ask somebody, who we think is more knowledgeable than we are, in a similar vein of humility and modesty, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I go and) ask the saint (Guru), “what my Master looks like? (Please) tell me (about Him); I am ready to surrender my heart (for this information). Yes please tell me, what my respected God (looks) like, where is the abode of that captivating (God)?”

Next, sharing with us the answer he received from his Guru and what was his reaction, Guru Ji says: “(The Guru answered), that Peace giving and perfect God is residing with each and every (body) and is pervading in all places, and all countries. He is united with
each and every heart and yet free from (any kinds of worldly) bonds and I cannot tell anybody, who is like Him.” Seeing the astonishing wonders (of God), Nanak’s mind was captivated, (and again like a most) humble person, Nanak asks: “(O’ Guru, please tell me) what my Master looks like?”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing what the result of his humble prayer to his Guru was. He says: “Showing His mercy, (God) has come to His (devotee). Blessed is that heart in which (He) has set His feet (and has come to reside). Yes, when one joins) the company of saints, (He) enshrines (His) feet (in one’s heart), and dispels the darkness of one’s ignorance. Then one’s mind is illumined (with divine wisdom) and the heart feels elated when one obtains the much sought after God. Then one’s pain vanishes, (instead) peace prevails in the heart and one enjoys a state of supreme bliss and equipoise. Nanak says, (that I too) have obtained that perfect (God), who showing His mercy, has come (to reside in the heart) of His (devotee).”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that anytime, we may have to depart from here. So if we want to experience the bliss of that wonderful God of incomparable beauty, then joining the company of saints, we should meditate on Him day and night.
It is the same light

Sarang Ki Vaar Mehla-4

Rai Mehmaiy Hasnai Ki Dhuni

This epic is required to be sung on the tune of the epic of two Rajput chiefs named Hasna and Mehma in the reign of Mogul king Akbar. Many times Mehma would entrust Hasna with his share of taxes to be paid to the emperor. But Hasna, being a clever fellow, would only pay his share and keep the money paid by Mehma to himself, thus making Mehma delinquent in the emperor’s eyes. After some time Mehma was summoned and put into prison by the emperor. However in due course Mehma convinced the emperor about his innocence and also impressed him with his bravery. Then with the help of emperor’s forces he attacked Hasna and ultimately vanquished him. After keeping Hasna as a prisoner for a short time Mehma let him go. This is the longest epic in the Guru Granth Sahib. The original writer of all the Paurries except one is the fourth Guru Ram Das. The detail of the saloks added before the Paurries is as follows:

(M: 1=33, M: 2=9, M: 3=23, M: 4=6, M: 5=3, Total=74).

The basic theme of this epic is the glory of the God’s Name, which is obtained only through the Guru’s grace. The detail explanation of the saloks, and the paurries is as follows:

Salok Mehla-2

Right at the outset Guru Ji explains the importance of the Guru with a beautiful example. He says: “(O’ my friends), our mind is like a room and the body is like the roof on it. The bad influence of Maya (or worldly riches and power) is like a lock on the (mind’s) room. The key to open this lock (and remove this influence) is with the Guru. O’ Nanak, without (the guidance of) the Guru, the mind’s door cannot be opened (and freed from the effect of Maya, and except for the Guru) no one has the key (to unlock this door or remove the influence of Maya).”

Mehla-1

Next talking about the necessity of meditating on God’s Name and winning His pleasure, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God) is not pleased by playing musical tunes or reading (religious books like) Vedas. He is neither pleased by meditating, (nor by acquiring) knowledge, (nor by doing) yoga (postures). He is neither pleased by always sitting in sadness (like some Jain sects), nor by indulging in beauty shows, (nor by acquiring) possessions, and (nor by indulging in) revelries. He is also not impressed by roaming naked at holy places, or by doing acts of charity and giving alms, nor by sitting silent in wilderness. Dying while bravely fighting in a war does not please him. There are many who smear themselves with dust; (God) is not pleased with them (just for this thing).”

Finally telling, how God is pleased, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, in God’s court), the account of man’s deeds (in life) is written (in accordance) with the intention in one’s mind
It is the same light (and not one’s outer rituals or garbs. In short, O’ Nanak), He is only pleased when we are attuned to His eternal Name (with true love and concentration of our minds).”(2)

**Mehla-1**

Now describing how impossible it is to understand what is really meant by God’s Name except through the guidance of the Guru, he says: “(O’ God), even those who reflect on all the nine grammars of Sanskrit, the six Shastras, the six (sub-divisions of Vedas), and day and night keep studying (the Mahabharata) of eighteen chapters, have not found Your limit. (Because without meditation on Your Name), one cannot obtain emancipation (from worldly bonds. However even god like) Brahma (who is believed to have) resided in the naval (of god Vishnu), couldn’t realize the end of (God’s merits). O’ Nanak, it is only by following the Guru that one can understand, what (God’s) Name is.”(3)

**Paurri**

Now Guru Ji starts the real essence of this epic by enunciating some basic concepts about God and this world. He says: “(O’ my friends), that immaculate God is all by Himself, who has created Himself. He Himself has created and laid out the play of the entire world. He Himself has created the three modes (of Maya or the impulses for vice, virtue, and power and through these impulses) multiplied the attachment for worldly riches and power. Only they are saved (from the worldly attachments) to whom by Guru’s grace, God’s will seems sweet. O’ Nanak, that eternal (God) pervades everywhere and everything is contained in (and remains under the command of that) eternal (God).”(1)

The message of this **Paurri** is that it is one God who has created Himself and created the entire universe. It is also He who has created the three modes of **Maya** in which the world is playing. He is not pleased by any of our rituals, charities, or acts of bravery. He is pleased only when we truly love Him from the core of our heart and meditate on His Name under the guidance of the Guru.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that it is one God who has created Himself and created the entire universe. It is also He who has created the three modes of Maya in which the world is playing. He is not pleased by any of our rituals, charities, or acts of bravery etc. He is pleased only when we truly love Him from the core of our heart and meditate on His Name under the guidance of the Guru. But we see that different people do different things, behave differently, and in fact their outlook on life is so vastly different from one another that we often wonder whether the same God has created them. In this Paurri, Guru Ji assures us that it is the same one God who creates different creatures and human beings who have widely differing natures; therefore we should not judge anybody good or bad.

First commenting on the different natures of all creatures, Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, (God) Himself creates (all creatures) and Himself keeps them distinct (from one another). So whom can we call bad when the Master of all is the (same) one (God). Yes the Master of all is one (God) who watches and yokes them all (to their individual) tasks. To some He has allotted less and to some, more (worldly task or wealth), but no one is without it. (The human beings) come naked (or empty handed to the world) and depart empty handed. (But still in the time) in between, they make (a vast) expanse (in their worldly possessions). O’ Nanak, we don’t know His will about the task He may assign us in the next (world).”(1)

Mehla-1

Elaborating on different natures of the creatures in the world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), after making the creatures of many kinds, (He) sends them (into this world) and after creating these different creatures, He takes them back. He Himself creates; Himself He destroys. He makes (the creatures) adopt different forms. All the creatures which are roaming around (in the world are) like beggars and He Himself gives them alms (in the form of worldly tasks and worldly wealth). It is according to (some predestined amount allotted in their) accounts, that (the creatures live to) talk and walk, then why should anyone make (tall) claims? Nanak proclaims that this is the basic principle: even if someone may say or let it be said, still it is on the basis of one’s (life) conduct that one would be judged (in God’s court).”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji tells us who the fortunate ones are, who are virtuous and are united with God. He says: “(God) has created this wonder that through the Guru’s grace, (divine) merit becomes manifest (in some people). Such a person always utters Gurbani (the Guru’s word) and enshrines God in the heart. (That person’s attachment) for power (or worldly riches) vanishes, Doubt is removed, and in the mind lights a divine light. They in the treasure of whose destiny is virtue are united with the Guru. O’ Nanak (they) imperceptibly remain united (with God) and merge in God’s Name.”(2)
The message of this *Paurri* is that we should not feel egoistic or proud, thinking ourselves better than others, because the same one God creates all good or bad people. We should simply pray to Him to grace us with the company of the true Guru so that in his company we may enshrine God in our mind and do virtuous deeds. Ultimately it is on the basis of one’s deeds that one would be judged in God’s court.

**Salok Mehla-2**

In the first Salok, of the previous Paurri Guru Ji stated that the Master of all is one God who yokes them (to their individual) tasks and watches over them. To some He allots less (worldly tasks or wealth) to some, more, but no one is completely without it. In this Salok, he explains the same thing by comparing human beings to petty salesmen who obtain their wares from a wholesaler (or a banker) and come to the market of this world to sell their wares. After staying in the world (market) for some time they return to the banker to render their account, which tells the latter, who has made profit and who has lost even the principle, and therefore who deserves praise and who needs some admonition.

He says: “When like salesmen (the mortals) start on their journey (to the world, God the banker) sends them with (the capital of life breaths) written in their destiny (based on their past deeds). God’s command prevails according to that writ and we are supposed to safeguard the commodity (by meditating on God’s Name). On receiving the commodity, they who have further traded in it (and meditated upon God’s Name), have secured (even...
more) commodity to their credit. (But some let even their initial allotment go to waste. In this way) many depart from here after earning a profit while many (others) go losing even their principle. (Out of both categories, no one has asked for less (commodity of life breaths so the question arises), whom should we acclaim (or say “well done”, those who have earned worldly wealth or those who have amassed the wealth of God’s Name)? O’ Nanak, (the answer is that) on those alone is the grace (of God), who bring (back) their capital (of breaths) whole (and have utilized it in meditating on God’s Name).”(1)

Mehla-1

Besides remaining involved in pursuits of worldly possessions, often we keep so much engrossed in family affairs that we forget to meditate on God with the result that we remain bound to the world and keep coming in and going out of this world again and again and like actors keep playing different roles in different births.

Commenting on this phenomenon, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, in this world the souls and bodies) separate after being united and after separating get united (again. In this way, the beings) are born to live and then they die; and after death they come to life again. (In this process, they) become fathers of many, sons of many, and become Gurus or disciples of many. It cannot be counted how many times previously (we have been born, and how many times more we would be born in future, nor do we know what we were before and what we would be next.”

Guru Ji adds: “But all the account of one’s deeds is being written and after creating, the Creator keeps creating. (The end result is that one who) follows the dictates of one’s mind, dies (to be born again, but the one who) follows Guru’s advice swims across (the worldly ocean, and doesn’t go through births and deaths anymore), because O’ Nanak, the gracious (God) casts His glance of grace (on such a person).”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji explains why the self-conceited person dies to be born again and thus keep suffering the pains of birth and death endlessly. He says: “(O’ my friends), within the mind of self-conceited persons is the doubt of duality, because they are lured by the love of the other (worldly things, instead of God). While practicing falsehood and deceit they utter nothing but falsehood. (They don’t realize that) attachment and infatuation for one’s sons or wife is all a source of pain. (Therefore the self-conceited ones) keep wandering in doubts (as if) they are being punished, bound at the door of the demon of death. (In short), O’ Nanak, the self-conceited ones waste their (human) life, this is what God wills.”(3)

The message of this Paurri is that we should understand that God has sent us to this world with a certain amount of breaths. It is our duty to utilize these breaths in virtuous pursuits, and meditate on God’s Name. So that we go back to God with a positive balance and are accepted with honor in His court. But if following the dictates of our mind we squander away our life-span in false worldly pleasures, then we would be punished by the demon of death and would keep wandering in doubts and illusions and suffering the pains of births and deaths.

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In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that God has sent us to this world with a certain number of breaths and it is our duty to utilize these breaths in virtuous pursuits and meditating on God’s Name and thus go back to God with a positive balance so that we may be accepted with honor in His court. In this shabad, he clarifies what is Name, how and from whom it is obtained and what are some of the traits of those who are blessed with the glory of Name.

He says: “(O’ God), they who have been blessed with the glory of Your Name, in their minds, are imbued with the love (of Your Name). O’ Nanak, there is only one (life rejuvenating) nectar (of Name) and there is no other nectar (such as the one believed to be extracted from the ocean according to Hindu mythology). O’ Nanak, this nectar is present in the mind itself and we obtain it (only) by Guru’s grace. Only they have quaffed (this nectar) with love in whose destiny it was so written from the very beginning.”(1)

Salok Mehla-2

Mehla-2

An important part of meditating on God’s Name is singing praises of God. But mistakenly many people start praising lesser gods and goddesses or powerful human beings who have been created by God. But Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), why should we praise (that entity), which has been created (by God)? We should praise Him who creates (all). O’ Nanak, except for that one, there is no other (Giver). We should praise that Creator, who has created this form (of the world) and we should praise only that Giver who gives
sustenance to all. O’ Nanak, (that God) Himself is eternal whose storehouse is always full. We should call Him great and praise Him who is infinite and limitless.”(2)

Paurri

Once again Guru Ji tells us what God’s Name is, how priceless it is, what kind of blessing we obtain when we utter God’s Name, and how Guru Ji himself craves for that Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is a treasure (of blessings). By meditating on it one obtains peace. (Therefore I wish), that I may also utter the immaculate Name, so that I may go home (to God’s mansion) with honor. For a Guru following person, (Gurbani) the Guru’s word is Name and such a person enshrines (God’s) Name in the mind. As through the true Guru, a Guru’s follower meditates (on God’s Name, the) bird like flying intellect comes under control. But O’ Nanak, only when He Himself becomes gracious then one remains attuned to the Name.”(4)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want true peace and want to go to God’s court with honor, then we should drink the nectar of (God’s) Name, which is already present in us, but is obtained only when by Guru’s grace we sing God’s praises as uttered by our Gurus (as Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib Ji).

Salok Mehla-2

In the first Salok of previous Paurri (3), Guru stated that when like salesmen the mortals start on their journey (to the world, God the banker sends them with the capital of life
breaths written in their destiny based on their past deeds. God’s command prevails according to that writ and we are supposed to safeguard the commodity by meditating on God’s Name. In this Salok, he explains the other side of this process and tells us that just as by His order or command the mortals come into this world they also have to go back from this world as soon as God’s command for their departure arrives. No matter how great or powerful a person might be, he or she, has to obey and implement this command right away. Some people might argue and say to God that they are not yet ready to go because they have some very urgent things to take care of but none of these pleas have any effect and they have to obey His will.

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), why say anything (or argue with that God) who knows everything (about our situation and whatever our excuses or reasons may be for our unwillingness to depart)? He is such an acknowledged Master whose warrant cannot be returned (without compliance. What to speak of ordinary people even) the kings, rulers, and commanders have to depart from this world at His command. Therefore O’ Nanak, (we should accept) that deed as the best, which pleases Him. They, who, as per His summons have to depart, have nothing under their control. So as soon as the orders from the Master are issued, they rise and start on their journey (to the next world) and whatever is written in that order they have to implement. (In short) O’ Nanak, (the mortals) come (into this world) when sent, and depart from here when called back (by Him).”(1)

Mehla-2

Now Guru Ji tells us who are those persons who are put in charge of the treasures of God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), they alone are the masters of the treasury (of God’s Name), whom God has blessed with His praise. Yes, they whom (God) has entrusted with the key, (are not blessed with just one treasure, but many) storehouses (of the wealth of God’s Name). Then those treasures (of hearts) from which emanate the (divine) merits, (these hearts) are approved (in God’s court. In short), O’ Nanak, they who carry the flag of Name, on them is the grace (of God. They themselves meditate on God’s Name and motivate others).”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji once again describes the excellence of God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), immaculate and pure is God’s Name; hearing which peace is obtained. Yes, by hearing it again and again, we enshrine it in our mind, but only a rare person understands (this thing. One who realizes this thing), doesn’t forsake that true and eternal (God), whether sitting or standing. For the devotees, God’s Name is their mainstay and only by meditating on the Name can they obtain peace. O’ Nanak, that God (always) remains pervading in the mind and body of the Guru’s followers.”(5)

The message of this Paurri is that as per God’s orders one comes into this world and as per His command, one has to go back, no matter how big or small, rich or poor one may be. The most blessed are those who are blessed with the gift of His Name and who themselves meditate on it and motivate others as well. It is only God’s Name, which purifies us and gives us peace in this world and honor in God’s court.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that it is as per God’s orders that one comes into this world and as per His command that one has to go back, no matter how big or small, rich or poor one may be. The most blessed are those who are blessed with the gift of His Name and who meditate on it and motivate others as well. It is only God’s Name, which purifies us and gives us peace in this world and honor in God’s court. In this Salok, he explains this concept with another common example of those days when things were always weighed on a balance with two sides or pans hanging from the ends of a stick. The wares were placed in one pan and the appropriate weights in the other to ensure that the wares are equal to the weights. Guru Ji uses this metaphor to describe how a person is judged in God’s court.

He says: “O’ Nanak, (in God’s court) we are adjudged as of right weight (or satisfactory merit), if on the other side of the scale is put (the merit) of our soul. (In other words our soul is approved only on the basis of its good deeds and meditation on God’s Name. Others who try different ritualistic methods to get approval in God’s court), don’t equal in merit to even one word (of that person) who after fully equipping (himself or herself with...
It is the same light God’s Name) goes and meets that perfect (God. In fact), there is great merit in uttering the greatness (or praise of God).

Guru Ji adds: “All other (ritualistic deeds, such as going to pilgrimages, observing fasts) are the shallow words uttered by people of shallow intellect. Just as we cannot weigh the earth, ocean, or the mountains in the (tiny) balance of a jeweler, (similar is the merit of other ritualistic deeds). But O’ Nanak, (when the person who touts these deeds, which are like) tolas, massas, and rattis (very light in weight or merit) is questioned, that person recites some (vague or inapplicable references. But the fact is that) blind is the running about of blind fools. (Unnecessarily) they repeatedly praise themselves or ask others to praise them.”(1)

Mehla-1

Even though Guru Ji urges us again and again to meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises at all times, yet he knows that it is very difficult to utter His Name or even to listen to it when we cannot see Him, or describe His form. Therefore, he says: “(O’ my friends), hard it is to utter God’s Name and hard it is to listen to it (and even when someone) describes Him (again and again), He is not understood. There are some who with great effort keep describing (Him) day and night, but only if there were (some solid form of God) He could be seen. But He has no (particular) form or personality. However that Creator Himself causes all things to happen and establishes all high and low places (or easy and difficult situations in man’s life). But O’ Nanak, it is very difficult o describe (His form and no matter how long someone may keep describing Him, still His form) is not understood.”(2)

Paurri

Even though Guru Ji acknowledges that it is impossible to describe God’s form and therefore very difficult to meditate on His Name, still he says: “(O’ my friends), when we listen to (God’s) Name the mind is in bliss and through the Name we obtain peace. By listening to the Name our mind is satiated and all our pain is dispelled. By listening to the Name (the desire to meditate on) the Name (arises in one’s mind and by meditating on) the Name, one obtains glory. (It is through) the Name that one obtains all the honor of (high lineage) and it is through the Name that one obtains salvation. O’ Nanak, through the Guru we should lovingly meditate on the Name with our mind attuned (to God).”(6)

The message of this Paurri is that no other ritual or form of worship equals the merit of meditating on God’s Name, which is very difficult to do because God has no particular shape or form. However it is only by meditating on His Name as per the guidance of the Guru with true love that we can obtain peace and salvation.
People do many different things to purify themselves. Some bathe at holy places believing that by doing so, along with their body, their mind would be purified. Others do many ritualistic deeds, such as observing fasts, going through austerities, reading holy books, singing holy songs to purify their mind. In this Salok, Guru Ji rejects all such practices and tells us the way by which the pollution of one’s mind can be removed.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the pollution (of mind, doesn’t get removed by singing holy hymns accompanied by) music, nor by reading Vedas (or other holy books). Nor does the contamination (of mind) gets removed by doing different kinds of worship (for different seasons) caused by the different positions of sun and moon. The impurity (of mind, doesn’t go away by forsaking) food, or bathing (at holy places). Nor does the pollution (of mind) go away when it rains. The impurity (of mind doesn’t get removed by roaming around) the earth, (doing penance standing in) water, nor by merging in air (and doing breathing exercises). O’ Nanak, they who are without the Guru, don’t have any merit in them, and when we turn our face away (from the Guru and don’t follow his advice), our mouth becomes polluted.” (1)

Mehla-1

Guru Ji now takes the opposite side of the coin and comments on the practice of many people to cleanse their mouths by gargling with water after each meal. He uses this metaphor to explain what the true cleansing or the rightful conduct for persons of different professions is. He says: “O’ Nanak, true are the gargles if one knows how to do them. (In other words true is one’s conduct if one knows how to conduct oneself. For example) the right conduct for a wise person is to acquire (divine) knowledge, (similarly) self-discipline is the purification for a yogi.”
Guru Ji adds: “The Brahmin has to purify himself with contentment and for a householder (right conduct) is truthful living and charity. For the king (or ruler, purification lies in ruling with) justice and for the learned person is meditation on the eternal (God). By drinking water, one’s thirst does go away, but the water doesn’t wash (or purify) the mind. However water is the father (or the source of creation of the) entire world, but it is water which again (destroys and) devourers everything.”(2)

Paurri

Guru Ji concludes this Paurri by listing some of the virtues of listening to the Name (and attuning one’s mind to God). He says: “By listening to the Name (and truly meditating on God) one obtains all the supernatural powers and financial prosperity follows. By listening to the Name one obtains (all) the nine (kinds of) treasures (of wealth), and one obtains what one’s mind desires. By listening to the Name one obtains contentment and Kanwala (the goddess of wealth serves one, as if it) worships one’s feet. By listening to the Name poise arises (in the mind), and one easily obtains peace. But O’ Nanak, only through Guru’s instruction do we obtain (the gift of) Name and sing praises (of God).”(7)

The message of this Paurri is that bathing at holy places, or doing any kind of ritual worships does not cleanse the mind. Only listening to the Guru and meditating on God’s Name as per his instruction purifies the mind.

salok mehlaa 1.

dukh vich jaman dukh maran dukh vartan sansaar. dukh dukh agai aakhee-ai parth4 parth4 karahi pukaar.
dukh kee-aa pandaa khul’ee-aa sukh na nikli-o ko-ay.
dukh vich jee-o jalaai-aa dukhe-aa chali-aa ro-ay.
aanak siftee rat-aa man tan hari-aa ho-ay.
dukh kee-aa agge maaree-abh beeh dukh daaroo ho-ay. ||1||

mehlaa 1.
aanak duneel-aa bhas rang bhasoo hoo bhas khayh.
bhaso bhas kamaavnee bheee bhas bhaaree-ai dayh.
jae jee-o vichahu kadhee-ai bhasoo bhari-aa jaa-ay.
agai laykhai mangi-ai hor dasoonee paa-ay. ||2||
pa-orhee.
nay-ay sujni-ai such sanjamo jam nayrth na aavai.
nay-ay sujni-ai ghat chaanngaa aan’ayr gavaaavai.
nay-ay sujni-ai aap bujheee-ai laahaa nay-oo paavai.
nay-ay sujni-ai paap katee-ah nirmal sach paavai.
aanak nay-ay sujni-ai mukh uljaa nay-oo gurmukh Dhi-aavai. ||8||


Salok Mehla-1

Guru Ji concluded the previous Paurri, with the statement that by listening to the Name and truly meditating on God one obtains all the supernatural powers and financial prosperity follows. By listening to the Name one obtains (all) the nine (kinds of) treasures (of wealth) and one obtains what one’s mind desires. However in this shabad, Guru Ji observes that throughout the world there is pain and suffering all around. No matter in what state one is, whether rich or poor, young or old, one spends one’s entire life in some kind of pain or sorrow.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, a mortal) is born in pain, dies in pain, and in pain deals with the world. After studying (the holy books) again and again, (the pundits) proclaim loudly that there is nothing but pain (for us) in the yond (or the next life. In fact, if we examine the entire life span of a human being we find it so full of pain and suffering, as if) bundles of pain have been laid open (before us), and out of this not a single (episode of) happiness comes out. In short, the human being remains burning (and suffering in pain throughout life, and) in pain departs (from here). O’ Nanak, only by being imbued with praises (of God), one’s mind and body bloom (in delight. The human beings) are killed in the fires of pain, but the pain itself becomes the medicine (if one meditates on God’s Name).”(1)

Mehla-1

But Guru Ji observes that generally the world doesn’t care about God’s Name. It remains obsessed with acquiring false worldly wealth or enjoying false worldly pleasures, which do not bring any lasting happiness and prove as worthless as dust. Therefore, Guru Ji comments: “O’ Nanak, the worldly revelry (is worthless like) dust, nothing but ashes and dust. (Being absorbed in such revelries is nothing but) acquiring more and more dust and filling one’s body with dust (of evil thoughts). When the life is taken out (of the body) the soul departs smeared with dust (of sinful deeds) and when asked to render account in the yond (in God’s court) it receives ten times more dust (and disgrace).”(2)

Paurri

In order to avoid such disgrace and suffering, Guru Ji once again recommends meditating on and listening to God’s Name. Listing some of the benefits of doing that he says: “(O’ my friends), by listening to (God’s) Name we obtain purity and self-control and the demon (or fear) of death doesn’t come near. By listening to the Name, the mind is illuminated with (divine) light, which dispels the darkness (of ignorance). By listening to the Name we realize (that we are the spark of the divine) and obtain the profit of Name. By listening to the Name, we wash off our sins, and obtain the immaculate true (God). In short O’ Nanak, by listening to the Name we are honored (in God’s court); therefore a Guru following person (always) meditates on (God’s) Name.”(8)

The message of this Paurri is that the entire human life is basically a story of pain and suffering. The reason is that the human beings remain engrossed in acquiring false worldly wealth and false worldly pleasures. These things ultimately prove worthless like dust in this world, and bring disgrace in God’s court. The only remedy to avoid all this pain and suffering is to meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance.

It is the same light
In the previous Pauri, Guru Ji told us that the entire human life is basically a story of pain and suffering. The reason is that the human beings remain engrossed in acquiring worldly wealth and false worldly pleasures. These things ultimately prove worthless like dust in this world and bring disgrace in God’s court. The only remedy to avoid all this pain and suffering is to meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. Guru Ji notes that there are some who advocate and practice worshipping statues of gods and goddesses in the hope of relieving their suffering and getting their worldly desires fulfilled. Guru Ji begins this Pauri by telling us how absolutely useless are such practices, how God administers His justice based on our deeds, and what is the best deed to obtain true peace.

Commenting on the practices of a Hindu pundit, he says: “(O’ my friends, the pundit) establishes Thaakur (a statue of god Vishnu) God) along with its courtiers (or smaller gods and goddesses) in his house. He worships and keeps these (idols) bathed. He applies saffron and sandal mark, offers flowers, and falling at their feet again and again, tries to please (these statues). However he begs human beings for his food and clothing. Naturally blind (and severe) is the punishment of such blind deeds. (The fact is that a statue) can neither give (food) to the hungry, nor save a dying person. (But to argue against such practices is like starting) a blind (ignorant) conflict in a blind (ignorant) society.”(1)
Mehla-1

Now Guru Ji comments on the all-pervading power of God and how He administers all beings and all places according to His true justice based on our past deeds. He says: “(O’ my friends), all meditations, all yogas, all (readings of) Vedas and Puranas, doing of all kinds of penances, or singing of hymns and their discourses, all intellect and intuition, all holy places and pilgrimage stations, all kingdoms, all commands, all revelries and feasts, all human beings and gods, all kinds of yogic meditations, all the regions of world and their parts, all the beings of the universe, (God) administers as per His writ. It is on the basis of (one’s past) deeds that (His) pen moves (and one’s future is determined by God). O’ Nanak, eternal is the Name of the eternal God, eternal is His court and true is His justice.”(2)

Paurri

After commenting on the uselessness of statue worship and other kinds of rituals, Guru Ji tells us what practice can bring us peace and salvation. He says: “(O’ my friends), it is by believing in (God’s) Name that peace wells up (in our mind), and it is through the Name that we obtain the supreme state (of salvation). By believing in Name we obtain honor and that God comes to reside in our heart. By having faith in (God’s) Name we cross over the dreadful (worldly) ocean and no obstruction comes our way.”

Guru Ji adds: “By believing in Name the path (of life) becomes clear, It is the Name through which the light (of divine wisdom spreads). But, O’ Nanak only it is when we meet the true Guru that we believe in the Name (and only those obtain it) whom that (God) Himself gives.”(9)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to have true peace and want to be ferried across this dreadful worldly ocean, then instead of doing any statue worship or other ritualistic deeds, we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the true Guru so that we may meditate on God’s Name and become worthy of His grace.
In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji told us that if we want to have true peace and want to be ferried across this dreadful worldly ocean then instead of doing any statue worship or other ritualistic deeds, we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the true Guru so that we may meditate on God’s Name and become worthy of His grace. He begins this *Paurri*, by commenting on the futility of performing pilgrimages and doing very difficult penances.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one may walk around all the lands and continents on one’s head and meditate (on God standing) on one leg, worship while controlling the breath, put one’s head below the body (in other words stand on one’s head, but the question still arises) on what is one focusing (the mind) and which of these does one consider as one’s source of power? Because O’ Nanak, we cannot say whom the Creator blesses (with honor). He runs the (world) as per His command, but a fool (unnecessarily) takes pride in him or herself (thinking that his or her austerity brought the particular blessing or power).”

The message of this *Paurri* is that roaming around pilgrimage places or doing torturous penances is of no spiritual consequence. We should remember that God is so
It is the same light of God's Name and to praise Him and utter His Name millions of times, still we could not utter even an iota of His praise. Therefore we should believe and have faith in God's Name and pray to Him to bless us with guidance of the Guru so that we may meditate on His Name. By doing so not only would we be saved, but so would those who are associated with us.

Salok Mehlaa 1.

sabhay raatee sabh dih sabh thitee sabh vaar.
sabh raytee maah sabh sabh Dharteera sabh bhaar.

sabh paaneer paa-un sabh sabh annee paataal.
sabh puree-aa khand sabh sabh lo-a lo-a aakaar.
hukam na jaapee kayt-thaa kahi na sakeejai kaar.
aakhahi thakee aakh aakh kar sifteeN veechaar.
tarin na paa-i-o bapurhee naanak kahai gavaar. ||1||

mehlaa 1.
akhee sarjai jay firaaN daykhaaN sabh aakaar.
puchhaN gi-anee pandhitaaN puchhaaN bayd beechar.

SGGS P-1242
puchhaaN gayvaahN maangsaaN joDh karahi avtaar.
sIDh samaaDheer sabh sunee jaa-ay daykhaaN darbaar.
agai sachaa sach naa-ay nirbha-o bhai vin saar.
hor kachee maatG pakhich anDhi-aa anDh beechar.
aanak karmee bandagee nadar langhaaN-pay paar. ||2||

pa-orhe.
naa-ay mani-ai durmaat ga-ee maatZ pargatee aa-i-aa.
naa-o mani-ai ha-umai ga-ee sabh rog gavaa-i-aa.
naa-ay mani-ai naam oopjai sehjay sukh paa-i-aa.
naa-ay mani-ai saaN oopjai har man vasaa-i-aa.
aanak naam ratann hai gurmukh har Dhi-aa-i-aa. ||11||

Salok Mehlaa-1

In Mehlaa 1 of previous Paurri, Guru Ji stated that even if millions upon millions of times we may say that God is there and keep uttering His praise at all times still it will not be
more than a tiny iota of God’s praise. In this Paurri again, he stresses the limitlessness of God and tells us about the significance of meditating on His Name.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, it is not possible to say about) all the nights, all (solar) days, all (lunar) days, all week days, all seasons, all months, all earths, and all the loads on the earths. (Similarly it is not possible to describe) all waters, all airs, all fires and nether worlds, all the cities, all the continents, all the worlds, and the forms (of creatures) in those worlds. It cannot be estimated how vast is (His) command and it cannot be said how vast is His creation. Again and again people get exhausted uttering His praises by reflecting on His qualities. But Nanak says that the poor foolish (world) hasn’t been able to say even an iota of God’s (limit).”(1)

Mehla-1

Commenting further on the difficulty of being able to see the sight of such a limitless God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), even if I were to roam around walking on my eyes (and try to cover all the spheres with my sight alone), see all the forms, ask all the wise men and the pundits who reflect on the Vedas, ask the gods and the mortals, those who are born as warriors, listen to the adepts who practice meditation and go and see them in their courts; (still I won’t be able to find the end limit of God, because in the yond is the eternal (God) whose Name is eternal, fearless, without fear and supreme. All else is false and shallow intellect and foolish thinking of foolish persons. But O’ Nanak, it is by His grace, that one is blessed with meditation (of His Name) and by His grace He ferries us across (the worldly ocean).”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji tells us what blessings we obtain when we believe and meditate on God’s Name. He says: “When we believe in the Name (the power of His love and enlightenment), our evil intellect goes away and good intellect becomes manifest. By believing in (God’s) Name, the ego goes away and one is rid of all ailments. Because when we believe in the God’s Name (an inspiration to meditate on) the Name wells up (in us) and we easily obtain peace. By believing in the Name contentment wells up and one enshrines God in the mind. (In short) O’ Nanak, (God’s) Name is (like a priceless) jewel, but it is only through Guru’s grace that one meditates on God.”(11)

The message of this Paurri is that what to speak of human beings; even all the gods and goddesses cannot describe an iota of God’s praise. If we ask all the wise men or yogis and study all the holy books we would conclude that He couldn’t be met except by meditating on His Name. However, it is only through Guru’s grace that we are blessed with meditation on God’s Name.
In the opening lines of the previous Paurri, Guru Ji indicated that we couldn’t describe how big the extent of God’s creation is and how all who try to utter His praises get exhausted doing that and are still not able to describe even an iota of His praise. He begins this Paurri, by addressing God Himself and humbly acknowledging his own inability to fully appreciate God’s greatness. He also acknowledges the inability of a human being to do anything by himself or herself.

He says: “(O’ God), if there were any other rival of Yours, I would go and talk about You with him, (but since there is none) I have to praise You before Yourself. Even though I am blind (and spiritually ignorant, yet) I have been named a seer (or a person with perfect eyesight). But whatever has to be said, it is through some words uttered in accordance with Your loving nature. O’ Nanak, the greatest thing to say is that all glory is Yours.”(1)

Mehla-1
Guru Ji now comments on the dependence of human beings on God, and why we have to be thankful to that God who is the Giver of everything to everybody. He says: “When the (human being) was not there (was not yet born) then what job did he or she do, and what could one do just after being born? (The fact is that) it is the Creator who creates all causes and takes care of all (creatures) again and again. Whether we remain silent or beg the beneficent (God) blesses us with His bounties. After roaming around the entire world (all come to the conclusion) that there is only one Giver and all others are beggars (at His door). O’ Nanak, we should know this thing that the Giver lives (forever).”(2)

Paurri
Guru Ji concludes the Paurri by listing the blessings of believing in God’s Name (His love, enlightenment, and power). He says: “(O’ my friends), by believing in the Name, true understanding arises in us, and through the God’s Name we obtain (right) intellect.
By believing in the Name, one utters (God’s) praises and through the Name one obtains peace. By having faith in the Name, we remove our doubt and then no pain afflicts us. When believing in the Name, we praise (God); we wash off (our) sinful intellect. But, O’ Nanak it is only through the perfect Guru that we come to believe in God’s Name and (only those receive this gift) whom that (God) gives.”(12)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to wash away our sinful intellect, obtain divine wisdom, and true happiness, then we should praise God who is the Giver of all and beg for the Guru’s guidance and His Name.

**Salok Mehlaa 1.**

saa staunch puraan path’aa taa.
poo kaaran’aa aa jaan’aa.
jaa’oo boojhai taa’oo soojhai so-ee.
naanak aakhai kook na ho-ee. ||1||

**Mehlaa 1.**

jaa’oo ha-o tayraa taa’o sabh kichh mayraa ha-o naa hee too hoveh.
aapay saktaa aapay surtaa saktee jagat paroveh.
aapay bhayjay aapay soday rachnaa rach rach vaykhai.
aanak sachaa sachee naa-ee sach pavai Dhur laykhai. ||2||

**Pa-Orhee.**

naam niranjan alakh hai ki-o lakh-aa jaa-ee.
aam niranjan naal hai ki-o paa-ee-ai bhaa-ee.
aam niranjan varatdaa ravi-aa sabh taa-ee-ee.
gur pooray tay paa-ee-ai hirdai day-ay dikhaa-ee.
aanak nagree karam ho-aay gur milee-ai bhaa-ee. ||13||

*Salok Mehlaa-1*

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to wash away our sinful intellect, obtain divine wisdom, and true happiness, then we should praise God who is the Giver of all and beg for the Guru’s guidance and His Name. In this Paurri, he wants to forewarn us about the uselessness of simply reading the holy books without understanding the essence of the message in them. He also tells us about the necessity of shedding our ego and seeking the guidance of the Guru for seeing the sight of the formless and indescribable God.

He says: “(O’ my friends, as long as) a person keeps reading (only holy books like) Shastras, Vedas and Puranas (without understanding, even though) one may keep loudly lecturing (but still) doesn’t know (the essence of the message in these books). It is only when one understands (the essence, then) one is able to realize (God everywhere). Nanak says there is no more shouting (because, one doesn’t feel its necessity any more).”(1)

**Mehla-1**

Now Guru Ji describes the understanding we obtain when we realize the essence of divine knowledge. Addressing God, he says: “When I (realize that) I am Yours, (I feel that)
everything is mine. (When there is no ego in me and I feel that) I am not anywhere, then
You are (everywhere. I realize that) You Yourself are the one with the power, the (true)
understanding (about everything), and that You run the world under the power of Your law.
On Your own You send (mortals to the world), on Your own You call them back, and look
over the creation after creating it again and again. O’ Nanak, eternal is He, eternal is His
glory, and only (meditation of) His true (Name) is approved in God’s court.”(2)

Paurri

Finally advising us how to obtain that true or immaculate Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my
friends), the immaculate (God’s) Name is incomprehensible, so (the question arises), how
can it be comprehended? O’ brothers (and sisters, even though the) immaculate Name is
with us, how can we obtain it? (The answer is that) the immaculate Name abides (in us all)
and pervades all places. It is through the perfect Guru that we obtain it, He shows (it to us)
in our heart. Nanak (says), it is only when we are blessed with (God’s) grace, that we meet
the Guru.”(13)

The message of this Paurri is that reading or reciting of religious books is of no use
without understanding their real essence. When one obtains true understanding, one
loses one’s self-conceit and realizes that God is pervading everywhere. The entire
world is running as per the power of His law, and only by meditating on His Name
is one accepted in His court, and that Name is obtained when as per God’s grace, we
meet the (true) Guru.

salok mehlaa 1.
kal ho-ee kutay muhee khaaj ho-aa murdaar.
kooch bol bol bha-ukaanee chookaa Dharam beechaar.
jin jeevandi-aa pat nahee mu-i-aa mandee so-ay.
SGGS P-1243 likhi-aa hovkaa kartaa karay so ho-ay. ||1||
mehlaa 1.
rannaa ho-ee-aa boDhee-aa puras ho-ay sa-ee-aad.
seel sanjam such bhannee khaanaa khaaj ahaaj.
saram ga-i-aa ghar apnaai pat uth chalee naal.
nanak sachaa ayk hai a-or na sachaa bhaal. ||2||
pa-orhee.
bahar bhasam laypan karay anatar gubaree.
khintaa jholee baho bhaykh karay durmat aha**kaaree.
saahib sabaq na oochrai maa-i-aa moh pasaaree.
anatar laalach bharma hai bharmai gaavaree.
nanak naam na chayt-ee joo-ai baajee haaree. ||14||
We often lament how so much corruption, immorality, and falsehoods are prevailing in this world, particularly in India. But it appears that even five centuries ago, during the time of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, things were not good either. In this Paurri, he comments on the state of affairs at that time and describes how people were behaving like dogs to snatch food from others, how any kind of honesty or self-control had become non-existent, and how even the supposedly religious people were adorning holy clothes on the outside but from inside were rotten like the rest of the people.

He says: “In Kal Yug (the present iron age, man’s intellect) has become (greedy like) a dog, and (taking bribes or earning wealth by dishonest means has become their regular habit like) eating of carcasses (by dogs). Just as dogs keep barking they keep telling lies and gone is any reflection on righteousness. (The result is that they) who don’t have any respect when alive, after death also, their reputation remains bad. But O’ Nanak, (they too are helpless, because) whatever is written in their destiny that happens, and whatever the Creator does that comes to pass.”(1)

Next commenting on the sorry state of affairs in the family life of those days, Guru Ji says: “(Now there is so much difference in the nature between husband and wife), that while women might have become Bodhi (who believe in absolute nonviolence and don’t want to hurt even an ant), the men have become (cruel like) hunters (who don’t feel slightest remorse in taking anyone’s life). They have abandoned all civility, self-control, and purity (of mind), and eat what is undesirable (or procured by corrupt means). Their modesty has gone away and along with that, their honor has also vanished. O’ Nanak, only the one (God) is true, don’t try to look for any other true (or honest) person.”(2)

Now commenting on the state of those persons such as yogis, who were supposed to be righteous and truthful, Guru Ji says: “From outside (a yogi) smears his body with ashes, but within him is darkness (of ignorance). He adorns many holy garbs like wearing a patched coat, and having a cloth bag (for alms, but he is) full of evil intellect and ego. He doesn’t utter the Master’s Name; all around him is the expanse of worldly attachment. Within him is greed and doubt, and the fool keeps wandering (in such pursuits). O’ Nanak, he doesn’t contemplate on (God’s) Name, and has lost the game (of his life) in gamble.”(14)

The message of this Paurri is that in this Kal Yug the world has gone absolutely rotten. The men are full of falsehood and greed, and women have lost their sense of chastity, shyness, and modesty. What to speak of ordinary people, even the religious persons like the yogis are making a false show of their righteousness, but within them is deceit, falsehood, and ego. If we don’t want to loose our life as well in this worldly gamble, then we should remember God’s Name, the Giver of all peace and bliss.

salok mehlaa 1.

lakh si-o pareet hovai lakh jeevan ki-aa khusee-aa
ki-aa chaa-o.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that in this Kal Yug the world has gone absolutely rotten. The men are full of falsehood and greed, and women have lost their sense of chastity, shyness, and modesty. What to speak of ordinary people, even the religious persons like the yogis are making a false show of their righteousness, but within them is deceit, falsehood, and ego. If we don’t want to loose our life as well in this worldly gamble then we should remember God, the Giver of all peace and bliss. In this Paurri, Guru Ji comments on the end result of enjoying false worldly pleasures to acquire which we commit so many sins and usurp the right of so many innocent people. He also tells us what is the thing which can bring us true and lasting peace, and who is the one who can help us procure that.

First commenting on the long term effect of indulging in false pleasures of the world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one may have friendship with millions (of people and) may have a life (span) of millions of years, and there may be (innumerable) joys and fond desires in one, (but at the time of death) in an instant, one has to depart from here, the separation (from these pleasures) becomes painful like poison. (But the fact is that) even if one enjoys pleasures for hundred years still one has to bear pain. Then one doesn’t remember the pleasures one has enjoyed but the pain goes deep into one’s mind (and one keeps lamenting

Salok Mehla-1

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about it. But the truth is) that both pleasure and pain are (like) maladies. Because O’ Nanak, they who indulge in (worldly) pleasure are ultimately ruined. To keep fighting and entering into disputes with others (for the sake of these short-lived pleasures) is useless bickering. People keep fighting, and after fighting (among themselves), they keep going and wrangling with each other for those very same false pleasures.”(1)

Mehla-1

After commenting on the end results of enjoyment of false worldly pleasures, Guru Ji comments on the other aspects of human nature of trying to amass as many worldly possessions as possible in the form of magnificent houses, furniture, and clothes. He says: “(O’ my friends), one may have got one’s clothes and wooden (furniture) dyed (and polished) in beautiful colors, has got one’s houses whitewashed and painted pure white, and with relishes and joys pampered one’s mind. But that one would receive admonition from You O’ Master (for not utilizing the human birth to meditate on Your Name. In this way, one has wasted one’s life as if) deeming something sweet, one actually has eaten a bitter (thing), and then that bitter thing has given rise to a disease in the body. Only if one is blessed with (God’s Name, the truly) sweet thing, then O’ mother, the bitter taste (or the suffering brought by false worldly pleasures) would go away. But O’ Nanak, only that person obtains (the sweet Name) through the Guru in whose destiny it has been so written.”(2)

Paurri

Finally, Guru Ji warns us against being holy and immaculate from outside, but having all kinds of evil intentions and designs inside. He says: “They within whom is the dirt and deceit (of sins and evil), but appear clean (or immaculate) from outside practice falsehood and deception (in their dealings, ultimately their) falsehood becomes apparent. Because whatever is within (one’s mind, ultimately) becomes manifest and even by trying to hide, it doesn’t remain hidden. By engaging in false greed, one is again made to go through existences. O’ Nanak, whatever one sows one has to (reap and) consume the same, (because) this is what the Creator has written (in the destiny of human beings).”(15)

The message of this Paurri is that whatever good or bad deeds we perform in this life we would obtain rewards or punishment accordingly. Therefore if we don’t want to go through continuous pains of birth and deaths, then instead of running after false pleasures or amassing worldly wealth and possessions by committing sins, we should try to enjoy the pleasure of God’s Name, which can bring us true and lasting peace and happiness.
In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji told us that whatever good or bad deeds we perform in this life we would obtain rewards or punishment accordingly. Therefore if we don’t want to go through continuous pains of birth and death, then instead of running after false pleasures or amassing worldly wealth and possessions by committing sins, we should try to enjoy the pleasure of God’s Name which can bring us true and lasting peace and happiness.

In this *Paurri*, Guru Ji tells us how it was the *Vedas* that introduced the theory about virtuous and evil deeds, the concept of heaven and hell, and some other things, which have led men into the misconceptions of higher and lower castes. But what our Guru’s have introduced is the quintessence of divine wisdom, which brings us honor and acceptance in God’s court. He also warns us about practicing superstitions and false notions of our own mind and tells us how we can purify ourselves.

He says: “It was the *Vedas*, which introduced stories and myths (about gods and demons) along with the discourses on vice and virtue. (These books also tell how men obtain the rewards of) what they give (to others in this life), and how they have to repay what they receive (from others) and are born in hell or heaven (in their future lives). According to the theories introduced by *Vedas*, the human beings) keep wandering in the superstitions of high and low castes and classes. (But *Gurbani*) the nectar sweet word (of the Guru) describes the quintessence (of divine wisdom), because it was revealed (to the Gurus while they were) absorbed in meditation and reflection on the (divine) knowledge. It has been uttered and understood by the Gurus themselves and by (God’s) grace have meditated on it in their consciousness. (The *Gurbani* tells that) after creating (the world) as per His will,
God keeps it as per His will and looks after it as per His will. O’ Nanak, only when one’s ego is demolished, one is taken into account (and approved in God’s court).”(1)

**Mehla-1**

In this *Salok* also Guru Ji compares the concepts and theories described in *Vedas* and *Shastra* with the true divine wisdom in *Gurbani*.

He says: “The *Vedas* proclaim that the vice or virtue is the seed (or the reason of one’s going to) hell or heaven. The soul which bears (the consequences) knows that one reaps whatever one sows. (However the divine) knowledge (in *Gurbani*) praises God proclaiming Him great and tells that eternal is the Name of the eternal (God). One who sows the truth (of God’s Name in the heart), truth (of God’s Name multiplies in that one, (and this is how we) obtain a seat (and acceptance) in God’s court. (So in a way, by talking about the consequences of vice and virtues), *Vedas* talk like businessmen. But (Guru’s divine) knowledge is the (real) commodity, which one obtains only by God’s grace. O’ Nanak, without loading (and acquiring this true) commodity, no one departs from here (with real profit).”(2)

**Paurri**

Finally, Guru Ji wants to warn us that by doing some ritualistic worship according to the obstinacy of our own minds, we cannot wash off the poison of our impurities and become acceptable in God’s court. Giving many examples to make his point, he says: “(Even if) we irrigate a *Neem* tree by pouring lot of nectar sweet water on it, (it still remains bitter). Or if we give a lot of milk to a snake to drink and hypnotize it with many kinds of mantras, (it still doesn’t abandon its stinging habit), similarly like the stone, which doesn’t get wet in spite of being washed in water, (the cruel mind of a) self-conceited person doesn’t get softened (by any amount of divine wisdom. Just as even) if we irrigate a poison (tree) with nectar, we would still obtain the fruit of poison. Therefore Nanak (prays, O’ God) unite me with the congregation (of saintly persons), so that all the poison (from my mind) may be removed.”(16)

The message of this *Paurri* is that instead of worrying about *Vedic* theories of vice and virtue, or such things as high and low castes, we should have complete faith in the divine words of our Gurus (the *Gurbani* in Guru Granth Sahib) and meditate on God’s Name.

**Salok Mehlaa 1.**

maran na moomar puchhi-aa puchhee thit na vaar.  
ink’ee laad-aa ik laad chalay ink’ee baDhay bhaar.  
ink’aa ho-ee saakh-tee ink’aa ho-ee saar.  
laskar sanai damaami-aa chhutay bank du-aar.  
naanak dhayree chhaar kee bhee fir ho-eet chhaar. ||1||

mehlaa 1.  
naanak dhayree dhhe pa-eet mitee sangdaa kot.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that instead of worrying about Vedic theories of vice and virtue, or such things as high and low caste, we should have full faith in the divine words of our Gurus and meditate on God’s Name.

In this salok, Guru Ji reminds us that any time, death may overtake us and it doesn’t wait for our convenience. Therefore we need to meditate on God’s Name right away and shouldn’t postpone this to any later date. He also warns us against slandering others, because this habit deprives us of the opportunity to meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends, death doesn’t keep any calendar). Death has never asked (or cared for) any auspicious occasion, or asked for any particular lunar or week day (before overtaking anybody. In fact, death is like a train on which) some have loaded their luggage, some have already loaded and departed from here, while others have packed their bags. So some are ready to depart, and others have (been told by their doctor and have) realized that they too would soon have to go. (Further when one dies, no matter how rich or powerful one may be, one) is separated from one’s armies, drums, and magnificent mansions. O’ Nanak, (man is like) a heap of dust, which becomes dust again.”(1)

Salok Mehla-1

Once again advising us not to commit sins to satisfy the sinful desires of our body, Guru Ji says: “Ó’ Nanak, (this body of ours is like) a fortress of mud, which soon falls down like a heap of dust. O’ my soul, (unnecessarily for the sake of this body) you have been doing sinful deeds and allowed the thief (of evil desires) to remain sitting in it.”(2)

Paurri

Talking about the falsehood in the fortress of the body, in Guru Ji’s view the worst kind of falsehood and sinful habit is that of slandering others. Therefore, he says: “They, within whom is the demon of slander, are shameless and have lost their honor. They always look most ugly, painful, and disfigured (most unhappy, and disrespected). Rising early in the morning every day, they steal wealth belonging to others and rob (themselves of the opportunity to meditate on) God’s Name. O’ God (bless me that) I may not associate with the company of such people. O’ God the King, please save me (from them). O’ Nanak, the egotists are doing deeds bound by their destiny, and suffering pain.”(17)
The message of this *Paurri* is that any time death may overtake us without any notice. Therefore, right away we should yoke ourselves to meditate on God’s Name, avoid any sinful deeds and keep away from those who slander others, because they not only shame themselves but also their associates.

In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji told us that at any time death might overtake us without any notice. Therefore, right away we should yoke ourselves to meditate on God’s Name, avoid any sinful deeds, and keep away from those who slander others because they not only shame themselves but also their associates. But meditating on God’s Name doesn’t mean simply repeating a certain word or phrase. It includes doing certain other things as well, such as cheerfully obeying God’s will and loving all God’s creatures. In this *Paurri*, Guru Ji tells us about such things which one ought to do and also describes the blessings that person obtains who follows Guru’s advice and meditates on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), everyone belongs to (God) the Master, and everyone is created by the Master. When one realizes the will of the Master, then no one seems bad to us. O’ Nanak, (the person) who under Guru’s guidance meditates on God’s Name, is considered to have come (to this world to pass his or her life in peace and) comfort.”(1)

**Salok Mehla-4**

Guru Ji now gives us another assurance. He says: “(O’ my friends, God) Himself is the Giver of all and He Himself unites (the creatures) with Him. O’ Nanak, they who have meditated on that God the benefactor, and remain united with Him through (*Gurbani*) the word of the Guru, never get separated (from Him).”(2)
Paurri

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by commenting on the state of mind of a Guru following person, his or her conduct, and what kinds of blessings such a person enjoys. He says: “There is peace in the mind of Guru followers, within them wells up an inspiration to meditate on God's Name. This so pleases my God that they obtain the merit of doing all kinds of worship, penance, and austerities. With a pure mind, they meditate on God and look beauteous singing His praises. This is what my God likes, so He ferries the Guru’s followers across (the worldly ocean. In short) O’ Nanak, God has united the Guru’s followers with Him and they look beauteous in God’s mansion.”(18)

The message of this *Paurri* is that we should realize that the same God has created every one. Therefore before condemning anybody we should look into our own faults. When we follow Guru's advice, we start loving everyone, our life becomes peaceful, and a longing to meditate on God’s Name arises in our mind. This looks pleasing to God, and showing His grace He unites us with Him.

*salok mehla 1.*  
*Dhanvantaa iv hee kahai avree Dhan ka-o jaa-o.*  
naanak nirDhan tit gin jit din visraai naa-o. ||1||

*mehla 1.*  
*sooraj charhai vijog sabhsai ghatai aarjaa.*  
*tan man rajaa bhog ko-ee haaraai ko jinai.*  
sabh ko bhari-aarook aakhan na thamh-e-ee-ai.  
naanak vaykhai aap aapook kadhaa-ay dheh pavaai. ||2||

*pa-orhee.*  
satsangat naam niDhaan hai jithahu har paa-i-aa.

SGGS P-1245  
gur parsaadee ghat chaangaa aan’ayr gavaa-i-aa.  
lohaa paaras bhaytee-ai kanchan ho-ay aa-i-aa.  
aanak satgur mili-aa naa-o paa-e-ee-ai mil naam Dhi-aa-i-aa.  
jin’i kai pootai punn hai tin’ee garsan paa-i-aa. ||19||

*Salok Mehla-1*

In the opening lines of *Salok Mehla-1* of *Paurri* (17) Guru Ji stated that death has never asked (or cared for) any auspicious occasion, or asked for any particular lunar or week day before overtaking anybody. However, Guru Ji notes that still, human beings keep running after worldly wealth and feeling puffed up because of that. In this *Salok*, he again tells us when one is truly rich and when one becomes truly poor.
He says: “(O’ my friends), a (worldly) rich person always says (to himself or herself): “I should go out to earn more money.” But O’ Nanak, deem one poor that day on which one forsakes (to meditate on God’s) Name.”(1)

Mehla-I

Guru Ji now comments on the human life in general and how everybody roams around puffed up on one account or the other. He says: “(O’ my friends, just as) with each rising and setting of the Sun (a day passes by, similarly) life (of all creatures) keeps diminishing with the passage of time. (However), the mind and body (of human) beings are imbued with the love of (worldly) enjoyments. Someone loses, and someone wins (in the game of life). But everybody is filled with ego (on one account or the other) and we cannot stop (them from this bad habit) by our speech or sermon. O’ Nanak, He Himself is watching (everybody), when He takes out (one’s) breath, one falls down (dead).”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji tells us, from where can we obtain the true wealth of God’s Name and who are the lucky people who obtain the sight of God. He says: “(O’ my friends), in the company of holy (persons) is the treasure of (God’s) Name, from where God’s (union) is obtained. By Guru’s grace, one’s mind is illuminated (with divine knowledge in that company) and the darkness (of ignorance) is dispelled. (Just as) when we bring iron in contact with the philosopher’s stone it turns into gold, (similarly) O’ Nanak upon meeting the true Guru we obtain the (gift of God’s) Name and meeting him we meditate on the Name. However, only they obtain the sight (of God), in the treasure (of whose destiny is the reward of) virtuous deeds (done in the past).”(19)

The message of this Paurri is that our life is diminishing every day. Therefore instead of running after worldly wealth we should join the company of holy people, meditate on God’s Name, and become worthy of His sight.
In the concluding lines of the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji stated that in the company of holy (persons) is the treasure of (God’s) Name from where God’s (union) is obtained. What Guru Ji meant to say was that we should join the company of holy persons and sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. But during the times of Guru Ji and to a great extent even now holy looking people such as pundits, priests, and saints, started cheating ordinary people by selling them mantras or incantations on a small piece of paper enclosed in pendants to be hung from neck, or tied around the arm, with the false assurance that from now on the wearer would be safe from all evil spirits. In this *Paurri*, Guru Ji condemns all such practices and tells us what the wisest way is for a person to please God and fulfill all one’s desires.

He says: “Accursed is the life of those who sell God’s Name by writing and selling (God’s) Name (in the form of mantras, incantations, or charms. Just as) there cannot be any grains on the thrashing field of those whose entire crop has been destroyed. (Similarly these small incantations on pieces of paper cannot do them any good whose entire life has been wasted in pursuits of worldly riches). Without true effort (in meditating on God’s Name) they cannot obtain any honor hereafter (in God’s court). There is no wisdom in wasting one’s intellect in writing or believing in such useless things (as incantations or charms). Also we waste (our) wisdom (by entering into unnecessary) conflicts or disputes. We should serve (meditate on) the Master wisely (and not through useless rituals or superstitions). Similarly, when we deal with people wisely, we obtain honor. By wisely reading (*Gurbani*) we should understand its essence and then wisely share this knowledge with others (and shouldn’t keep foolishly trying to force our knowledge on unwilling people). Nanak says, this alone is the (true path); all other things are the inventions of a devilish (mind).”(1)

Now Guru Ji gives a very beautiful example to illustrate how to identify a virtuous or a holy person. He says: “This has become the norm that whatever one does, one is called or known accordingly. (Just as if a person steals money, that person is called a thief). Or that person alone is said to have a handsome figure who has no deformities or missing limbs. Similarly O’ Nanak, that person alone should be considered an embodiment (of holiness who does what he or she says, has no good quality missing in him or her and) who obtains (from God) what he or she wishes for.”(2)

Now Guru Ji tells us from whom can we truly learn the right way to meditate on God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends, it is from the true Guru that we can obtain the ambrosial wealth of God’s Name in abundance, because) the true Guru is (like) the tree of nectar laden with the juicy fruit of nectar.”
Guru Ji further clarifies and says: “(This fruit of Name) is obtained (by following Gurbani) the word of the Guru, but that person alone obtains it in whose destiny it has been so pre-ordained. One who conducts oneself in accordance with the will (or advice) of the true Guru merges in God. In such a person’s mind lights up the illumination (of divine wisdom), so even the demon (or fear) of death cannot bother that person. O’ Nanak, forgiving whom (God) has united (with) Himself, they are not wasted in wombs (or fall in existences) again.”(20)

The message of this Paurri is that God’s Name cannot be obtained by going to the priests, pundits, or maulvies and buying charms, or incantations from them. It is only by meditating on God’s Name in the company of holy persons that we can obtain it and get united with God.

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that God’s Name cannot be obtained by going to the priests, pundits, or maulvies and buying charms, or incantations from them. It is only by meditating on God’s Name in the company of holy persons that we can obtain it and get united with God. He begins this Paurri, by telling us what kinds of virtues we should try to acquire instead of adopting holy garbs, or doing rituals like observing fasts, and going on
pilgrimages. He particularly warns us against being greedy for worldly riches and trying to acquire it by all kinds of immoral and sinful ways.

He says: “(O’ my friends), highly honorable are those human beings for whom truth is their fast (or pledge of remaining truthful), contentment their pilgrimage station, (divine) wisdom and meditation their ablation, compassion their god and forgiveness their rosary. (For them living) an honest way of life is their (worshipping) lion-cloth, keeping their conscience clean their cooking enclosure, and high moral character their frontal mark. Love (for all creatures) is their food. But O’ Nanak, it is only a rare person who acquires (such an immaculate life conduct).”(1)

**Mehla-3**

Guru Ji now suggests some better things in place of observing many fasts. He says: “(If instead of) observing (the fast of) *Naummi* (the ninth lunar day, one) makes a pledge of remaining truthful, thoroughly dispels one’s lust, anger, and desire, instead of observing the fast of tenth lunar day, controls all the ten faculties (of speech, sound, and taste), and instead of the fast of *Ekaadsi* (the eleventh lunar day) deems all as one (or equal, and instead of observing fast on the twelfth (lunar) day keeps all the five (impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) in check, then O’ Nanak, that person’s mind (truly) believes in God’s Name. O’ pundit, one should observe such kind of fast, what more advice could one give?”(2)

**Paurri**

Finally Guru Ji comments on the obsession of all kinds of people for worldly wealth and its end result. He says: “(O’ my friends), emperors, kings, paupers, and nobles (all) try to accumulate poison (of worldly wealth). Acquiring more and more, they multiply their infatuation (with wealth) and even steal money belonging to others. They become so obsessed (with their wealth, that) they don’t trust even their sons or wives. (But they don’t realize) that right in front of their eyes, Maya has deceived (many others) and then they repent (grievously and suffer, as if) bound at the door of demon of death they are being beaten. O’ Nanak, this is what (God) wishes (to happen to such people).”(21)

The message of this *Paurri* is that instead of trying to earn more and more worldly wealth, we should meditate on God’s Name and instead of observing various fasts, or adorning holy garbs, we should pledge to lead a truthful life filled with love and compassion for all.

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**Slok mÚ 1 
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**salok mehlaa 1.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gi-aan vihoonaa gaavai geet.</td>
<td>giving a prayer is better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bhukhay mulaa<em>e</em> ghayar maseet.</td>
<td>those who eat and want more are always hungry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>makhtoo ho-ay kai kann parh-ay.</td>
<td>I have come to you, you are God's name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fakar karay hor jaat gavaa-ay.</td>
<td>don't be a thief, be honest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gur peer saa-ay mangan jaa-ay.</td>
<td>the Guru is above all, that is of value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taa kai mool na langee-ai pa-ay.</td>
<td>you don't need money, you can live without it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ghaal khaa-ay kichh hathahu day-ay.</td>
<td>you don't need to be a thief, don't steal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>naanak raahu pachhaa-ay say-ay.</td>
<td>that's all I have, nothing more to say.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that instead of trying to earn more and more worldly wealth we should meditate on God’s Name and instead of observing various fasts or adorning holy garbs we should pledge to lead a truthful life filled with love and compassion for all. In this Salok, he comments on the conduct of those pundits, maulvies, and yogis, who for the sake of worldly wealth go about singing hymns or go to houses to beg for food, and feel proud of their knowledge, even though they don’t know anything. He says: “(Such is the state of the so called holy persons these days, that) without any (divine) knowledge (a pundit) sings holy songs (for the sake of money). Similarly a maulvi, who would otherwise starve, turns his house into a mosque. (Then there is another one who), becoming a freeloader, gets his ears pierced (to look like a yogi). He then goes around begging for food and loses the honor of his family. But we shouldn’t fall at the feet (or pay respect) to anyone who calls himself or herself a Guru or a prophet but goes begging from house to house. O’ Nanak, (only that person) who earns an honest living and gives something out of it (in charity) knows the true way (of life).”

Now Guru Ji observes that there are both ignorant and knowledgeable people in this world. But there are some who even though they have no merit, still feel proud of themselves. Guru Ji has some very harsh words for them. He says: “(O’ my friends), they who are ignorant in their mind like a blind well, don’t realize the object of human life even when told (about it). Being blind in their minds, (their heart remains so devoid of spiritual bliss, as if) the lotus of their heart is turned upside down and they appear very ugly (hypocrites). But there are others who know what to speak, and understand what is told to them, such human beings are wise and beauteous. There are some who don’t have any taste for music, divine knowledge, or holy hymns and cannot differentiate between good and bad (or divine
and sinful) relishes. There are even those, who don’t have any understanding, knowledge, wisdom, and don’t understand even a single word. But O’ Nanak, true idiots are they who feel conceited without any merit.”(2)

**Paurri**

Finally Guru Ji describes the conduct of a Guru’s follower and how he or she remains merged in meditation of God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), the person who follow the path shown by the Guru, for them it is all sacred to accumulate wealth and possessions. Because they spend that wealth for godly purposes and enjoy peace as they give it (to the needy). Further they, who meditate on God’s Name, never fall short (of anything). The Guru’s followers are able to see (and realize God’s presence), therefore they have (so lavishly given away in charity, as if) they have thrown away their wealth (in charity. Because) O’ Nanak, nothing else comes to the mind of the devotees and they remain absorbed in (meditation of) God’s Name.”(22)

The message of this *Paurri* is that we should be careful in worshipping or encouraging those idle people who do not want to work with the sweat of their brow but pose as yogis, gurus, or mullahs. Further we should consider them as the most foolish who feel self-conceited without any merit. Finally it is all right to amass worldly wealth and possessions if we lead our life as per Guru’s advice and share our wealth with the needy.
In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji cautioned us against such idle persons who try to pose as yogis or holy persons who adopt mendicant garbs just for the sake of alluring people and earning money in this way. However Guru Ji has lots of respect for the true Guru who himself meditates on God’s Name and motivates others to do the same. In this *Salok*, he explains how fortunate those are who serve the true Guru by following his advice and meditating on God’s Name. However he also cautions us against any kind of counting of our meditations or worships and depending on any of our worldly wealth or possessions and tells us what the most dependable thing is, which would remain with us forever.

He says: Very fortunate are they who serve (act on the advice of) the true Guru and through the true word (of the Guru) whose mind remains attuned to the one (God). Even while living in their house and family they remain calmly absorbed in meditation. O’ Nanak, they who are imbued with (God’s) Name are truly detached persons.”(1)

*Mehla-4*

Now Guru Ji cautions us against entering into any kind of counting practices in our spiritual efforts and saying to oneself or telling others such things as, “I go so many times to the *Gurdwara*, I do so many recitations of certain *Baanees*, or I have donated so much money for the *Gurdwara*.” He says: “(O’ my friends), no true service (of God or Guru) is performed by entering into any calculations and one’s effort is not approved (in God’s court. Such a calculating person) doesn’t enjoy the relish of (Guru’s) word and doesn’t get imbued with love for the eternal (God). To such a person, the true Guru doesn’t (really) seem sweet; he or she just keeps going and returning (from Guru’s abode out of sheer) obstinacy of the mind. (In spiritual sense) if such a person advances one step forward, goes ten steps backwards. (Because) the service of the true Guru is only (approved if one) leads one’s life according to the will (or advice) of the true Guru. One who (goes) and meets the true Guru after erasing one’s self-conceit imperceptibly remains absorbed (in God’s Name). O’ Nanak, (such persons) never forsake (God’s) Name and remain united with the eternal (God).”(2)

*Paurri*

Finally Guru Ji cautions us against false pride in our wealth or power and not being thankful to God who blesses us with all such things. He says: “(O’ my friends), none of those who call themselves chiefs or kings are allowed to stay (in this world forever). None of the forts or lime-plastered mansions goes along with us (after death). Accursed is all cleverness (and arrogance on account of one’s) wind like swift horses studded with gold harnesses (modern day luxury cars). Even if they eat innumerable dainty dishes, are only multiplying harmful dirt (in their bodies). O’ Nanak, the self-conceited persons who do not recognize (and thank that God) who gives them (all such gifts, ultimately) suffer in pain.”(23)

The message of this *Paurri* is that we should recognize and be thankful to God who has blessed us with so many riches and possessions. We should remember that we are not going to stay in this world forever, so we should meditate on God’s Name and worship Him with true loving devotion as advised by the Guru and not according to the obstinacy of our minds and entering to any calculations of our recitations or other such acts.
In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji advised us that we should recognize and be thankful to God who has blessed us with so many riches and possessions. We should remember that we are not going to stay in this world forever. Therefore we should meditate on God’s Name and worship Him with true loving devotion as advised by the Guru and not according to the obstinacy of our minds and entering into any calculations of our recitations or other such acts. In this *Paurri*, Guru Ji informs us about the uselessness of ritual worships or roaming around wearing holy garbs for the love of worldly riches rather than love of God. He also tells us about the facts of life and how it is as per God’s will that human beings come into this world and as per His will are called back and what our attitude should be.

Commenting on those who adopt holy garbs or do ritual worships for the love of worldly riches rather than God, Guru Ji says: “The pundits and silent sages have exhausted themselves reading holy books, and those who adorn (false holy) garbs have tired of roaming around, but being in love with the other (worldly things instead of God), they never obtain (God’s) Name and are afflicted with very severe pain. These blind fool dealers of *Maya* who always remain concerned with worldly riches, keep serving (and
worshipping) the three impulses (for power, vice, and virtue). These fools read holy sermons for the sake of earning their living but within them is deceit. They who serve the Guru (by sincerely following his advice), and they who have stilled their ego within, enjoy peace. O’ Nanak, the only thing which is worthy of studying and pondering is (God’s) Name, but only a rare thoughtful person understands this.”(1)

**Mehla-3**

Now Guru Ji tells us what should be our attitude towards all the ups and downs in life, if we want to become Guru’s followers. He says: “(O’ my friends), everyone comes naked (into this world) and departs naked from here. This is what God has ordained; no one can do anything about it. He whose commodity (this life is, that same God) would take it (back), so to whom can we complain about it? Therefore the one who is a Guru’s follower accepts (God’s) will (in all circumstances) and keeps drinking the relish of God’s (Name) in a state of equipoise. Nanak says, (O’ my friends), we should always praise the Giver of peace and let our tongue always utter God’s (Name).”(2)

**Paurri**

Finally Guru Ji comments on the state and fate of those who remain involved in decorating their bodies with costly clothes and enjoying parties, but never think of meditating on God’s Name. He says: “(There are some) who decorate the fortresses of their bodies in many different ways. These wealthy people wear all kinds of colorful and silken dresses and hold many parties in buildings decorated with red and white carpets. Even though they remain puffed up in their ego, yet still, what they eat brings them pain and they keep suffering because of that. O’ Nanak, they don’t remember God’s Name, (which) could emancipate them (from this suffering) in the end.”(24)

The message of this *Paurri* is that if we want to be saved from future pains, then instead of reading holy books or going on pilgrimages we should serve our true Guru by following his advice and meditating on the God’s Name. We should also realize that it is God who gives us everything including our life, therefore we shouldn’t complain or grumble if He takes back any of His gifts (including our loved ones). Instead we should always cheerfully accept His will and keep meditating on His Name in a state of equipoise.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to be saved from future pains, then instead of reading holy books or going on pilgrimages we should serve our true Guru by following his advice and meditating on God’s Name. In this Paurri, he describes the blessings a person receives who meditates on God’s Name and remains in a state of peace and poise. He also familiarizes us with the sorry state in which those persons live who forsake God’s Name. Finally he tells us who those people are who live eternally by becoming one with the eternal God.

Guru Ji says: “(The human bride) who by getting absorbed in the word (of the Guru) lives steadily in a state of peace and poise, on His own (God) has united and embraced her to His bosom. Then in a very natural sort of way her sense of duality (love of things other than God) is ended and (God’s) Name has come to reside in her heart. Yes, they who erase (all their previous thinking) and remold it (according to Gurbani, God) embraces them to His bosom. (In this way) O’ Nanak, they who were predestined to be united (with God), He has united them with Him now.”(1)

Mehla-3

Guru Ji now comments on the state and fate of those who do not meditate on God’s Name, but remain obsessed with the greed for false worldly riches. He says: “They who have forsaken God’s Name, don’t benefit from doing any other kinds of worships (such as going on pilgrimages, or doing ritual worships). They who have been deceived by the thieves (of worldly) affairs are like the worms in filth. Therefore Nanak prays, (O’ God, swayed by) the greed for other (false worldly riches), let me not forsake Your Name.”(2)

Paurri

Now listing some of the blessings received by those who believe in and praise God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “They alone live an eternal life in this world who praise God’s

Name and enshrine God’s Name in their hearts. (Such a Guru’s follower always) remembers God again and again in the heart and none other. (A stage comes when) each and every pore (of that person’s body) utters God’s Name and at each and every instant (remembers) that God. In this way the Guru’s follower sheds the dirt (of evil thoughts in the) mind and his or her life becomes fruitful. (In short), O’ Nanak by meditating on the eternally living Being, one’s own status becomes immortal (and one is remembered forever).”(25)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to enjoy a true state of peace and poise and obtain a state of immortality, then forsaking all worldly greed and ritualistic worship we should devotedly follow Gurbani (as included in Guru Granth Sahib) and always meditate on God’s Name with true love and dedication.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy a true state of peace and poise and obtain a state of immortality then forsaking all worldly greed and ritualistic worship, we should devotedly follow Gurbani and always meditate on God's Name with true love and dedication. In this Paurri, he again elaborates on the blessings enjoyed by those who meditate on the Name and also tells the kinds of pains those persons suffer who forsake God.

He says: “They who have forsaken (God’s) Name and do other deeds (such as doing ritual worships, or running after worldly wealth), O’ Nanak, they are bound and punished by the demon of death like the thieves caught red handed.”(1)

Next comparing the state of mind of those who contemplate God’s Name and those who do not, Guru Ji says: “Both earth and sky (and everything in between) looks pleasant to those who meditate on God’s Name, but they who are without Name, their bodies (suffer in such agony, as if they are being) plucked by crows.”(2)

Now listing some more blessings of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “With true love, they who praise God’s Name, obtain residence in their own abode (the mansion of God). They do not fall into existences again and do not perish again. With each and every breath and morsel they remain imbued with the love of God. Through the Guru, they have been so (divinely) enlightened that their love for God never fades. O’ Nanak, showing His mercy (God) has united them with Him and they always abide in God’s company.”(26)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to save ourselves from pains of birth and death and want to always abide in God’s company, then at all times we should meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.
In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji told us that the one and only way to obtain salvation from the perpetual pains of births and deaths and other sorrows of the world is to meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. But still we do not try to get imbued with the love of Name and keep running after worldly affairs. In this Paurri, Guru Ji tells us what is the biggest reason for this kind of attitude on our part and why our service of God is not approved.

He says: “As long as this mind remains merged in the waves (of worldly desires, till then it remains puffed up) with too much ego and arrogance. (In this state) one doesn’t relish (Guru’s) word and isn’t imbued with the love of (God’s) Name. Therefore one’s service is not approved (in God’s court) and one is wasted in making repeated fruitless efforts. O’ Nanak, that one alone is called a (true) servant (or devotee who so forsakes his or her own cleverness, as if that person) has surrendered his or her head (before the Guru. Such a person) obeys the true Guru’s will and keeps the word (of Guru’s advice) enshrined in the mind.”(1)

Now, Guru Ji clarifies, what is true service (or worship of God) and who truly understands this. He says: “That alone is (true) worship, penance, and service, which pleases the
Master. One who renounces one’s self-conceit, on His own God forgives and unites that one with Him. (The person) so united is never separated and (God) merges that person’s light (soul) in His light. (But) O’ Nanak, by Guru’s grace, that person alone would understand (this) whom He Himself makes to understand.”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji comments on the conduct and fate of the self-conceited persons and also tells us who those people are, who are emancipated from the worldly bonds. He says: “(O’ my friends), everyone has to follow (God’s) protocol (and is being closely watched over by God), however the arrogant self-conceited person doesn’t realize (this fact. Such a person) never remembers God’s Name; therefore the demon of death punishes him or her severely. That person has (so filled his or her life with evils, as if he or she has) very heavy loads of the rust of sins and evil deeds (on the head).”

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “Very dreadful and difficult is the path (which the soul has to tread after death), so how could such persons swim across the worldly ocean)? O’ Nanak, whom the Guru has protected, they swim across (the worldly ocean, because) God’s Name has saved them.”(27)

The message of this Paurri is that we should not remain strayed in a whirlpool of worldly desires and ego. Instead we should obey God’s will and following Guru’s advice we should meditate on God’s Name. Only then would we be ferried across the worldly ocean (and emancipated from the pains of future births and deaths).
In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji advised us that we should not remain strayed in a whirlpool of worldly desires and our ego. Instead we should obey God’s will and following Guru’s advice, we should meditate on God’s Name. Only then would we be ferried across the worldly ocean and emancipated from the pains of future births and deaths. In this *Paurri*, he reminds us again that without following Guru’s advice we cannot obtain peace and also tells us about that single deed by doing which we obtain emancipation from the rounds of birth and death and don’t have to do anything else.

First pointing to the importance of acting on Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), without serving (following the advice of) the true Guru, peace is not obtained (and without the guidance of the Guru people) keep dying and getting born (again and again. God) has administered such a potion of worldly attachment (to them) that swayed by the love of the other (worldly riches instead of God) they commit many evil deeds. But there are some who by Guru’s grace are saved (from the influence of worldly riches) and all salute (respect such devotees). Therefore O’ Nanak, meditate on God’s Name in (your mind) every day, by doing which you would obtain the door to salvation.’”(1)

*Mehla-3*

Once again comparing the state and fate of those who, swayed by worldly attachments, have forgotten the basic facts of life, with those who have followed Guru’s advice, he says: “(Under the influence of) worldly attachments (man) has forgotten that death is inevitable and (it is only) God’s Name which is eternal. (Therefore man’s) entire life is wasted in doing worldly business and suffers pain in (the mind). But O’ Nanak, they in whose destiny it was so pre-ordained, have enjoyed peace by serving the true Guru (and following his advice).”(2)

*Paurri*

Finally Guru Ji states the blessings of meditating on God’s Name. Using an everyday analogy, he says: “(O’ my friends, when we meditate on and) read the account of God’s Name, there is no accounting after that. (Then we obtain such a) support from God’s court that no one can ask us (any questions about our deeds. So much so that instead of torturing), the demon of death (respectfully) comes to meet us with offerings and becomes our daily servant. (In this way, by the grace of) the perfect Guru one obtains the mansion (of God) and one’s glory becomes manifest (in the entire world). O’ Nanak, the one who meets that God, continuous melodies of divine music play in that one’s mind.”(28)

The message of this *Paurri* is that death is inevitable and it is only God’s Name, which is eternal. Therefore, instead of wasting our life in worldly attachments we should follow Guru’s advice and daily meditate on God’s Name. If we do this all our sins and short comings would be ignored and we would not only be emancipated from future pains of birth and death but would also be received with honor in God’s court.

**Salok Mehla-3**

In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji advised us that we should not remain strayed in a whirlpool of worldly desires and our ego. Instead we should obey God’s will and following Guru’s advice, we should meditate on God’s Name. Only then would we be ferried across the worldly ocean and emancipated from the pains of future births and deaths. In this *Paurri*, he reminds us again that without following Guru’s advice we cannot obtain peace and also tells us about that single deed by doing which we obtain emancipation from the rounds of birth and death and don’t have to do anything else.

First pointing to the importance of acting on Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), without serving (following the advice of) the true Guru, peace is not obtained (and without the guidance of the Guru people) keep dying and getting born (again and again. God) has administered such a potion of worldly attachment (to them) that swayed by the love of the other (worldly riches instead of God) they commit many evil deeds. But there are some who by Guru’s grace are saved (from the influence of worldly riches) and all salute (respect such devotees). Therefore O’ Nanak, meditate on God’s Name in (your mind) every day, by doing which you would obtain the door to salvation.’”(1)

*Mehla-3*

Once again comparing the state and fate of those who, swayed by worldly attachments, have forgotten the basic facts of life, with those who have followed Guru’s advice, he says: “(Under the influence of) worldly attachments (man) has forgotten that death is inevitable and (it is only) God’s Name which is eternal. (Therefore man’s) entire life is wasted in doing worldly business and suffers pain in (the mind). But O’ Nanak, they in whose destiny it was so pre-ordained, have enjoyed peace by serving the true Guru (and following his advice).”(2)

*Paurri*

Finally Guru Ji states the blessings of meditating on God’s Name. Using an everyday analogy, he says: “(O’ my friends, when we meditate on and) read the account of God’s Name, there is no accounting after that. (Then we obtain such a) support from God’s court that no one can ask us (any questions about our deeds. So much so that instead of torturing), the demon of death (respectfully) comes to meet us with offerings and becomes our daily servant. (In this way, by the grace of) the perfect Guru one obtains the mansion (of God) and one’s glory becomes manifest (in the entire world). O’ Nanak, the one who meets that God, continuous melodies of divine music play in that one’s mind.”(28)

The message of this *Paurri* is that death is inevitable and it is only God’s Name, which is eternal. Therefore, instead of wasting our life in worldly attachments we should follow Guru’s advice and daily meditate on God’s Name. If we do this all our sins and short comings would be ignored and we would not only be emancipated from future pains of birth and death but would also be received with honor in God’s court.
In the opening lines of previous Paurri, Guru Ji stated that without following the advice of the true Guru peace is not obtained, and without the guidance of the Guru people keep dying and getting born again and again. He begins this Paurri, by showing us what kinds of comforts one obtains if one acts according to what the Guru says. He also tells us how by meditating on God’s Name, one remains free from any sins and what should we always pray for.

Guru Ji says: “If one does whatever the Guru says, one obtains the most sublime comfort. By doing what the Guru wants us to do, we get rid of (all) fear. O’ Nanak, (in this way) you would cross over (the dreadful worldly ocean).”(1)

Mehla-3

Once again stressing upon the blessings of obeying Guru’s instructions and meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just as) truth never becomes old (or loses its legitimacy, similarly) God’s Name never becomes soiled (or impure). Therefore, whoever lives as per the Guru’s will (and meditates on God’s Name, that person) doesn’t have to go through the (process) of coming and going (in and out of this world) again. (On the other hand) O’ Nanak, if we forsake God’s Name, then we (keep suffering the pains of) both coming and going (or both birth and death).”(2)

Paurri

Therefore even for himself Guru Ji prays to God and says: “(O’ God, this) beggarly devotee begs You to give one charity with Your blessed hands. He is thirsty for the sight of God, and only God’s sight can satiate his thirst (or craving). O’ my mother, without seeing (God) I cannot survive even for a moment and (I feel so sad, as if) I am dying. (That God), who is pervading everywhere; the true Guru has revealed Him right beside me. O’ Nanak, this is how (the Guru) himself awakens us from our sleep (our involvement in worldly affairs) and attunes us to the love (for God).”(29)
The message of this *Paurri* is that if we want to obtain salvation from the rounds of birth and death and enjoy the bliss of God’s sight, then we should obey Guru’s command and meditate on God’s Name day and night.

Guru Ji opened the previous *Paurri*, with the remark that if one does whatever the Guru says one obtains the most sublime comfort. By doing what the Guru wants us to do we get rid of (all) fear.

He begins this *Paurri*, by commenting on the conduct of self-conceited people and reminds us that everyone acts as per God’s will. Therefore only those contemplate Him who have been so blessed in their destiny and finally tells why people remain engrossed in amassing worldly wealth and expose themselves to punishment by the demon of death, and who are the ones who are saved.

He says: “The self-conceited (persons) don’t know (the right thing) to say because within them is lust, anger, and arrogance. They don’t know what is the right or wrong place (or occasion to say anything, they) always think of evil deeds. When in God’s court they are asked to account for (their deeds); they are adjudged as liars (and punished accordingly. God) Himself has created the universe and He Himself ponders over (everything). Therefore O’ Nanak, whom can we call (good or bad) when that true Being is pervading in all (creatures and places).”(1)
Mehla-3

Now Guru Ji tells us who are those who meditate on God’s Name and are therefore worthy of our respect. He says: “Only those Guru following persons have meditated on God who by His grace, receive this blessing. O’ Nanak, I am a sacrifice to those in whose mind resides that (God).”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji comments on the general attitude of people, how the demon of death is eagerly waiting to punish them, and who are the lucky ones who escape this punishment. He says: “Deeming their life to be very long, every person builds up many hopes. Wishing to live forever, one embellishes one’s fortresses and mansions. Using (all kinds of) deceitful ways, one usurps others’ wealth and brings it home. However the demon of death is looking forward (to the end of one’s life breaths, as the life span of this disoriented person keeps diminishing (every day. As soon as it ends; he may seize and severely punish that person). O’ Nanak, they who seek the shelter of the Guru are saved (from any such punishment), because the Guru God becomes their savior.”(30)

The message of this Paurri is that we should not point fingers at anyone, whether good or bad. We should take care that we don’t enter into any kinds of falsehood or deception for the sake of worldly wealth. We should seek the shelter of our Guru and meditate on God’s Name and He would save us from any punishment.

salok mehlaa 3.
parh parh pandit vaad vhandaay maa-i-aa moh su-aa-ay.
doojai bhaa-ay naam visaari-aa man moorakh milai saajaay.
jini keetay tisai na sayvn’ee daydãa rijk samaa-ay.
jam kaa faahaa galhu na katee-ai fir fir aavahi jaa-ay.
jin ka-o poorab likhi-aa saatgur mili-aa tin aa-ay.
an-din naam Dhi-aa-iday naanak sach samaa-ay. ||1||
mehlaa 3.
sach vanjahi sach sayvdãy je gurmukh pairee paahi.
naanak gur kai bhaanai jay chaleh sehjay sach samaahi. ||2||
pa-orhee.
aasa vich at dukh bhaanai manmukh chit laa-i-aa.
gurmukh bha-ay niraas param sukh paa-i-aa.
vichay girah udãas alipat liv laa-i-aa.
onaa sog vijog na vi-aap-ee har bhaanai bhaa-i-aa.
naanak har saytee sadãa rav rahay Dhur la-ay milaa-i-aa. ||31||
Salok Mehla-3

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that we should not point fingers at anyone, good or bad. We should take care that we don’t enter into any kinds of falsehood or deception for the sake of worldly wealth. We should seek the shelter of our Guru and meditate on God’s Name and He would save us from any punishment. In this Paurri, he informs us about the fate of those who indulge in heated arguments for the sake of worldly wealth. He also warns us against having too many worldly desires and hopes and tells us how a Guru’s follower remains detached from worldly desires and remains attuned to God in a state of poise.

First commenting on those who study holy books to enter into discussions or to make money, Guru Ji says: “For the purpose of making money, the pundits read (sacred texts) again and again and enter into discussions. Due to their love for the other (worldly riches), they have forsaken (God’s) Name; therefore their foolish mind is awarded punishment (suffers in pain). They don’t serve (remember that God) who has created them and provides sustenance to all. (For this reason), the noose of death around their necks doesn’t get cut off; so they keep coming and going (in and out of this world) again and again. However in whose destiny it has been so pre-ordained, the true Guru comes to meet them. Then O’ Nanak, being absorbed in the eternal (God) day and night, they meditate on (His) Name.”(1)

Mehla-3

Now elaborating on the conduct of those who seek the shelter of the Guru and act on his advice, Guru Ji says: “They who seek the shelter of the Guru, earn the true (wealth of God’s Name) and thus serve the eternal (God). O’ Nanak, they who conduct themselves in accordance with the Guru’s desire, easily merge in the eternal (God).”(2)

Paurri

Finally Guru Ji cautions us against living with worldly hopes and expectations and tells us the right way to live in this world, which would bring us peace and union with God. He says: “The self-conceited persons keep their mind attuned to (worldly) hopes and expectations, which brings them immense pain. But the Guru’s followers remain detached (from worldly desires); therefore they have obtained sublime peace. While living in the household itself, they remain detached (from worldly hopes) and remain attuned (to God’s Name). No sorrow or separation afflicts them because God’s will sounds sweet to them. O’ Nanak, they always remain attuned to God, from the very beginning (God) has united them with Him.”(31)

The message of this Paurri is that we shouldn’t be like those pundits who study sacred texts for the sake of entering into controversies or earning worldly wealth. Further even while living in our households we should remain above worldly hopes and expectations and remain attuned to God’s Name. Then we would cheerfully accept God’s will and no pain or sorrow would bother us and we would become worthy of union with God.
It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

salok mehlaa 3.  
para-ee amaan ki-o rakhee-ai giitsee hee sukh ho-ay.
gur kaa sabad gur thai tikai hor thai pargat na ho-ay.
a’n’ay vas maanak pa-aa ghar ghar vaychan jaa-ay.
onaa parakh na aavee adh na palai paa-ay.
jay aap parakh na aavee taa’ paarkhee-aa thaavhu lai-o parkhaa-ay.
jay os naal chit laa’ay taa’n vath lahai na-o niDh palai paa-ay.
ghar hodai Dhan jag bhukhaa mu-aa bin satgur sojhee na ho-ay.
sabd seejal man tan vasai tithai sog vijog na ko-ay.
vasat paraa-ee aap garab karay moorakh aap ganjaa-ay.
naanak bin boojhay kinai na paa-i-o fir fir aavai jaa-ay. ||11||

mehlaa 3.  
man anad bha-i-aa mili-aa har pareetam sarsay saajn san’t pi-aaray.
jo Dhur milay na vichhurheh kabho jee aap maylay kartaaray.
antar sabad ravi-aar gur paa-ia-aa saglay dookh nivaaray.
har sukh-daata saalaahee antar rakhna’av ur Dharaaray.
manmukh tinn kee bakheele ke karay jee schai sabad savaaray.
onaa dee aap pat rahksee mayraa pi-aaraa sarnaagat pa-ay gur du-auray.
naanak gumruk say suhaylay bha-ay mukh oojal darbaaray. ||2||

pa-orhee.  
istaree purkhai baho pareet mil moh vaDhaa-i-aa.
puitar kalat nr vaykhai vigsai mohi maa-i-aa.
days pardays Dhan choraay-aa aan muhi paa-i-aa.

Many translators (including Prof. Sahib Singh) believe that the third Guru Amar Das Ji uttered this salok when he was anointing Ram Das as the next Guru. He believed that Ram Das was pre-ordained to be the next Guru and those who made claims to this honor on.
the basis of having some original texts with them were like blind persons who happened to have come across a priceless pearl. But they didn’t know its real value and were trying to use these for earning short-lived worldly wealth instead of earning and distributing the priceless and everlasting spiritual wealth.

Guru Ji says: “We shouldn’t hold on to another person’s trusted property, only on returning it (to the rightful owner) one obtains peace. The Guru’s word can only stay steady in the Guru’s (heart) and it doesn’t become manifest from any other place. (Anyone who claims Guru-ship because he has come across some pages of Gurbani uttered by previous Gurus is like) a blind man who has come across a jewel and goes from house to house to sell it. But those (ordinary people) do not know its worth so they don’t offer even half a penny for it.”

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “(If one) cannot estimate the worth (of a jewel or any other valuable thing, the prudent thing is that) one should get it evaluated from (some genuine) appraisers. When one attunes one’s mind to that (genuine appraiser or the Guru) one obtains all the nine treasures (of divine bliss. But the pity is) that in spite of the wealth (of God’s Name) being present in the homes (of their hearts) the world is (spiritually) starving to death because without the (guidance of the) true Guru one doesn’t realize (its presence. But when one realizes that the) pacifying (divine) word is residing in one’s mind and body then there is no pain of separation from (God). But the one who prides oneself on someone else’s property, that one is called a fool. O’ Nanak, without realizing this fact no one has obtained (God) and one keeps coming and going again and again.”(1)

Mehla-3

Now Guru Ji describes the bliss experienced by those who are united with God and seek the shelter of the Guru. He says: “Those dear saints remain delighted and bliss prevails in their minds who meet their beloved God. They whom the Creator has Himself united with Him from the very beginning never get separated (from Him).

They who have obtained the Guru and within whom abides the (Guru’s) word all their sufferings are eradicated. (They wish) that they always praise God the Giver of peace and keep Him enshrined in their hearts. How can any self-conceited person talk ill of those who have been embellished with the true word (of the Guru)? Yes, my Beloved (God) would Himself save the honor of those who have come to the shelter of Guru’s door. (In short) O’ Nanak, they who are Guru’s followers, live in peace (in this world) and are (received with) honor in God’s court.”(2)

Paurri

In the previous Paurri Guru Ji said that the self-conceited persons keep their minds attuned to (worldly) hope and expectation, which brings them much pain. In this Paurri he tells us about another reason for man’s suffering. That reason is man’s worldly attachment. He says: “(Generally) the wife and husband love each other very much and meeting together they multiply this love. Every day (the man) looks at his wife and sons and feels delighted in his worldly attachments. By (earning or) stealing money from home and abroad he brings it home to feed (his family). But in the end when any kind of enmity or opposition arises (because of this wealth), no one can rescue him. O’ Nanak, without meditating on God’s Name accursed is that (worldly) love, attaching to which one suffers pain.”(32)
The message of this Paurri is that for feeding our family we shouldn’t try to usurp or hold back anything, which belongs to others. Instead we should try to enjoy the wealth of God’s Name, which is present with us. But to discover that wealth we need to seek the shelter and guidance of the true Guru. When the Guru’s word gets enshrined within us all our pains are eradicated and we enjoy the bliss of union with our beloved God.

Salok Mehta-3

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that for feeding our family we shouldn’t try to usurp or hold back anything, which belongs to others. Instead we should try to enjoy the wealth of God’s Name, which is present within us. But to discover that wealth we need to seek the shelter and guidance of the true Guru. When the Guru’s word gets enshrined within us, all our pains are eradicated and we enjoy the bliss of union with our beloved God. In this Paurri, he describes the attitude of a Guru’s follower toward the Name, the blessings of the Name, and how it is obtained.

He says: “(O’ my friends), for a Guru’s follower (God’s) Name is such a nectar (like food) partaking which all one’s hunger (for material things) goes away. (Because by meditating on God’s Name), the desire (for worldly wealth) doesn’t arise at all and (God’s) Name comes to reside in the mind. (The Guru’s follower knows that) except for Name, whatever else we eat, drink (or acquire and use) deeply afflicts our body with the malady (of worldly desires). Therefore O’ Nanak, to praise (God and meditate on His Name) through
"Gurbani" the word (of the Guru), is to enjoy all kinds of tasty foods and (God) Himself unites (such a Guru’s follower) with Him.”(1)

**Mehla-3**

Guru Ji now elaborates on the significance of *Gurbani* the Guru’s word. He says: “(O’ my friends, *Gurbani* the word (of the Guru) is the (source of) life in the living beings through which union with (God) the Master takes place. Without the (Guru’s) word there is darkness (of spiritual ignorance) in the world, and it is only through the (Guru’s) word that (the light of divine knowledge) becomes manifest. The pundits and silent sages have exhausted themselves reading (holy books) and so also those who adorn various holy garbs and wash their bodies (at pilgrimage places), but without (the guidance of the Guru’s) word no one has obtained (God), they all departed (from here) crying in pain. O’ Nanak, it is only by (God’s) grace that we obtain (the guidance of Guru’s word) and only by His mercy we obtain Him.”(2)

**Paurri**

Finally Guru Ji tells us how by meditating on God’s Name we can virtually fulfill our universal desire to live forever. He says: “Sitting together in immense love, husband and wife make a very big plan (for their future, as if they have to live forever. But they don’t realize that) whatever is visible would (ultimately) go away; this is what my God desires. (Therefore we need to) find some way, by which we could live (in the world) forever. (After careful study of all alternatives, we have concluded that) through the service of the perfect Guru (by meditating on God’s Name through Guru’s word, our entire spiritual) body becomes stable (and immortal). O’ Nanak, (God) in His mercy has united (such Guru’s followers) with Him and they remain absorbed in His Name.”(3)

The message of this *Paurri* is that the word of Guru (*Gurbani* as contained in Guru Granth Sahib) is like the nectar which quenches all our worldly desires, attunes us to meditation on God’s Name, and leads us to immortality by uniting us with the immortal God.

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**salok mehlaa 3.**

maa-i-aa mohi visaari-aa gur kaa bha-o hayt apaar.
lobh lahar suDh maat ga-ee sach na lagai pi-aar.
gurmukh jinaa sabd man vasai dargeh mokh du-aar.
naanak aapay mayl la-ay aapay bakhsanhaar.

||1||

**mehlaa 4.**

naanak jis bin gharhee na jeevnaa visray sarai na bind.
tis si-o ki-o man roosee-ai jisahi hamaaree ching.

||2||

**mehlaa 4.**

saavan aa-i-aa jhimjhimaar har gurmukh naam Dhi-aa-ay.
dukh bhukh kaarhaa sabh chukaa-isee meehu vuthaa chhahbar laa-ay.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that the word of Guru is like the nectar, which quenches all our worldly desires, attunes us to meditation on God's Name, and leads us to immortality by uniting us with the immortal God. In this salok, Guru Ji compares the attitude of an ordinary human being with that of the Guru's follower to the Guru's word.

He says: “Being attached to Maya (the worldly riches, man) has forsaken the fear and love of the limitless Guru. Swayed by the wave of greed, (man's) intellect and wisdom is lost and he or she is not imbued with the love for the eternal (God. On the other hand, the Guru's followers in whose mind abides the (Guru's) word, obtain to God's court and the door to salvation. (In short) O' Nanak, the forgiving God (Himself) unites the (Guru's followers) with Him.”(1)

Mehla-4

Now Guru Ji asks himself and indirectly us: “O’ Nanak, why in our mind, should we be angry with Him, without whom we cannot live for a moment, forsaking whom we cannot do anything, and who has our welfare in His mind?”(2)

Mehla-4

Next Guru Ji describes the continuous bliss one enjoys when following Guru's advice, one meditates on God's Name. He Says: “(O' my friends, when) following Guru's advice (one) meditates on God's Name (one experiences such a joy, as if) a continuous rain (of God's grace) has started pouring. (This rain) would fall in such continuous downpour that it would end all one's pain and hunger (for worldly things. One would feel so satiated in the mind, as if) the entire land (of the body) has become green and the food (of God's Name) has grown in heaps. (In this way), showing His mercy, (God) Himself brings (a
Guru’s follower) near to Him, and Himself approves his or her effort. (Therefore) O’ saintly people, meditate on that (God), who in the end would get you liberated (from all worldly pains. Remember that true) bliss lies in God’s praise and meditation (by doing which) peace always comes to reside in the mind. Under the guidance of the Guru, they who have meditated on God’s Name, all their (worldly) pain and hunger is removed.” Therefore, Guru Ji prays to God and says: “(O’ God), devotee Nanak gets satiated by singing (Your) praises, (therefore) in Your mercy, please bless him with Your sight (also).”(3) 

**Paurri**

Finally describing the bounties of the perfect Guru, which he showers on a person, with whom he is pleased. Guru Ji says: “The bounty (of Name), which the perfect Guru gives (to anybody) multiplies every day. When becoming pleased, the merciful (Guru) himself gives this boon, (it becomes so apparent all over one’s face that) it cannot be concealed even if (the recipient) tries to hide it. (There is so much joy within such a person, as if) the lotus of his or her heart is in bloom and the mind remains blissfully attuned (to God). If anybody tries to compete (with such a blessed person), he or she gets badly disgraced. (In short) O’ Nanak, no one can equal the glories of the perfect true Guru.”(34)

The message of this Paurri is that we should not let the greed for worldly riches make us forsake our God, who has given us everything. Instead, following Guru’s advice, we should have so much love and affection for God that we do not forsake Him. The Guru would bless us with so many blessings that no one would be able to equal the peace and bliss we enjoy.
In the previous *Paurri* (34), fourth Guru Ram Das Ji stated, “The bounty of Name which the perfect Guru gives (to anybody) keeps multiplying every day. When he is pleased, the merciful Guru himself gives this boon it becomes so apparent in the recipient’s face that it cannot be concealed, even if the latter tries to hide it. In this *Paurri* (35), fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji elaborates on the blessings received by a person with whom the Guru is pleased and how that person’s conduct and attitude towards life completely changes. But as usual, before stating this *Paurri* Guru Ji wants to clear up some important concepts about God so that we may not make any foolish mistakes while dealing with Him.

He says: “The immortal God is carefree, no cleverness works with Him, nor any excuses can be made before Him. Shedding self (conceit), one should seek His shelter and accept (God’s) will. Such a Guru’s follower is not subjected to punishment by the demon of death because from within that person, self-conceit vanishes. O’ Nanak, that person alone is considered a (true) servant (of God who renouncing his or her ego) remains attuned to the eternal (God).”(1)

*Mehla-3*

Now Guru Ji shows us how to approach God in humility. He says: “O’ God, my entire soul and figure is Your gift. But too much cleverness and ego is mine. They who keep doing many deeds afflicted by greed and attachment, because of ego, their round (of birth and death) never ends.”

But out of compassion even for these people, Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, (we cannot say anyone is bad, because) the Creator Himself does and gets everything done (from His creatures). We should accept that whatever pleases Him is best. (This is the right way of life).”(2)

*Paurri Mehla-5*

Now describing the conduct of a person whom the perfect Guru has blessed, Guru Ji says: “Whom the perfect Guru has united with God the Giver (that person, so much enjoys meditating on God that he or she cares for nothing else. As if for such a person) the eternal God is the food and wear, and (God’s) eternal Name is the sustenance. They who have meditated on the formless Being, their destiny has awakened. By being attached to the company of saints (Guru, they) have crossed over the worldly (ocean). O’ Nanak, acclaim the victory of God and utter His praise and admiration.”(35)

The message of this *Paurri* is that instead of trying to be clever before God or argue with Him, we should leave aside our ego and accept God’s will as the best thing for us. Joining the company of saintly persons, we should so imbue ourselves with God’s love, that meditation on His Name should become our only passion in life. By doing so, fortune would smile on us and we would obtain salvation from the rounds of birth and death.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that instead of trying to be clever before God or arguing with Him we should leave aside our ego and accept God’s will as the best thing for us. Guru Ji concludes this Vaar (epic) by stating how great is God and how the entire universe runs as per His command. But before the last Paurri (stanza), Guru Ji has inserted two saloks (couplets) to illustrate the blessings we receive when we pray for the welfare of all humanity.

Guru Ji first describes what happened when he prayed to God for showing His mercy and providing relief to the people who were suffering from severe drought and were in pain due to other worldly problems. He says: “(When I prayed to God and said): “(O’ God), show Your mercy and take care of all creatures. (Please) provide abundant food and water, and dispelling their pain and penury emancipate them all. The benefactor (God) listened to this prayer and the entire earth got cooled (and comforted.” I also prayed: “O’ God), please embrace (this suffering world) and vanish its entire calamity. Nanak (says, O’ man), meditate on God’s Name because fruitful (all wish fulfilling) is God’s door.”

Mehla-5

Now Guru Ji describes in little more detail what happened when he prayed to God on behalf of entire suffering humanity. He says: “(Listening to the prayer), the Creator issued His command and pleasing clouds started raining. (This rain) produced abundant sustenance and the world was comforted. (Not only that), by meditating on the incomprehensible and limitless (God, the devotees’) body and mind blossomed (in delight. But I still pray and say to Him): “O’ true Creator, show Your mercy on us. You do what You want. Nanak is always a sacrifice to You.”
It is the same light

Paurri

Guru Ji concludes this Vaar (epic) by describing some merits and qualities of God. He says: "(God) Himself is beyond the reach of our senses and great is His glory. (One who has experienced His greatness by reflecting on Gurbani the) Guru's word, seeing God's glory, that one is delighted and a sense of calmness wells up in that person. O' brothers (and sisters), He is all by Himself, and pervades everywhere. He Himself is the Master, and has subjected all to His command and makes them do as per His will. O' Nanak, God does what He pleases and the entire (universe) acts as per His will." (16-1-Corrected)

The message of this Paurri is that when we earnestly pray to God for the welfare of all humanity, He not only dispels the physical suffering of the world, but also blesses us with such a spiritual bliss, that our entire body and mind feel comforted and soothed. Therefore, reflecting on Gurbani, the Guru's word, we should keep singing the praises of that great Master, who runs the entire universe as per His command.

Rag Sarang Bani Bhagtaan Ki

Kabir Ji

An unique thing about Guru Granth Sahib Ji is that it not only contains the priceless pearls of divine wisdom from the Sikh Gurus but also the invaluable gems of divine knowledge collected by our Gurus from the saints and devotees of all faiths who were truly inspired by
God. In this shabad, Kabir Ji (a Muslim Sufi who was raised by Hindu parents), comments on our nature of getting puffed up with ego when we come across some riches, a position of power, or are blessed with a big family. Then we remain engrossed in multiplying our riches, consolidating our power, or providing all sorts of amenities for our families. But in the end none of these accompanies us and our entire life goes to waste. He therefore tells us the way to lead our life, which can make it fruitful.

Kabir Ji says: “O’ man, why do you feel so puffed up for an insignificant matter? Just because you may have ten maunds (a few bushels) of corn (in your granary) or some coins in your wallet, you start walking in an arrogant manner.”(1-pause)

Commenting on those who have acquired more wealth and power, he says: “(Even if you have obtained such) great glory that you rule over an estate of one hundred villages with a revenue of two hundred thousand coins, even then like the leaves in a jungle, which remain green for a short time only, you would govern this estate for a few days only.”(1)

Continuing his comments, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friend), neither has anyone ever brought wealth with one when one came (into this world), nor one would carry it with one when one departs (from here). Even kings greater than Raavan (who is believed to have ruled over a city of gold) departed from here in an instant (empty handed).”(2)

Now answering the question what one ought to do to avoid wasting one’s life, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends), worship (and follow the advice) of God’s saints who always remain stable, and meditate on God’s Name. (But only) they on whom God shows mercy, He unites them with the company of the holy (saints).”(3)

Finally, cautioning us against depending on our wealth or relatives, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends, neither our) mother, nor father, nor wife, nor son, nor wealth accompanies us in the end. Therefore Kabir says, O’ foolish (person), meditate on God, (because without meditating on God’s Name your human) birth is being wasted.”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that we shouldn’t feel puffed up because of our wealth, power, or influence. All these things are very short lived and in the end neither these nor our relatives would accompany us. Therefore if we don’t want our precious human birth to be wasted, then we should seek the company of God’s saints and meditate on His Name in their company. (Since it may be very difficult to recognize who is a true saint, our safest bet is to follow Gurbani contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji because it includes the divine words of not just one but many genuine saints including Kabir Ji).
In the previous *shabad*, Kabir Ji advised us that if we don’t want our precious human birth to be wasted, then we should seek the company of God’s saints and meditate on His Name in their company. In this *shabad*, he extols God for His miraculous powers and gives a few examples to make his point.

He says: “O’ King of magnificent palaces, I have not realized Your limit. I am a mere maid servant of Your saints.”

Commenting on how God can change the status of human beings and places, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ God, this is an astonishing quality of Your creation, that) the one who goes laughing comes back crying, and the one who goes crying, comes back laughing. (Similarly many times a city which is thickly) populated becomes deserted and the one which is deserted becomes populated.”

Pointing to the wonders of God, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God) can turn oceans into lands, land into a well, and wells into mountains. (He can bless the most unrespected person with highest honor, and bring utmost disgrace to the most glorious, as if) from earth He can raise one to the sky, and from sky He can make one fall to the ground.”

Elaborating on the above statement, Kabir Ji says: “(God) can make a beggar to rule an empire, and turn a king into a beggar. (Many times, He) turns a fool into (a learned) pundit and turns a pundit into an idiot.”

Kabir Ji concludes the *shabad* by saying: “(O’ my friends), He who can make a woman change into a man, and a man into a woman, Kabir says, he is a sacrifice to that (beautiful) Figure who is Beloved of the saints.”

The message of this *shabad* is that God possesses all powers to do everything. Therefore we should have full faith in that God and always be a sacrifice unto Him.

Note: *In this connection, it may be relevant to refer to a few things to illustrate the truth in Kabir Ji’s above statements: 1. We are all familiar with the story how the five-year-old child Guru Har Krishan Ji blessed a dumb illiterate person to recite the meanings of Geeta written in Sanskrit language. 2. Geologists know that Himalaya, used to be an ocean in pre-historic times. 3. We may read in magazines and sometimes come across people, who have changed from men to women or vice versa. The author has seen one such a person living here in Kansas.*
In the previous shabad, Kabir Ji told us that God possesses all powers to do everything. Therefore, we should have full faith in that God and be always a sacrifice unto Him. In this shabad, devotee Nam Dev Ji, who was a poor calico printer of very low caste, cautions his mind (actually ours) against being caught in the pursuit of worldly riches, and advises himself to attune his mind to the worship of the all-powerful and fear free God.

Comparing the pursuits of worldly riches to going into a forest, Nam Dev Ji says: “O’ mind, why do you go into the forest of worldly wealth, (and commit sins for its sake, as if) getting lost you are eating Thug Moor (a herb which cheats in India used to administer to their victims, to make them unconscious).”(1-pause)

Illustrating man’s state of mind with very a beautiful day to day examples, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ man), just as a fish lives in water, (but) doesn’t remain aware of deadly net (cast over it, and) lured by the taste of tongue, it bites on the iron (hook), similarly you have bound yourself in the attachment for gold and lust.”(1)

Cautioning us against the possibility of not being able to use the wealth, to amass which we may keep toiling hard for a long time, Nam Dev Ji says: “Just as a honeybee amasses lots of honey (in its bee hive, but when a honey collector comes), he takes away all the honey (and leaves nothing for the bee, as if) he has put dust in the bee’s mouth. Or just as a cow produces milk for its calf, but tying it by the neck the milk man takes out the milk, (similarly one may save lots of wealth for oneself or for one’s family, but many times some one else takes away that wealth from that person).”(2)
Commenting further on man's efforts to amass worldly wealth, Nam Dev Ji says: "(One may) toil hard for the sake of wealth. Taking that wealth, may bury it in the ground. (In this way), one gathers (wealth), but the fool doesn't realize (that when one dies), one's wealth remains buried in the ground, and one's body becomes dust."(3)

In closing, Nam Dev Ji says: "One keeps burning (and suffering) in lust and anger, but one never joins the society of saints. Nam Dev says, (O' my friend); seek the support of that God (who is always with you), and becoming fear free you should always meditate on God.'"(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that we should not enter into any sinful pursuits for the sake of worldly riches for our family or ourselves. It may happen that in our lifetime, someone may cheat us out of it or it may remain buried in some forgotten place even after our death. So instead of depending on worldly wealth, we should seek the company of saints and meditate on God's Name in their company.

In the previous shabad, devotee Nam Dev Ji advised us that we should not enter into any sinful pursuits for the sake of worldly riches for our family or ourselves. It may happen that in our lifetime someone may cheat us out of it or it may remain buried in some forgotten place even after our death. Instead of depending upon worldly wealth we should seek the company of saints and meditate on God's Name in their company. In this shabad, he displays the depth of his love and devotion to God and after understanding the reality of the relationship between God and His creation, Nam Dev Ji talks to the Almighty like an innocent child playfully teasing His beloved Dad.

Lovingly addressing God, he says: "O' dear God, why don’t You bet with me. (I can prove that just as) from a Master is known the servant, and from the servant the Master, similar is the play (of our relationship) with You."(1-pause)

Now addressing us, Nam Dev Ji says: "(O' my friends, in the final analysis), He Himself is the God, Himself the temple, and He yokes (mortals to His) worship. Just as from water the waves arise, and waves indicate the water, (and are) different only for the sake of saying or telling, (similar is the relationship between God and His creatures)."(1)

In conclusion, Nam Dev Ji says: "(O' my friends, God) Himself sings, Himself dances, and He Himself plays the instrument. Nam Dev says: "(O' God), You are my Master. (While Your) servant is imperfect, You are perfect."(2-2)
The message of this *shabad* is that just as there is no difference between the waves and the water, similarly there is no difference between the human soul and God, except the size and the limit. Therefore we should have so much love for God that just as a wave merges in the water, similarly we should ultimately merge in Him.

As if speaking on behalf of God, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ Nam Dev), the devotees who adore only me (and none else) are my embodiment. Even an instant of their sight dispels all the three kinds (of mental, physical, or social) afflictions. The touch of the feet (of such a devotee) pulls one out of the well of the household (entanglements).” (1-pause)

Describing on God’s behalf how firmly He is bound by the love of His devotees, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ Nam Dev), my devotee can loosen (the knot of worldly attachment) tied by me, but if the devotee ties me (in his or her love), it cannot be loosened by me. If at one time, (the devotee) binds me (in his or her love and asks me not to do something), then I cannot object to it.” (1)

In conclusion, Nam Dev Ji says on behalf of God: “(O’ Nam Dev), I am bound by the merits of my devotee. I am the life of all, but my devotees are (the support) of my life. O’ Nam Dev, as is the love (in the mind of a devotee) so is the illumination of love in his or her heart (for me).” (2-3)

The message of this *shabad* is that when we have true love for God, He also loves us so dearly that even though, we may sometime go against His wishes He never refuses whatever we ask from Him.
It is the same light

Sarang

This is the only one shabad of devotee Parmanand that is included in Siri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. In this shabad, holding a mirror to us, Parmanand Ji is showing us how, in spite of reading holy books and doing many kinds of ritual worships, we haven’t shed our evil habits and acquired any moral qualities like compassion and love for our fellow human beings or meditated on God in the company of holy people.

Parmanand Ji says: “O’ man, what have you really gained by listening to the (the holy books like) Puranas, if an unending devotion for God hasn’t arisen in you, or if you have never given alms to a hungry person.”(1-pause)

Continuing his observations he says: “(O’ man), neither your lust, nor anger, nor greed has been discarded. Even your tongue hasn’t stopped slandering others, so all your service (and hard work) has gone to waste.”(1)

Commenting further on the conduct and fate of an ordinary selfish human being, Parmanand Ji says: “Like a highway man, the sinful human being breaks into others’ houses (or usurps the rights of others) and feeds his or her own family. (A human being) has been following that evil instruction which brings him or her dishonor in the next world.”(2)

In closing Parmanand Ji asks himself (indirectly us) and says: “(O’ my friend, in spite of reading and listening to the holy books) the cruelty of your mind has not gone and you have not enshrined compassion for the living beings. O’ Parmanand, meeting with the saints (if) you haven’t started any holy discourse (on God, then what is the use of your reading all these holy books and doing other ritual worships)?”(3-1-6)

The message of this shabad is that there is no use of reading holy books or doing any ritual worships if these things don’t change our character, and make us more honest, kind, and compassionate, or inspire us to meditate on God’s Name in the company of saintly people.

There is a lot of controversy among different translators regarding the appearance of only this one single line instead of the entire shabad in Siri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. But the
analysis provided by Prof. Sahib Singh Ji is most convincing. According to which Guru Arjan Dev Ji uttered the next shabad in response to this statement by devotee Soor Das Ji.

In this phrase addressing his mind (and indirectly us) devotee Soor Daas Ji says: “O’ my mind, abandon the company of those who have turned their back on God.”

Sarang Mehla-5 Soor Das

As stated above fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji uttered this shabad in response to the previous one line of devotee Soor Das Ji, in which he advised his mind and all of us to abandon the company of those who have turned their back towards God. In this shabad, apparently addressing Soor Das Ji (but indirectly all of us), Guru Ji describes the conduct of those who are devotees of God and the kinds of merits and blessings they enjoy.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ Soor Das), the persons belonging to God abide with God (and always remember Him). Surrendering their mind and body, they surrender themselves entirely to Him and (shedding their ego they so absorb themselves in the divine music, that) they start enjoying the vibrations of divine bliss and poise.”(1-pause)

Now describing the effect of seeing the sight of God, Guru Ji says: “Upon seeing the sight (of God), they renounce all their vices, (because they feel that they) have obtained all (worldly) things. (Therefore after) seeing the beauteous figure (of God) they don’t care for anything else.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “Forsaking the dark handsome God, they who crave for anybody else are like those leeches (which suck the dirty blood from) the body of a leper. But O’ Soor Das, they whose minds God has taken in His hand (and attuned to Him), He has given them (the comforts of both this and the next world.”(2-1-8)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy comforts both in this and the next world, then abandoning our self-conceit and vicious worldly pursuits, we should attune our mind to God and always remember Him.
It is the same light

Sarang Kabir Jeeo

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we want to enjoy comforts both in this and the next world, then abandoning our self-conceit and vicious worldly pursuits, we should attune our mind to God and always remember Him. It appears Guru Ji inserted this shabad uttered by Kabir Ji at the end of this Rag (melody) to stress the point that we cannot depend on our wealth, relatives, or even our own body to accompany us in the end and save us. Therefore we need to join the company of saints and meditate on God’s Name, which is the only thing, which can save us in the end.

Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends), except for God, who else is the supporter of this mind? (Remember that) all this love for your mother, father, brother, son, or wife is nothing but illusion.”(1-pause)

Therefore Kabir Ji advises: “(O’ my friends, prepare for your journey after death and) build yourself some raft (of God’s Name to help you float across the worldly ocean). You cannot depend upon your worldly wealth (on this journey. What to speak of your wealth) even this vessel (of the body) is unreliable because it can break down with the slightest hit.”(1)

Kabir Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), this mind (of ours is like a) bird (which flies from place to place. I suggest that to keep it stable), seek the dust of the feet (the humble service and company of) the devotees (of God. In their company) you would obtain the merit of all the righteous deeds (by meditating on God’s Name).”(2-1-9)

The message of this shabad is that we should realize that neither any of our relatives, nor wealth, nor even our body will be of any help after death. Therefore joining the company of God’s devotees we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the only thing that can emancipate us from rounds of births and deaths.

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This new melody called *Rag Malhar* is a very popular melody in India. It is particularly sung in the rainy season when because of rains, the earth blooms with new grass, the crops become green, the cuckoos sing, the peacocks dance and human beings also sing and dance with joy. However Guru Ji begins this chapter with a *shabad* reminding us that amidst our celebrations and revelries, eating and laughing, we have forsaken our Benefactor, who has blessed us with these joys, and such an attitude is not good for our soul. So he advises us that if we want that for us there may always be such a season of joy, and we always remain in peace and bliss, then we must meditate on God’s Name.

He observes: “(I see that human beings are engrossed in) eating, drinking, laughing, and sleeping, but they have completely forgotten about death. Forsaking the Master, they have ruined (their future). Accursed is such a life, which is not going to last (long, and we are not going to get another opportunity to unite with our beloved Master).”(1)

So Guru Ji urges: “O’ mortals, meditate on the one (God’s) Name and go to your (God’s) home with honor.”(1-pause)
Guru Ji realizes that by worshipping God we don’t do Him any favor, we do this for our own sake. Therefore he says: “O’ God, they who serve (worship) You, don’t give You anything. But they ask and receive favors (from You) and cannot live without asking You (for something). You are the life of all creatures and the life in all living beings.”(2)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ God), they alone become pure, who by Guru’s grace remember You and obtain the nectar (of Name). Therefore O’ mortals, day and night meditate on God’s Name. (By doing so, even) the sinners become virtuous.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), as is the season, the body is in comfort (or discomfort) according to that season. But, O’ Nanak, that season alone is pleasant (in which we meditate on God’s Name, because) without the Name, there is no season, (which is pleasant or peace giving for the soul).”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that while we are enjoying our human life laughing, eating, drinking, and sleeping, we should remember God who has blessed us with all these blessings, so that after death we would go to God’s court in honor and our soul would live in eternal peace thereafter.

Malhar Mehla-1

As stated earlier, Rag Malhar is a melody, which is most suited for those pleasant rainy seasons when the dark clouds overcast the sky and in anticipation of bliss giving rain the peacocks start dancing. In this shabad, Guru Ji compares the clouds to his Guru and asks...
him to pour the rain of his divine words listening to which he may be imbued with love for his beloved Master and be united with Him.

He says: “I pray to my beloved Guru to unite me with (God), my dear Spouse. (Just as looking at the clouds a peacock starts dancing in joy, similarly) listening to the thunder (of the Guru’s words), my mind becomes composed and imbued with (God’s) love, (and my soul) starts singing songs in (God’s) praise.”(1)

Describing his conversation with his Guru, he says: “(O’ my cloud like Guru), pour down profusely (the rain of your divine words, so that) my mind may get soaked (in God’s love). The nectar (like) drop (of God’s Name) has sounded sweet to my mind, I have been captivated by the Guru and my mind is attuned to the relish of God’s Name.”(1-pause)

Now describing what kind of bliss that bride (soul) enjoys whose heart has been inspired with divine love by listening to Gurbani, he says: “(O’ my friends), through Guru’s words the bride (soul), whose mind has been won over (by God’s love), enjoys a state of peace and poise. Becoming a bride of God she has become an (eternally) wedded bride and her body and mind enjoy the peace of (divine) love (and union).”(2)

Listing other blessings, which a person enjoys who has been imbued with God’s love, Guru Ji says: “(Such a bride soul), abandoning her demerits, becomes detached and obtains the eternal God as her spouse. No sorrow or separation ever afflicts her, because on His own God has shown His mercy upon her.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(The bride soul), who has grasped on to the shelter of the perfect Guru, her mind becomes stable and she no longer keeps coming and going (in and out of the world). O’ Nanak, by meditating on God’s Name through the Guru, she becomes the eternally wedded bride of God and the embodiment of eternal (God).”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the bliss of eternal union with God then we should seek the shelter of the Guru, abandon our demerits, sing praises of God and meditate on His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the company of our eternal God then we should seek the shelter of the Guru. Under his guidance we should abandon our demerits, sing praises of God, and meditate on His Name. In this shabad, he compares the state and fate of those, whose mind doesn’t get attuned to meditating on God’ s Name, but craves for worldly wealth, with those to whom the Guru’ s advice sounds pleasing and worth following. In the end he shows us what kind of prayer we ought to make before God and what should we ask from Him.

He says: “(O’ my friends), they whose consciousness has not been truly satiated by (God’ s) Name, have wasted (their human birth) in practicing ego. They have coveted the wealth and women (or men) belonging to others and being imbued with the love of slandering others, (in this way, as if they) have eaten poison and therefore suffered pain. By reflecting on the (Guru’ s) word, they haven’t liberated themselves from fear and falsehood because on their mind and in their mouth is worldly wealth and nothing else. Being burdened with an extremely heavy load (of sin), they die and are born (again and again) and have wasted their (human) birth.”(1)

Now briefly stating the blessings enjoyed by those to whom Guru’ s word sounds pleasing, and the sufferings born by those who have simply adorned holy garbs, he says: “They to whom the Guru’ s word seems pleasing, their life becomes embellished (and immaculate. On the other hand, forsaking Guru’ s word), they who have adorned many (holy) garbs, have been roaming around in existences, but they whom Guru has saved, have obtained the eternal God.”(1-pause)
Commenting further on the state and fate of the self-conceited persons to whom Guru’s advice has not appealed, he says: “Shedding their arrogance, they who haven’t bathed at the pilgrimages (of Gurbani), to them God’s Name hasn’t sounded pleasing. They have cast away the jewel (of God’s) Name, therefore just as the worms of filth keep dying and getting reborn in filth, they have gone back to the same state from where they had come (and had fallen back into the rounds of birth and death again. The fact is) that the more they indulge in (sinful) pleasures, the more they get afflicted with various ailments, and without (the guidance of) the Guru, they don’t obtain a state of peace.”(2)

Now he shows us how to humbly pray to our Guru and what to ask for so that we may not have to suffer the kind of fate mentioned above for the self-conceited persons. He says: “(I wish that) attuning my mind (to God), I may fervently sing praises (of God) and through the Guru reflect on (divine) wisdom. (This is a known fact, that) the one who reflects (on Guru’s word) is emancipated, but the one who enters into (useless) controversies, perishes. (Therefore I am) again and again a sacrifice to my Guru-God. (O’ God), we are persons of low and false intellect, but You can straighten us through the (Guru’s) word. O’ the Emancipator, wherever one reflects on self, You are present there to emancipate.”(3)

Finally showing his humility, Guru Ji says: “O’ the limitless one, sitting at a sacred place (in holy congregation), which of Your merits may I sing and what may I say about You. O’ incomprehensible, imperceptible and unborn (God), we cannot comprehend You, because You are the Master of even those who have no master. After looking (at all creatures, I wonder) before whom may I go and tell that You are like this. Because all (creatures) are beggars and You are their (only) benefactor. (Therefore I), devotionless Nanak, am looking towards Your door, (with the hope that I may) be blessed with the gift of Your Name, which I may enshrine in my heart.”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that if we don’t want to go through endless pains of births and deaths, then shedding our false habits of lust, greed, and slandering others, we should reflect on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word and following Guru’s advice, we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name with true love and devotion, so that God may embrace us in His blissful union.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we don’t want to go through endless pains of births and deaths, then shedding our false habits of lust, greed, and slandering others, we should reflect on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word and following Guru’s advice we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name with true love and devotion, so that God may embrace us in His blissful union. In this shabad, he tells us how miserable a person remains who has not enjoyed the bliss of God’s union. He also shows us how to pray to our Guru to give us such advice, which may unite us in love with (God) our Groom, and what kind of bliss we enjoy on meeting Him.

Using the metaphor of a young bride, Guru Ji says: “The bride (soul), who has not experienced the pleasure (of union with her) Spouse, wails and her face withers in grief. Bound by the noose of her own deeds, she remains in a state of hopelessness and without (the guidance of) the Guru remains lost in doubts and illusions.”(1)

Now comparing his Guru to a cloud which brings joy to the bride soul with his rain of divine sermon, he says: “(O’ cloud (like Guru), let the rain (of your divine words) pour down intensely because my Groom has come into my heart. (I feel like) being a sacrifice to my beloved Guru who has brought about my union with God.”(1-pause)

Describing the bliss of his loving union with God in the same metaphor, Guru Ji says: “Ever fresh remains my love with the Master; day and night I engage in His pleasing worship. The Guru has shown me (God’s) sight (by virtue of which) I have been freed (from worldly bonds. Therefore I feel that) in every age (God’s) worship brings glory.”(2)

Now expressing his love for God and gratitude to his Guru, he says: “(O’ God), we belong to You, the entire universe of all the three regions (including the sky, earth, and the nether world) is Yours. You are my (Master), and I am Your (servant). By meeting the true Guru, (I) have obtained the immaculate (God, as a result of which I would not have to) go through the dreadful (worldly) ocean (and suffer through the round of birth and death again).”(3)

Next Guru Ji wants to tell us when a devotee does become truly pleasing to God. Continuing the same metaphor of a young bride, he says: “(O’ my friends), the bride (soul) is deemed truly embellished only when she feels delighted seeing the sight of her Spouse (God). When following Guru’s instruction, she leans on (God’s) Name for her support she becomes eternal by uniting with the casteless, immaculate, and eternal (God).”(4)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the bride soul) whose (worldly) bonds the Guru has loosened, is emancipated by attuning her mind (to God) through (Gurbani the Guru’s) word. She obtains honor (in God’s court). O’ Nanak, she in whose heart is God’s Name, by uniting with him, the Guru has united (her with God).”(5-4)

The message of this shabad is if we want to enjoy the bliss of God’s union, then like a young bride we should be eager to see His sight and under Guru’s guidance we should meditate on His Name with true love and devotion.

mehla 1 malaar.
par daaraa par Dhan par lobhaa ha-umai bikhai bikaar.
dusat bhaar-o taj nind paraa-ee kaam kroDh chandaar. ||1||

mahal meh baithhay agam apaar.
bheeta armit so-ee jan paayai jis gur kaa sabad rajan aachaar. ||1|| rahaa-o.

SGGS P-1256
dukh sukh do-oo sam kar jaanai buraa bhalaa sansaar.
suDh buDh saraat naam har paa-ee-ai sat,sangat gur pi-aar. ||2||

ahinis laahaa har naam paraapat gur daataa dayvaphaar.
gurmukh sikh so-ee jan paa-ay jis no nadar karay kartaar. ||3||

kaa-i-aah mahal mandar ghar har kaa tis meh raakhee jot apaar.

naanak gurmukh mahal bulaa-ee-ai har maylay maylaanhaar. ||4||5||

Mehla-I

Malhar

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the bliss of union with God, then like a young bride we should be eager to see Him and meditate on His Name with true love and devotion. In this shabad, he tells what we should or shouldn’t do to make ourselves immaculate to receive the nectar of God’s Name and be fit for His union.

First listing those evil habits which we must discard, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), abandon (the desire for) another person’s woman (or man), or wealth and greed for things belonging to others, ego, and evil pursuits. Also renounce evil inclinations, slandering of others, and the demons of lust and anger.”(1)
Next telling us why it is necessary to act on Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), in the mansion (of your body) is sitting the incomprehensible and limitless God. But that person alone can enjoy the nectar (like relish of God’s Name) in this (mansion) whose daily conduct is in accordance with the jewel of Guru’s word (the Gurbani).”

Now listing the qualities of a person who follows the Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends, a Guru’s follower) deems both pain and pleasure or vice and virtue in the world as same. (But this kind of) realization, understanding, and wisdom we obtain only through God’s Name and by embracing love for the Guru in the congregation of saintly persons.”

Describing the benefit of embracing love for the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), the benefactor Guru is the Giver (of Name) and that Guru following Sikh alone obtains his instruction on whom the Creator casts His glance of grace.”

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), within this body is the mansion, the temple, and home of God in which the limitless God has established His light. O’ Nanak, it is only through the Guru, that one is invited inside this mansion and the uniting God unites (that person) with Him.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the bliss of union with God, then following Guru’s advice, we should abandon our evil inclinations and joining the congregation of saintly persons meditate on God’s Name.
Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad, with the remark that within this body is the mansion, the temple, and home of God in which the limitless God has established His light. But the question arises how can we recognize Him because He has no particular shape or form?

Some learned scholars and pundits claim that man’s body is made of the five basic elements like air, fire, and water, but they don’t know from what are these elements made. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us who is a true pundit who knows the answer to all such questions and how much he respects such a person.

Guru Ji says: “(In my dictionary, only that person’s) name is the pundit (or scholar of) high intellect, who knows (that actually it is God, who is the original) source of (all the elements like) air and water. (That pundit) should still the fire (of desire) in the body, and understand from where actually the creatures are born (or come from)?”(1)

Now listing the difficulties in describing God or His qualities, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, we cannot know about the qualities of God. Without seeing, nothing can be said (about Him). So what can we say to describe Him?”(1-pause)

Commenting on presence of God everywhere and yet our inability to recognize Him, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, God is present both) high in the skies and down below in the under world, (still if you can) give me your thoughts, how can we describe Him. But if any one meditates on (God) from the core of one’s heart without (loudly speaking from the) tongue (or showing off to others, only then such a rare person) can understand what (bliss is there in God’s) Name.”(2)

Now describing the traits and conduct of such a person, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), such a person stops entering into (useless) discussions or making tall claims (about his or her knowledge and lives) without any doubt (about God being the origin of every thing. However), that person alone understands (this thing) on whom is bestowed (God’s) grace. Day and night, (such a person) remains attuned (to God), and that person alone is (a truly awakened) human being who remains absorbed in the eternal God.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by stating how much he respects and adores such a truly awakened person. He says: “(O’ my friends), let no one speak about (the merit or virtue of that person, who in spite of) belonging to a high caste (still meditates on God’s Name and thus) becomes a true servant (of God. I say that even if) among the persons of very low caste someone becomes a (true) servant of God, Nanak would respect and love that person so much (that he would consider it an honor, if that person) wears the shoes (made out of Nanak’s skin).”(4-1-6)

The message of this shabad is that God is the real source of life. But He has no shape or form; therefore it is ordinarily impossible to recognize Him, even though He is present everywhere. It is only when shedding our self-conceit and following Guru’s advice, we meditate on God’s Name that we realize Him.
According to legends one-time parents of Guru Nanak Dev Ji called a physician to check him and find out why he remained so lonely and hardly eating any food. The physician couldn’t diagnose the problem but wanted to give him something any way.

It appears Guru Ji then uttered this shabad, to educate the physician about the spiritual ailments which unlike bodily diseases cannot be cured by any medicines and if not cured cause both mental and physical pain.

Addressing that physician, Guru Ji says: “O’ naive physician, don’t administer any medicine (to me. Because, there are many maladies, which could afflict a person). One is the pain of separation (from God); another is hunger (for worldly riches). One pain is (the fear) of the powerful demon of death and one pain is that which afflicts the body.”(1)

Urging the physician once again not to administer any medicine, Guru Ji says: “Yes, O’ naive physician, do not administer that medicine, (even after taking which) the pain persists and the diseases remains in the body. O’ brother, the medicine, (which is given without diagnosing the cause of one’ s ailment) is not effective at all.”(1-pause)

Describing the basic cause of the body being afflicted by ailments, he says: “When forsaking God, one indulges in sensual pleasures, all kinds of maladies start arising in the body. (In this way, the person whose) mind has gone blind (in pursuit of worldly pleasures)
is awarded punishment (to bring that person to the right path). Therefore O’ naive physician, do not administer any medicine (to such a person unless you know the root cause of his or her disease).”(2)

Commenting further on the limitations of the ordinary medicines meant for physical ailments, Guru Ji says: “(O’ physician), a sandal tree is useful only as long as there is fragrance in it. Similarly a man (is of use) as long as there is breath in the body. When breathing stops the body withers and crumbles down. After that no one takes (the medicine. Therefore the medicine which is really needed is the one which can cure the soul and you don’t have that).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling the physician, and us, how we can keep our body healthy and our soul immaculate. He says: “(O’ physician), that body remains pure like gold and the soul inside also remains immaculate, in which abides the sparkle of the immaculate (God’s) Name. All pain and disease (of such a person) vanishes and goes away. (In short) O’ Nanak, one is freed from (all maladies, by meditating on the) eternal (God’s) Name.”(4-2-7)

The message of this shabad is that when forsaking God we indulge in false sensual pleasures; all kinds of physical, mental and emotional ailments take root. Therefore if we want to avoid pain and suffering and keep our body and soul healthy we should keep meditating on God’s Name and abstain from any sensual pleasures.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that when forsaking God we indulge in false sensual pleasures, all kinds of physical, mental and emotional ailments take root. Therefore if we want to avoid pain and suffering and keep our body and soul healthy, we should meditate on God’s Name and abstain from any sensual pleasures. In this shabad, Guru Ji uses a beautiful metaphor to illustrate how we can use our pain itself as the most effective antidote to this pain. For example we know that smallpox is a very deadly disease but by processing the smallpox virus in a certain way, we get a vaccine, which when injected, immunizes against the disease. Similarly in Indian Ayurvedic system of medicine, they prepare antidotes by grinding different poisonous things along with many herbs into a very fine powder and heating the same at very high temperature. Guru Ji uses this analogy to tell us how we can turn our pain into its own antidote and not only live a happy and peaceful life, but also go to God’s court with honor and bring glory to our parents.

First referring to the metaphor of making an antidote according to Indian system in which one uses a stone slab and pestle to grind the ingredients, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), pain is like (the poisonous) arsenic and God’s Name is the antidote (or the compound of herbs to turn it into a life-saving medicine. For that you need to make) contentment as your stone slab and charity as the pestle (to grind the ingredients). If you partake this antidote everyday (by leading a life of contentment and compassion, then your) body won’t become weak and at the time of your death (this antidote) would decisively defeat even the demon of death (and you would go to God’s court without any fear).”(1)

In short, Guru Ji says: “O’ ignorant man, eat such a pill, by taking which your sinful habits would go away.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji now wants to educate us about the true nature of worldly possessions and powers, and their uselessness in God’s court. He says: “(O’ my friend), all these kingdoms, possessions and youth are (like short lived) shadows. Just as when the chariot of the sun moves (the sun rises, the shadows disappear and) all places become visible, (similarly when we reflect on Gurbani we see the reality of these worldly pleasures, and realize that) neither the body, nor name, nor one’s caste (carry any value in God’s court. Because) there remains the day (of divine knowledge and enlightenment and) here (in the mortal world remains the ignorance and darkness of) night.”(2)

Many times in addition to or in place of medicines, people resort to some ritualistic worship to get rid of some ailment or sorrow in the family. One such practice is performing “Hoam Yagg”, ceremony presided over by a pundit, who reads some mantras in front of a holy fire and the family members keep pouring oil and Ghee (clarified butter) and some other things over the fire to keep it burning. Using this ritual as analogy, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), make your worldly relishes as the firewood, worldly (cravings) as Ghee and oil, and burn your lust and anger in fire. (Finally make cheerful) acceptance of whatever pleases God as your Hoam Yagg and reading of (holy books or) Puranas.”(3)

Finally addressing God, Guru Ji humbly says: “(O’ God), penance (the effort to worship You) is like the paper and Your Name is (like) the Visa (to enter Your court). They in whose destiny is written this treasure, look wealthy on reaching (God’s) house. O’ Nanak, blessed is the mother who gave birth (to such Guru following children).”(4-3-8)
The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our pains and sufferings and want acceptance in God’s court, then we should cheerfully accept God’s will. We should bear our pain and suffering with contentment and compassion, and meditate on God’s Name which is like an antidote for our ailments and entry permit to God’s court.

This shabad is another example of Guru Ji’s height of poetic imagination and the use of metaphor. Using the metaphor of a beautiful flamingo, he asks an honest, handsome, young man who has adopted holy white garbs and goes around places, whether he has yet seen God’s sight? In the end, he educates all of us about the reality of our body.

So admiringly comparing that white robed gentleman to a beautiful flamingo and addressing him as a young bride, Guru Ji sweetly asks: “(O’ my friend, like a beautiful flamingo) you wear white clothes and utter sweet words. You have a beautiful long nose and black eyes (like a flamingo). But O’ my sister, have you ever seen the Master?”(1)

That gentleman responds by first addressing God and then Guru Ji. He says: “O’ my all powerful Master, it is by virtue of Your bestowed energy that I fly, and by flying I ascend to the skies (and roam around to far off places). O’ my brother, (it is by His grace that) I look for Him in waters, lands, mountains, river banks and all other places.”(2)

Continuing his response, that gentleman says: “(O’ my friend), embellishing my body, He who has given me these feathers (and the ability to roam around) has also put in me a strong craving to fly (and run after worldly pleasures). I can live in contentment only if He shows His grace, so as He reveals to me I see Him accordingly.”(3)
Now Guru Ji educates him and us about the reality of our body and how we can merge in our beloved God. He says: “(O’ my friend), neither this body, nor these feathers (the body parts) would go along with us (after death. This body) is an aggregate of air, water, and fire. Nanak says that only when we are blessed by His mercy, that we adopt (a Guru or) a prophet and meditate (on God. Then by remaining attuned to Him) our body merges in the eternal (God).”(4-4-9)

The message of this shabad is that we may have very handsome body and may keep wandering around different places, but we can see God and merge in Him only when we adopt a Guru and meditate on His Name.
Malhar Mehla-3

Chaupadaiy Ghar-1

Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad, by stating that only when we are blessed by His mercy that we adopt (a Guru or) a prophet and meditate (on God. Then by remaining attuned to Him), our body merges in the eternal (God). In this shabad, he reveals additional knowledge about God, universe, human tendencies, and the importance of Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), all this (visible) form is the manifestation of the formless (God). He Himself strays the humans (in doubt). Creating everything, the Creator Himself looks after it and yokes His creatures to different tasks as He pleases. For a devotee this is the greatest honor, when God makes him or her (cheerfully) obey His will.”(1)

However commenting on God’ s will, he says: “(O’ my friends), God alone knows His will. (Only) by Guru’ s grace do we understand (that will. When we do understand it), our intellect, which is attached to worldly riches, is attuned to God’s Name. (Then shedding our self-conceit, we become so humble, that although) alive, we live like dead.”(1-pause)

Regarding those who study and lecture on holy books like Vedas, Guru Ji says: “(A pundit) reads Vedas and then enters into discussions about (gods like), Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. (With the result) that, swayed by the three pronged Maya (or the impulses for vice, virtue, and power) he remains in fear of birth and death. But by Guru’s grace, one who recognizes the only one (God), fear is removed (from that one’s mind).”(2)

Now putting himself in our situation, Guru Ji shows us how we can truly serve God, win His pleasure, and obtain salvation. He says: “(O’ God), we are low, humble and thoughtless creatures. Please take care of us. Please become gracious so that becoming a servant of Your servants, I may serve You. (O’ God), bestow this one boon of Yours (upon me so that) day and night, I may contemplate on Your Name.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), Nanak says that it is only through Guru’s grace that you can understand (the right way of life. The person who understands), thinks that just as foam or a bubble arises in water (and then merges back into it), similar is this world. He from whom it has emerged it merges back into Him and the whole expanse vanishes (into oblivion).”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get united with that God from whom we have originated, then we should realize that this world is the manifestation of God who Himself yokes people to different tasks. For us the best thing to do is to understand God’s will through the guidance of the Guru and beg for the gift of His Name.

Malhar Mehla 3

जीते वेदान भक्तिति से मिले उल्लम्ब सत्यी सत्यी।
सत्यी वहाँ रहित लिख यही सत्य को लिख
सत्य सच सच सच रात सात सात सच सुनान।॥

Malaar Meela 3.

जीते हुकम पाँचनां से सच्चा अहर्सान है उमाई
साधार जला अय।

सच्चा भगवत कराहि दिन रात ती सच रहे लाय अय।

साधार एक है वाक दिन गुर के साथ सुहाए अय।।

॥[1]॥
Malhar Mehla-3

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get united with that God from whom we have originated, then we should realize that this world is the manifestation of God who Himself yokes us to different tasks. For us the best thing to do is to understand God’s will through the guidance of the Guru and beg for the gift of His Name. In this shabad, he describes the blessings received by those who realize God’s will and accept it cheerfully.

He says: “They who have realized (God’s) command, (God) has united them with (Him) by burning off their ego through the word (of the Guru). Day and night they engage in true worship and remain attuned to the eternal (God). Through the embellished word of the Guru they always see the eternal God (pervading everywhere).”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind and us, he says: “O’ my mind, by obeying God’s command one obtains peace. God loves His command. Whom He blesses (with the gift of accepting His will), faces no obstacle (in life).”(1)

But ignoring God’s command, most of us keep doing things motivated by the three modes of Maya (or impulses for vice, virtue, and power). So commenting on these impulses, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, to remain influenced by) the three impulses (of Maya) is materialistic; (In this state) neither (God’s) devotion (is possible), nor can one (remain imbued with) His love. (In this state, one does) all deeds to satisfy one’s ego. Therefore one neither obtains high (spiritual) status, nor salvation (from worldly entanglements. But the humans are helpless because) only that happens, which pleases the Master and the (mortals) keep wandering (in existences) as per their pre-ordained destiny.”(2)
However in his compassion Guru Ji tells us a way out of this quagmire. He says: “If one meets (follows) the true Guru then one’s mind comes under control and God’s Name comes to abide in the heart. (Then one’s life conduct becomes so immaculate) that one’s worth cannot be estimated and nothing can be said about it. (Rising above the three modes, that person) resides in the fourth state (of equipoise) and remains absorbed in the eternal (God).”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), my God and Master is inaccessible and incomprehensible; His worth cannot be described. Only through the Guru’s grace do we come to know Him. (The one who realizes God) does everything in accordance with the (Guru’s) word. O’ Nanak, praise God’s Name (and thus) obtain honor in God’s court.”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that instead of living our lives motivated by three modes of Maya we should follow Gurbani (the Guru’s word as contained in Guru Granth Sahib), realize God’s will and cheerfully accept it. Further we should praise God’s Name so that we may obtain honor in God’s court.

**Malhar Mehla-3**

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of living our lives motivated by three modes of Maya we should follow the Guru’s word, realize God’s will and cheerfully accept it.
accept it. Further we should praise God’s Name so that we may obtain honor in God’s court. In this shabad, he tells us how beneficial it is for us to follow Guru’s advice and meditate on God’s Name. He also tells about the sufferings those people go through who do not follow Guru’s advice.

He says: “It is only a rare Guru’s follower on whom (God) bestows His grace understands that except for the Guru, there is no other Giver (of God’s Name. On whom the Guru) casts his glance of grace, he bestows (the gift of Name). On meeting the Guru, peace wells up (in the mind) and then one meditates day and night on (God’s) Name.”(1)

So advising his own mind (and us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, contemplate on the nectar Name (of God). When we meet the all-powerful true Guru, we obtain God’s Name and one always remains absorbed in God’s Name.”(1-pause)

Now comparing the conduct and fate of the self-conceited persons with those who follow Guru’s advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the self-conceited persons always remain separated (from God) and keep wandering in doubt; (they don’t realize that) no one can always remain with anybody. They remain afflicted with the chronic disease of ego, and the demon of death punishes them severely. (On the other hand, they who) follow Guru’s instruction never get separated from the company of the saintly persons and day and night they keep meditating on (God’s) Name.”(2)

However in his compassion Guru Ji prays on behalf of us all, and addressing God he says: “(O’ God), You are the one and only Creator of all and after thinking about them daily, You take care of them. Some You have united with Yourself through the Guru and have bestowed upon them the storehouses of Your devotion. You Yourself know everything (about the desires in our minds), so I don’t have to beg before anybody else.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is the immortalizing elixir; it is obtained through (God’s) grace. (The one on whom is His mercy), blessed with a state of equipoise by Guru’s grace, utters (God’s) Name day and night. O’ Nanak, (for that person) Name is a treasure, so he or she keeps the mind attuned only to (God’s) Name.”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that only by meditating on God’s Name can we obtain peace and bliss and can be united with God. But it is only when God shows His grace, that He makes us understand that we obtain the gift of meditating on God’s Name only through the true Guru.
Malhar Mehla-3

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that only by meditating on God’s Name can we obtain peace and bliss and can be united with God. But only when God shows His grace He makes us understand that we obtain the gift of meditating on God’s Name only through the true Guru. In this shabad, he reiterates the above advice and shows us how to divert our mind in this direction and what he himself does.

He says: “(O’ my friends), I always praise the Guru who is the Giver of all comforts. He is my God and immaculate Master. By Guru’s grace, I have obtained the supreme (spiritual) status and have obtained great glory. (“Only that one) merges in the eternal (Being), who sings praises of the eternal (God) day and night.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind, under Guru’s guidance reflect in your heart. Abandon falsehood, family attachment, ego, and desire for poisonous worldly pleasures. Remember your (inevitable) departure (from this world)).”(1-pause)

Now telling us who can give us the gift of God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends), only the true Guru is the giver of God’s Name; beside him there is no other giver. Whom he gives the boon of life giving (Name), they are satiated (from worldly desires) and remain absorbed in the eternal Name. Day and night, God remains enshrined in their heart and they remain absorbed in meditation in a state of equipoise.”(2)
Elaborating on the above phenomenon, Guru Ji says: “They whose mind gets pierced (and convinced) by the (Guru’s) word, in their heart (remains enshrined) the eternal word (in praise of God. O’ my friends), my God is incomprehensible and (ordinarily) He cannot be described. It is only through the Guru that His indescribable discourse can be described., Only when on His own the bliss giving (God) shows His mercy, we can worship that Master of the universe.”(3)

Describing the blessings of meditating on God under the guidance of the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), under Guru’s guidance, they who have meditated on (God) in a state of poise, don’t come and go again (in and out of this world). By reflecting in their mind, they have realized the Master in the mind itself and it remains attuned to the soul. Thus enshrining the eternal (God in their heart), they are pleased with the eternal (God) and shed their self (conceit).”(4)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they in whose mind resides only the one (Master, to them no one else is visible) except that one (God. They realize that) in this world the only one thing which is (truly peace giving and) sweet is the immortalizing elixir of (God’s) Name, which alone is immaculate and everlasting. O’ Nanak, (that) Name we obtain only from God (and only those people obtain it) in whose destiny it has been so pre-ordained.”(5-4)

The message of this shabad is that only God’s Name is the sweetest immortalizing elixir and it is only obtained through the Guru. Therefore abandoning our ego, falsehood, and cravings for worldly possessions, we should seek the shelter of the Guru, so that he may enshrine God’s praise and Name in our hearts and we may realize God and enjoy the bliss of His nectar in our hearts.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that only God’s Name is the sweetest immortalizing elixir and is only obtained through the Guru. Therefore abandoning our ego, falsehood and cravings for worldly possessions, we should seek the shelter of the Guru, so that he may enshrine God’s praise and Name in our heart and we may realize God and enjoy the bliss of His nectar in our heart. In this shabad, he tells us how God’s Name is essential not only for human beings but also for gods. He also tells what kind of miserable fate the self-conceited persons suffer who do not follow Guru’s advice. Finally he indicates how God does every thing on His own and whom does He bless with the gift of His Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends, what to speak of human beings), even the gods who worship Shiva or those who sing for the gods are emancipated through the Name by reflecting on the Guru’s word. Stilling their ego they have kept God and His eternal Name enshrined in their hearts. However only that person understands whom (He Himself) makes to understand and whom He Himself unites with Him. (Such a person) sings (God’s) praise day and night through the word (of the Guru) and keeps the mind attuned to the eternal (God).”(1)

Therefore advising himself, (and indirectly all of us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on (God’s) Name at each and every moment. (By doing so), the gift of the Guru and the bliss (of the message of his) shabad would remain enshrined in you and would always give you company (even after your death).”(1-pause)

Next commenting on the conduct and fate of the self-conceited persons who do not care for Guru’s advice and follow the dictates of their own minds, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the hypocrisy of the self-conceited person never ends, so he or she keeps suffering in pain due to the love for other (worldly riches). By forsaking (God’s) Name and getting intoxicated with the poison (of worldly pleasures, such a person) wastes the (human) life in vain. That person doesn’t get this opportunity (of human birth) again and then forever repents day and night. Such a person dies again and again to be
reborn but never understands (the right way of life) and is finally consumed in filth (of evils).”(2)

In contrast, describing the conduct and fate of the Guru’s followers, he says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru’s followers remain imbued with the God’s Name and they are emancipated by reflecting on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word. Yes, by meditating on God’s Name and keeping God’s Name enshrined in their heart, they obtain salvation even while alive. Their body and mind become immaculate and even their intellect and speech becomes immaculate. (They realize that) there is but only one (supreme) Being and one God and no other (Power).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by stating how God is all-powerful and how He uses His own free will in all matters. He says “(O’ my friends), God does everything by Himself, and on His own He casts His merciful glance. (On whom He shows His mercy), that one’s body and mind get imbued with His love through Guru’s word and the mind remains attuned to His service (and worship). By becoming a Guru follower, such a person is able to comprehend the incomprehensible and mysterious (God) residing within. (But) O’ Nanak, on whom (God) is pleased, on His own He blesses that person (with this understanding) and makes a person conduct himself or herself as He wishes.”(4-5)

The message of this shabad is that it is God alone who does and gets everything done as per His own will. It is only by His grace that we are blessed with the guidance of the true Guru and through whose grace we meditate on God’s Name. Therefore we should always keep Guru’s word in our mind and meditate on God’s Name.
Malhar Mehla-3 Dutukaiy

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that it is God alone who does and gets everything done. It is only by His grace that we are blessed with the guidance of the true Guru and through whose grace we meditate on God’s Name. Therefore we should always keep Guru’s word in our mind and meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he tells us how fortunate and blessed are those who meditate on God’s Name, why it is difficult to control our mercurial mind and how the guidance of the Guru and his Gurbani helps us in controlling it and recognizing the abode of God within us.

He says: “(O’ my friends), it is only from the true Guru that one finds the door to the home and mansion (of God and) His sublime seat. Also it is through (Gurbani) the Guru’s word that one’s ego is dispelled.”(1)

Describing the conduct of those who meditate on God’s Name and the blessings obtained by them, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they in whose destiny (the gift of) Name has been pre-ordained, ever and forever and day and night they meditate on God’s Name and thus obtain honor in (God’s) eternal court.”(1-pause)

Now commenting on the benefits of following the guidance of the Guru in meditating on God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends, the person) who learns the way (to control the) mind from the true Guru that person’s mind, day and night remains attuned to God. Therefore they who are imbued with the love of Guru’s word always remain detached (from worldly affairs) and obtain honor in the (God’s) eternal court.”(2)

Next educating us about the fundamental reason why this mind of ours keeps jumping from one thought to another and when and how it becomes stable, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), this mind of ours keeps playing (and jumping from one thought to another because it is) bound (to worldly distractions as per God’s) will. In an instant, it can roam around in ten (different) directions and come back (to the original topic. When on His own) the eternal (God) shows His grace (on somebody), then following Guru’s guidance this mind immediately comes under control.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “When by reflecting on (Guru’s) word one understands (the right way of life), one finds the way to control this mind from the mind itself. Therefore, O’ Nanak, always meditate on (God’s) Name, (by doing which) you may cross over (the dreadful worldly ocean and obtain salvation from rounds of births and deaths ).”(4-6)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru. By reflecting on his Gurbani we may learn the way to control our mind and keep it always attuned to meditation on God’s Name. By doing so we would cross over the worldly ocean and by God’s grace obtain to His mansion.

Malhar Mehla-3

Jee-o pind paraan sabb is kay qhat qhat rahi-aa samaa-ee.
Aykas bin mai avar na jaanaa satgur dee-aa bujhaa-ee. ||1||
Man mayray naam raha-o liv laa-ee.
It is the same light

Malhar Mehla-3

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru. So that by reflecting on his Gurbani we may learn the way to control our mind and keep it always attuned to meditation on God’s Name. By doing so we would cross over the worldly ocean and by God’s grace obtain to His mansion. In this shabad, he shares with us the instruction he has obtained from his Guru, how he follows it, and what kinds of blessings, he has obtained, which anybody else can obtain by acting on Guru’s advice.

He says: “My true Guru has made me understand that this soul, body, and breath all belong to that (God) who is residing in each and every heart. Therefore except that one (God), I do not recognize (or worship) any other (power).”(1)

Therefore advising his mind (and us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, remain attuned to the love of (God’s) Name. It is through the (Guru’s) word that we can worship that Creator who is invisible, incomprehensible, and limitless.”(1-pause)

Now describing the blessings obtained by those who remain attuned to God, he says: “(O’ my friends), they whose mind remains attuned to the one (God), by Guru’s grace their mind and body remain soaked with (the relish of God’s Name) and they imperceptibly remain absorbed (in God’s meditation). By Guru’s grace their doubt and dread hastens away and they remain attuned to the Name of one (God) alone.”(2)

Commenting on the importance of Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), when acting on the Guru’s words one does the true deed (of meditating on God’s Name), only then one obtains the wisdom to obtain high (spiritual) state. Among millions, (God) gives this understanding to a rare person, and he or she remains attuned to (God’s) Name.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing the bliss he is enjoying and his indebtedness to his Guru. He says: “(O’ my friends), wherever I look I find that one (God pervading
The message of this shabad is that it is only when we listen to the Guru’s word of advice and act accordingly that we obtain the true understanding that God is pervading everywhere and in every heart. It is through the Guru’s word that we are attuned to the love and worship of that otherwise invisible and incomprehensible God and it is through Guru’s grace that all our dread and doubt disappear. Therefore we should abandon our own self-conceit and devotedly listen to and act on the advice of our Guru (as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji).

Malhar Mehla-3

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that it is through the Guru’s word that we are attuned to the love and worship of that otherwise invisible and incomprehensible God and it is through Guru’s grace that all our dread and doubt disappear. Therefore we should abandon our own self-conceit and devotedly listen to and act on the advice of our Guru. In this shabad, he reiterates that message by describing how he himself counsels his mind and what kind of divine wisdom those people obtain who following Guru’s advice attune their minds to meditation on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), my eternal God is the destroyer of pains. He is obtained only (by following) the Guru’s word. They who are imbued with His devotion always remain detached, they obtain honor at the eternal (God’s) door.”(1)
Therefore advising his own mind (and indirectly us), he says: “O’ my mind, remain merged in (the supreme) mind. Through Guru’s instruction, they whose mind is convinced about God’s Name, remain attuned to God.”(1-pause)

Stating the conduct of a person whom God blesses with divine wisdom, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), my God is extremely incomprehensible and unfathomable but through the Guru’s instruction, the one whom He blesses with divine understanding remains attuned to God and for that person God’s praise becomes true austerity and conduct.”(2)

Now describing what kind of divine understanding such persons obtain, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, they who are blessed with divine wisdom through the Guru, understand that (God) Himself is the word, Himself the true instruction, and He Himself has infused His light (in us. They also understand that) this frail body of ours is being run by the air (we breathe) and through the Guru we obtain the immortalizing elixir (of God’s Name).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), on His own (God) creates and yokes all to their (different) tasks and that eternal (God) is pervading everywhere. O’ Nanak, without (God’s) Name nobody is anything (or has any merit), and it is only through His Name that He blesses (anybody) with honor.”(4-8)

The message of this shabad is that God is the eternal destroyer of pains. He is obtained only by reflecting on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word. Therefore only they who follow Guru’s advice and meditate on His Name obtain salvation from the worldly pains and go to God’s court with honor.
Malhar Mehta-3

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that God is the eternal destroyer of pains. He is obtained only by reflecting on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word. In this shabad, he tells us how Guru’s shabad and God’s Name are not only helpful in destroying our pains and uniting us with God, but also cure our afflictions of ego and the evil influences of Maya. First Guru Ji refers to the old Indian custom of reciting certain mantras in addition to or in place of medicines. It was believed that one particular mantra called Garurr mantra was most effective cure for a poisonous snakebite.

Using this analogy, he says: “(O’ my friends, a man’s mind) is lured by the poison of ego, as if it is loaded with a huge snake (of sins). But when one recites the Garurr mantra of Guru’s word, God destroys the poison of ego.”(1)

Therefore advising his mind (and ours), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, ego and (worldly) attachment is a very severe ailment, (because of these) the dreadful (worldly) ocean cannot be crossed over. (I suggest that taking the shelter of) the Guru and by riding the boat of God’s (Name, you should) swim across (the worldly ocean).”(1-pause)

Now Guru Ji tells us how to rise above the three modes of Maya or impulses for vice, virtue, or power, and live in a higher fourth state. He says: “(O’ my friends), the expanse of the attachment for the three modes of Maya pervades all creatures, but the quality of Turya (the fourth state, which is above all such impulses) is obtained in the company of saints. One who obtains this state), by His grace, (God) ferries (that person) across (the worldly ocean).”(2)

Next using a very beautiful example, Guru Ji tells us what is so great about the true company of the saints. He says: “(O’ my friends), just as the fragrance of sandal is most pleasant and it spreads (its sweet smell) all around, similarly the life of God’s saints is very immaculate and they spread God’s praise throughout the expanse of the world.”(3)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad with a prayer and says: “O’ my God, show Your mercy that I may keep You enshrined in my mind. Nanak says that one who has obtained the perfect Guru; has meditated on God’s Name.”(4-9)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to purify ourselves of the poison of ego and worldly attachment, and rise above the three impulses of Maya, then we should have to recite the great mantra of Guru’s word. Following the advice of the Guru, we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the destroyer of all pains and can ferry us across the dreadful worldly ocean.

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Guru Granth Sahib

Malhar Mehta-3

The message of this shabad is that if we want to purify ourselves of the poison of ego and worldly attachment, and rise above the three impulses of Maya, then we should have to recite the great mantra of Guru’s word. Following the advice of the Guru, we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the destroyer of all pains and can ferry us across the dreadful worldly ocean.

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It is the same light
It is believed that Guru Amar Das Ji uttered this shabad, while conversing with a pundit called Baaini who was very proud of his knowledge of Vedas and Shastras and used to go around trying to impress people with his scholarship. Guru Ji asked him to explain the underlying reason for the varying nature of the mind itself. When he couldn’t provide any satisfactory answer Guru Ji told him why this mind is helpless and how to bring it under control.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ pundit, before discussing other complicated matters, first find out what the true nature of the human mind) is. Is this mind (like a) householder (who remains engrossed in family affairs, or) (like) a detached (person free from worldly affairs)? Does this mind remain above caste or color and is it always imperishable? From where did this mind get afflicted with the sense of mineness?”(1)

So advising that pundit (and others) to reflect on the nature of the human mind instead of other complicated topics in scriptures, Guru Ji says: “O’ pundit, reflect on (the nature of) this mind. Why do you unnecessarily burden yourself with other unnecessary studies?”(1 -pause)

It appears that the pundit could not give any satisfactory answer to these questions. So Guru Ji provided the answer for the benefit of that pundit, and now shares with all of us. He says: “(O’ pundit), it is the Creator who has appended (human mind) with the worldly

Malhar Mehla-3 Ghar-2

It is the same light
attachment. After issuing this command, He has created the universe. O’ brothers, through Guru’s grace, understand this thing, and always remain under God’s shelter.”(2)

Next advising him about the rightful conduct and traits of a true pundit or a spiritual scholar, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, that person) alone is a true pundit who casts off the load of three impulses (for vice, virtue, and power) and day and night discourses on the one (God’s) Name alone. (Such a pundit) obtains instruction from the true Guru (and renouncing self-conceit so faithfully acts as per Guru’s advice, as if he or she has) surrendered his or her head before the true Guru, and always remains aloof and detached (from worldly desires). Such a pundit is approved in God’s court.”(3)

Elaborating on the qualities of a true pundit, Guru Ji says: “(A true pundit), preaches that only one (God) resides in all. (When such a pundit) sees only one (God residing in all) then he or she realizes that one (God). Whoever (God) blesses, He unites that person with Himself. There is always peace (for him or her) both (in this world) and (in the next).”(4)

Guru Ji concludes this shabad by indirectly advising us not to be proud of our own wisdom or knowledge of scriptures for our salvation. He says: “(O’ pundit), Nanak says that no one can use any of one’s own methods (to be free from worldly bonds). That one alone obtains salvation upon whom is the grace (of God, that person) alone sings God’s praises day and night, and doesn’t (go around) loudly preaching (about the theories of) Vedas and Shastras.”(5-1-10)

The message of this shabad is that it is God Himself, who has appended our mind with ego and worldly attachment. The only way to bring this mind under control is to seek the shelter of the Guru and following his instruction, sing praises of God at all times. Only then would we be considered true pundits (or wise and learned persons) and obtain peace (in this and the next world).
Malhar Mehla-3

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that the only way to bring this mind under control is to seek the shelter of the Guru and following his instruction sing praises of God at all times. In this shabad, he compares and contrasts the state and fate of the self-conceited persons who only follow the dictates of their minds with that of Guru following persons.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the person who only follows the dictates of mind wanders in existences. (Every day such a person suffers in such pain and shame, as if) the demon of death beats and disgraces that person daily. (But by obeying and) thus serving the true Guru (a Guru’s follower) ends his or her dependence on (the mercy of) the demon of death. Such a person meets God and obtains a place in His mansion (becomes one with God).”(1)

Guru Ji says: “(O’ mortal), under Guru’s guidance, meditate on God’s Name. The (one) who has wasted the commodity of human birth in duality (or worldly love, that one’s) invaluable life goes to waste in exchange for a trifle.”(1-pause)

Describing what happens when God shows His mercy on anyone, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when God shows His mercy, through Guru’s grace, one is imbued with the love of God. (Such a person), enshrines the worship of God in the heart. Though (Guru’s) word, God ferries that person across the dreadful (worldly) ocean. (Such a person) is (adjudged) true in the court of eternal (God).”(2)

Commenting on the state of those who instead of following Guru’s advice keep practicing ritualistic worships such as observing fasts or going to pilgrimages, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just) by doing many (ritualistic) deeds, no one has (ever) obtained (the guidance of) the true Guru, and without (the guidance of) the Guru (a person) remains lost in many illusions of worldly wealth. Such a person keeps multiplying ego and too much attachment for (worldly riches and relations. Therefore) because of love (of things) other than God, the self-conceited person suffers in pain.”(3)

Summarizing his advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the incomprehensible and unfathomable Creator is all by Himself. To obtain true profit (of our human birth, we should) meditate on Him through (Gurbani) the word of the true Guru. That carefree God is present everywhere and right in front of us. O’ Nanak, it is only by meditating on (God’s) Name through the Guru that one can merge in Him.”(4-2-11)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to end our painful rounds of birth and death and be received with honor in God’s court then instead of practicing ritualistic deeds we should follow Guru’s advice and day and night sing God’s praises so that He becomes enshrined in our heart and we become one with Him.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we want to end our rounds of birth and death and be received with honor in God’s court, then instead of practicing ritualistic deeds, we should follow Guru’s advice, and day and night sing God’s praises so that He becomes enshrined in our heart and we become one with Him. In this shabad, he goes a step further and tells us what kinds of blessings those persons obtain, who live their life in accordance with Guru’s instruction. He also tells what punishment self-conceited people suffer who remain lost in worldly attachments.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they who are attached to the Guru’s instructions (and live their life accordingly), become emancipated even while alive. While attuned to God’s devotion day and night, they always remain awake (and aware of the onslaughts of worldly allurements). Shedding their self (conceit), they serve the true Guru (by obediently following his advice. I so highly respect those devotees that) I always touch their feet.”(1)

Now Guru Ji tells us what he does and what he has obtained. He says: “(O’ my friends), I keep singing God’s praises. Very sweet is the word of the Guru. By meditating on God’s Name (through Guru’s word), I have obtained salvation (from all evil tendencies, and have obtained a high spiritual) state.”(1-pause)

But regarding the state and fate of the self-conceited persons, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), there is darkness of ignorance in the attachment for Maya (or worldly riches...
and relatives). But the blind, foolish, self-conceived persons are lured (by this Maya). They spend their (entire life) doing worldly deeds day and night. Therefore they die again and again to be re-born. This is the punishment they receive (because of their foolish deeds).”(2)

However regarding the life conduct of Guru’s followers and blessings they enjoy, he says: “A Guru follower attunes his or her consciousness to (meditation) on God’s Name. Such a person is not lured by the false greed (for worldly possessions). Whatever happens, that person accepts it as happening naturally (as per God’s will. So instead of losing his or her balance in pain or pleasure, that person) keeps enjoying the relish of God’s (Name) with gusto.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “Among millions, it is only a very rare person, whom (God) gives this understanding. On His own, He bestows (this gift) and blesses one with honor. O’ Nanak, one who is united with (God) from the very beginning doesn’t get separated (from Him) and always remains immersed in (meditating) on God’s Name.”(4-3-12)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to avoid continuous pains of birth and death, then following Guru’s advice we should remain alert to false worldly allurements, accept both pain and pleasure cheerfully, and meditate on God’s Name at all times. By doing so we would obtain a state of salvation even while alive and ultimately become one with God.
In many previous shabads, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy a state of eternal peace and salvation from the repeated pains of births and deaths, then we should meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s instruction. Naturally the question arises: why can we not obtain peace and salvation by other means such as following the guidance provided in holy books like Vedas and Puranas? Also one may ask why is it necessary to obtain Guru’s guidance to repeat God’s Name? Why can we not do it on our own? In this shabad, Guru Ji provides answers to all such questions.

He says: “(O’ my friends, ordinarily) everybody utters God’s Name (from his or her tongue). But it is only when one serves the true Guru (by following his guidance that) one obtains (the true meaning and method of meditating on) the Name. (Then, one) breaks the bonds (of worldly involvements) and lives in a state of emancipation (from worldly bonds. Following Gurbani), the Guru’s word (one’s mind comes under control) and remains in a state of stability.”(1)

Therefore advising us not to complain when things don’t go our way and our worldly desires are not fulfilled, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), why do you protest (against God’s will? Remember that in the present age called) Kal Yug, (the true) profit lies (not in amassing worldly wealth but in obtaining the wealth of) God’s) Name. Therefore following Guru’s instruction, we should day and night meditate on it in our heart.”(1-pause)

Now telling us how important it is for our soul to unite with (God) the Prime soul, and how the true Guru can easily arrange this union, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just as without the rain), the pied cuckoo wails in pain every moment. (Similarly the soul bride) cannot sleep without seeing her spouse (God, because) she cannot bear this separation. (However), if one meets the true Guru (and follows his guidance) then one is effortlessly united (with God).”(2)

Now commenting on the state of at person who doesn’t care for the Name, and keeps doing ritualistic deeds, he says: “(O’ my friends), the one without the Name perishes, suffering in pain. Being burnt by the fire (of worldly desires, that person’s) hunger (for worldly possessions) doesn’t go away. Also God’s Name (which could satiate such hunger) cannot be obtained without good fortune. (Therefore such a person) is exhausted practicing ritualistic deeds.”(3)

Next explaining why even reflection on such holy books as Vedas and Shastras is of no use, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the pundits who keep) reflecting on the words written in Vedas, which keep them involved in the three modes of Maya (alone), their mind remains soiled with the dirt of (evil poisonous) worldly wealth and worldly business alone. (Therefore such persons) keep dying to be reborn and then get ruined. But a Guru’s follower enshrines the qualities of Turya (a state of peace and poise unaffected by any of the three modes of Maya) in the heart.”(4)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who believes in the Guru, everybody (respects and) believes that one. (Because by listening to) Guru’s words, one’s mind becomes cool and calm and such an immaculate person is acclaimed (forever) in all the four ages. However O’ Nanak, rare is such a (pious) Guru’s follower.”(5-4-13-9-13-22)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy an everlasting state of love and respect and want to avoid any more pains of birth and death then instead of practicing any rituals we should simply follow Guru’s advice. Because only by following the Guru can we obtain the gift of Name and a state of blissful union with God.

Detail of shabads: M: 1=9, M: 3=13, Total=22

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy an everlasting state of love and respect and want to avoid any more pains of birth and death, then instead of practicing any rituals we should simply follow Guru’s advice. Only by following the Guru can we obtain the gift of Name and obtain a state of blissful union with God. In this shabad, he shares with us his own experience and tells us what kind of bliss one enjoys by following Guru’s instruction. He also tells us how much disgrace those people bring to their entire family who do not meditate on God’s Name.
He says: “(O’ my friends, following) Guru’s instruction, one who has meditated on God’s Name day and night, has forsaken all sorrows. God has shown mercy, and all (that person’s) bonds of hopes and desires have been snapped.”(1)

Describing his present state of mind, he says: “(O’ my friends), my eyes now remain fixed in gaze upon God. Seeing the true Guru my mind has blossomed in delight, (because this) devotee has met the Gardner of this universe.”(1)

Stating how undesirable it is to forsake God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “One who has forsaken the Name of such a God of mine, that one’s lineage has been cursed. (O’ God), don’t let any woman become pregnant in such a person’s lineage and make that person’s mother a widow (so that she may not be able to give birth to any more faithless persons).”(2)

Coming back to the loving thoughts of his own mind for his Guru and God, Guru Ji prays: “O’ God, please unite me with that saint Guru, who has enshrined God in his heart, day and night. Just as seeing her child, the mother blossoms in delight, similarly the Guru’s disciple is thrilled upon seeing the Guru.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by explaining what the obstacle is in the way of the union between humans and God and how this obstacle can be removed. Using a beautiful analogy, he says: “(O’ my friends), both the (human) bride and Groom (God) reside in the same place. But between them is a strong wall of ego. O’ Nanak, whose wall of ego the perfect Guru has demolished, those devotees have met (God) the Gardner of universe. (In other words, even though God resides within us, yet because of our ego we cannot recognize Him. When the perfect Guru helps us to erase that self-conceit, we easily see Him pervading every where).”(4)

The message of this shabad is that following the guidance of the Guru (as given in Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib); we should meditate on God’s Name day and night. Then getting rid of our ego and all our pain and suffering, we would enjoy the bliss-giving sight of God our Groom, who is residing within and all around us.
In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji has advised that if we want to purify ourselves spiritually then we need not go and bathe in any holy rivers or pilgrimage places, but we should (so humbly listen and act on the advice) of the saints or devotees of God, as if we are bathing in the dust of their feet. In this shabad, he goes a step further and says that even the most sacred Hindu rivers and holy places seek the dust of the feet of God’s devotees. These are considered holy or pure because of their association with some great saint (s) or devotee (s) of God.

He says: “(O’ my friends, holy rivers like) Ganges, Yamuna, Godavari, Suraswati make the effort (of flowing thousands of miles) to obtain the dust of the feet of the saints. (They seem to be saying: “People) filled with sins take dips in us (and thus make us polluted) and the dust (or the touch of) the saint’s feet removes our filth.”(1)

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, to listen and thus) bathe at the pilgrimage place (of the saint Guru) is to bathe at the sixty-eight (most) holy places. (When we so attentively listen to the immaculate words of the saints, as if) the dust of the feet of the congregation of saints falls in our eyes, it dispels all our evil intellect.”(1-pause)

As per Hindu mythology it is believed that it was sage Bhagirath who by virtue of his penance impressed God to send down river Ganges from heaven. Similarly Kedaar mountain is considered very sacred because it is believed that god Shiva himself prayed there, and god Krishna is believed to have grazed cows in Kanshi. Therefore, alluding to the basic reason of certain places being considered sacred, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, river) Ganges was brought down (from heavens by the devotee) Bhagirath, Kedaar was established by Shiva, and at Kanshi, Krishna grazed cows.

(All of these) places have obtained glory by associating with (some) devotees of God.”(2)

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), as many are the pilgrimage places, which the gods established, they all crave for the dust of the saints. (Therefore whenever), they meet a God’s saint or Guru, they (most respectfully bow to him or her as if they are) applying the dust of his feet on their faces.”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “However vast is Your universe, O’ my Master; it all craves for the dust of the feet (the immaculate advice) of the saint (Guru). But O’ Nanak, only in whose destiny it is so written, God ferries that person across (the dreadful worldly ocean, by) blessing him or her with the dust of saint’s feet (the Guru’s guidance),.”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that it is because of some association with the saints of God that certain places are considered holy and people go to bathe there. But instead of bathing at these places, we should bathe at the feet of the saints by listening to and acting on the advice of many divine saints (as contained in Guru Granth Sahib).
In the previous shabad (4-1), Guru Ji advised us that following the guidance of the Guru, we should meditate on God’s Name day and night. In this shabad, he tells us how meditation on God’s Name is a sign of God’s grace in itself and how much he loves and respects such a devotee who meditates on God and what kinds of blessings that person obtains.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), on whom God shows mercy, God’s (Name) sounds sweet to that person. The person who utters God’s praises, all that person’s sorrow and hunger (for worldly things) is removed.”(1)

Therefore advising his mind (and ours), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name (because one who) meditates is emancipated. Yes, by listening to (Gurbani) the Guru’s word with the ears, one who meditates on God’s Name crosses over the dreadful (worldly) ocean (and doesn’t suffer the pains of birth and death again).”(1-pause)

Now expressing his deep respect for the devotees on whom God has bestowed His grace, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the one on whom God shows mercy, (I pay respect to that one, as if) I have been sold (as a slave) at that one’s shop. (Because) by meeting the devotees of God we obtain peace, and it removes all the dirt of our evil intellect.” (2)

Commenting on the nature and conduct of devotees of God, he says: “(O’ my friends), devotees of God are hungry (for the Name) of God and a devotee is satiated when he or she
reflects on God’s praises. The devotee of God is like the fish and God is like water for it. So getting separated from God, the devotee cries himself or herself to death.”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “About this love, either (that God) knows who has imbued it or that (devotee) knows in whose heart, He has instilled it. Devotee Nanak, obtains peace by seeing God and all the craving of his body is satiated.”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name with such love and devotion that we may feel as if we cannot live without seeing Him. When we reach that kind of stage, we should recognize this as a sign of God’s love and blessings on us. Soon thereafter all our evil impulses would disappear, all our worldly hungers would be satiated and we would be blessed with His divine sight.

malaa mehlaa 4.

jitnay jee-a jant parabh keenay jitnay sir kaar likhaavai.

har jan ka-o har deen’i vadaa-ee har jan har kaarai laavai. ||1||

satgur har har naam darirh-aavai.

SGGS P-1264

har bolhu gur kay sikh mayray bhaa-ee har bha-ojal jagat taraavai. ||1|| raha-o.

jo gur ka-o jan poojay sayvay so jan mayray har parabh bhaaavai.

har kee sayvaa satgur poojhau kar kirpaa aap taraavai. ||2||

bharam bholay agi-aanee anDhulay bharam bharam fool toraavai.

nirjee-o poojheh marhha sarayveh sabh birthee ghaal gavaavai. ||3||

barahm binday so satgur kahee-ai har har kathaa suñaavai.

[tis gur ka-o chhaadan bhojan paat patambar baho biDh sat kar mukh sanchahu tis punn kee fir to ot na aavai. ||4||

satgur day-o parṭakh har mooraṭ jo amriṭ bachan suñaavai.

naanak bhaag bhalay tis jan kay jo har charnee chiṭ laavai. ||5||4||

Malhar Mehla-4

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name with such love and devotion that we cannot live without Him. When we reach
that kind of stage we should recognize this as a sign of God’s love and blessings on us. In this shabad, Guru Ji explains this concept from another angle and tells us how God yokes all creatures to different tasks and gives His devotees the honor of serving Him. He also tells us how useless is the worship of lifeless statues or graves and in contrast, how beneficial it is to serve and listen to the Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), as many are the creatures, which God has created they all (come into this world) after getting their assigned task written on their foreheads. However to a God’s devotee, God has given this honor that He yokes the devotee to God’s special task (such as meditating on His Name or protecting His creatures from evil doers).”(1)

But pointing to the special role of the true Guru and how we need to follow his lead, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the true Guru firmly implants (God’s) Name in us. Therefore, O’ the disciples of the Guru, O’ my brothers, (seeking the shelter of the Guru), utter God’s Name, because it is God who ferries us across the dreadful worldly ocean.”(1-pause)

Stating the merit of serving the Guru by following his advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), the devotee who serves and worships the Guru (by acting on his advice) that devotee is pleasing to my God. (Therefore, if you want) to serve God, worship the true Guru. Then showing His mercy God would ferry you across (the worldly ocean).” (2)

Now commenting on the merits of doing such ritual worships as plucking flowers and offering to lifeless statues or worshipping at graves, Guru Ji says: “(There are some) ignorant blind fools who, lost in doubt again and again, pluck flowers and worship lifeless statues or pray at tombs. They waste their entire effort in vain.”(3)

However before proceeding further Guru Ji clarifies who the true Guru is and how we should serve him. He says: “(O’ my friends), he alone is called the true Guru who knows the all-pervading God and recites the gospel of God. You should serve such a Guru in many different ways by respectfully offering him clothes, food, and silken robes. The merit of such a virtue never falls short (and brings rich rewards).”(4)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the true Guru who utters the life giving nectar sweet words is the visible embodiment of God Himself. Nanak (says), blessed and fortunate is that devotee who, (following Guru’s guidance), attunes his mind to God’s feet (His Name).”(5-4)

The message of this shabad is that God has assigned each and every creature his or her own task, but if we want to serve God and win His pleasure, then following Guru’s advice (Gurbani as included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji), we should meditate on God’s Name and humbly pray to Him to keep us yoked in His service.

**Sri Guru Granth Sahib**

**Page - 1264**

**It is the same light**

**Page - 270 of 912**
Malhar Mehl-4

Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad, with the remark: “The true Guru who utters the life giving nectar sweet words is the visible embodiment of God Himself. Nanak (says) that blessed and fortunate is that devotee who (following Guru’ s guidance) attunes the mind to God’ s feet (His Name).” In this shabad, Guru Ji elaborates on this theme and tells us how the saint Guru weeds out all the defects in his disciples and brings them closer to God, and how unfortunate are those who deprive themselves of this opportunity of benefiting from Guru’ s guidance.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in whose heart resides (the immaculate word of) my true Guru, they become virtuous saints. My heart feels delighted on seeing them, therefore I am always a sacrifice to them.”(1)

Guru Ji therefore advises: “O’ (divinely) wise people, utter God’ s Name day and night. Following Guru’ s advice they who partake the relish of God (by meditating on His Name) all their (worldly) thirst and hunger go away.”(1-pause)

Explaining how God’ s saints remove the worldly cravings and other faults in their devotees, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the servants and saints of God are (such close) friends of God that meeting them, all one’ s doubt is removed. Just as a swan separates water and milk, similarly a saint picks out the ego and jealousy from one’ s body.”(2)

Commenting on the state and fate of those who don’ t have any love for God in their heart, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they in whose heart is no love for God, those deceitful persons daily indulge in fraud. What can anybody give or feed them? They reap what they sow (and suffer the consequences of their own misdeeds).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling us about the high status which a devotee of God achieves. He says: “(O’ my friends), whatever is the identifying mark (of God’ s merit) the same is that of God’ s devotee. (In fact, God) enshrines Himself in His devotees. (Therefore,
I say that) blessed is Guru Nanak who sees the same (light of God in all), who has himself risen above praise and insult and has helped others also to rise above (such things).”(4-5)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to satiate all our worldly desires, remove ego and jealousy from within us, and rise above praise or insult, then we should seek and act upon the advice of the true Guru (as conveyed in Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib Ji), and meditate on God’s Name.

malaur mehlaa 4.
agam agochar naam har ootam har kirpaa tay jap la-i-aa.
satsangat saaDh paa-ee vadbhaagee sang saaDhoo paar pa-i-aa. ||1||
mayrai man an-din anad bha-i-aa.
gur parsaad naam har japi-aa mayray man kaa bharam bha-o ga-i-aa. ||1|| rahaa-o.

jinaar gaa-i-aa jinaar japi-aa tin sangat har maylhu kar ma-i-aa.
tin kaa daras daykh sukh paa-i-aa dukh ha-umai rog ga-i-aa. ||2||
jo an-din hirgai naam Dhi-aavahi sabh janam tinaa kaa safal bha-i-aa.
o-ay aap taaray sarisat sabh taaree sabh kul bhee paar pa-i-aa. ||3||
tuDh aapay aap upaa-i-aa sabh jag tuDh aapay vas kar la-i-aa.

SGGS P-1265
jan naanak ka-o parab kirpaa Dhaaree bikh dubdaa kaadh la-i-aa. ||4||6||

Malhar Mehla-4

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to satiate all our worldly desires, remove ego and jealousy from within us and rise above praise or insult, then we should seek and act upon the advice of the true Guru and meditate on God's Name. In this shabad, on the basis of his own experience and that of others, Guru Ji tells us what kinds of blessings those persons have obtained who have meditated on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), sublime is the Name (of God, who is) inaccessible and beyond the comprehension of our sense organs; by God’s grace (some) have meditated on this. By good fortune, (the person, who has) obtained the saint (Gurus) company, by remaining in the company of the saint (Guru), has crossed over (the worldly ocean).”(1)
Sharing his own experience, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, since the time) by Guru’s grace I have meditated on God’s Name, all the doubt and dread of my mind has gone, and now day and night bliss prevails in my mind.” (1)

Therefore, Guru Ji prays: “O’ God showing mercy, unite me with the company of those who have chanted God’s (Name or) worshipped Him. Seeing them, one obtains peace and all one’s pain and malady of ego goes away.” (2)

Summarizing the merits of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they who day and night meditate on God’s Name from the core of their hearts, their entire life becomes fruitful. All the life and death of those persons is rendered fruitful who day and night meditate on God’s Name. They themselves swim across (the worldly ocean); emancipate the entire world, (all those who follow their example) and their lineage is also ferried across.” (3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), Y ou Y ourself have created the entire universe and have Y ourself kept it under Your control. God has shown mercy on devotee Nanak and has saved him from drowning in the worldly (ocean).” (4-6)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to bless us with the company and guidance of saint (Guru) so that following his guidance we may meditate upon God’s Name day and night. Then showing His mercy God would pull us out of the poisonous worldly affairs and emancipate us along with our entire lineage.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to bless us with the company and guidance of saint (Guru) so that following his guidance we may meditate on God’s Name day and night. Then showing His mercy, God would pull us out of the poisonous worldly affairs and emancipate us along with our entire lineage. In this shabad, he tells us what happens to those who do not seek Guru’s guidance and do not meditate on God’s Name. He also describes some of the blessings those persons obtain, who follow Guru’s advice.

He says: “(O’ my friends, one) who by Guru’s grace hasn’t tasted the nectar (of God’s Name, that) one’s thirst and hunger (for worldly things) doesn’t go away. (Such) foolish, self-conceited, arrogant persons keep burning and suffering due to their ego. They waste their life in vain (in the rounds of) coming and going and they repent and grieve when afflicted with this pain. They don’t remember that (God) by whom they have been created; accursed is their living and accursed is the food (such thankless persons) eat.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “O’ mortal, seeking Guru’s guidance, meditate on God’s Name. (Actually, on whom) God shows His mercy, He unites that person with the Guru (and then one) merges in meditation of God’s Name.”(1-pause)

Commenting on the state and fate of the self-conceited persons, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the life of the self-conceited persons goes waste. They keep suffering the shame of coming and going (again and again). Drowned in lust and anger, these arrogant persons are consumed in their ego itself.”

Continuing his comments, Guru Ji says: “The (self- conceited persons) don’t (ever) obtain such intellect, which may help them succeed in life because their intelligence becomes weak and swayed by greed they suffer in pain. Without (the guidance of) the Guru they suffer in great agony and grieve in pain when seized by the demon of death.”(2)

However regarding the conduct of the Guru following persons and the blessings enjoyed by them, he says: “(O’ my friends), a Guru following person imperceptibly obtains the Name of the incomprehensible (God). The treasure of Name is enshrined in that person’s heart and from his or her tongue, that person keeps singing praises of God. Keeping attuned to the one word (of God’s Name) day and night, such a person remains in a state of bliss.
Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), I am a sacrifice again and again to the true Guru, because it is by the true Guru’s (grace) that God has come to reside in (my) heart. I dedicatedly place my mind, body and everything (else) before (the Guru) and keep my mind attuned to his lotus feet (the immaculate Gurbani). Nanak says: “O’ perfect Guru, show your mercy and unite me with you. (O’ my friends), being afflicted (with sins, we are like heavy pieces of) iron and Guru is like a boat or a ship (which can) ferry us across (the dreadful worldly ocean).”(4-7)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the shelter of the true Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name. By doing so we would avoid wasting our precious human birth and would be ferried across the dreadful worldly ocean and would be emancipated from the repeated pains of births and deaths.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised that we should seek the shelter of the true Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name. By doing so, we would avoid wasting our precious human birth, would be ferried across the dreadful worldly ocean and would be emancipated from the repeated pains of births and deaths. In this shabad, using the depth of his spiritual insight, Guru Ji tells us how not only the devotees of God, but even the animals and birds utter nothing but God’s Name. Therefore he once again advises us to accumulate the wealth of Name.

Addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, joining the company of Your saints, the devotees utter Your Name.”(1-pause)
Next addressing all of us, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, instead of worldly wealth, I suggest that you) earn and amass the wealth of God’s Name, which no thief can steal.”(1)

Continuing his advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just as upon) hearing the thundering noise of clouds, the pied cuckoos and the peacocks utter (God’s Name) day and night, (similarly you should keep uttering God’s Name).”(2)

Now telling us about another spiritual secret of God’s creatures, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, what to speak of human beings), whatever the dears, the fish and the birds utter, is nothing else but their meditation on God.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), Nanak says that the devotees, who have chanted God’s praise, (for them) has ended the noise (or fear) of the demon of death.”(4-1-8)

The message of this shabad is that even animals and birds, utter nothing but God’s Name. Therefore, we should also utter nothing but God’s Name. By doing so we would end our fear of death, and merge in God.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that even animals and birds, utter nothing but God’s Name. Therefore, we should also utter nothing but God’s Name. By doing so we would end our fear of death, and merge in God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), very fortunate are they who search God by uttering His Name again and again. Anyone who tells me the way to God, I would (pay so much respect to him that) I would touch his feet.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the extent of his love for God, he says: “God is my friend and mate and I have imbued myself with the love of God. I always sing about God and talk about God and I have abandoned any other love.”(1)
In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), my captivating beloved God is detached (from worldly affairs) and remains in a supreme state of bliss. Seeing Him even for an instant, Nanak feels (spiritually) alive.”(2-2-9-13-9-31)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to remain spiritually alive then seeking the guidance of the Guru we should try to see God by uttering His Name again and again.

**Detail of shabads: - M: 1=9, M: 3=13, M: 4=9, Total=31**

**Rag Malhar Mehta-4**

**Chaupadaiy Ghar-1**

Guru Ji concluded the previous *shabad*, with the statement that his captivating beloved God is detached (from worldly affairs) and remains in a supreme state of bliss. Seeing Him even for an instant, he feels (spiritually) alive. In this *shabad*, he describes the bliss, which one enjoys when one’s beloved God comes to reside in one’s heart.

Telling us that when God becomes our helper we don’t need any other support, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), what are you thinking, what are you trying to remember and what kinds of efforts are you making? (I tell you that) whose helper is God (the Master of universe), they don’t care for anyone’s (help).”(1)
Now like a young soul bride in whose house has arrived her beloved young groom, Guru Ji talks to his saintly friends and devotees and says: “O’ my mates, in the house (of my heart) has come (God) my Groom (and I feel so delighted, as if the) clouds (of bliss) are raining (in my mind. I am praying to Him): “O’ my Master, the ocean of mercy, please merge me the lowly one in Your Name, (which for me is like all) the nine treasures of wealth.” (1-pause)

Continuing the metaphor of the young bride who cooks all kinds of sweet and spicy foods and cleans her kitchen and house in every way to welcome her long separated beloved groom, Guru Ji welcomes God and says: “(O’ my Beloved), I have prepared numerous kinds of sweet and spicy dishes and have purified the kitchen (of my mind with all kinds of loving and immaculate thoughts); now O’ my God and king come to savor these (thoughts and delight my heart).” (2)

Next describing what happened when his beloved God came and set foot in the house of his heart, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when (God came to reside in my heart, and) made this house and temple as His own, all the villains (the evil impulses) in me were slain and my good friends (such as the virtues of truth and compassion) were delighted. (In short, when) my colorful Groom came to reside in my heart, I obtained all kinds of comforts.” (3)

Summarizing how he was blessed with such happiness, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I have been blessed with the support of the perfect Guru in the congregation of saints. (This blessing) was written in my destiny from the very beginning. (Since the time) devotee Nanak has obtained the colorful groom, no sorrow afflicts him after that.” (4-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we wish that showing His mercy, God may manifest Himself in us and we may enjoy a state of divine bliss, then in the company of saintly persons and under the shelter of the perfect Guru (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) we should sing God’s praises and meditate on His Name with love and devotion.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji used the metaphor of a young bride who cooks all kinds of sweet and spicy foods and decorates her kitchen and house in every way to welcome her beloved groom. In this shabad, he uses the metaphor of a young innocent milk-sucking child, who is totally dependent upon its parents for survival and safety to show how a human being depends on the affection and care of God for his or her sustenance and protection.

He says: “(O’ my friends), when a child is dependent upon milk, it cannot remain without milk. It feels satiated only when, caring for it, the mother pours milk in its mouth.”(1)

Comparing the relationship between humans and God to the one between children and parents, Guru Ji says: “(We are like) children and God is (like our) father and benefactor. (Just as even if) children make mistakes myriad of times still they have no other place to go (except the parents, similarly we have no other place to go except God).”(1-pause)

Continuing the same metaphor of an ignorant child and its loving parents, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), due to its mercurial nature, (when left to itself) the poor ignorant child places its hand (on such dangerous things as) fire or a snake (and then suffers in pain. But when) its mother and father keep it embraced to their bosom (and under their careful watch, then) it keeps playing (unharmed) and in bliss. (Similarly, forsaking God, a human being gets lured by false worldly pleasures and suffers in pain, but if one remains close to God, one remains safe and in peace).”(2)

Therefore expressing his own confidence in God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), whose father you are O’ my Master, what kind of hunger (or need) can that child have? In Your house is Name, the treasure of all the nine kinds of wealth, so whatever (that child desires), it obtains that.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling what he asks from God and suggests for what we should pray. He says: “(O’ my friends, God) our kind hearted Father has issued a command that whatever the child asks for it should be given. The child Nanak wishes for the sight of God and prays that (God’s immaculate) feet should always reside in my heart.”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to live in peace and pleasure and be safe from the worldly dangers, then we should remain close to God, have full faith in Him to care for us and fulfill our needs. Further, instead of worldly wealth we should pray to God to bless us with His Name and the bliss of His company.

Malhar Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji used the metaphor of a young bride who cooks all kinds of sweet and spicy foods and decorates her kitchen and house in every way to welcome her beloved groom. In this shabad, he uses the metaphor of a young innocent milk-sucking child, who is totally dependent upon its parents for survival and safety to show how a human being depends on the affection and care of God for his or her sustenance and protection.

He says: “(O’ my friends), when a child is dependent upon milk, it cannot remain without milk. It feels satiated only when, caring for it, the mother pours milk in its mouth.”(1)

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Continuing the same metaphor of an ignorant child and its loving parents, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), due to its mercurial nature, (when left to itself) the poor ignorant child places its hand (on such dangerous things as) fire or a snake (and then suffers in pain. But when) its mother and father keep it embraced to their bosom (and under their careful watch, then) it keeps playing (unharmed) and in bliss. (Similarly, forsaking God, a human being gets lured by false worldly pleasures and suffers in pain, but if one remains close to God, one remains safe and in peace).”(2)

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The message of this shabad is that if we want to live in peace and pleasure and be safe from the worldly dangers, then we should remain close to God, have full faith in Him to care for us and fulfill our needs. Further, instead of worldly wealth we should pray to God to bless us with His Name and the bliss of His company.
In the previous shabad (4-1), using the metaphor of a young bride Guru Ji expressed his joy by stating that in the house (of his heart) has come (God) his Groom and he feels so delighted as if the clouds (of bliss) are raining in his mind. In this shabad, using the same metaphor he shares with us the efforts and preparations he made to welcome his Beloved.

Explaining the efforts he has made to make the house of his heart worthy of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, in order to welcome my Spouse), coordinating all possible ways I have made the effort (to meet God). I have shed all (my doubt) and started the entire task of (cleaning and purifying the) house (of my heart). Now I have faith in the Master (that He wouldn’t let my efforts go to waste).”(1)

Describing what has happened since he made the above preparations, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, now) I am hearing the melodious sound of divine music (and enjoying a state of bliss, because) I have seen the sight of my Beloved, (and I feel as if the) dawn of (divine wisdom) has broken and there is bliss and joyous celebration in my heart.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the efforts he made and methods he has used to make his heart worthy of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, first) with full concentration of mind I embellished the place (in the heart where my God may come to reside and then) I went to ask the saint (Guru, what else I need to do to welcome my Master. In this way, after) searching again and again, I met my Groom and now bowing to His feet (with great respect) I worship Him.”(2)

Describing what happened after that, Guru Ji says: “When my beloved Spouse came and resided in the house (of my heart), I sang songs of joy. The perfect Guru united me with God and (all my sense faculties which are like my) friends and mates felt comforted.”(3)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(Since the time) the Guru has accomplished my tasks, (my senses faculties which are like my) friends and mates are in bliss. Nanak says that he has obtained the bliss giving (God) as his Spouse, who never goes far, leaving him (alone).”(4-3)

The message of this *shabad* is that like a loving bride we should clean and purify our mind by pushing out the dirt of evil thoughts and bad intentions. Then following the guidance of the true Guru we should search that God in our heart. So that in His mercy God may reveal Himself to us and we may enjoy the bliss of His eternal union.

Malhar Mehl-5

In the previous many *shabads*, Guru Ji advised us to seek the guidance of the true Guru and meditate on God’s Name under his guidance. But in spite of this repeated advice, forsaking God many of us keep doing sinful acts and then to wash off our sins we start doing ritual worships and praying before lesser gods and goddesses, instead of the supreme Being. In this *shabad*, Guru Ji very frankly tells about the fate, which all those big and small people including gods and goddesses suffer, who indulge in sinful acts or worship lesser gods and goddesses instead of the one supreme God.

He says: “From kings to worms and from worms to (*Indira*) the king of all gods, (no matter who they are, if they) do sinful deeds they all fall into wombs. Also forsaking (God) the treasure of mercy, they who worship any other (lesser god or goddess) are (like) thieves and killers of their (own) souls.”(1)

Stating the overarching principle, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whoever forsake God, suffer in pain and die in pain. Innumerable times, they wander in many existences but cannot find shelter anywhere.”(1-pause)
Without mincing words Guru Ji further declares and says: “(O’ my friends), forsaking the Master, they who contemplate anyone else are (like) foolish ill-bred donkeys. (To worship anyone else except God is like riding a paper boat). How by riding a paper boat can they cross over the (worldly ocean)? In vain they assert that they are swimming across.”(2)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, what to speak of others, even) Shiva, Brahma and all other gods and demons (without remembering the Supreme being) burn in the fire of death. Therefore Nanak (seeks) the shelter of (God’s) lotus feet and prays: “O’ God the Creator, please don’t push me away (and make me forsake You).”(3-4)

The message of this *shabad* is that no matter how small or big a person is, who forsakes the supreme God, and worships any other, that person keeps wandering in existences without any support. Therefore we should always pray to God almighty to never let us forget Him or worship any other lesser gods, goddesses, or human beings.

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In previous so many *shabads*, Guru Ji has told us that for reaching God we need the guidance and the grace of our Guru. Therefore in this *shabad* he describes how much he loves and respects his saint Guru who guides him.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I cannot live even for a moment without that (saint Guru) who is the detached lover of my beloved God. (In his company), I too have been imbued with His love.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the reasons why he loves and respects his saint Guru so much, he says: “(O’ my friends), in his company I am reminded of God and by saint (Guru’s) grace I have become awake (to worldly allurements). Upon listening to his sermon (my) mind has become immaculate and imbued with (God’s) love. I have sung His praises.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by telling us how he won the friendship of the saint Guru and what kind of blessing he is now enjoying. He says: “(O’ my friends), it is by giving this
It is the same light

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the bliss of God’s union then we should surrender our mind to our detached Guru and under his guidance sing God’s praises with true love and devotion.

Malhar Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the bliss of God’s union, then we should surrender our mind to our detached Guru and under his guidance sing God’s praises with true love and devotion. In this shabad, using the metaphor of a young bride he shows us how we should approach our Guru to unite us with our beloved God.

As if talking to his mother, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mother, unite me with my beloved Spouse. All my friends and mates in whose house (of the heart) their Groom resides, sleep in peace (and bliss while I am suffering in pain).”(1-pause)

Next Guru Ji shows us how to acknowledge our own faults rather than blame God or claim that we are also as good as others. Using the same metaphor of a young bride, he says: “(O’ my mother), I am (full of) so many faults but God is always merciful. What cleverness (or wisdom) I the meritless one have (that I may be able to meet God. But still I) claim myself to be equal to those (bride souls) who are imbued with the Beloved. This is the arrogance of (my) ego.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing how he obtained union with God. He says: “(O’ my friends), becoming humble I sought the shelter of the peace giving true Guru alone. (I) Nanak say that in one moment (the Guru) dispelled all my sorrow (and united me with my beloved God) and now the night (of my life) is passing in peace.”(2-2-6)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to pass this life of ours in true peace and bliss united with (God) our eternal spouse, then shedding our ego we should seek the shelter of true Guru (Guru Granth Sahib Ji).
Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad, by stating that becoming humble when he sought the shelter of the peace giving true Guru alone, in one moment (the Guru) dispelled all his sorrow and united him with his beloved God, and now the night of his life is passing in peace. In this shabad, he describes the same incident in a more picturesque and poetic way. Once again he imagines himself to be a humble young bride in love with her spouse who is talking to her mate and sharing with her, how she obtained the right guidance and obtained union with her beloved Spouse.

First using the analogy of a rain filled cloud he appeals to his Guru and says: “O’ my respected cloud (like Guru), don’t delay, pour down the rain (of your sermon). Yes, O’ my dear deliver your mind comforting sermon, (listening to) which bliss may prevail and there may always be a fervent craving in the mind (for my Love).”(1-pause)

Next most humbly addressing God Himself, Guru Ji says: “I depend on Your support, O’ my Master. Why do You forsake me from Your mind? I am (weak like) a bride and (powerless like) a slave girl who doesn’t have any respect without her spouse.”(1)

Finally describing what happened after that, he says: “When my Master listened to my prayer, showing His mercy He immediately came (to reside in my heart. Therefore I) Nanak say that now I have become the wedded united bride (of my Groom) and I have obtained respect and glory (and a reputation of) good conduct.”(2-3-7)

The message of this shabad is that we should listen to the sermon of our Guru (as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji). Following its advice we should humbly pray to God to come and reside in our heart. Then showing His mercy, God would reveal Himself to us and we would enjoy the bliss and glory of His eternal union.
Malhar Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should listen to the sermon of our Guru as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Following its advice we should humbly pray to God to come and reside in our heart. Then showing His mercy God would reveal Himself to us and we would enjoy the bliss and glory of His eternal union. In this shabad, he elaborates on the above advice and tells us what other blessings we obtain when we meditate on God’s eternal Name.

He says: “(O’ my friend), meditate on the eternal Name of beloved (God) and enshrine the vision of Guru’s personality in your heart. (By doing so) all one’s pain and sorrow ends (and one swims across) the dreadful ocean.”(1-pause)

Describing what other blessings a person obtains who seeks the shelter of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), one who comes to the shelter of God, all that one’s enemies are destroyed and all the slanderers are overwhelmed. Yes, the savior God saves one by extending His own hand and one obtains the commodity of Name.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in whose mind (God) has enshrined His immaculate Name, showing His mercy He dispels all that one’s sins. (In short), O’ Nanak, in whose heart (God) the treasure of all virtues has come to reside, doesn’t suffer any more pain.”(2-4-8)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our fears and pains, then we should enshrine the word of our Guru (the Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) in our heart and seek the shelter of our beloved God. Then He would save us from all our enemies and we would not suffer from any pain or sorrow again.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our fears and pains then we should enshrine (Gurbani) the word of our Guru in our heart and seek the shelter of our beloved God. Then He would save us from all our enemies and we would not suffer from any pain or sorrow again. In this shabad, he shows us how to seek the shelter of God and what to ask from Him.

Addressing God he says: “O’ God my beloved Spouse is dear to me like my life breaths. O’ the merciful Master, showing Your grace, please bless me with Your loving devotion and Your Name.”

Continuing his earnest prayer, Guru Ji says: “O’ my Beloved, (bless me that) I may keep meditating on Your feet (Your Name) and within my mind may always be a craving for You. I beg before the saintly people (and tell them) that within my mind is a craving for You.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by expressing how deeply he loves God. He says: “O’ God, Your separation is (like) death for me. I feel alive only when I meet You. (Therefore please do bless) Your devotee with Your sight.”

Nanak says, “O’ my God, show mercy (and bless me with) the support of Your Name, the wealth of my life.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the peace and bliss of God’s union then seeking Guru’s grace we should most humbly entreat God to bless us with His loving devotion and the gift of His Name.
So addressing his Guru, he says: “O’ my bliss giving cloud (like Guru, please) continue to pour down the rain (of nectar sweet words of your Gurbani. By listening to it) I have meditated on God the King (of the universe) and obtained peace. Now I am imbued with the love of my beloved (Spouse).”(1-pause)

Describing the extent of the love, which he has developed for God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, since the time) I have met with the helpful saint (Guru, my) destiny has manifested completely. Now even for a moment I don’t forsake (God) the ocean of peace, and I have obtained the (bliss) of Name which is like all the nine treasures (of the world).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, with the grace of the Guru) I have attuned my mind to the all-pervading God. Now peace has welled up in me, and all my pains have been destroyed. Nanak says that by contemplating God’s feet (God’s Name), he has crossed over the dreadful and very difficult to cross worldly ocean.”(2-6-10)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be free from all pains and enjoy the bliss of union with God, then we should listen to (Gurbani) the nectar sweet words of the Guru and meditate on God’s Name.

Malhar Mehla-5

In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji entreated his bliss giving cloud (like Guru) to continue pouring down the rain (of nectar sweet words of his Gurbani. Because by listening to it) he has meditated on God the King (of all universe) and obtained peace and has been imbued with the love of his dear Spouse. He continues the same metaphor of comparing his Guru to that bliss giving cloud, which when pours down the land blooms in greenery and crops receive a new lease of life. But only those lands benefit from the rains, which are somewhat level and porous enough to receive the water and absorb it. But those lands, which are sloping or rocky in which water cannot soak, remain virtually dry.

Using the above metaphor, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, like) the rain from a cloud (the Guru’s immaculate sermon) is spread all over the world. (But on whom), my beloved God becomes (especially) kind (that person listens carefully to this sermon and by following the advice in it) obtains bliss, joy, and peace.”(1-pause)
Listing what other benefits that person receives who following Guru’s advice meditates on God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, after listening to Gurbani, the person who has) meditated on the all pervading God in the mind, all that person’s troubles have been removed, and all worldly desire is quenched. (By meditating on God’s Name) in the company of saints, that person is emancipated from (the rounds of) births and deaths and doesn’t wander (in existences) again.”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, God protects the one who seeks the shelter (of His) servants. That person’s mind and body are imbued with the love of the immaculate God and he or she remains attuned to God’s lotus feet (His Name).”(2-7-11)

The message of this shabad is that when we listen and act upon the advice of our beloved Guru, God showers us with His mercy. Then all our pains and problems are ended and we get imbued with the love of His Name, that ultimately ends our rounds of birth and death and God accepts us into His blissful union.

Malhar Meela-5

Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad, with the remark that God protects the one who seeks the shelter (of His) servants. That person’s mind and body are imbued with the love of the immaculate God and he or she remains attuned to God’s lotus feet (His Name). In this shabad, Guru Ji describes the state of the mind of such Guru’s followers.

Lovingly addressing God, he says: “(O’ God), they in whose mind is the eagerness to drink the nectar of Your lotus feet (Your Name) and the anticipation of meeting You, how could they live a life of separation (from You)?”(1-pause)

Comparing the state of those who love God and those who forsake Him, Guru Ji says: “O’ Beloved, they who are thirsty for You are not distant from You. (But), the wretches who forsake my beloved God die an ignoble death.”(1)

In conclusion, he says: “(O’ my friends), they in whose hearts and minds, the Master of the universe resides, always see Him in front of them. O’ Nanak, (they know that He) is residing within all and is pervading everywhere.”(2-8-12)
The message of this *shabad* is that following (Gurbani) the Guru’s advice we should imbue ourselves with such a keen love for God’s Name that we always long to see Him. A stage would come when we would be able to see Him pervading not only in ourselves, but also in each and every heart and every place.

In previous so many *shabads*, Guru Ji told us that if we want to get rid of all our pains and sufferings forever, cross over this dreadful worldly ocean, and be emancipated from the rounds of births and deaths, then we should meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. In this *shabad*, he tells us, beside human beings, what other creatures have been emancipated by meditating on God’s Name.

First referring to Hindu legends Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, there are none) who meditated on God and whom (He) didn’t emancipate. (For example god Hansa, who) assumed the body of a bird, (god Machh who assumed) the body of a fish, (the sage Sirangi who got the) body of a deer, and the one who even adopted the body of a pig were ferried across by (meditating on God’s Name) in the company of saints.” (1-pause)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends, whether somebody belongs) to the lineage of gods, demons, gods’ attendants, or human beings (by meditating on God’s Name, they all) crossed over (the worldly ocean. In short), whosoever worships (Him) in the company of saints, (God) dispels all that one’s sorrows.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, whosoever meditates on God’s Name), gets detached from lust, anger, and the taste of poisonous worldly pleasures. Therefore, Nanak is always a sacrifice to those who worship the merciful Master of the meek and compassionate (God).” (2-9-13)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to enjoy a state of peace and bliss and be emancipated from the pains of births and deaths, then we should meditate on God’s Name in the company of the saints.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy a state of peace and bliss and be emancipated from the pains of births and deaths then we should meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints. In this shabad, Guru Ji shares with us his experience in the company of saints, which he compares to a shop run by God where instead of dealing in worldly things and earning profit of worldly wealth, you deal in and earn the profit of God’s Name.

He says: (O’ my friends), today I sat in God’s shop (the congregation of saints. There), entering in partnership with saintly devotees I procured the capital of Name, so that I may not fall into the hands of demons of death.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on his reasons for joining the saintly congregation, Guru Ji says: “Showing His mercy, they whom God has saved (all their doubts have been removed, as if) their doors of doubt have been opened. In the company of saints, (they) have obtained God the owner of limitless wealth (of Name), and have earned the profit of living in His presence.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they who have grasped onto the shelter of the eternal and imperishable (God), all their sins have been sorted out. O’ Nanak, all the woes and troubles of (God’s) slaves have been wiped out, and they won’t fall into existences again.”(2-10-14)

The message of this shabad is that if we want that all our sins are wiped out and we don’t fall into existences again, then joining the company of holy saints we should meditate on God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want that our sins are wiped out and we don’t fall into existences again, then joining the company of holy saints we should meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he notes that with rare exceptions, human beings keep running after worldly affairs trying to amass worldly wealth using all kinds of moral and immoral ways. The result is that they again have to wander around in lower species from where they had progressed to human birth. Therefore Guru Ji once again tells us the way to wipe out our sins and live in eternal peace.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in many different ways (humans) are being cheated by the attachment for Maya (the worldly riches and power). Among millions, rarely is found such a servant who is a perfect devotee since long past.”

Commenting on the state of an ordinary human being, Guru Ji says: “The body and wealth, which a man obtains after wandering in different places and tiring himself in the end, becomes the property of others. Concealing from people, one practices deception (for the sake of worldly wealth), but doesn’t recognize (that God) who is always with him.”

Stating the consequences of evil deeds and showing us the way to save ourselves, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, because of evil deeds done in pursuit of worldly riches and power, the human being) is again made to suffer in (such) low and helpless (species as) deer, birds, or fish. Nanak says, O’ God save (us) the stone (like hard hearted persons) so that we may enjoy the bliss (of meditating on Your Name) in the company of saints.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want to avoid the pain of suffering in lower species again then we should pray to God to bless us with company of His saints so that under their guidance we may meditate of His Name.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised that if we want to avoid the pain of suffering in lower species, then we should pray to God to bless us with the company of His saints so that under their guidance, we may meditate on His Name. In this *shabad* he shares with us what happened when he made an earnest prayer, and God showed His mercy on him?

He says: “O’ my mother, (when I made an earnest prayer before God), the evil doers (like the demons of lust and anger disappeared so fast, as if) they had died eating poison. My God has taken pity on me, and He to whom the creatures belong has saved them.”(1-pause)

Therefore on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji says: “O’ my brothers, that inner Knower of hearts, pervades in all (of us), so why should there be any kind of fear? He remains in our company and never goes away forsaking us. That God is visible in all places.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that God is the) support of the supportless and destroyer of pains of the meek. On His own, He has attached the beings to (His Name). Nanak says, O’ God, Your servants survive on Your support, therefore I also seek Your shelter.”(2-12-16)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want that our enemies are destroyed and we are free from all kinds of fear, then we should seek the shelter of God and ask Him to take pity on us and save us from our enemies.

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**Malhar Mehla-5**

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want that our enemies are destroyed and we are free from all kinds of fear, then we should seek the shelter of God and ask Him to take pity on us and save us from our enemies. In this *shabad*, he shows us how to counsel our mind to meditate on God and seek His shelter.

First addressing his mind and then us, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, we should contemplate on the feet (the immaculate Name of God. O’ my friends), my mind is so lured by the
thirst for God (that I wish that) equipping myself with feathers (I may fly and) meet God.’"(1-pause)

As they say, where there is a will, there is a way. Guru Ji now shares with us the result of his research on the way to meet God. He says: “After searching long and hard, I have found the way (to meet Him and that way is that we should serve the saint (Guru by listening to and acting on his advice. Further we should pray to God and say): “O’ my Master, please show mercy that we may keep drinking the great elixir (of Your immaculate) Name.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ God), screaming for help we have come to Your shelter. We are burning (in the fire of worldly evils). Nanak says, showing mercy on Your servant save him and make Your own.”(2-13-17)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to save ourselves then we should humbly follow Guru’s advice (the Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib) and pray to God to take pity on us and save us from the pain of worldly evils.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to save ourselves then we should humbly follow Guru’s advice and pray to God to take pity on us and save us from the pain of worldly evils. It appears that Guru Ji uttered this shabad, not only on the basis of his general observation but also on the basis of his personal experience. Because many times, his rivals and adversaries including his own elder brother Prithi Chand tried to slander him before the King. One time his elder brother conspired with the local chief to come and attack Guru Ji. But Sulhi Khan himself was killed on the way in an accident. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us how God always protects His devotees.

He says: “(O’ my friends), to love His devotees is the primal tradition of God. Destroying the slanderers (of His devotees) He has (so utterly disgraced them, as if He has) trampled them under His feet and spread His glory.”(1-pause)

Regarding the treatment accorded by God to His devotees, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God has always) glorified His (saints) in the entire world and has instilled love and respect
It is the same light

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, like a bodyguard) my Master has always protected His devotee; dispelling doubt and dread He has provided him with peace (of mind. In short), such confidence has welled up in Nanak’s mind that he says, O’ God’s servant go and enjoy in supreme bliss (because God won’t let any harm come to you).”(2-14-18)

The message of this shabad is that following (Gurbani) the Guru’s advice we should sing God’s praise and meditate on His Name so that we become God’s true devotees. Then God would protect us like our personal bodyguard and wouldn’t let any enemy or slanderer do us even the slightest harm.

In many previous shabads, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy peace in this world and be received with honor in God’s court, then we should seek the shelter of the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name. But the question arises what is so special for His devotees (in the hearts) of all creatures. Embracing to His bosom, He has saved His devotee and has not allowed even the slightest harm come (to him or her).”(1)
about the Guru that it is essential to seek his guidance. In this shabad, Guru Ji answers all such questions and tells us how much he himself loves, respects and follows the guidance of his Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), it is only through the Guru’s grace that we are able to see that this entire world is the expanse of the all-pervading God. Through the Guru (we also come to know that God has created) this world with the extension of three modes of Maya (so that it is revolving around the three impulses for virtue, vice, and power). It is through Guru’s grace that we obtain knowledge about the Naad (the music of yogis, or holy scriptures such as) Vedas. But without (the guidance of) the perfect Guru, there remains pitch darkness (of ignorance about everything).”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind (and indirectly ours), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, by repeating Guru’s Name again and again we obtain peace. Through Guru’s instruction, God comes to reside in the mind and with every breath and morsel, we meditate on our Master.”(1-pause)

Stating how much he respects his Guru and why, he says: “(O’ my friends), I am a sacrifice to the feet of the Guru. Day and night I sing praises of the Guru (and most humbly listen to and follow his advice, as if I) bathe in the dust of the Guru’s feet. By doing so we obtain honor in (God’s) true court.”(2)

Now listing some of the unique qualities of the Guru and why his guidance is so essential, he says: “(O’ my friends), Guru is like a ship which can ferry us across the dreadful (worldly) ocean. If we meet the Guru (and act on his advice, then we) don’t fall into existences again. (However, that person alone obtains the chance) to serve the Guru (and devotedly act on his advice) in whose destiny this blessing has been so written (by God Himself).”(3)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), for me Guru is my very life, Guru is my mainstay. Guru is my sustenance and Guru is my family. Guru is my Master, and I always remain in true Guru’s shelter. Nanak says that Guru is (the manifestation of) the all-pervading God whose worth cannot be appraised.”(4-1-19)

The message of this shabad is that the Guru is absolutely essential for guiding us in the conduct of our life, and helping us to swim across the worldly ocean. Therefore, we should listen to his advice daily (the Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib Ji), and try to lead our life in accordance with that guidance.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that the Guru is absolutely essential for guiding us in the conduct of our life, and helping us to swim across the worldly ocean. Therefore we should listen to his advice daily and try to lead our life in accordance with that guidance. In this shabad, he elaborates on this advice. He tells us the duties of a true devotee of God and how God blesses such a devotee.

He says: “(O’ my friends, a true devotee of God) keeps enshrined Guru’s feet (his immaculate advice) in the heart. (Actually) showing His mercy, God Himself unites a person (with the Guru. Because God) Himself yokes His devotee (to His Name and) the worth of such (devotees) cannot be described.”(1)

Therefore humbly addressing God, Guru Ji prays: “O’ the perfect Giver of peace, show Your mercy (and come to reside in my heart. I know that) by Your own grace You come to reside in the minds (of Your creatures, and they remain imbued with Your love.”(1-pause)

Emphasizing again the grace and sweet will of God, he says: “O’ God, singing or listening (to Your praise, all happens) as per Your will, and one who understands Your will remains merged in Your eternal (Name. Your devotees) live meditating on Your Name. (For them), except for You, there is no other place (or support).”(2)

Acknowledging further God’s all-powerfulness, Guru Ji says: “O’ Creator, all pain and pleasure happens as per Your will. In Your will You pardon or punish (anybody). You are the Creator of both ends (this and the next world). I am a sacrifice to Your grandeur.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), Your worth (or greatness), only You Yourself know. You Yourself understand (Your will) and listening to Your command, You Yourself explain it. They alone are Your (true) devotees who are pleasing to You and Nanak is always a sacrifice to them.”(4-2-20)

The message of this shabad is that we should never feel egoistic or proud that we are true devotees of God, because we regularly worship Him or meditate on His Name. Instead we should deem it as a grace of God on us that He has yoked us to this service.
Further we should accept all pain or pleasure as His will and keep attuned to His Name in all circumstances.

Malhar Mehlaa 5.

Parmaysar ho-aa da-i-aal.
Maygh varsai amrit Dhaar.
Saglay jee-a jaant tariptaasay.
Kaaraaj aa-ay pooray raasay. ||1||

Sagaa sagaa man naam sam'aaal.
Gur pooray kee sayvaa paa-i-aa aithai othai nibhai naal. ||1|| raha-o.

Dukh bhannaa bhai bhanjanhaar.
Aapni-aa jee-aa kee keetee saar.
Raakhanhaar sagaa miharvaan.
Sagaa sagaa jaa-ee-ai kuraan. ||2||

Kaal gavaa-i-aa kartai aap.
Sagaa sagaa man tis no jaap.
Darisat Dhaar raakhay sahb jaant.
Guu gavhu nit nit bhagvant. ||3||

Ayko kartaa aapay aap.
Har kay bhagat jaanee parthaap.
Naavai kee piaj rakh-aa daa-i-aa.
Naanak bolai tis kaa bolaa-i-aa. ||4||3||21||

Malhar Mehlaa-5

In many previous shabads, Guru Ji told us that when God shows His mercy on a devotee, he or she enjoys a unique state of peace and bliss. In this shabad, he shares with us how God became gracious upon him, and what kind of bliss he is enjoying. As mentioned before only the one who receives it knows about the true relish of such a divine bliss because one cannot fully describe it in the language of ordinary people. But still Guru Ji explains this bliss with the help of some common metaphors so that we may have at least some idea and feel inspired to meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God has become gracious (upon me and I am feeling that) a continuous steady stream of nectar is falling like the rain from a cloud. (With the falling of this rain all my senses are in such a state of bliss, as if) all beings and creatures have been satiated and all my tasks have been accomplished.”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind and us, he says: “O’ my mind, forever meditate on God’s Name. (We obtain it) by serving (following the advice of) the perfect Guru and it accompanies us both in this and the next (world).”(1-pause)
Elaborating on the bliss he is enjoying, Guru Ji says: “(I feel that) the Destroyer of fears has destroyed my pain. He has taken care of His creatures. (O’ my friends), that Savior is always merciful. We should always be a sacrifice to Him.”(2)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends), on His own the Creator has dispelled the fear of death (from my mind. Therefore, I say): “O’ my mind, forever contemplate that (God). Bestowing His glance of grace He has saved all the creatures. Therefore, every day we should sing praises of that Supreme Being.”(3)

In closing, he says: “(O’ my friends), that one Creator is all by Himself. The devotees of God know about His glory. He saves the honor of His Name. Nanak speaks what (God) makes him to say.”(4-3-21)

The message of this shabad is that we should have full faith that Gurbani (in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) is the word of God (Himself). Secondly if we want to enjoy a unique state of ecstasy and complete freedom from any pain or fear then seeking Guru’s guidance we should meditate on God’s Name.

Malhar Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should have full faith that Gurbani is the word of God Himself. Secondly if we want to enjoy a unique state of ecstasy and complete freedom from any pain or fear, then seeking Guru’s guidance we should meditate
on God’s Name. In this shabad, he elaborates on the excellence of the Guru and tells us how we should praise and follow our Guru and pray to God to bless us with the Guru’s guidance.

He says: “(O’ my friends), all treasures are contained in the shelter of the Guru. (By seeking Guru’s shelter), we obtain honor in (God’s) eternal court. By always singing praises of God in the company of saints, all our doubt, dread, sorrow, and pain goes away.”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind (and indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, praise the perfect Guru and meditate on the Treasure of Name day and night. (In this way, you would) obtain the fruits of your heart’s desire.”(1-pause)

Commenting on the greatness of the Guru and blessings he bestows on his disciple, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), no one is as great as the true Guru. The Guru is the embodiment of God Himself. (He saves his disciple) from the pain of birth and death. (One who comes to the refuge of the Guru) doesn’t taste the relish of worldly poison again.”(2)

Continuing to describe the Guru’s glory, he says: “(O’ my friends), the glory of the Guru cannot be described. The Guru-God always remains attuned to the eternal Name. True is Guru’s austerity and true is all the conduct of his life. Therefore, that (person’s) mind becomes immaculate who remains imbued with the love of Guru.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), only by good fortune do we find the perfect Guru. (One who is so blessed) forsakes lust, anger, and greed from the mind. O’ God, this is the true prayer of Nanak that showing Your mercy, enshrine Guru’s feet (the immaculate Gurbani, in his heart).”(4-4-22)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru, so that we may meditate on His Name. By doing so all our sorrow, suffering, dread, and doubt would end.

Note: -Sikhs should feel very fortunate, because they don’t have to search for any Guru, they have already been blessed with the eternal Guru Granth Sahib Ji.
It is the same light
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to become beloved bride souls of our God, then we should abandon our self-conceit and seek the company of saints. In their company we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name with true love and devotion so that showing His mercy, God may unite us with Him. In this short shabad, he observes a very common problem afflicting almost all of us. The problem is that ordinarily we remain lost in some sort of a pursuit swayed by the three modes of *Maya* or the impulses for power, vice or virtue. Often we get so involved in these pursuits that we lose our peace of mind and do not know what to do, as if we are lost in a forest. Guru Ji puts himself in our situation and shares with us his solution to the problem.

He says: “(O’ my friends, man’s) mind remains lost in the dense forest (like world). But when a craving (to meet God) arises, then with zeal and love it eagerly walks (on the divine path in the company of saints).” (1-pause)

Putting himself in place of such a person who is feeling that some worldly impulse is trying to sway his mind, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I feel that) the three pronged *Maya* (with its impulses for vice, virtue, or power) has come to entice me, I wonder) to whom may I describe the quandary of my mind (and ask for the remedy to counter it).” (1)

Now sharing with us what he did in such situations and ultimately what solution he found, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I tried all other ways (to fight such enticements but none of these) could remove my affliction. (Therefore) O’ Nanak, hasten to the shelter of saint (Guru) and joining him, keep singing praises of God. (Only this remedy can save you from worldly allurements and keep you in a state of peace and poise).” (2-2-24)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to keep our mind safe from worldly allurements and not let it wander as if lost in a jungle, then joining the company of saints we should keep singing God’s praises.

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**Malhar Mehla-5**

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to keep our mind safe from worldly allurements and not let it wander as if lost in a jungle, then joining the company of saints we should keep singing God’s praise. In this shabad, he tells us how beautiful
and pleasing it looks and feels when we sing His praise and what kind of enjoyment those persons experience who sing God's praise with true love and devotion.

He says: "(O' my friends), beauteous and pleasing is the glory of my Beloved. (As if) the heavenly singers and beautiful fairies (of heaven, such as) Haaha, Hoooho, Gandhravs, and Apsaras are melodiously singing His praises."(1-pause)

Continuing to talk about God's praise, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, it sounds) very delightful when the accomplished singers sing (God's) praises in innumerable melodious tunes and show their skills in many different forms."(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, that beloved God) is pervading in all the mountains, trees, lands, and waters, and He has His beauteous abode in each and every heart. Nanak says, that they who have a true and sincere desire (to see Him) have obtained the relish of (union with the) beauteous God in the company of the saints."(2-3-25)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the sight of beauteous God whose praises are sung both in heaven and earth, then joining in the company of saints we should also sing His praises with true love.

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Malhar Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the sight of beauteous God whose praises are sung both in heaven and earth then joining the company of saints, we should also sing His praises with true love. In this shabad, he shares with us his successful experience in the loving company of his Guru.

He says: "(O' my friends), through the love (and guidance) of my beloved Guru I have enshrined the lotus feet (the immaculate Name of God) in my heart."(1-pause)

Describing how fruitful has been the sight of his Guru for him, he says: "(O' my friends), so successful has been the sight of the Guru (for me, that) I have seen God (Himself). Further all my sins have been dispelled so completely that my mind has become (absolutely) immaculate and has been illuminated (with divine wisdom)."(1)
Describing further what happened when he saw the amazing sight of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, seeing the sight of God), I was totally wonder-struck. (I have realized that) by meditating on God’s Name, one’s millions of sins are destroyed. (Therefore) I have placed my head at Guru’s feet (for giving me such sublime advice and now my tongue keeps uttering): “(O’ God), it is only You, and You alone (everywhere). Your devotees depend on Your support (alone, therefore) slave Nanak too has come to seek shelter at Your door.”(2-4-26)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the most astonishing and wonderful experience of God’s sight then we should first inculcate true love and affection for our own Guru by listening to and singing Gurbani as contained in (Guru Granth Sahib) with true love and devotion, and then try to sincerely follow it.

Malhar Mehla-5

In the second paragraph of the previous shabad, Guru Ji had stated that so successful has been the sight of the Guru that he has seen the sight of God (Himself). Further all his sins have been dispelled so completely that his mind has become (absolutely) immaculate and has been illuminated (with divine wisdom). However it is understood here that seeing the sight of Guru doesn’t mean simply seeing his physical form. It means that on meeting the Guru, we have to humbly ask him to give us his immaculate advice, and then we have to act on this advice without polluting it with our own distorted intellect. In this shabad, Guru Ji shows us how to humbly pray to the Guru for his divine sermon, and then he shares with us the blessings he has enjoyed on meeting the saint (Guru) and following his advice.

So respectfully addressing his Guru, he says: “O’ cloud (like Guru, if God) permits, then pour (the rain of your divine sermon) with relish, so that I may enjoy all kinds of bliss and good fortune.”(1-pause)

Stating what kind of happiness one enjoys in the company of the saint (Guru), he says: “(O’ my friends), just as with the falling of rain the earth looks refreshed, similarly in the company of saints one’s mind feels delighted.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing his own state of love with his Guru and his reaction on meeting the Guru. He says: “(O’ my friends), just as a peacock is in love with dark clouds (full of rain), the mind of a pied cuckoo is attuned to the rain drop,
similarly my mind is attached to (my beloved) God. Because on meeting the saint (Guru), Nanak has awakened (to the worldly allurements) and has forsaken the deceit of worldly involvements.”(2-5-27)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all the deceit of worldly attachments and feel refreshed and delighted like that land which has recently received plentiful rain, then we should humbly listen to the Gurbani (in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.

Malhar Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all the deceit of worldly attachments and feel refreshed and delighted like that land which has recently received plentiful rain, then we should humbly listen to the Gurbani (in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us the essence of the advice in Gurbani and the virtues one obtains by acting on that advice.

He says: “(O’ man), sing praises of the Master of the universe and enshrine God’s Name in your heart.”(1-pause)

Continuing his advice, he says: “O’ my friend, joining the company of saints, shed your self-conceit and forsake false pride. Getting absorbed in (God’s) love, meditate on His Name. (By doing so) all your woes would vanish.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), Nanak says that when the all pervading God becomes merciful (on one, then) all one’s poisonous (worldly) entanglements are destroyed. Then attaching to the feet (the humble service) of the saintly people, one keeps singing God’s praises every day.”(2-6-28)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our worldly problems, pains, and sufferings, then meeting with saintly people, we should sing praises of God daily and enshrine His Name in our heart.
In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji advised us to seek the shelter of the Guru and under his shelter meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he explains what should be the relationship of a disciple with the Guru, and what kind of blessings the Guru showers on his disciple. He explains this relationship with the metaphor of travelers who in those days used to travel on foot and would often be thirsty for water and were always looking for a river, lake, or a pool.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just as with the falling of rain, peacocks and pied cuckoos start dancing in joy, similarly) one obtains peace and comfort when the God-like Guru pours the rain (of Gurbani, the divine sermon).” (1-pause)

Explaining the virtues of Guru’s words or Gurbani and God’s shelter with other analogies, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru’s ambrosial word (his sweet Gurbani is like a) non-stop melodious tune, (and to seek) the shelter of God (by meditating on His Name is like boarding a) ship to cross the (worldly) ocean.” (1)

Now explaining how the ambrosial Gurbani motivates the spiritual traveler, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just as shining of sun makes) a traveler thirsty and he or she looks for a water pool, similarly) the (spiritual) traveler’s mind turns toward the pool (of Guru’s ambrosial words) to obtain the water (of God’s Name. In this way) O’ Nanak, when the thirst and love for God arises in the devotees, showing mercy God blesses them (with His blissful sight).” (2-7-29)

The message of this shabad is that like a traveler on spiritual journey we should pray to the Guru to pour the rain of his nectar sweet words (his ambrosial Gurbani), so that we may quench our spiritual thirst and be imbued with God’s love and showing His mercy God may bless us with His sight.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that like a traveler on a spiritual journey we should pray to the Guru to pour the rain of his nectar sweet words so that we may quench our spiritual thirst and be imbued with God’s love. Showing His mercy God may bless us with His sight. In this shabad, he shows us how to pray to God for His mercy.

Humbly addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ the Master of the earth, Caretaker of the universe, my beloved merciful God (1-pause); Sustainer of our life-breath, Friend of the support less, and Destroyer of pain of the poor (1); O’ the perfect, all powerful (Master) beyond the reach of sense organs, please show mercy on me.”(2) (The world is like an) extremely dreadful blind well (of worldly attachment). Please ferry Nanak across (this well).”(3-8-30)

The message of this shabad is that this world is like a dreadful well of worldly attachments and if we want to be saved from the pains of births and deaths again, then we should humbly pray to God to save us.
Malhar Mehla-I

Ashatpadis Ghar-I

This *shabad* is another beautiful example of the height of Guru Ji’s poetic imagination. Using many picturesque examples he expresses the depth of his love for his beloved God, and indirectly shows us how we should also long for the bliss of union with our eternal Groom. Guru Ji also tells us, how close God is to us, and how we can see His sight and get united with Him.

First citing the example of a bird called *Chakwi*, who remains united with its male spouse during the day, but somehow gets separated from it in the night, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, during the night), a *chakwi* doesn’t want sleep in its eyes because without its groom it cannot sleep. But when the sun rises, on seeing its beloved it bows to its feet again and again (and plays at its feet with utmost love and respect).”(1)

Now expressing the extent of his own love for God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), love of my friend (God) is pleasing to me. Without Him I cannot live even for a moment in this world; such is my keen thirst for Him.”(1-pause)

Next taking the example of a lotus flower in a pond, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just as) the lotus plant is in a pond and the sun’s ray is (still) in the sky, (even then) it blossoms forth spontaneously. (Similarly) a lover (of God) has been imbued with such a love in the heart for the Beloved that his or her light (soul) merges in (God’s) light.”(2)

Now citing the example of a bird called *Chaatrik* whose thirst is quenched only when a (*swaanti*) special drop of rain falls in its beak during *Nachhattar* (certain lunar position), Guru Ji says: “Without (a special drop of) water a *chaatrik* keeps wailing and crying for its beloved again and again. Even though dark clouds may thunder and rain in all the ten directions, without (that special drop of) water its thirst doesn’t go away.”(3)
Next Guru Ji takes the example of a fish. He says: “(O’ my friends), a fish is born in water and resides in water. (In accordance with its destiny based) on its past deeds it experiences pain or pleasure (in the water). Without water it cannot remain even for a moment and its life or death depends upon water. (Similar is the state of God’s lover)”(4)

Finally comparing the human soul to a young bride separated from her husband (God), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the human) bride remains separated from (God) her Groom, (even though He) resides in the (same) country (her heart). But when through the true Guru she sends (a message in the form of Guru’s) shabad and amasses (divine virtues), then God residing in her heart becomes manifest and imbued with His devotion she feels delighted.’(5)

However reminding us about the importance of Guru’s grace, he says: “(O’ my friends, even though) the entire world craves for union with (God) the groom, only that (bride-soul) attains the Groom who is pleasing to the Guru. The (eternal) Groom is always with (the bride). But only on whom the Guru shows his grace, he unites her (with God).”(6)

Once again clarifying the above concept, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in all life is the life given by that same (God), who is pervading in each and every heart. Through Guru’s grace, the person in whose heart He becomes manifest, that person imperceptibly remains merged in a state of equipoise.”(7)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by showing us how to pray to God to unite us with Him. He says: “O’ the bliss giving God of the universe, please accomplish Your own task (of uniting us with You). Nanak says, when (the bride soul) realizes her Groom in her heart, the fire (of her worldly desire) is extinguished.”(8)

The message of this shabad is that our soul is thirsty and longing for union with its Groom (God) from whom it has been separated for such a long time. However it doesn’t realize that the Groom is residing right within its own heart. It is only when through Gurbani (Guru’s words) it sings praises of God and meditates on His Name that it realizes that God is residing in the heart itself, and then it remains united with Him.
This *Ashtpadi*, is a commentary on the state of the world, which seems to be sleeping under the intoxication of *Maya*, the worldly riches and power and is therefore suffering the pains of birth and death again and again and is being wasted away. In order to awaken us from this false sleep, Guru Ji tells us the truth about the world and our body, which we falsely deem as everlasting. He also tells us how we can realize these truths and live our lives accordingly.

First telling us about the basic things, which a person realizes, who becomes spiritually awake by serving and listening to the Guru. He says: “(O’ my friends, by) serving (and listening to) the Guru, one who remains awake (to false worldly enticements, and realizes that) except for God, no one is (truly) one’s own, (also realizes that just as) glass melts
It is the same light

It is the same light
down in fire, (similarly when breaths go out, the) body crumbles down (like a heap of dust).”(1)

Therefore, he says: “(O’ man), why do you take pride in this body or wealth? O’ fool, it
doesn’t take time for these to be destroyed. Such is the world, (but the mortal is such a fool
that one) keeps wasting oneself in pride and ego.”(1-pause)

Expressing his praise for God, he says: “I hail the Master of the universe and Savior of
creatures, (because it is He) who protects and tests us all. (O’ God), as much is the creation,
it all begs from You and there is none (other) like You.”(2)

Commenting on God’s powers, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), after creating the creatures,
(God) has kept the control of the way (of their functioning) in His hands. On His own, He
puts the eye powder (of divine knowledge) through the Guru. He is immortal, has no boss,
is the Master of all, and the destroyer of the fear of birth and death.”(3)

Explaining the flimsiness of this world with a beautiful metaphor, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my
friends), this poor world is like a fortress of paper, which (God) has cleverly painted and
embellished. Just as a tiny drop of rain or a slight puff of wind can obliterate the glory and
its existence (of the paper fort, similarly this world) is born and dies in an instant.”(4)

Next describing the frailty of our body with another example, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my
friends), just as if there is a house or a tree on the bank of a river and there is a serpent’s
hole in the tree, when the stream overturns (its bank, then) one doesn’t know where the
house or the tree goes and the snake may also bite (the owner, similarly when we depend on
anyone else except God, and there is duality) in our mind, (our life is ruined).”(5)

Sharing with us the merits of Guru’s instruction, he says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru’s
instruction and meditation according to the knowledge given by him is like the Garurr
mantra (the believed antidote for snake poison). Whosoever has this mantra has burnt away
the (worldly) poison through Guru’s instruction. So unique is God’s devotion (that one
has done it) has obtained the eternal (God) and that one’s mind and body have become cool
like ice.”(6)

Therefore humbly praying to God on our behalf, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, howsoever large is
this universe, it is all Yours. All of it begs from You and You are merciful to all. (O’ God),
we have sought Your shelter. Save our honor and bless us with Your eternal Name.”(7)

Once again commenting on the conduct of this world, Guru Ji says: “Bound in worldly
affairs, this blind world doesn’t understand any thing and keeps committing many cruel
deeds like a hunter. Only if it meets the true Guru, it understands and reflects (on the right
conduct of life) and then the true (divine) wisdom is enshrined in its mind.”(8)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “Without the eternal Name, this body (of ours) is meritless and
short-lived. (Therefore, I) ask my Guru about the (right way of life). O’ Nanak, that (Guru)
God shows us the perfect God (and we realize that) without the eternal Name, the world is
(like) a dream (which doesn’t last long).”(9-2)

The message of this shabad is that this world is temporary like a dream and our body
is very frail, and can get destroyed in an instant, by the slightest accident or disease.
Therefore we shouldn’t let ourselves be lured by the false worldly attachments or evil
It is the same light

temptations. Instead following Guru’s instruction, we should meditate on God’s Name, which alone would accompany us after death.

Malhar Mehla-1

This shabad is another most picturesque and wonderfully worded hymn uttered by Guru Ji in which he describes the deep inner craving he has for his Beloved God. He illustrates his description with some beautiful examples from nature.

As if talking to his mother, Guru Ji first cites the example of a bird called Chaatrik, which depends upon a rain drop during Nachhattar (certain lunar orientation) and then cites the examples of a fish and a deer, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother, just as) a chaatrik or a fish obtain comfort only from water, and to a deer only the special music of a hunter sounds sweet, (similarly I find peace only when I see my beloved God).”(1)
Then pointing to the chirping of a chaatryk also called babeeha in the night, he says: “(O’ my mother, just as) during the night this babeeha is chirping in the night (for that special rain drop, similarly I call for my Beloved).” (1-pause)

Continuing his conversation, Guru Ji says: “(Just as the love of a fish or a chaatryk doesn’t turn away from water, similarly) O’ my Master, if it so pleases You, (bless me that) my love (for You) may never turn back.”(2)

Describing the effect of his prayer, he says: “(O’ my mother, listening to my prayer God has so blessed me that my sleep (of worldly attachment) has vanished, the ego in my body has ended and true wisdom is enshrined in my heart.”(3)

Stating how except for God’s Name, nothing else satiates his spiritual thirst, he says: “(O’ my mother, just as a chaatryk may say: “I fly from one tree to the other, but I still remain thirsty (without drinking that special drop of rain water, similarly I may go to various holy places, but I am only satisfied) when I lovingly drink the (nectar of God’s) Name.”(4)

Describing the present state of his mind and body, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother, so keen is my desire to see that) Master of His will, that the gaze of my eyes is fixed (in His direction) and my tongue is wailing (for Him).”(5)

Just as a loving young bride doesn’t feel like wearing beautiful dresses or adorning herself in the absence of her groom, similarly Guru Ji says: “(O’ mother, I feel that in the absence of my Groom), the more I try to embellish myself with decorations, the more my body (soul) feels in pain and no clothes seem pleasing to my mind.”(6)

Summarizing the state of his mind in the absence of his Beloved God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ mother), I cannot survive even for a moment without my Beloved and I cannot sleep without meeting Him.”(7)

Now stating how his Guru has helped him, he says: “(O’ my mother), the Spouse is near (her, but the) poor (soul bride) doesn’t realize this. However the true Guru has shown God (to the Guru-following bride).”(8)

Therefore, Guru Ji comments: “(O’ my mother), when imperceptibly a human bride meets her spouse, only then has she obtained (spiritual) peace and has quenched her (fire like worldly) desire through the (Guru’s) word.”(9)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), Nanak says that only (by meditating on Your Name), my mind has been convinced and the worth of (this peace and bliss) cannot be described.”(10-3)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the blissful sight of our dear God, which may quench all our worldly thirst and hunger and grant us unique peace and bliss, then we should seek the advice of the Guru and under his advice develop such love for Him that just as a fish cannot remain without water, similarly without seeing His sight we should not be able to live even for a single moment.

It is the same light
It is the same light
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the blissful sight of our dear God, which may quench all our worldly thirst and hunger and grant us unique peace and bliss, then we should seek the advice of the Guru and under his advice, develop such love for Him that just as a fish cannot remain without water similarly without seeing Him we should not be able to live even for a moment. In this Ashtpadi Guru Ji tells us how difficult the path to union with God and salvation from birth and death is, and what kind of obstacles we have to overcome on the way. He explains the situation by citing many beautiful metaphors.

First giving the example of Akhali (a flamingo like bird with a long neck) and with a kind of pocket hanging from its neck, which it can fill with water before flying, Guru Ji says: “An Akhali may fly bent over with its pocket filled with water. It has to fly over a high mountain around which is such a deep moat, as if it goes to the underworld. (It would have to come down to the ocean again (when its water is finished. Similarly, no matter how comfortable one may feel because of one’s worldly wealth or power, one would find this world like an ocean of fire, but by) reflecting on the Guru’s world (and living one’s life accordingly, one would find that this world) has become an ocean of (soothing cool water. In other words) by stilling one’s ego one finds the way to salvation.”(1)

Giving his own example how he conducts his own life, Guru Ji humbly says: “(O’ my friends), I (the spiritually) blind one have been blessed with the illumination (of guidance) of God’s Name. Leaning on the support of Name I live (my life) under Guru’s fear and (by keeping in mind) the secret (of life told by him).”(1-pause)

Explaining how (Gurbani) the Guru’s word helps one on one’s spiritual journey, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), through the word of the true Guru, one understands the way (to salvation. Leaning on) the support of the Guru’s (word), one gains the support of eternal (God as well), and meditates on (God’s) Name through the beauteous word (of the Guru. In this way) O’ God, if it so pleases You, one realizes Your door.”(2)

Coming back to his own experience in this regard, he says: “(O’ my friends, when) attuning myself to the (thoughts of) one God, I fly (high in my imagination) or sit down (in composure) on the support of (God’s) Name through the Guru’s word. (I don’t have to cross any hurdles, such as) the ocean (of sinful thoughts) or high mountain range (of ego. In that state, one resides) in one’s own house (the God’s mansion) and there is no difficult path to be covered.”(3)
Explaining how mysterious God’s abode is, how essential Guru’s guidance in one’s spiritual journey is, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), only You know the state of mind of the one in whose heart You reside. No one else knows (Your) mansion. Without (the guidance of) the true Guru there is no understanding and the entire world is buried under (the weight) of ignorance. It wails and laments while making many (fruitless) efforts, but without (the guidance of) the Guru it doesn’t realize God’s Name. (But If one) understands the Guru’s word, one realizes that) God’s Name can liberate a person (from worldly bonds) in a short moment like the twinkling of eye.”(4)

Commenting further on the merits of Gurbani, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), there are some who are (spiritually) foolish, blind, ignorant and uncivilized (who do not care for the Guru’s word or Gurbani). But there are others who under the fear (and respect) of the true Guru, live on the support of (God’s) Name. (They know that) the word of the Guru is like an eternal stream of sweet nectar, and who so ever has tasted (this elixir) obtains the door to salvation.”(5)

Now comparing the state and fate of the Guru’s followers and the self-conceited persons, he says: “(O’ my friends), they who, while living under the fear and love (of God), enshrine (His) Name in their hearts and do what the eternal word of the Guru (says), like a cloud, the Guru pours the rain of (God’s mercy) on them. (By virtue of this, their hearts become immaculate like) the earth which has blossomed forth (with the rain fall). They realize that) in each and every heart is abiding (the divine) light. But such is the sign of a person without (the guidance of) the Guru, that swayed by evil intellect (he or she keeps doing fruitless deeds like) sowing in saline land. (In short), without (the guidance of the) true Guru, there is pitch darkness (of ignorance, and such people suffer, as if they have) drowned without water.”(6)

However Guru Ji wants us not to judge or point fingers at others. He says: “(O’ my friends), whatever God has created He has done as per His will. Whatever He has written in anybody’s destiny that cannot be erased. Therefore bound by God’s command, one does (good or bad) deeds in one’s life. (But the person) who is lovingly immersed in mediation of the one Word (the God’s Name, that person) merges in that eternal (God Himself).”(7)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by making a humble prayer to God. He says: “(O’ God), in all the four directions (of this world) Your writ runs and Your Name pervades in all the four directions of the nether worlds. God’s eternal word pervades in all hearts, but only by His grace is one able to meet that imperishable God. Over the heads of all is seen (the pain of) birth and death, hunger (for worldly wealth), sleep (of ignorance), and death. But O’ Nanak, on whom is the grace of the loving God, that person is blessed with (the boon of) Name which is pleasing to the mind.”(8-1-4)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that we should remember that if we want to obtain salvation from continuous pains of births and deaths and want to obtain eternal peace and bliss in the company of our eternal Spouse, the merciful God, then we should live our life in accordance with the advice of the true Guru (the Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.
It appears that Guru Ji uttered this shabad, keeping in mind a crane like bird called Aarr which, sitting on the bank of a river, keeps eating fish and other small creatures. It doesn’t care how many small innocent creatures it is hurting or putting through torture, but it grieves and cries in pain when it is itself caught in a fisherman’s net and fights for its own life. Guru Ji notes that like that Aarr, a human being also keeps hurting and usurping the rights of others to satisfy his or her own greed for false pleasures of the world. But when one is caught in the noose of death and suffers punishment for one’s sins, then one grieves and repents, but nothing can be done then. In this shabad, Guru Ji forewarns against such sinful conduct of life and tells us how we can avoid the punishment and pain of death.

Commenting on the state of human soul, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, like an Aarr) sitting on the bank (of a river, our soul) doesn’t realize the essence of death or emancipation. It only knows about this through the Guru’s word.”(1)

Now addressing the soul, he says: “O’ Aarr (like soul), how did you get caught in the net (of worldly attachment)? Why don’t you beg (for your emancipation) by remembering the incomprehensible (God) in your heart?”(1-pause)

Continuing the same metaphor, Guru Ji says: “(O’ human soul, for your comfort, you usurp the comforts of so many others, as if like an Aarr), for the sake of your one life, you eat so
many creatures. (Even though you are now living happily in the world, as if) swimming in water, (but ultimately) you would drown in this water (of the world).”(2)

Once again warning our soul, Guru Ji says: “(O’ Aarr like human soul), you have inflicted pain on all the creatures (which came in your contact), but you would repent when you (yourself) got caught (for your misdeeds).”(3)

Guru Ji further warns and says: “(Just as) when a heavy noose of death is cast around its neck, then (the Aarr) cannot spread its wings and fly away, (similarly O’ my friend soul, when a serious case of corruption and crime is built against you, then you won’t be able to escape punishment.”(4)

Therefore addressing the human soul, he says: “O’ foolish and wild self-conceited soul, you hunt for your food with relish (and joyously usurp the rights of others to satisfy your greed, but ultimately you would be caught in the noose of worldly enticements). You can get released from these bonds by reflecting on divine merits and knowledge.”(5)

Elaborating on the above advice, he says: “(O’ my soul), by serving the true Guru (and following his advice) the noose of death is broken. Therefore enshrine the true word (of the Guru) in your heart.”(6)

Continuing his advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my soul), only Guru’s advice is eternally true and (Gurbani) the Guru’s word is the essence (of all wisdom. It is only through Gurbani that one) keeps God’s Name enshrined in one’s heart.”(7)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my soul), whatever false pleasures in which we indulge result in our suffering. O’ Nanak, without meditating on God’s true Name, emancipation (from these sufferings is not possible).”(8-2-5)

The message of this shabad is that instead of causing pain and sufferings to others for fulfilling our own needs and depriving other so many poor people of their necessities, we should listen to Guru’s advice and acquire the divine merits of honest and compassionate living. We should remember that only by listening to Guru’s advice and meditating on God’s Name can we be liberated from the continuous pains of birth and death.
In previous so many shabads and Ashtpadi Guru Ji has advised us that if we want to live in peace and happiness in this world and obtain honor in God's court, then we should meditate on God's Name under Guru’s guidance. But the key is that we must have the guidance of a true Guru and not fake cheats in holy garbs. In this Ashtpadi he tells us how we obtain a true Guru, what happens after we find him and what true wisdom we obtain.

First telling us how we obtain the guidance of a true Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), only when we are blessed with the grace of God do we obtain (the guidance of) the true Guru. The (true Guru) cannot be obtained without (divine) grace. But when God so wills it, we meet the true Guru and become (pure like) gold (by following Guru’s advice).”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind (and us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, attune your self to God’s Name. (Remember that) it is only through the true Guru that we obtain eternal God and remain merged in God.”(1-pause)
Now listing the blessings one obtains upon meeting the true Guru and following his guidance, he says: “(O’ my friends, when through the guidance of the) true Guru (divine) wisdom wells up in us, this dread (of birth and death) goes away. From the true Guru we realize God and then one doesn’t fall into existences again.”(2)

Explaining how the Guru’s guidance helps a person in obtaining salvation, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, when one follows Guru’s guidance, then) by Guru’s grace (one erases one’s ego so completely, as if one has died to the world and after) so dying, one lives (an entirely new spiritual life) by acting in accordance with the (Guru’s) word. (In this way), only that one obtains the door to salvation (from worldly attachments) who dispels all self- (conceit).”(3)

Explaining the above in a different way, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), through Guru’s grace one (is so transformed into a pious person, as if one) is reborn in the divine house, because one completely dispels the material thoughts (from one’s mind. Such a person obtains the sense of discrimination (between good and bad from the Guru, meditates on God’s Name and thus) eats the uneatable. (The Guru, then) unites such a human being to the (supreme) Being.”(4)

Guru Ji now cautions about the reality of this world and tells us where we can obtain true understanding and true profit of this human life of ours. He says: “(O’ my friends), this world is a passing show, but the world is unconscious about it. Therefore one goes away from here loosing even the capital (of one’s life breaths). It is only in the company of saint (Guru, and only) through (God’s) grace, that we obtain the (true) profit (of God’s Name).”(5)

Again stressing the importance of true Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), you can reflect on this thing in your mind and judge for yourself that without the (guidance of the) true Guru, nobody has ever obtained (God). By good fortune, they who have obtained the (guidance of the) true Guru have been ferried across the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”(6)

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), for me God’s Name is my support and God’s Name is my mainstay. (So I pray): “O’ God, please show mercy and unite me with the Guru so that I may find the door to salvation.”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji observes: “(O’ my friends), in whose destiny God has written (the union with the Guru) that cannot be erased. O’ Nanak, those persons have become perfect to whom God’s will sounds sweet.”(8-1)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the true Guru, so that by following his guidance we may purify our conduct, still our self-conceit and meditate on God’s Name, which is the only true profit of this life that can help us cross over the dreadful worldly ocean.

**malaar mehlaa 3.**

bayd banee jag varatdaa tarai gun karay beechaar.
bin naavai jam dand sahaj mar janmai vaaro vaar.
satgur bhaytay mukat ho-ag paa-ag mokh du-aar. ||1||
It is the same light

It is the same light
Malhar Mehla-3

In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the true Guru, so that by following his guidance, we may purify our conduct, still our self-conceit and meditate on God’s Name, which is the only true profit of this life that can help us cross over the dreadful worldly ocean. However in Guru Ji’s time, India being basically a Hindu society was very deeply involved in the rituals and philosophy propagated by Vedas, the main Hindu scriptures, which revolve around the three modes of Maya called Raajas, Taamas, and Saatik.

According to the above philosophy, human beings either keep doing things to gain power, or indulging in dark deeds such as practicing falsehood, deception, or physical harm to usurp others’ wealth or property, or they do good deeds such as giving charity to gain glory in this life and salvation after that. But behind all these acts is a desire to satisfy their ego. Therefore, they keep going through rounds of births and deaths and never get salvation. In this Ashtpadi, Guru Ji comments on this situation and tells the way to find salvation from the rounds of births and deaths.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the world is engaged in living by the (rituals propagated in) Vedas which basically reflect on the three modes of Maya (the impulses for vice, virtue, or power). But without meditating on (God’s) Name it has to bear punishment given by the demon of death and it keeps dying and taking birth again and again. (Only the person who) meets the true Guru (and follows his advice) obtains emancipation and finds the door to salvation.”(1)

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, remain merged in (God’s) Name by serving (and following the advice of) the true Guru. By good fortune, one who has obtained the perfect Guru always meditates on God’s Name.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji also informs us that God does everything according to His own will. He says: “(O’ my friends), in His own will God has created this universe and He Himself provides sustenance. In His will, (whose) mind God has purified, that person is imbued with God’s love. In God’s will, that person meets the true Guru who embellishes one’s entire life.”(2)

Guru Ji further advises: “(O’ my friends), only through the Guru a rare person understands that eternal is the wonderful word of the Guru. We should praise that God by saying, “how wonderful is He” again and again. There is no one equal to Him. On

His own He forgives a person and unites with Himself, (but this union) is obtained by His grace alone.”(3)

Listing the blessings obtained by a person to whom the true Guru reveals the greatness of God, he says: “(O’ my friends), whom the true Guru has shown that the eternal God is the supreme ruler of the world, (that person obtains such bliss, as if) a rain of nectar is falling on his or her mind. (Moreover, such a person’s) mind becomes contented and remains attuned to the eternal God. (Then just as with the green and it neither dries nor withers (similarly that person’s mind never feels depressed and always remains delighted).”(4)

Continuing to stress the importance of the true Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), without the (guidance of the) true Guru, no one has ever obtained (God). You may go and try it in your mind. It is by God’s grace that we obtain (the guidance of) the true Guru and one meets
Coming back to the theory of three modes (of Maya) upon which the Vedas lay so much stress, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the very idea of three qualities which (pundits) keep studying and reflecting upon again and again is all short-lived Maya. (By entering into such philosophies, people) never obtain emancipation (from worldly entanglements), nor do they find door to salvation. (The fact is that without the guidance of the) true Guru, one’s (worldly) bonds are not snapped and one doesn’t get imbued with the love of (God’s) Name.”(6)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends, what to speak of the ordinary people, even) the pundits and silent sages have exhausted themselves reading again and again (about such theories and practicing the rituals of) Vedas. (But in this way), God’s Name doesn’t get enshrined in the mind, nor are they able to abide in their own home (God’s abode). The demon (of fear of) death doesn’t stop (hovering) over their heads because within them is deceit which brings about their ruin.”(7)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “Everyone craves for God’s Name, but without good fortune it cannot be obtained. Only when (God) shows His grace do we meet the Guru and God’s Name comes to reside in our heart. O’, Nanak, only through the Name does one gain honor (in His court. Therefore, I wish that I may always) remain absorbed in the Name.”(8-2)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that all glory and pleasure lies in God’s Name. Therefore instead of remaining entangled in such Vedic theories as the three modes of Maya and the rituals propagated therein, we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the true Guru. If we follow that guidance (which is now contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name, then we would obtain salvation from worldly bonds.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji told us that all glory and pleasure lies in God’s Name. Therefore instead of remaining entangled in such Vedic theories as the three modes of Maya and the rituals propagated therein, we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the true Guru. If we follow that guidance and meditate on God’s Name then we would obtain salvation from worldly bonds. In this Ashtpadi, he tells us how God does that and what kind of virtues and blessings God bestows on the one on whom He shows His mercy.

He says: “(O’ my friends), on whom God shows His mercy, He yokes that person into the service of the Guru. By dispelling (that person’s malady, the Guru) enshrines God’s Name in (that person). Then one acquires a steady state in which one attunes the mind to the eternal God. Then through the Guru’s word one recites Gurbani (to one’s mind).”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind (and indirectly all of us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, keep serving (and contemplating on) God the treasure (of all bliss). It is by Guru’s grace that we...
obtain the treasure of God’s (Name) and imperceptibly our mind remains attuned (to God) day and night.”(1-pause)

Commenting on the state of those who instead of preaching God’s Name instruct people to practice certain faith rituals, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, just as) a woman, who without the spouse adorns herself with ornaments, is considered immoral and is disgraced every day, similar is the useless conduct of the self-conceited persons who, forsaking God’s Name, strongly urge people to practice many faith rituals.”(2)

On the other hand regarding the conduct of a Guru’s follower, he says: “(O’ my friends), it behooves a Guru following bride (soul) that she embellishes herself by keeping God enshrined in her heart through the (Guru’s) word. Stilling her ego she recognizes the one (God). Such a bride (soul) is considered reputable.”(3)

But once again Guru Ji reminds us: “(O’ my friends), without the (guidance of) the Guru, no one has ever obtained (God. Instead of God), a self-conceited person remains allured by the greed of other (worldly riches. But if you ask any divinely) wise person, (he would tell that) without meeting (and following) the Guru, salvation is not obtained.”(4)

Guru Ji now points out another essential requirement for worshipping God. He says: “(O’ my friends), everybody boasts (that he or she meditates on God’s Name). But without one’s mind becoming still (and coming under control, God’s) worship cannot be performed. Through the divine wisdom (imparted by the Guru), whose mind is delighted (like a) lotus in bloom, in that heart (God’s) Name comes to reside.”(5)

Commenting further on the uselessness of ritual worships, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, you may see that) everyone is doing (ritual) worship (such as observing fasts, going to pilgrimages, or doing ritual recitations of holy books) as per the dictates of one’s ego. (But in this way) neither one’s mind is softened nor any peace is obtained. The one who claims (that he or she is a true devotee of God), all that one’s worship is useless and one is wasting (one’s human) birth.”(6)

Now giving the definition of true devotees and describing their conduct, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), only they are the true devotees who are pleasing to the true Guru’s mind. Day and night they remain attuned to God’s Name. They always see God’s Name (the hand of God in everything) before them. Yes, through the (reflection on the) Guru’s word, (they realize that God) is pervading every where.”(7)

In summary, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, on whom God) Himself bestows His grace, He blesses that one with His love. The world is afflicted with the huge malady of ego. Only by Guru’s grace, does this ailment go away. O’ Nanak, by meditating on the eternal (God), such a person remains absorbed in that true One.”(8-1-3-5-8)

The message of this shabad is that to perform true worship of God we need the guidance of the Guru and only by God’s grace do we obtain the guidance of the Guru. They who try to worship God without the guidance of Guru, simply waste their time. Therefore stilling our self-conceit, we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru so that under his guidance we may meditate on God’s Name and remain absorbed in Him.

Detail- M: 1=5, M: 3 (Ghar 1)=2, M: 3 (Ghar 2)=1, Total=8
raag malaar chhant mehlaa 5.

pareetam paraym bhagat kay daatay.
apnay jan sang raatay.
jan sang raatay dinas raatay ik nimakh manhu na veersrai.

gopaal gun niDh saadaa sangay sarab gun jagdeesrai.
man mohi leenaa charan sangay naam ras jan maatay.
aanak pareetam kirpaal saadhoo kiinaa kot maDhay jaatay. ||1||

pareetam tayree gat agam aparaay.
maa har maDh tum'aa tayaar.
paDhj panvin bhagat vachhal kirpaa sinDh su-aamee-aa.
satsangay bhaj nisangay ra'ku saadaa antarjaamee-aa.
kot janam bharmant jonee tay naam simrat taaray.
aanak daras pi-aas har jee-o aap layho sam'aaray. ||2||

har charan kamal man leenaa.
parabh jala han tayray meenaa.
jal meen parabh jee-o ayy toohai bhin aan na jaanea-ai.
geh bhujaa layvhu naam dayvhu ta'o parsadee maanee-ai.
bhaj saaDhsangay ayy rangay kirpaa gobid deenaa.
anaath neech sarnaa-ay naanak kar ma-i-aa apunaa keenaa. ||3||

aapas ka-o aap milaa-i-aa.
bharam bhajnjan har raav-i-aa.
aachari su-aamee antarjaamee milay gun niDh pi-aari-aa.
maa har mangal sookh upjay gobind gun nirt saari-aa.
mil sang sohay daykh mohay purab likhi-aa paa-i-aa.
binvan naanak saran tin kee jin'ee har har Dhi-aa-i-aa. ||4||1||
In the previous *Ashtpadi*, Guru Ji advised us that stilling our self-conceit, we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru so that under his guidance we may meditate on God’s Name and remain absorbed in Him. In this *shabad*, he shows us how to lovingly approach and pray to God to yoke us in meditation of His Name. He also describes how God loves His devotees and blessing them with His protection, ultimately accepts them in His eternal union.

So describing some of the loving qualities of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), our beloved Groom is the Giver of loving devotion. He is imbued with the love of His devotees. Yes day and night, He is imbued with the love of His devotees and He isn’t forsaken from the mind (of His devotees even) for a split second. That Master of the universe is the treasure of all virtues and is always with us. (In short, that) ruler of the universe has all virtues in Him. He has captivated the heart of His devotees with (the love of) His feet, who remain intoxicated with the relish of His Name. Nanak says that the Beloved groom is always merciful, but only a rare one among millions has realized Him.”

Therefore lovingly addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ my beloved Groom, incomprehensible and limitless is Your state. You have saved even the worst sinners. O’ the purifier of sinners, lover of devotees, O’ our Master, You are the ocean of mercy. O’ the Inner knower of all hearts, (I wish that) in the company of saints I may always unhesitatingly worship You. They who have been wandering through millions of existences have been emancipated by meditating on Your Name. O’ my respect worthy God, Nanak is thirsting for You. Please accept me as Your own.”

Continuing his love filled prayer, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, my mind is attuned in the love of Your lotus feet (Your immaculate Name). O’ God, You are like the water and we are like Your fish (who cannot survive without You. But in reality) O’ dear God, You are both water and fish. Except for You, we don’t know anyone else. Please hold us by our hands and bless us with Your Name. Only by Your grace are we recognized (anywhere. Therefore, O’ my friend), associating with the saints, worship the merciful God of universe with a single mind. Nanak says that even the lowly and support less, who come to (His) shelter showing His mercy, (God) has accepted as His own.”

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God the King is the destroyer of all doubts. He Himself has united His (creatures) with Him. That astonishing Master is the inner knower of all hearts. That Treasure of virtues meets His beloved (devotees). Great joys and pleasures have welled up in those who have contemplated the merits of God. Meeting Him, they have been embellished. Seeing Him, they have been captivated. They have obtained their pre-ordained destiny. Nanak submits that he seeks the shelter of those who have meditated on God’s Name.”

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to enjoy the comfort and the bliss of God’s union then we should most affectionately pray to God to bless us with the company of saintly people, so that in their company we may meditate on God’s Name with love and devotion, so that showing His mercy, God may bless us with His union.
vaar malaar kee mehlaa 1 raanay kailaas tathaa maalday kee Dhun.

ik-o'kaar satgur parsaad.
salok mehlaa 3.
gur mili-ai man rehsee-ai ji-o vuthai Dharan seeagar. sahb disai haree-avalee sar bharay subhar taal. andar rachai sach rang ji-o manjeethai laal. kamal vigsai sach man gur kai sabaad nihaal.

SGGS P-1279

manmukh doojee taafr hai vaykhu nagar nihaal. faahee faathay mirag Ji-o sir deesai jamkaal. khud-aa tarisnaa nigdaa buree kaam kroDh vikraal. ayyee akhee nagar na aavee jichar sabaad na karay beechar.

tuDh bhaavai santokhee-aa-aa chookai aal janjaal. mool rahay gur saay-ai gur pa-orhee bohith. naanak lagee taa-aa loo-aa sacha man sach. ||1||

mehlaa 1.
hayko paaDhar hayk dar gur pa-orhee nij than. roorho-o thauk naankaa sahb sukh saacha-o naam. ||2||

pa-orhee.
aapeen'aa aap saaj aap pachhaani-aa.

ambar Dharat vichhorh chando-aa taani-aa.
vin tham'aa gagan raaah-ay sabaad neesaani-aa.
sooraj chand upaa-ay jot samaani-aa.
kee-ay raat dinant choj vidaani-aa.

jiirth Dharmaa veechaar naavan purbaani-aa.

tuDh sar avar na ko-ay ke aakh vakhaani-aa.
sachai takhaat nivasas hor aavan jaani-aa. ||1||

Vaar Malhar Ki Mehlaa-1

Raanai Kailaash tatha Maaldey ki dhun

(To be sung to the tune of the ballad of Rana Kailash and Maldi)

As per Prof. Sahib Singh Ji, Guru Nanak Dev Ji most likely conceived the idea of composing this ballad after he saw firsthand the invasion of Mogul king Baabar on the city of Emna baad (Pakistan) where he was staying at that time. At that time this epic was composed in Paurrees (stanzas) only. Guru Arjan Dev Ji later added appropriate saloks (couplets), before each Pauree while compiling Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Guru Ji has instructed that this epic be sung to the tune of the epic of Rana Kailash and Maldey. These two real brothers were village chiefs under the jurisdiction of Raja of Kashmir and Mogul king Jahangir. In order to weaken them, Jahangir incited a fight between them. In that fight Maldey won and imprisoned Kailash. But later both brothers reconciled with each other and divided the kingdom equally between them. In this epic Guru Ji tells us how a continuous battle between good and evil is going on in this world, who is the initiator of this battle, and how we can come out as winners in this struggle.
Right at the outset, Guru Ji tells us about the importance of the Guru and how his guidance gives true direction and happiness to our mind. He also tells how those persons suffer who instead of following Guru’s advice follow their self-conceited mind. He says: “(O’ my friends, just as with the falling of rain) the earth is embellished, similarly on meeting the Guru (and following his advice) our mind feels delighted. Then everywhere seems lush and green and all ponds and tanks are filled to the brim. (Similarly on meeting the Guru) one’s mind feels so imbued with the love of the eternal (God, as if) it has become red like madder (in that love). Through (Gurbani) the word of the Guru, one’s heart feels delighted like the blossoming of a lotus and the eternal (God) comes to reside in the heart.”

However commenting on the state of the self-conceited, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), if you look at it carefully, (you would find that the state) of a self-conceited person is quite another side (of the story. That state is like those) deer who have been caught in the noose of death and they are seeing death hovering over their heads. The terrible afflictions of worldly hunger, thirst, slander, lust, and dreadful anger torture such a person. But so long as one doesn’t reflect on the (Guru’s) sermon, these afflictions are not visible with these (ordinary) eyes.”

Now indicating how one can get out of the above mess and realize the truth, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), when it so pleases You these eyes become contented and all the worldly affairs and entanglements come to an end. (O’ my friends), by serving the Guru (and following his advice), one’s capital (of life breaths) remains safe (and properly utilized). The Guru’s (sermon) is like a ladder and a ship (to ferry us across the worldly ocean). Nanak (says the bride soul who) clings to this (ladder) obtains the quintessence (and says, O’ God) You the True one come to reside in her heart.”(1)

In this couplet again, Guru Ji stresses the above point and says: “O’ Nanak, there is only one way (to meet God and there is only) one door (to His mansion. That way is to climb) the ladder (of meditation on His Name, which leads one to the mansion of God, and which one can truly call one’s) own place. O’ Nanak, (in that mansion resides) the beauteous Master whose eternal Name is the root source of all comforts.”(2)

As is customary in epic poetry there is always a hero or main character around whom the entire story revolves and often begins with his introduction. Following that tradition Guru Ji begins this epic with the introduction of God as the main character. He says: “(O’ my friends), after creating Himself (in both visible and invisible forms, God) recognized Himself. By separating the earth and the sky, He spread (the sky like a) canopy (over His throne). By supporting the sky without pillars He has beat the drum (of the supremacy of His) command. Then creating the sun and the moon He infused them with light. He then (did many other) amazing wonders like creating days and nights. (It is He who put) the thoughts of faith rituals such as bathing at pilgrimage places during auspicious occasions. O’ God, there is no one like You, what can any one say or describe. (You alone are sitting on the) eternal throne, all others come and go.”(1)
The message of this *Pauree* is that it is God who has created the entire universe and who alone is eternal; all others are subject to coming and going. Therefore, if we also want to get out of the circle of coming and going, then following *(Gurbani)* the advice of the Guru we should meditate on His Name.

However there are some who benefit from the Guru’s words of advice while others deem the Guru’s sermon as harmful. To illustrate his point, he sites the example of the month of *Saawan* (Mid July-mid August), which is generally a rainy month in India and tells what kinds of people feel happy in this month. He says: “O’ Nanak, if rain falls in the month of *Saawan*, it gives joy to four (kinds of creatures), the snakes, the deer, the fish, or those revelers who have wealth in their house. (Similarly when the Guru delivers his sermon it comforts the Guru’s followers).” (1)

**Mehla-1**

But the same rain may not be a very welcome sign for some categories of creatures. Giving some examples, Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, if it rains in the month of *Saawan* it brings separation (from comfort) to four kinds of creatures, the bulls (because they have to plough fields after rains), the poor (whose houses may start leaking), the travelers, and the servants (who have to complete their chores in spite of rains. (Similarly to some people, Guru’s advice doesn’t sound pleasing because it forbids them from their sinful pleasures).” (2)
Paurri

Now Guru Ji comes back to the unique merits of God, the hero of his epic. First he refers to the Hindu belief according to which God first created god Brahma, and made him emerge out of a lotus flower. But he thought himself to be the supreme Being and tried to find his origin but failed. He says: “(O’ God), You are the true eternal Being who has spread Your eternal power everywhere. (Before the creation of the world, You were) sitting in a trance hiding the lotus (from which god Brahma is believed to have emerged). Even though Brahma is called great, he couldn’t find (Your) end (or limit). You have no father, nor mother, (and nobody knows) who gave You birth. (O’ friends), He has neither form, nor features, (and out of) all castes, (He belongs to none). He feels no hunger, no thirst, and always is sated and satiated. By merging Himself in the Guru He has spread His word (of command in the entire world). By pleasing the eternal God (the Guru) remains merged in that eternal (God) Himself.”

The message of this Paurri is that God is present in all the nature, but no one has been able to describe His form or feature. It is only through the true Guru that we can listen to His message and reach Him.

Salok Mehl-1

It is believed that Guru Nanak Dev Ji uttered this Salok in connection with an incident when, noting Guru Ji’s abnormal behavior and lack of interest in the activities in which teenagers like him would normally indulge, his father called a physician to check Guru Ji’s health. As per the normal practice of those days, the physician checked his pulse and found nothing wrong with him. But Guru Ji himself knew what was bothering him.
Commenting on the above situation, Guru Ji said: “The physician was called to do my physical exam. So holding my hand he started feeling my pulse. But the naive physician didn’t know that there is pain (of separation from my beloved God) in my heart.”(1)

Mehla-2

In this stanza Guru Angad Dev Ji seems to be addressing those pundits and preachers who seem to be going around telling others how to lead good and righteous lives, without realizing their own faults and problems. He uses the analogy of a physician and as if addressing one such person, he says: “O’ physician, you would be considered an able physician if you first diagnose the malady (which is bothering the person’s spirit). Then you should search out such a medicine, which would completely uproot the malady (and dispel all the evil thoughts bothering the spirit). Yes, find such a medicine, which dispels the affliction and peace comes to abide in the body. O’ Nanak, (if you first) get rid of your own affliction (of ego and ignorance, only) then can you be called (a true) physician (or a spiritual healer).”(2)

Paurri

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji mentioned that God created Brahma out of a lotus. In this Paurri he explains how God expanded the universe and yoked the creatures to their different tasks. He says: “(O’ my friends), it is God who created (the three primal) gods Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. He entrusted Brahma with the task of uttering Vedas who then yoked people to their worship. In one of his ten incarnations (god Vishnu) came as king Ram, who hastened to kill the demons (like Raavan); all this happened as per His will. (Similarly, gods like) Ees and Mahesh (who are believed to be eleven incarnations) of Shiva didn’t find the end (limit of God. The fact is that) assuming eternal power, God has established His throne. Yoking the world to different tasks, He has kept Himself hidden. As per command issued by Him the judge of righteousness gets different deeds done (from the creatures).”(3)

The message of this Paurri is that instead of trying to preach to others, we should first of all diagnose our own maladies and find their remedies. Further we should realize that it is God who has created everybody including gods like Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva and has yoked all the creatures to their different tasks.

salok mehlaa 2.

saavan aa-i-aa hay sakhee kañtai chit karayhu.
naanak jhoor marhe duhaaganee jin‘ avree laagaa nayhu. |||1||
mehlaa 2.

saavan aa-i-aa hay sakhee jalhar barsanhaar.
naanak sukh savan sohaaganee jin‘ sah naal pi-aar. |||2||

pa-orhee.

aapay chhinj pavaa-ay malaakhaarthaa rachi-aa.
lathay bharththoo paa-ay gurmukh machi-aa.
mannukh maary pachhaarh moorakh kachi-aa.
aap bhirhai maary aap kaaraj rachi-aa.
sabhnaa khasam ayk hai gurmukh jaane-ai.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that instead of trying to preach to others we should first of all diagnose our own maladies and find their remedies. Further we should realize that it is God who has created everybody including gods like Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva and has yoked all the creatures to their different tasks. In other words God is the real Master or Groom of the human brides. In this Salok he shows us how to express our love for our beloved Groom.

Comparing Guru’s sermon to rainfall and imagining himself as one of His loving young brides, Guru Ji affectionately invites us and says: “O’ my playmates, (the Guru is delivering his peace giving sermon as if) the rainy season has come. (Take advantage of this rain of Guru’s immaculate words and) remember your Groom. O’ Nanak, those separated brides die repenting who (instead of God) are imbued with the love of the others.”

In the above couplet Guru Ji told us what happens to those human (brides) who are in love with others, instead of God their Groom. In this couplet using the same metaphor, he shows the opposite side or the happiness enjoyed by those Guru following souls who love only (God) their beloved Groom. He says: “O’ my playmates, like the rainy season (the time of Guru’s peace giving sermon) has come and like a cloud ready to rain (or deliver his sermon). O’ Nanak, those wedded brides sleep in peace who are in love with their beloved Spouse (and following Guru’s advice, lovingly keep singing praises of their beloved God).”

As mentioned in the introduction of this epic Guru Nanak Dev Ji probably conceived the idea of composing this epic after observing the battle between the forces of Mogul king Baabar and the then Lodhi rulers of India. In this epic he compares this world to a battleground or an arena set up by God for wrestling matches between the teams representing good and evil. Using this analogy, Guru Ji says: “(By creating the world, God) has Himself set this up like an arena for wrestling matches. Making much noise (like wrestlers, innumerable human beings have) entered this arena. (Out of these, the) Guru’s followers are in high spirits. They have very badly floored the foolish untrained self-conceited ones.”

However, telling us about the real person or power behind these matches, Guru Ji says: “(In reality it is God) Himself who is fighting these matches and defeating (the self-conceited evil doers) and He Himself has arranged the show. (O’ my friends), the Master of all beings is one (God, but we) realize this thing only through Guru’s grace. As per His will He is scribing the destiny on the foreheads (of all creatures) without using any pen or ink. His union can be obtained through the congregation of saintly persons, where God’s praises are
The message of this Paurri is that God has created this world like an arena for matches between good and evil or the Guru following and self-conceited persons. The former fight their battles with great courage and high spirits because they know that being on the side of truth, God is always with them. So they beat and crush the self-conceited evildoers very badly. Therefore if we also want to win the battle of life and go to God's court as winners then we should become Guru’s followers and keep singing God’s praises.
In the previous Salok, Guru Ji stated that they who are bereft of fear and love (for God), their bodies are never in peace. In this Salok he stresses on that point again and says: “Like a low descending cloud (the Guru has) come to pour the rain of fresh clean water (the immaculate Gurbani). But O’ Nanak, those brides (souls) are afflicted with pain whose minds are separated from (God) their Groom.”(2)

In the previous Paurri Guru Ji told us that God has created this world like an arena for matches between good and evil or the Guru’s followers and self-conceited persons. The former fight their battles with great courage and high spirits because they know that being on the side of truth, God is always with them. So they beat and crush the self-conceited evildoers. In this Paurri he elaborates on this concept and says: “Having created both sides (representing good and evil) the same one (God) is pervading in both. Having spread over the word of (holy books like) Vedas, He Himself has initiated the strife between the two sides. He has created both kinds of people, the ones who are fully involved and those who are detached (from the world). He Himself acts as a righteous referee between them. The self-conceited ones who deal in falsehood lose for sure in God’s court. But they who follow Guru’s instruction are brave warriors who have slain (and controlled the demons of) lust and anger. Being embellished with the (Guru’s) word they have been (approved) in the eternal (God’s) mansion. O’ God, those devotees are dear to You because they meditate on (Your) eternal Name. They serve their true Guru (by following his advice, therefore) I am a sacrifice to them.”(5)

The message of this Paurri is that we should feel very fortunate that the Guru has graciously come into our houses (in the form of Guru Granth Sahib) and like the low lying thick clouds is full of immaculate divine advice. We should carefully and devotedly listen and understand this nectar sweet Gurbani and try to live our life accordingly. Then we would enjoy peace in this world and honor in God’s court.

salok mehlaa 3.
oo°nav oo°nav aa-i-aa varsai laa-ay jharhee.
aanak bhaanpai chalai kaññ kai so maanay sadaa ralee. ||1||
mehlaa 3.
ki-aa uth uth daykhhu bapurhayi is mayghai hath kichh naahi.
jin ayhu maygh pathaa-i-aa ñis raakho man maahi.
ñis no man vasaa-isëe jaa ka-o nagar karay-ï.
aanak naadree baahree sabh karan palaah karay-ï. ||2||
pa-orhee.
so har sadaa sarayvee-ai jis karat na laagai vaar.
aadaagay aakaas kar khañ meh ñhaahi usasaranhaar.
aapay jaqu upaa-ay ki kudrañ karay veechar.
manmukñ agai laykhää mangee-ai bahuñee hovai maar.

Mehla-3

In the previous Salok, Guru Ji stated that they who are bereft of fear and love (for God), their bodies are never in peace. In this Salok he stresses on that point again and says: “Like a low descending cloud (the Guru has) come to pour the rain of fresh clean water (the immaculate Gurbani). But O’ Nanak, those brides (souls) are afflicted with pain whose minds are separated from (God) their Groom.”(2)
In the first Salok of the previous Paurri Guru Ji stated that like the low descending cloud the Guru has come to pour the rain of Gurbani and is displaying many colorful plays. He doesn’t know how his love with that Master would remain alive. He knows only this thing: that the love of those bride (souls) remains intact who have love and fear of God in their minds. But they who are bereft of fear and love for God, their bodies are never in peace.

In this Salok he goes a step further and says: “Like a low descending cloud, (the Guru) is pouring the incessant rain (of immaculate Gurbani). O’ Nanak, the bride (soul) who walks in the will of her Groom revels ever in joy.” (1)

Mehla-3

Now Guru Ji comments on the nature of human beings who rise up again and again to look toward the clouds with the expectations of rainfall, particularly during a drought. Guru Ji wants to point out that rather than looking toward the clouds, we should look toward God who has the real power to help us during drought or any other difficulty. He says: “O’ poor human beings, why do you rise up again and again and look (toward the cloud). This cloud has nothing under its control. So instead (of this cloud), remember Him in your mind who has sent this cloud. (However, human beings are helpless because) He enshrines (Himself) only in the mind of those on whom He shows His grace, and O’ Nanak, without His grace (the entire world) keeps making fruitless lamentations.” (2)

Paurri

In the previous Paurri Guru Ji stated that it is God who has created the universe and has created both kinds of people, those who are detached (from the world) and those who are fully involved in it and God acts as referee between them.

Elaborating on the above concept, he advises: “(O’ my friends), we should always serve (and worship) that God who doesn’t take any time in creating (anything).

Stretching the sky overhead, He can destroy and recreate it in an instant. Having created the world, He Himself takes care of His creation. In the yond, the self-conceited is asked to render the account (of his or her life) and is punished severely (for his or her misdeeds. But on the other hand) the account of a Guru’s follower is settled honorably, because (the Guru) blesses him or her with the storehouses of (God’s) praise. (There in God’s court) no one has any say and no one listens to anyone’s cries (for help). There (in God’s court), only the true Guru can be the helper who alone can pull anybody out (of trouble) at the last moment. No other kind of service is of any use to these creatures except that of the true Guru who is the emissary of the Creator.” (6)
The message of this shabad is if we want to obtain real peace and enjoy true prosperity then instead of looking toward the powerless things such as clouds, gods and goddesses or human beings, we should follow Guru's advice and look to him alone for saving us in God's court.

salok mehlaa 3.
baabeexa jis no too pookaardaa ts no lochay sakh ko-ay.
apjee kirpaa kar kai vassee van tarin hari-aa ho-ay.
gur parsaa dew paa-eai virlaa boojhai ko-ay.
bahdi-aa uth-di-aa nit Dhi-aa-ee-ai sadaa sadaa sukh ho-ay.
aanak amrit sad hee varasdaa gurmukh day vai har so-ay. ||1||

mehlaa 3.
khalu ho-eo maygnee ardeas karay liv laa-ay.
sachai suni-aa kann day Dheerak day vai sahj subhhaa-ay.
indrai no furmaa-ia-aa vuthaa chhabbar laa-ay.
an Dhan upjai baho qhaanaa keemat kahan na jaa-ay.
aanak naam salaahi too sabhnaa jee-aa daydhaa rijak sambaahi.
jit khaa sukh oopjai fir dookh na laagai aa-ay. ||2||
pa-orhee.
har jee-o sachaa sach too sachay laihi milaa-ay.
goojai goojee taraf hai koorh milai na mili-aa jaa-ay.
aapay jorh vichborhi-ai aapay kudrat day-ay dikhaa-ay.
mooh sog vijog hai poorab likhi-aa kamaa-ay.
ha-o baliharee tin ka-o jio har charnee rahai liv laa-ay.
ji-o jal meh kamal alipaat hai aisee banat baanaa-ay.
say sukh-ay sadaa sohnay jin kho vichahu aap gavaa-ay.
tin kho vijog kaa day nahee jo har kai ank samaa-ay. ||7||

Salok Mehaa-3

In the saloks preceding previous three paaurris, Guru Ji cited the example of people looking toward low clouds in the hope of rain. In this salok, he uses the metaphor of a bird called Papeeha, which passionately cries for rainfall because its very life depends on it. Guru Ji compares this bird to a seeker who craves for the nectar of God’s Name.

Addressing such a seeker of God, Guru Ji says: “O’ Papeeha (like) seeker, (the life rejuvenating water of God’s Name) for which you are crying, that (water) everybody
wishes to have. By His own mercy, He would pour the rain (of His Name with which all the seekers would be so delighted, as if) all the forests and blades have become green. However only a rare person understands this thing that we obtain (this bliss) only through Guru’s grace. If everyday, whether sitting or standing, (in all states) we remember (God), then there is always peace. O’ Nanak, the rain of God’s nectar (Name) keeps pouring down but that God gives (the wisdom to benefit from it) only to the Guru’s followers.”(1)

**Mehla-3**

Now Guru Ji uses the example of rain to advise us what to do in times of difficulty. He says: “(O’ man), when badly distressed by (the absence of rain) the world prays (to God) in all earnest the eternal (God) attentively listens. (Then) as per His innate nature, He comforts it and commands *Indira* (the god of rain, and as desired by God) it pours rain with abandon. (As a result), corn and wealth are produced in such great abundance that its worth cannot be estimated. (Therefore) O’ Nanak, praise the Name

(of that God) who provides sustenance to all. Because by partaking of that food (meditating on God’s Name) peace wells up (in one’s mind) and no sorrow afflicts again.”(2)

**Paurri**

In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji advised us that we should always worship that God who doesn’t take any time to create or destroy any thing. He also told us that the self-conceited are asked to render their account in God’s court and they are severely punished for their misdeeds. Therefore in this *Paurri* he shows us how to worship that God and tells us how we can live in peace both in this world and the next.

Humbly addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ respected God, You are eternal and true and You unite the true (virtuous people) with You. But those others (who love worldly riches) are on the other side (of truth. They practice falsehoods), but through falsehoods You cannot be met. (But actually, on His own God) unites or separates a person from Him and shows His natural power. The worldly attachment is the cause of pain of separation (from God, but one) reaps the reward of one’s past deeds. Therefore I am a sacrifice to those who remain attuned to God’s feet (His Name). God has made such an arrangement (that they who are attuned to His Name, even while living in the world, remain detached from it), just as a lotus remains detached in water. Those (human beings) remain in peace and look beauteous who have driven out their self-conceit from within. They who remain merged in God’s bosom (His loving meditation), never suffer from the sorrow of separation.”(7)

The message of this *Paurri* is that if we want to enjoy a perpetual state of peace and bliss then we should pray to God to unite us with the Guru. Then following Guru’s guidance we should dispel our self-conceit from within and always stay absorbed in loving meditation of God and His Name.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy a perpetual state of peace and bliss then we should pray to God to unite us with the Guru. Then following Guru’s guidance we should dispel our self-conceit from within and always remain absorbed in loving meditation of God and His Name. In this salok, he elaborates on this point.

He says: “O’ Nanak, we should praise Him in whose control is everything. O’ mortals, serve only Him (because) except for Him, there is no other (worthy of worship). If through Guru’s grace God comes to reside in the heart then forever peace prevails (in one’s mind). Then absolutely no doubt is left in us and all anxiety goes away. But whatever happens, happens in its natural way and nothing can be said about it. If the eternal Master comes to reside in the mind then one obtains the fruit of one’s desire. O’ Nanak, they whom (God) has entered in His account (and accepted as His own), He personally listens to what they say (and graciously fulfills all their desires).”(1)
Mehla-3

Referring to the salok in the previous paurri regarding the metaphor of a cloud for the nectar of Name, Guru Ji says: “The nectar of (God’s Name) rains down, but only those understand this (thing who are) capable of understanding. Through Guru’s grace, they who have understood (this secret), keep it enshrined in their hearts. Stilling their ego and (worldly) desire they drink this nectar and remain imbued with God’s love. God’s Name is the nectar and it rains down when God shows His grace. O’ Nanak, through Guru’s grace that (God), the slayer of demons becomes visible.”(2)

Paurri

Finally talking about the unique qualities of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), how can one evaluate (the qualities) of (God) who is beyond any evaluation? He cannot be realized without evaluating (Him or reflecting on His qualities). (We can reflect on Him) through (Gurbani) the word of the Guru. (One who does that) remains merged in His virtues. (The fact is that only) He Himself can evaluate Him (and tell how great is He), and on His own He meets (some through the Guru). His worth cannot be estimated, and nothing can be said about it. Therefore I am a sacrifice to my Guru who has given me true understanding. (Without the Guru’s guidance), the world is being cheated and (God’s) nectar is being plundered but the self-conceited persons are not realizing this thing. (A self-conceited person doesn’t understand that except God’s) Name nothing would accompany one (after death, therefore) one would depart from here wasting one’s (human) life. Through Guru’s instruction they who have remained awake (from the slumber of worldly attachments), have kept the home (of their heart) safe and the demons (of worldly sins) cannot do them any harm.”(8)

The message of this shabad is that God’s Name is the true nectar and it is obtained only through the Guru’s grace. This is the only commodity, which would accompany us after death. To obtain it we have to still our ego and worldly desires and we have to reflect on the virtues of God through the Guru’s words (or Gurbani).
In the first salok preceding paurri (7), using the metaphor of a Papeeha Guru Ji said: “The life rejuvenating water (of God’s Name) for which you cry, everybody wants that. By His own mercy He pours the rain (of His Name with which all the seekers would be so delighted, as if) all the forests and blades have become green.” But only a rare person realizes this. In this salok, Guru Ji again uses this metaphor to counsel us to learn to live contently in God’s will.

He says: “O’ Papeeha (like seeker), don’t cry. Advise your mind to obey God’s command. Because O’ Nanak, by obeying the will (of God), our thirst (for worldly possessions) is erased (and our mind feels so happy that) our love (for God) multiplies fourfold.”(1)

Mehla-3

Now Guru Ji notes another interesting thing. He observes that just as many creatures live and move around in water we all live in and move around in God’s Name. But like those creatures in water, we are unaware of this fact. So if through Guru’s grace we could realize this thing, then we could live in peace and happiness. Therefore, again addressing a human seeker as Pappeeha, Guru Ji says: “O’ Pappeeha, your abode is in water and you move around in water (of God’s Name. However) you do not know the worth of this water, that is why you are wailing. This water is raining over the earth in all the four directions and no place is bereft of this rain. If in spite of so much rain some die in thirst, (then it means that) they don’t have good fortune. O’ Nanak, by Guru’s grace only those persons have realized (this thing) in whose mind (God) has come to reside.”(2)

Paurri

In the previous paurri, Guru Ji stated that we cannot evaluate the qualities of God and without knowing His qualities He cannot be realized. In this paurri, he picks up this thread again and humbly addressing God, he says: “(O’ God), none of the great yogis, celibates, adepts, or peers (muslim holy men) could find Your limit. (Therefore instead of wasting time on such fruitless efforts), the Guru’s followers remain absorbed (in meditating on Your Name. They realize that if) for thirty-six Yugas (many eons), there was pitch darkness (of ignorance), then this is what pleased Him. (However one thing is sure) that it was He who spread the dreadful waters (in the form of mighty oceans) all around. He, the Creator of all, is limitless, incomprehensible, and immortal. (After creating the world, He infused the creatures with the) fire (of desire), conflicts, hunger and thirst (for worldly things. He also) subjected the world to death and duality (or love for worldly wealth, instead of God. However whom God) has given the right understanding (through the Guru, they have realized that it is) the savior (God) who saves us (from all pains).”(9)
The message of this *paurri* is that it is God who has created the world and worldly *Maya* including all the conflicts arising out of thirst and hunger for worldly things. However, we can save ourselves from all such troubles if, following (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, we meditate on God’s Name and remain absorbed in it.

Salok Mehlaa 3.

In previous many saloks, Guru Ji has alluded to the metaphor of clouds and rain and how during a drought, all farmers look toward the sky for signs of rain so that their withering crops and trees might be saved. In this salok, Guru Ji again refers to this metaphor to talk about the water of God’s Name, which provides us with true and lasting happiness.

He says: “(O’ my friends), this water (of God’s Name) rains all over in its natural state and character. But only those (human) trees become green (with joy), who by Guru’s grace remain absorbed (in this rain of God’s Name). O’ Nanak, by God’s grace peace wells up (in their minds), and the pain of these creatures goes away.”(1)
Mehla-3

However Guru Ji tells us that any peace or happiness obtained as result of the wealth gained from the abundance of crops due to rainfall is temporary. He wants us to enjoy a lasting peace and bliss and says: “If God so wills, the lightening flashes on a dewy night, (the cloud) bursts in torrents and wealth (in the form of crops) grows from this rainfall. On consuming (this wealth) one’s mind is satiated and the creatures know the way to survive. However this wealth is just a play of the Creator, sometimes it comes and sometimes it goes away. For the (divinely) wise, (the true) wealth is (God’s) Name, in which they always remain absorbed. O’ Nanak, He blesses those with this wealth on whom He casts His glance of grace.”(2)

Paurri

In the previous paurri, Guru Ji told us that it is God, who has created the world and worldly Maya including all the conflicts arising out of thirst and hunger for worldly things. However we can save ourselves from all such troubles if, following Guru’s word, we meditate on God’s Name and remain absorbed in it. Therefore in this Paurri, he says: “(O’ my friends, when I know that it is God who) Himself does and gets every thing done (from the creatures), then before whom can I complain? He on His own would ask for the accounts of deeds, which He is making us do. Whatever pleases Him that happens, (so only) a fool would order (Him to do any thing). Only when He Himself gets us emancipated, we are emancipated and He Himself has the power to forgive. He Himself watches and listens (to our prayers) and provides sustenance to all. The one (God) pervades in all and He takes care of each and every one. When through the Guru, we reflect on ourselves, we are imbued with the love of the eternal (God). O’ Nanak, (this gift of self-reflection) He Himself gives (to some), and we cannot ask anyone else (for this gift).”(10)

The message of this Paurri is that worldly riches come and go, but the wealth that lasts forever is that of God’s Name, which we obtain only by God’s grace. We have to remember that it is God who does and gets everything done. He knows all, and our needs. We should follow Guru’s advice and reflect on ourselves so that we are imbued with His love and absorbed in His Name.

salok mehlaa 3.

baabehaa ayyhu jagat hai maat ko bharam bhulaa-ay.
ih baabeehhaa pasoo hai is no boojhna naahi.
amrët har kaa naam hai jît peetai tîkh jaa-ay.
naanak gurmukh jînH pee-aa tinH bahuR na laagee aa-ay. ||1||

mehlaa 3.

malar seeëtal raag hai har Dhi-aa-i-ai saaët ho-ay.
har jee-o apgee kirpaa karay jaaë vartai sabh ho-ay.
vuthë jee-aa jugat ho-ay Dharnee no seegaar ho-ay.
naanak ih jagaë sabh jai jai jai sabh ko-ay.
gur parsaadee ko virlaa boojhë so jan mukat saađaa ho-ay. ||2||
The melody of *Malhar* is very much associated with the rainy season when the birds like *Papeehas* (sparrow hawks) cry and wail again and again for special drops of rainwater. In addition to quenching the thirsts of the creatures rain gives a new lease on life to crops, brings wealth to farmers and prosperity to the general public. In this *salok*, Guru Ji compares this entire world to a *Papeeha* and tells how it can quench its thirst.

He says: “(O’ my friends), let no one stray in doubt (about the nature of) this world, (because in reality) this world is like a *Papeeha*. This *Papeeha* is (ignorant like) an animal and it doesn’t have any understanding. (It doesn’t know that God’s) Name is that immortalizing elixir upon drinking which, one’s thirst (for worldly things) goes away. O’ Nanak, the Guru’s followers who have partaken of (this nectar), have not been afflicted (with this worldly thirst) again.”(1)

**Mehla-3**

Now Guru Ji tells us how we can obtain true peace by singing in melodies like *Malhar* and shows us another side of the world. He says: “*Malhar* is a very soothing melody, (but) we obtain true peace when (through this melody) we meditate on God. When the beloved God shows His mercy, then just like rainfall, the earth gets embellished and the creatures feel energized with new life, (similarly this peace) pervades the entire world. O’ Nanak this entire world is like the water (of God’s Name). It is from this water (of God’s Name) that everything emerges. However by Guru’s grace only some rare person understands this thing and that person is emancipated forever.”(2)

**Paurri**

After comparing this entire world to a *Papeeha* crying for the life-giving water of God’s Name, Guru Ji makes a humble submission to God Himself and says: “O’ God, You are the only one immortal carefree Master. You, by Yourself are everything, who else can I count (as Your equal)? False is human pride (for anything); true is only Your glory. Setting up the (process of) coming and going, You created this universe. But the coming of that one should be counted (fruitful) who serves (and follows) one’s true Guru. If (one’s) ego departs from within, then (one doesn’t feel the necessity) of doing any kind of counting. But the self-conceited person keeps wandering in darkness of (worldly) attachments) like the one lost in a jungle. However even a drop (of God’s) Name can eradicate myriad of sins.”(11)
The message of this Paurri is that although this entire world is like a Papeeha and is thirsting to fulfill its worldly desires, it doesn’t understand that only the water of God’s Name can quench its thirst forever. Therefore following Guru’s advice, one who meditates on God’s Name all that one’s worldly desires are stilled, myriads of sins are washed off, and one obtains salvation from coming and going in and out of this world.

Salok Mehla-3

In the previous paurri, Guru Ji told us that although this entire world is like a Papeeha and is thirsting to fulfill its worldly desires, it doesn’t understand that only the water of God’s Name could quench its thirst forever. Therefore following Guru’s advice, one who meditates on God’s Name all that one’s worldly desires are stilled, myriads of sins are washed off, and one obtains salvation from coming and going in and out of this world. In this salok, still comparing an ordinary human being to a Papeeha he tells how not only he, but also the entire world, can quench its worldly thirst.

Addressing an ordinary human being thirsting for worldly wealth as a Papeeha, Guru Ji says: “O’ Papeeha (like seeker), you don’t know the mansion of (your real) Master (and you are crying before powerless entities, that is why your prayers are not being answered. First you should pray to) see the mansion (of the true Master. As long as) guided by your own self-conceit, you keep crying, that crying won’t bring any fruit. (But the true Master) is a great Giver. (If you pray before Him) you would obtain whatever you wish. (Actually), what to speak of a poor Papeeha (like ordinary human being, by praying at His door) the thirst of the entire world goes away.”(1)
Mehla-3

Now Guru Ji goes a step further and describes what happens when like a Papeeha crying for life giving water, rising up early in the morning one prays for the gift of God’s Name. He says: “When during the dewy, wet night (early morning, like) a Papeeha in its true innate nature, one prays (for the water of God’s Name and says): “This water (of God’s Name) is my very life. Without this water I cannot survive, (God answers one’s prayer. This is how, by making a prayer) through the Guru’s word and shedding our self-conceit, we obtain the water (of God’s Name). O’ Nanak, without whom one cannot survive even for a moment, the true Guru unites (a seeker) with that God.”(2)

Paurri

In the opening lines of the first salok. Guru Ji told us that the prayer of a seeker doesn’t get answered, if the latter keeps crying before ordinary human beings. It will only be fulfilled, when the seeker prays before (God) the true Master, who alone can satisfy the needs of the entire world. Therefore in this Paurri, Guru Ji describes the greatness of God and exposes the hollowness of those who call them kings or very rich persons.

Addressing God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), myriads are the worlds and underworlds (in Your universe) that I cannot count. You are its Creator and You are its Master. You have created this universe and You have destroyed it. It is from You that millions of species have come to be. There are many who call themselves kings, chiefs, and emperors. Amassing wealth some call themselves rich bankers, but being in love with the other (worldly wealth, instead of God), they have lost their honor. There are some givers, and some beggars, but above all is that (same God). (All those) who are bereft of God’s Name are (like) street clowns and remain dread stricken. O’ Nanak, the falsehood (and all false pretension) perishes (in the end), and only that remains which the eternal (God) does.”(12)

The message of this Paurri is that all the worldly wealth and power and those who possess it are powerless and perishable. Therefore following Guru’s advice we should sincerely pray to God for blessing us with the gift of His Name, which can satisfy all our thirst and hunger and help us live forever in peace and bliss.
In the first salok preceding the last paurri addressing a seeker in the metaphor of a Pappeeha, Guru Ji said: “O’ Papeeha (like seeker), you don’t know the mansion of the real Master. You are crying before powerless entities, that is why your prayers are not being answered. First you should pray to see the mansion of the true Master. As long as guided by your own self-conceit you keep crying, that crying won’t bring any fruit. Now in this salok, continuing the same metaphor and also comparing the seeker to a human bride, Guru Ji tells us what kinds of human beings are able to obtain to the mansion of God and what are the blessings they enjoy after reaching that mansion.

He says: “O’ Papeeha (like seeker), the virtuous bride (soul) finds (God’s mansion; but) the unworthy remains far removed from it. (O’ bride soul), God abides within you and through Guru’s grace you can always see Him right in front of you. (Once one sees Him), then no hue and cry happens, because just by His glance of grace one is delighted. O’ Nanak, they who are imbued with the love of (God’s) Name, imperceptibly meet (God) by doing the hard work (of meditating on God’s Name) through (Gurbani) the word of the Guru.”(1)

Mehla-3

Continuing the same metaphor, Guru Ji describes what happens when a seeker makes an earnest prayer before God. He says: “When a Papeeha (like seeker) makes an earnest prayer and says: “(O’ God), showing Your mercy please give me the gift of life (sustaining water of Your Name). Without that water my thirst is not quenched, and my life breaths are finished. (O’ God), You are the limitless Giver of comfort, and the treasure of virtues. Nanak, (says that upon listening to such prayer, God) forgives a Guru’s follower and becomes that person’s helper in the end.”(2)

Paurri

In the previous paurri Guru Ji told us that all the worldly wealth and power and those who possess it are powerless and perishable. Therefore following Guru’s advice, we should sincerely pray to God to bless us with the gift of His Name, which can satisfy all our thirst and hunger and help us live forever in peace and bliss. Now Guru Ji tells us what blessings they obtain who love God’s Name, and what happens to those who do not care for His Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), after creating the world, (God) Himself ponders over the merits and faults (of the creatures. The expanse of) all the three (worldly impulses for vice, virtue, or power) is all like a net (which God has spread to trap the unwise creatures who)
don’t imbue themselves with the love of (God’s) Name. (They who are caught in this net), forsaking virtues perform evil deeds and are therefore disgraced in God’s court. They have lost their (human) life in gamble and in vain is the advent of such people in this world. (On the other hand), they who have stilled their minds through the Guru’s word remain imbued with the love of (God’s) Name day and night. (Such people, who) have enshrined the eternal, indescribable, and limitless (God) in their hearts, (humbly pray and say, “O’ God) You are the Giver and treasure of virtues, but we are full of faults. Whom You forgive, obtains You by reflecting on Guru’s word.”(13)

The message of this paurri is that instead of getting entangled in the three worldly impulses for vice, virtue, or power we should reflect on Gurbani, try to follow its advice, and meditate on God’s Name. Only then would we reach His palace and enjoy the blessings of His eternal union.

salok mehlaa 5.
raa’t na vihaavee saa’ktaa1 jin’aa visrae naa-o.
raa’ttee dinis suhalee-aa naamhar gun gaa2-o.
im orhee.

mehlaa 5.
raa’tan javayhar maan’kaa habhay maan’ee mathann.
naanak jo parabh bhaani-aa sa’chah dar sohann. ||2||

pa-orhee.
sachaa satgur sayv sach sam’aaal-aa.
ant khalo-aa aa-ay je satgur aagai ghali-aa.
pohi na sakai jamkaal sachaa raakhaal-aa.
gur saakhee jot jagaa-ay deevaal baaal-aa.
manmukh vin naavai koorh-aa fireh baayalal-aa.
pasoo aagas chammpal palyatay angrahu kaali-aa.
sabho var’tai sach sahch shadab nihalal-aa.
naanak naam ni’haan hai poorai gur daykhaal-aa. ||14||

Salok Mehta-5

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that instead of getting entangled in the worldly impulses we should reflect on Gurbani, try to follow its advice, and meditate on God’s Name. Only then would we reach His palace and enjoy the blessings of His eternal union. In this salok, Guru Ji states that same principle in a very concise form.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the worshippers of power who forsake (God’s) Name (live in so much agony that) night (of their life) doesn’t seem to end. But O’ Nanak, they who sing praises of God both their nights and days pass in peace.”(1)

M: 5

Most of us try to decorate ourselves with all kinds of beautiful dresses and ornaments, so that we look pleasing to others. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us how those people look who are pleasing to God. He says: “(O’ my friends), they who are pleasing to God, they look
beautuous at the door of the eternal (God, and their brows glow with such divine light, as if) their foreheads are studded with all kinds of rubies, gems, peals, and emeralds.”(2)

Paurri

In the first salok Guru Ji very briefly compared the state of mind in which the self-conceited and Guru following persons live. Now he elaborates on this comparison. He says: "(O’ my friends), by serving the eternal true Guru, they who have contemplated the eternal (God), the service rendered by them to the true Guru comes to their rescue in the end. The eternal God becomes their savior; therefore even the demon of death cannot touch them. (They remain so enlightened with the wisdom imparted by the Guru, as if) within them they have lighted the lamp of Guru’s advice. (On the other hand), being bereft of God’s Name, self-conceited people wander (like) disoriented goblins. (Even though) wrapped in human skin, (they appear) human from outside, but they are like animals and from inside they are black (and evil in nature). O’ Nanak, through the true word (of the Guru), I have seen that the eternal (God) pervades everywhere and the true Guru has shown me that (God’s) Name is the treasure (of everlasting wealth).”(14)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to pass our life in peace and go to God’s mansion with honor, then we should follow the advice of the true Guru and cherish the eternal God. Then God would become our savior till the end, and the demon of death wouldn’t be able to touch us and we would lose even the fear of death.
Salok Mehla-3

In the second salok preceding paurri (13), Guru Ji said that when a Papeeha (like seeker) makes an earnest prayer and says: “(O’ God), showing Your mercy please give me the gift of life (sustaining water of Your Name), without that water my thirst is not quenched and my life breaths are finished. Then listening to such prayer God forgives him, and becomes his helper in the end. In this salok, Guru Ji describes what happens when a seeker realizes God’s will.

He says: “When following Guru’s advice and adopting his calm and poised nature the Papeeha (like seeker) realizes (God’s) will, then becoming gracious, (the Guru) pours the rain (of the water of God’s Name) with full force (and zeal). Then all crying and wailing of the Papeeha (like seeker for worldly riches and problems) ceases and peace comes to reside in the mind. O’ Nanak, we should praise that (God) who provides sustenance to all.”(1)

Mehla-3

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us what happens when following Guru’s advice and adopting his calm and poised disposition, a seeker realizes God’s will and the Guru pours the rain of his nectar like sermon. In this salok, Guru Ji once again exhorts us to understand for what are we craving, and what can truly satiate us. Once again referring to a mortal as a Chaatrik (another name for a Papeeha), Guru Ji says: “O’ Chaatrik, you don’t know what kind of thirst is (really) within you. (You don’t know, by) drinking what, your thirst can go. You are strayed in the doubt of duality (love of things other than God, therefore) you don’t obtain the life-giving water (of God’s Name. However, if God) shows His mercy, then in a very natural way, you would meet the true Guru. Nanak (says), when from the true Guru you obtain the immortalizing water (of God’s Name), you would remain absorbed in a state of equipoise.”(2)

Paurri

In the above salok Guru Ji commented on the state of those mortals who don’t know what can really satisfy their thirst. In this paurri he gives examples of such persons and tells how they repent in the end and what they need to do. He says: “(O’ my friends), there are those who make their residence in jungles and (remain so silent that they) never call any person. There are some who, bearing the wintry frosts, sit in ice-cold water. There are others who smear their body with ashes and never wash their filth. There are some who grow dreadful matted hair and lose their family connections. There are others who roam around naked day and night and don’t even sleep.”

Continuing his comments, Guru Ji says: “Then there are those who burn fires (in front of them) and unnecessarily ruin themselves. (But) without meditating on (God’s) Name, their (human) body goes to waste and (in the end, they realize), that their grieving is of no use. O’ Nanak, they could look beauteous (and honorable) at the Master’s door, if they serve the true Guru (and follow his advice).”(15)

The message of the paurri is that if in our self-conceit we keep making fruitless efforts and torture ourselves with such austerities as sitting in ice-cold water or roaming around naked in jungles, then in the end, we wouldn’t achieve anything. It is only when, by following Guru’s advice we understand and accept God’s will, that we...
receive the rain of God’s mercy (and bliss of His Name), our cries cease, and our mind obtains true peace.

salok mehlaa 3.

baabeehaa amrit vaylai boli-aa taah dar sunee pukaar.
mayghai no furmaan ho-aa vassahu kirpa Dhaar.
ha-o tin kai baliahaarnai jinee sach rakhi-aa ur Dhaar.
naanak naamay saab haree-avalee gur kai sabad veechaar. ||11||
mehlaa 3.

baabeehaa iv tayree tikhaa na utrai jay sa-oo karahi pukaar.
nagree satgur paa-ee-ai nagree upjai pi-aaar.
naanak saahib man vasai vichaa jaahi vikaar. ||12||

pa-orhee.

ik jainee ujarh paa-ay Dharahu kho-aa-i-aa.
tin mukh naahhee naam na tirath n’aa-i-aa.
hatthee sir khoaah-ay na bhaad karaa-i-aa.
kuchil raheh din raat sabad na bhaa-i-aa.
tin jaat na paa na karam janam gavaa-i-aa.
man joothai vayjaat joothaa khoa-a-i-aa.
bin sabdai aachaar na kii hee paa-i-aa.
gurmukh o-ankaar sach samaa-i-aa. ||16||

Salok Mehl-3

In the opening lines of the previous paurri, Guru Ji stated that when following Guru’s advice and adopting his calm and poised nature the Papeeha (like seeker) realizes (God’s) will, becoming gracious, the Guru pours the rain (of divine sermon) with full force (and zeal). Then all crying and wailing of the Papeeha (like seeker for worldly riches and problems) ceases and peace comes to reside in his mind. In this salok, using the same beautiful metaphor, he describes what happens when in the early morning hours a seeker makes a plea before God to quench his spiritual thirst.

He says: “In the early morning hours when like a Papeeha (a seeker) cries (for the water of God’s Name) its cry is heard in God’s court. Then a command is issued to the cloud (like Guru) to graciously pour the rain (of divine sermon). I am a sacrifice to those who have kept the eternal (God) enshrined in their heart. O’ Nanak, by reflecting on Guru’s word and meditating on God’s Name there is greenery (and joy) all around.”(1)

Mehla-3

There are some self-conceited persons who do not follow Guru’s advice, but keep doing useless rituals such as observing fasts and worshipping statues in the false belief that by doing such things they would find salvation from worldly desires. To such a person Guru Ji says: “O’ Papeeha (like seeker), in this way (by performing rituals or crying before statues) your thirst (for worldly things) wouldn’t be quenched even if you cry like this
hundreds of times. It is only by (God’s) grace that we meet the true Guru and by (His grace), love (for God) wells up in (one’s mind). O’ Nanak, when the Master comes to reside in one’s heart, evil vanishes from one’s within.”(2)

_Paurri_

In the previous _Paurri_, Guru Ji commented on the futile efforts of those who abandon the world and go to jungles and subject their bodies to all kinds of tortures, but still don’t find any peace or contentment of mind. Now he comments on the members of one sect of Jain faith who do not remember God but are so fanatic about non-violence that they don’t even take a bath, wash their clothes, or shave their heads to avoid hurting even the tiniest creatures or bacteria on their bodies. Being so filthy they are avoided even by their family members. Regarding such persons Guru Ji says: “There are some Jains whom, by straying from (righteous) path, (God) has made to wander (in fruitless search). They never utter God’s Name from their lips nor bathe at holy places. They don’t get their head shaved but get the hair in their heads manually plucked. Day and night they remain filthy and to them Guru’s word doesn’t sound pleasing. They are not considered of good caste or men of honor nor do they do any good deeds. They waste their life (in vain). These casteless people are of impure minds, and they eat the left over (food of others). The fact is that without the (Guru’s) word no one has ever learned good conduct. But one who follows Guru’s advice remains merged in the eternal Creator.”(16)

The message of this _paurri_ is that we should not follow our self-conceit and keep performing useless faith rituals like those Jains who remain filthy and don’t remember God. Instead like a _Papeeha_ we should rise up in the early morning, recite _Gurbani_ and remember God with true love and devotion. Then one day, God may listen to our prayer and showing His mercy, may bless us with the gift of the immortalizing nectar of His Name.

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It is the same light
In the previous so many shabads, addressing the seekers in the metaphor of a Papeeha, Guru Ji has been telling us that when a Papeeha cries for rain in the early morning hours, God listens to his prayer and orders clouds to pour incessant rain. Then not only that bird, but also the entire earth is drenched with rain and blooms in delight. In this salok, he uses the same metaphor to portray the delight of a seeker when the Guru pours the rain of his sermon.

He says: “(Just as the earth blooms with greenery in the month of) rain, similarly when the Guru delivers his divine sermon) the human (bride) feels blessed by reflecting on the Guru’s word. O’ Nanak, through the infinite love of the Guru, (she always remains united with her beloved God like) an eternally wedded bride.”(1)

However commenting on the state of that self-conceited human (bride) who instead of God loves other (worldly riches), Guru Ji says: “That unmeritorious bride (soul) who is in love with things other (than God) keeps burning in pain (even when the Guru is blessing others with) the rain of (his divine sermon). O’ Nanak, (such a bride soul) doesn’t know the value of her spouse (God); therefore all her decoration brings her more pain (than pleasure)).”(2)

In the previous two paurries Guru Ji told us that God is not pleased by any ritual worships, austerities, or the ways adopted by yogis and Jains. Now he enlightens us about those who might be thinking that He could be swayed by melodious songs or special dances, which were very common in those days. He says: “(O’ my friends), the true incomprehensible God is not impressed by any kind of obstinacy (such as observing fasts, torturing one’s body, or undertaking difficult pilgrimages). There are some who sing songs (in His praise) with many tunes and rhythms but He is not pleased with these melodies. There are some who dance again and again to the beats of drums but they also do not perform His true worship. There are some fools who do not eat food (and observe) fasts; what can be done about them (because they are also making fruitless sacrifice? The fact is) that human thirst (for material things) has multiplied so much that it cannot be satiated by any means. In this way the ritualistic deeds are multiplying in the world and people are troubling themselves to death. The only thing profitable in this world is that one should drink the nectar of (God’s) Name. Therefore the Guru’s followers feel delighted only with the love of God’s devotion.”(17)

The message of this Paurri is that God is not pleased by any kinds of rituals, austerities, melodious songs, or dances in His praise. He is only pleased when acting in accordance with (Gurbani) the Guru’s word; we meditate on His Name with true love and devotion.
Salok Mehta-3

In the previous purri, Guru Ji made a comment that there are some who sing songs in God’s praise with many tunes and rhythms but He is not pleased with these melodies. However it doesn’t mean that there is no use of music and that we should discard singing hymns accompanied by any kind of musical tunes. If this were so, Guru Ji would not have composed and arranged almost the entire Guru Granth Sahib according to so many Ragas (or musical measures). What he was referring to in the above purri is the uselessness of singing songs and hymns accompanied by musical tunes and melodies without true love and devotion for God or His devotees. But if following Guru’s advice, someone sings hymns on praise of God accompanied by suitable melodies and tunes that adds unique charm and bliss to it.

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), keeping the Guru in mind (they who sing hymns) in the melody of Malhar, their minds and bodies become cool (and calm). Through (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, they realize the one (God) who alone is eternal. In their mind comes to reside the true (God), therefore their minds and bodies become true (and immaculate), and their glory also becomes true (forever). Within them is true devotion (for God); therefore in a very natural sort of way they are blessed with honor. But since in Kal Yug (the present age) there is pitch darkness (of ignorance and evil); the self-conceited person finds no way (to save himself or herself). Therefore O’ Nanak, fortunate are they (who are blessed with divine knowledge and) in whom (God) manifests through Guru’s grace.”(1)

In the previous purri, Guru Ji made a comment that there are some who sing songs in God’s praise with many tunes and rhythms but He is not pleased with these melodies. However it doesn’t mean that there is no use of music and that we should discard singing hymns accompanied by any kind of musical tunes. If this were so, Guru Ji would not have composed and arranged almost the entire Guru Granth Sahib according to so many Ragas (or musical measures). What he was referring to in the above purri is the uselessness of singing songs and hymns accompanied by musical tunes and melodies without true love and devotion for God or His devotees. But if following Guru’s advice, someone sings hymns on praise of God accompanied by suitable melodies and tunes that adds unique charm and bliss to it.
Mehla-3

Now Guru Ji again compares Guru’s sermon to the rainfall, which brings happiness to so many people. He says: “(O’ my friends), when showing mercy, the cloud (like Guru) pours the rain (of his sermon), joy wells up in the minds of (Guru following) people. I am a sacrifice to Him by whose command the cloud (like Guru) rains (the water of his divine sermon). Through the Guru’s word we should remember Him and sing praises of the eternal (God). O’ Nanak, the devotees imbued with the love of (God’s) Name are immaculate and they imperceptibly merge in the eternal (God).”(2)

Paurri

Guru Ji concluded the above salok with the advice that through the word of the Guru we should cherish Him and sing praises of the eternal God, because the devotees who are imbued with the love of God’s Name imperceptibly merge into the eternal (God). In this paurri, he explains why that is so.

He says: “By serving (following the advice of) the perfect true Guru, (the Guru’s followers) have obtained the perfect (Almighty). By the grace of the perfect (God), they have meditated on Him and have enshrined (Gurbani) the perfect word (of the Guru) in their minds. Through perfect knowledge (of the Guru) and meditation, they have removed the soil (of evil in themselves. In this way) deeming (Gurbani as) God’s holy pool, their mind has bathed in it. By stilling their self-(conceit) through the word (of the Guru) they have controlled their mind; blessed is the mother who gave birth to (such holy ones). They are deemed true (and immaculate) in the court of the true (God) and truly (fruitful) is their advent. When one sounds pleasing to the Master then no one can ask any questions (about one’s conduct in life. (In short), O’ Nanak by praising the eternal (God), one obtains the writ of one’s destiny.”(18)

The message of this Paurri is that our mind and body feel delighted when we meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises with true love and devotion. When we reflect on the divine knowledge imparted by the true Guru and meditate on God, our mind becomes immaculate and we obtain to God’s mansion without any hindrance, and our advent in this world becomes fruitful.
In the opening lines of the previous pauṇri, Guru Ji stated that by serving the perfect true Guru, the Guru’s followers have obtained the perfect God. We have to note that Guru Ji had earlier stressed that it is only by serving the perfect true Guru and not any ordinary or fake Guru that one finds God. He has also told us that there used to be many fake or imperfect Gurus who near the time of their deaths would anoint one of their disciples with the Guru ship by passing on their jute cap to him. But during their lifetime, such Gurus used to collect homage from their disciples after the harvesting of crops in spring and autumn. In this salok, Guru Ji comments on such practices and gives his views.

Salok Mehla-1
He says: “Crazy are (those gurus who anoint others as their successors, by) passing on their jute caps (to them), and absolutely shameless are those who accept (such fake honors. The state of such fake gurus is like that of) a mouse who cannot pass through a hole by itself but has tied a winnowing basket to its tail. (The fact is that all such gurus) who bless others die themselves and the ones to whom they give these blessings also depart from here and O’ Nanak, it is not known where as per His command God sends them.”

Now talking about the kind of homage he would like to offer to his Guru or expect from his disciples and where he goes to beg for, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, for me God’s) Name (alone is the homage of) spring crop and that eternal Name is (the homage for) the autumn crop. Going to the mansion of God I have obtained the written deed (of paying my homage only through His Name. O’ my friends) many are such doors (and houses of fake Gurus) in the world who come and go. Similarly many are the beggars who beg and many are those who after begging, depart from here.”(1)

**Mehla-1**

After advising us to stay away from the fake or incompetent Gurus and those who follow them, Guru Ji now tells us about the importance of humility and meditation on God’s Name. He cites beautiful examples to illustrate his point. He says: “(O’ my friends), an elephant consumes huge quantities of food then it belches aloud, breathes noisily, and scatters dust, but it regrets when it breathes its last. (Similarly), the foolish world blinded (by its ego) also boasts (about its wealth or power) and dies (spiritually). Only if by stilling its ego it merges in (meditation of) the Master it becomes pleasing to Him. (For example) the feed of a sparrow is (very little), maybe half a grain; (after eating it) flies to the sky and starts chirping. She is better (than others) if she utters God’s Name again and again and becomes pleasing to Him. (Now consider the case of a) powerful tiger that kills hundreds of deer and many others eat its leftovers. Intoxicated by its power (the tiger) doesn’t contain itself to its cave (and keeps roaming around scaring other poor animals), but it repents when its end comes near. Who does this blind fool try to impress with its wild roar? (Such roaring) is not at all pleasing to the Master. (On the other hand) a small insect which loves milk weed and perching on its branches eats that weed, if it utters God’s Name and looks pleasing to the Master then that worm is better (than the roaring tiger).”

Therefore, Guru Ji says to himself (and indirectly us): “O’ Nanak, (we should remember that in this world) we live only for a few days; by indulging in (false) pleasures we end up in pain. However there are many who talk about all such wise things but no one can resist (the temptation of such false pleasures). Like a fly (generally a mortal) dies tempted by sweet (allurements of the world. However O’ God), they whom You protect don’t come near (these temptations); they swim across the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”(2)

**Paurri**

In the previous salok Guru Ji stated that God saves those who are pleasing to Him. Now he shows us how we can do that. He says: “(O’ God), You are inaccessible, incomprehensible, unintelligible, and limitless eternal Master. You are the only Giver and all others are beggars (at Your door). By following Guru’s instruction, they who have served (and worshipped) You, have obtained peace. (But O’ God), it so pleases You that some are only in love with Maya.”
Now explaining in detail what we need to do to please God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), through (Gurbani) the word of the Guru we should praise (God) with love and affection in (our hearts. The fact is that) without love, (God’s true) worship cannot be done and without true Guru’s guidance one is not imbued with (God’s) love. O’ God, You are the Master and all serve You. A (humble) minstrel makes one supplication (before You). Please give him the charity which may give contentment (to his mind and he may) receive the gift of eternal Name as the mainstay (of his life).”(19)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to obtain peace, contentment, and true happiness then we need to seek the Guru’s advice. Reflecting on that advice we should learn how to worship God with true love and devotion. Further we should never feel self-conceited and so powerful that we start hurting others, or showing off our might. Instead we should always remain humble and stay away from false worldly attachments. In this way we would become pleasing to God and would swim across the dreadful worldly ocean.

SGGS P-1287
salok mehlaa 1.
raatee kaal ghtai din kaal.
chhhiaa kaa-i-aa ho-ay paraal.
vartaa varti-aa sarab janjaal.

bhul-aa chuk ga-i-aa tap taal.
anDhaa jhakh jhakh pa-i-aa jhayr.
pichhai roveh li-aaveh fayr.
bin boojhay kichh soojhai naahee.
mo-i-aa ro’hi ro’dhay mar ja’heee.
naanak khasmaa ayvai bhaaavai.
say-ee mu-ay jin chit na aavai. ||1||

mehlaa 1.
mu-aa pi-aar pareet mu-ee mu-aa vair vaafeed.
vann ga-a-i-aa roop vinsii-aa dukhee dayh rulee.
kithhu aa-a-i-aa kah ga-ia-i-aa kihu na see-o kihu see.
man mukh galaan go-ee-aa keetaa chaa-o ralee.
naanak sachay naam bin sir khur pat paatee. ||1||
pa-orhee.
amriet naam sadaa sukh-daata antay ho-ay sakhhaa-ee.
bajh gurou jagat ba-uraanaa naavai saar na paa-ee.
satgur sayveh say parvaan jin’ jot meelaa-ee.
so saahib so sayvak tayhhaa jis bhaaanaa man vasaa-ee.
aapnaai bhaanai kaho kiin sukh paa-i-aa anDhha anDh kamaa-ee.
bikhi-i-aa kaad nee rajai naahee moorakh bhukh na jaa-ee.

It is the same light
In the previous *paurri*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain peace, contentment, and true happiness then we should seek the Guru's advice. Reflecting on that advice we should learn how to worship God with true love and devotion. Further we should never feel self-conceited and so powerful that we start hurting others, or showing off our might. Instead, we should always remain humble and stay away from false worldly attachments. In this way we would become pleasing to God and would swim across the dreadful worldly ocean. However our nature is such that in spite of such advice we spend our life running after worldly riches and entangling ourselves in conflict and strife with others. Ultimately we become old and weak and depart from this world empty handed. In this *salok*, Guru Ji comments on the life of such an ordinary human being and indicates who those persons are who truly die.

He says: “(O’ my friends, a man’s life) keeps diminishing with the passing of each night and day. One’s body keeps wearing out and becoming shallow like straw. All one’s dealings with the world become like entanglements. One is so lost (in these entanglements) that one’s worship and meditation is forsaken. (In this way), the blind fool again and again keeps getting involved in one strife after the other. When one dies (one’s relatives cry and wonder how could they) bring him or her back. But without understanding (the true way of life) they don’t know what to do. In this way, people cry for their dead ones but then even those who cry, themselves die. O’ Nanak, this is what pleases the Master: (that all except Him have to die one day. But) truly dead are those who don’t remember (God).”(1)

Commenting further on what happens after a person dies, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, when one dies, one’s) love and affection (for one’s relatives and friends) also dies and so do one’s enmity and strife (with others). All the beauty and charm of one’s features vanish and one’s suffering body too perishes. (Then one’s friends and relatives wonder) from where did (the soul) come and where it has gone. (Then talking about the dead person’s nature they ignore his or her faults and highlight the virtues saying) that person was not like this, but was like that. (However, even though) people might have thought or openly said that (the dead person) had enjoyed a good life, yet O’ Nanak, (if one dies) without meditating on the true Name (one is put to such shame in God’s court) that one loses one’s honor from head to toe.”(2)

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji stated that after death all the beauty and charm of one’s features vanishes and one’s body also perishes after suffering through flames or dust. Not only that, but without meditating on God’s Name, one’s soul is also put to utter shame in God’s court. In this *paurri*, he tells us what can provide us peace and bliss in life and after death. He also tells us how ineffective worldly wealth is in providing us any long lasting peace or contentment.
He says: “(O’ my friends), the immortal (God’s) Name is always the giver of peace and becomes our helper in the end (at the time of death). But without (the guidance of) the Guru, the world has not realized the worth of (God’s) Name.”

Guru Ji adds: “They who serve (and follow) the true Guru (and in this way), they who have united their soul with the (prime) soul are approved (in God’s court). Because in whom (God) enshrines His will (and makes that person cheerfully accept it), that servant (of God) becomes like his Master. (But O’ my friends), by following one’s own self-conceit, no one has obtained peace; the blind (self-conceited fool always) does blind (wasteful) deeds. (The self-conceited person) is never satiated with the poison (of worldly wealth that he or she already has and) this hunger of the (blind) fool never goes away. (The fact is that) every body who is attached to the love of the (things) other (than God), is ruined (and without the guidance of the) true Guru one doesn’t understand (this thing. In short, (only the one) on whom, in His will God bestows His grace, obtains peace by serving (following) the true Guru.”(20)

The message of this paurri is that we should realize that every day our body is wearing out. If we remain involved in worldly entanglements and amassing worldly wealth, we wouldn't obtain lasting peace and would lose honor in God’s court. Therefore, we should seek the advice of the true Guru and following his advice we should meditate on God’s Name, which alone can provide us with true happiness in life and honor in God’s court.

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**slok mehlaa 1.**

saram Dharam du-ay naankaa jay Dhan palai paa-ay.
so Dhan miṭar na kaa%^dhee-ai jiṭ sir chota%^khaa-ay.
jin kai palai Dhan vasai ṭin kaa naa-o fakeer.
jin%^kai hirджai ṭoo vaseh ṭay nar gumee gaheer.

||1||

**mehlaa 1.**
dukhee ṭunee sahay%^ree-ai jaa-ay ṭa lageh dukh.
naanak sachay naam bin kisai na lathee bhukh.
roopee bhukh na utrai jaa%^ daykha%^ ṭaa%^ bhukh.
jayṭay ras sareer kay ṭayṭay lageh dukh. ||2||

**mehlaa 1.**
anDhee kammee anDh man man anDhai ṭan anDh.
chikarh laa-i-ai ki-aa thee-ai jaa%^ ṭutai pathar banDh.
banDh tutaa bay%^ree nahee naa ṭulhaa naa haath.
aanak sachay naam vin kayṭay dubay saath. ||3||

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**slok mehlaa 1.**

lakh man su-%inaa lakh man rupaa lakh saahaa sir saah.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that if we remain involved in worldly entanglements and amassing worldly wealth then we wouldn’t obtain any lasting peace. In this salok, he elaborates on this statement and tells us what is true wealth and who is considered the richest or the most meritorious person.

He says: “O’ Nanak, (people think that if) they could amass (worldly) wealth, they would have both honor and righteousness. However we shouldn’t consider that wealth as our friend, because we (suffer at the hands of our enemies and sometimes even our own near and dear ones. Moreover), they who possess (only worldly) wealth are called beggars (in God’s court). But (O’ God), in whose heart You reside they are (rich like) the ocean of virtues.”(1)

Commenting further on the pursuit of worldly wealth and other bodily pleasures, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), we amass (worldly wealth) by enduring so much pain, and when this (wealth abandons us), we feel pain again. O’, Nanak, without the (wealth of) true Name, no one’s hunger ever gets satisfied. (Similarly), by looking at beauty, one’s lust (for beauty) doesn’t get satiated, the more we look at it the more this lust multiplies. (In short), as many are the relishes, which our body enjoys, with those many troubles are we afflicted.”(2)

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us that the more we indulge in false pleasures of the flesh the more pains we invite on ourselves. Now he tells us what happens, if we continue doing such foolish deeds. He says: “(By continuing to do) blind foolish deeds, our mind also becomes blind and when our mind becomes blind, (our intellect and the sense faculties in our) body also becomes blind (and we keep doing one foolish deed after the other. Ultimately the situation becomes so desperate that no ordinary measures can save us from complete ruin, Just as) when the dam built by stones breaks, applying some mud can save
nothing. When the dam breaks then neither the boat nor the barge remains under one’s control. (In such a situation the only one thing which can save a person is God’s Name, but) O’ Nanak, without God’s true Name multitudes of human beings drown (in the worldly ocean).”(3)

**Mehla-1**

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok with the statement that without God’s true Name multitudes of human beings get drowned (in the worldly ocean). Some might think that with the help of their worldly wealth or power they can overcome any obstacle in their path to happiness and bliss. In order to remove any such illusions, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, one) may have huge quantities of gold and silver and one may be the king above myriads of other kings; one may be a monarch who commands myriads of armies equipped with spears, horses, and military band orchestras; but where (the dreadful worldly) ocean of fire of unfathomable depth is to be crossed, there the shore is not visible and people are loudly crying and wailing. O’ Nanak, there it is judged who truly is rich and who really is the king (because the worldly wealth or power is of no help in saving one’s soul from the pain of punishment after death).”(4)

**Paurri**

Guru Ji concluded the previous Salok with the comment that worldly wealth or power is of no help in saving one’s soul. Elaborating on this concept, he says: “There are some (who are so engrossed in amassing worldly wealth, as if) around their necks are put chains and they are locked in the divine prison. So bound, they are truly released (from their suffering) if they realize the true eternal (God). We should know that He alone is the true God through whom we receive what is written in our destiny. It is by His command that one is delivered but we know this thing only when we go (to His court). He alone is the one who can ferry us across the dreadful (worldly) ocean; however only through the (Guru’s) word do we realize this thing. The (evil persons), like thieves, adulterers, and gamblers, (suffer such severe punishment, as if they) are being crushed in an oil mill. The slanderers and backbiters are put in chains and fetters. But the Guru’s followers who remain merged in the truth (of God’s Name) are recognized (with honor) in God’s court.”(21)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to swim across this dreadful worldly ocean, merge in the eternal God, and be received with honor in His court then instead of trying to amass the false worldly wealth or indulge in pleasures of flesh, we should follow Guru’s advice and amass wealth of God’s Name, which would bring us true peace in this world and honor in God’s court.
In the previous paurri, Guru Ji advised that if we want to swim across this dreadful worldly ocean, merge in the eternal God, and be received with honor in His court then instead of trying to amass the false worldly wealth or indulge in pleasures of flesh, we should follow Guru’s advice and amass wealth of God’s Name, which would bring us true peace in this world and honor in God’s court. In this salok, Guru Ji comments on the social and political conditions of his time that had so deteriorated as if black was being called white and white as black. The period in which such like conditions prevail Guru Ji calls Kal Yug no matter what year or period it might be according to any calendar.

He says: “(Such is the situation these days) that a beggar is named a king, and a foolish person has his name as pundit (or scholar). Similarly a blind man is called appraiser (who examines jewels). Such topsy-turvy things are happening (at this time. Not only that) a troublemaker is being called the chief, and a false woman occupies the leadership position (in an assembly). O’ Nanak, through Guru’s guidance we realize that this is the kind of justice in Kal Yug.”

Salok Mehla-2

Mehla-1

Actually in Guru Ji’s time the things had gone so bad that some people particularly the learned ones had stooped so low that they had joined hands with the oppressive rulers to tyrannize the innocent public.
Comparing such collaborators to those trained deer and falcons who help the hunters to lure and hunt their own species, Guru Ji says: “The government officers, (who act like the trained) deer and falcons (of hunters) are called the learned ones. They help in (oppressing the people of their own faith, as if) trapping their own species; but they won’t find any refuge in the yond (in God’s court. There) only that person is (deemed) learned and wise who earns (the wealth of) God’s Name. Because when a tree takes root underground only then does (it grow big enough) to provide shade. (Therefore that learning alone is benevolent which one enshrines in one’s heart first. But the present condition is such that) the kings are behaving like tigers and their officials are like dogs who go and wake up the sleeping ones (and go and torture even those who don’t bother anybody. The government) servants persecute the docile subjects like the tiger) inflicting wounds on its victim with its claws, (and after eating the main carcass it might be saying) to dogs to now go ahead and lick up the blood and bile of the victim (also. But in God’s court) where the soul is judged (for its true worth) these backbiters would (be so disgraced as if) their noses have been chopped off.”(2)

**Paurri**

In the opening lines of the previous *paurri*, Guru Ji stated that there are some who are so engrossed in amassing worldly wealth, as if around their necks are put chains and they are locked in the divine prison. So bound, they are truly released (from their suffering) if they realize the eternal (God). In this *paurri*, he tells us about the pre-conditions, which must be realized before we can engage in meditating on God’s Name, and realize true God.

He says: “(O’ my friends, first of all we should understand that God) Himself creates the universe and Himself takes care of it. Without (developing) fear for Him our doubt is not removed and we don’t get imbued with the love of His Name. It is through the true Guru (by reflecting on his word or *Gurbani* that God’s) fear arises (in our mind and we) find the door to salvation. Yes, it is from the fear (of God) that we obtain divine knowledge and peace and then our soul merges in the limitless soul (of God). It is because of this fear (that we reflect on the Guru’s instruction and then) cross over the dreadful worldly ocean. Through the fear we obtain to the fear free (God) who has no end or limit. However the self-conceited persons don’t know the worth of (this divine) fear, therefore they keep crying and wailing while burning in the fire (of worldly desire). O’ Nanak, it is only by enshrining Guru’s instruction in the mind and meditating on God’s Name (that people) have obtained peace.”(22)

The message of this *Paurri* is that following Guru’s advice we should meditate on God’s Name and develop fear of God in our hearts. Only then would we learn that we shouldn’t misuse our learning and power or join hands with the oppressive and corrupt rulers and politicians to oppress the poor innocent people.
In the saloks of the previous paurri, Guru Ji commented on the rotten social political conditions prevailing at that time. Now he comments on the general nature of human beings and tells how an inner impulse in a person gives rise to another and many times leads a person into trouble. He also tells us the best way to avoid such situations.

He says: "(O’ my friends, the physical beauty in a person often raises lustful feelings in the onlooker, as if) there is friendship between beauty and lust. Hunger and taste are so tied to each other (that when one is hungry everything feels tasty to that one). Similarly wealth and greed remain close to each other, and when one is dozing in sleep even a narrow space sounds like a cozy bed to that one. The person who is angry, shouts loudly and blinded (by rage), utters very foolish words (and is many times) ruined. O’ Nanak, (in such situations), it is better to remain silent because except for God’s Name, all that one utters from one’s mouth is filthy (and unworthy).’’(1)

Next Guru Ji cautions us about those worldly possessions and impulses which have basically cheated the entire world out of true peace and divine bliss and tells us who those are who do not fall into the traps of such evils. He says: "(O’ my friends), kingdom, worldly possessions, beauty, pride of caste, and youth, all these five (things) are great deceivers. Theses cheats have cheated the entire world and haven’t spared anyone’s honor. However, those who have sought the shelter of the Guru have outsmarted these deceivers. But O’ Nanak, there are many unfortunate ones who are being defrauded (and falling victim to these false prides).’’(2)

After warning us against the false pride of riches, power, youth, and caste, Guru Ji cautions us against another kind of self-conceit to which many fall victim. That vice is the pride or the arrogance of one’s knowledge. About such arrogant persons, Guru Ji says: "Even the one who considers him or herself learned is asked to render the account (of the misdeeds in God’s court). Without God’s Name (in one’s account, one is judged) false and then one
It is the same light

That God is like a deep, profound, and unfathomable ocean, whose depth cannot be measured. Anyone who foolishly tries to find His end or limit suffers continuous blows on the face and no one is spared from this punishment, because without (the guidance of) the Guru no one can be emancipated. We should meditate on God’s Name so that we may go to (God’s) house with honor. We should know that as per His command, (God) gives us (life) breaths and sustenance (and we cannot force our will on Him).”(23)

The message of this paurri is that we should remain in the shelter of the Guru, and keep his Gurbani in our mind, so that we don’t fall victim to impulses of lust, desire, greed and anger. We should not be deceived by the false prides of riches, power, caste or youth. We shouldn’t feel arrogant about our knowledge or our faith rituals. It is only by being content in God’s will and meditating on His Name that we go to God’s home with honor.

SGGS P-1289

salok mehlaa 1.

pa-unai paanee agnee jee-o tiin ki-aa khusee-aa ki-aa peerh.
Drha’ee paatalee aakaasee ik jar rahan vajeer.
hukme saajay hukme dhaahay ayy chasay meh lakk.
sabh ko nathai nathii-aa bakhaysay torhay nath.
parna chhia naa naakhee se logo jaajap sacho sakh.

mehlaa 1.
In the first salok of the previous paurri, Guru Ji commented on the social and political conditions of India at that time. In this salok, he comments on human life in general and tells us the best way to live in peace and happiness.

He says: “(O’ my friends, God has made all creatures by infusing soul into the amalgamation of basic elements like) air, water, and fire. (For these elements) pains or pleasures don’t mean anything, (it is the soul within the creatures which is concerned with pain or pleasure. (As for the human beings, some are leading an ordinary life, as if) living on earth, some (are living in such poor conditions, as if they are) living underground, there are some who are (living like kings and rulers, as if they are) living in the sky, while there are others who live like ministers in (some king’s) court. Some have long (healthy life); others die (young suffering) in pain. (There are some, who are so affluent) that even after giving to others and spending (on themselves, their wealth) doesn’t fall short, while there are others who always live like beggars. In His will God creates and in His will He destroys millions (of creatures) in an instant. Everybody is bound and governed by His law. (On whom) He becomes gracious; He releases that one from any bonds. That incomprehensible God is above any accountability and has no particular color or features. So, how can we describe or say (anything about Him, even though He) appears to be truly pervading everywhere? O’ Nanak, all that is being done or said is His doing, yet He Himself is indescribable. Anyone who listens to the discourse of the indescribable (God and meditates on His Name), obtains riches, wisdom, perfection, divine knowledge, and is always in peace.”(1)

Mehla-1

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us that if we listen to the discourse of the indescribable (God and meditate on His Name) we obtain riches, wisdom, perfection, divine knowledge, and we are always in peace. However, when for the first time one experiences the enshrining of God’s Name in one’s mind, even though that experience is so pleasant, it seems unbearable. Now in this salok Guru Ji tells what happens after a person has been able to bear this experience.

He says: “(When one) bears the unbearable (bliss of God’s Name), all one’s nine sense faculties (such as ears and eyes stop indulging in sensual pleasures and remain in their limit, as if) all one’s nine gates have been closed. Then with every breath one meditates (on God) and one’s body becomes stable (and unaffected by evil temptations. Now one doesn’t bother about such questions as) from where one has come and where one has to go, (because by stilling one’s self-conceit, as if) dying while still alive, one is approved (in God’s court). Then one understands God’s will and recognizes its essence. One obtains this gracious understanding from the Guru. (Finally) O’ Nanak, understand this thing that only that person is caught who exerts his or her existence (and ego). Where there is no ego or I-am-ness, there is no falling into existences.”(2)
It is the same light
It is the same light
According to some writers, Guru Ji uttered this and the next salok when he was visiting Kurkshetra (the Hindu holy place in India, where the famous war between Kauravas and Pandavs was fought, and god Krishna delivered the sermon of Gita to the king Arjun). As the story goes a hunter came and offered him his latest hunt as homage and started cooking it as per Guru Ji’s instruction. Upon seeing this thing, many pundits vehemently objected because in their view it was a great sin to eat meat. In this salok Guru Ji questions the desirability of entering into this discussion at all because he points out that humans are made of flesh and blood. Man is conceived in flesh, grows in flesh, is born out of flesh, and depends on flesh for sustenance, survival, and social relationships.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, man is conceived from father’s semen and then resides in mother’s womb. In this way, one is) first conceived in flesh and then makes one’s abode in flesh. When one obtains life, then flesh placenta (of the mother is put in its mouth, one’s bones, skin and body are made out of flesh. When one is taken out of flesh (of the mother’s womb), mother’s breast made of flesh provides it sustenance. One’s mouth is of flesh, tongue is of flesh, and one breathes in flesh. When one grows older, one is married, and brings home (more) flesh (in the form of one’s wife). Then from the flesh (of one’s wife, more) flesh is created (in the form of children) and thus all relationships develop through (the medium of) flesh. (By entering into the controversies about meat, we don’t understand what is right and what is wrong. It is only) when we meet the true Guru and understand God’s will that any one’s conduct is successfully accomplished. By our own efforts we cannot escape from (the bonds of flesh) and O’ Nanak through mere words (or useless discussions) we are simply ruined.”(1)

Mehla-1

In the previous salok, Guru Ji questioned the necessity of entering into any discussion about flesh, when we know that it is from flesh one is conceived, from flesh one is born and it is with flesh that one forms relationships.

In this second salok, Guru Ji comments on the foolishness of entering into such discussions regarding eating or not eating meat. He also exposes the hypocrisy of the pundits who lecture others not to eat meat but themselves eat it with gusto under the pretexts of performing special ceremonies called Yaggs or holy sacrifices to please some gods.

He says: “Only a foolish person squabbles and enters into heated discussions regarding meat but doesn’t know what is true wisdom or meditation. (The fool) doesn’t know what is (truly) meat, what is called a plant, and what truly constitutes sin. (As far as Hindu holy books are concerned, the Shastras tell that the pundits have performed many) holy feasts by killing rhinoceros to satisfy the habits of gods.”

Continuing his comments, Guru Ji says: “(Those) who after abandoning meat, (get so turned off) that they cannot stand even its smell, during the night they devour the human beings (because they stealthily so cheat others that the poor victims are left with nothing to
survive). They just make a false show (of their purity, but in reality they) don’t understand what is divine knowledge or meditation. O’ Nanak, what is the use of saying anything to a blind (fool, because even when you) tell him (or her the right thing, the fool) doesn’t understand it.”

Now Guru Ji gives a few examples to define and explain who is truly a blind fool. He says: “(That person is truly) a blind (fool) who does blind (foolish) deeds and (who doesn’t reflect in the heart whether the things he or she is doing are right, as if) the heart has no eyes. (Such people don’t realize that) they have been conceived from the blood of their mother and father but don’t eat fish or meat. When during the night man and woman meet, don’t they cohabit with flesh? (The fact is that we are) conceived in flesh, born out of flesh, and we are (like) the vessels of flesh. (In short), O’ pundit you don’t understand (divine) knowledge or meditation, but you call yourself wise. (O’ pundit), how can the flesh brought from outside is bad, but the flesh in the home (of one’s wife or mother) is good? (Don’t you see that) all the creatures and beings have been created out of flesh, and the soul has taken its abode (in the flesh. In short), they whose Guru (guide) is blind (and ignorant, usurp the rights of others and thus) eat what is uneatable, and abandon that which is edible. (The fact is that, we are) conceived in flesh, born out of flesh, and we are (like) the vessels of flesh. They don’t have any (divine) knowledge or meditation, but call themselves wise pundits.”

Now Guru Ji takes up the arguments referring to the holy books and occasions. He says: “(O’ people), the eating of flesh has been mentioned (both in Hindu and Muslim holy books such as) Puranas and Katebs. In fact, flesh has been eaten throughout all the four ages. Whenever any of your yaggs (holy feasts) or marriage ceremonies are arranged, there meat is served as the main dish. All men and women including kings and emperors are born out of flesh. (If to you), they seem to be going to hell, then you shouldn’t accept any gifts from them. (According to your philosophy), what kind of injustice is it that one who gives (in charity) goes to hell, but one who receives, is going to heaven? (O’ pundit), you are truly very clever, you don’t know yourself (what is right or wrong) but you preach to others. O’ pundit, you don’t know from where flesh has (originally) grown. (It grows from the same) water from which is grown corn, cotton, and sugarcane throughout all the three worlds. The water says : “I am very good in many ways.” But there are many forms of water, both good and bad. Therefore after reflecting, Nanak says that a person can become a true Sanyasi (or renouncer only) after renouncing all (such worldly) relishes (whether vegetarian or non-vegetarian).”

Paurri

After making a long and detailed commentary on the uselessness of entering into debates over meat, Guru Ji once again turns his attention toward God, and after commenting on His limitlessness, describes the conduct of those who truly love Him. He says: “(O’ God), what can I say (about You)? I have only one tongue and nobody has ever found Your limit. They who have reflected on the true word (of Your praise) have merged in You. There are some who wander around adorning saffron colored clothes, but without (the guidance of) the true Guru no one has realized You. (Such people) have exhausted themselves wandering in foreign lands, however You have hidden Yourself within (their bodies. However Gurbani) the Guru’s word is like a jewel, (to whom God has gifted this gem), spreading its light (God) has shown Himself (to that person). Then one has recognized oneself and following Guru’s instruction has merged in the eternal (God). But those hypocrites who have created a false show (of divine knowledge) keep coming and going (in and out of this world). They to whose mind the eternal God seems pleasing keep praising that eternal (God).”
The message of the *Paurri* is that we should not enter into any controversy about eating meat or not, because we don't know what truly is meat and what is not. Secondly rather than roaming around in holy garbs we should listen to (Gurbani) the Guru’s advice and find God within ourselves by reflecting on Gurbani.

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**Salok Mehla-1**

In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji advised us that we should not enter into any controversy, about eating meat or not, because we don’t know what truly is meat and what is not. Secondly rather than roaming around in holy garbs we should listen to (Gurbani) the Guru’s advice and find God within ourselves by reflecting on Gurbani. In this salok, he tells us how our deeds bring us good or bad results and who is truly behind all these deeds.

He says: “O’ Nanak, according to the worldly deeds the tree (of man's body) bears fruits which could be (sweet or pleasing like) nectar, or (bitter and painful like) poison. But it is the Creator who creates all the circumstances, which become the reasons behind all deeds and one has to eat whatever (fruit God wants one to eat, whether it is the sweet fruit of peace and comforts or the bitter fruit of pain and suffering).”(1)

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**Mehla-2**

There are many of us who try to be popular and earn the praise of people by fair or foul means. Regarding such deeds, which are done for selfish motives rather than true love of people, and which take us away from God, Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, cast the glories of the world into fire. These accursed things make us forget (God’s) Name and not even one (of these praises) accompanies us (after death).”(2)

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**Paurri**

Even though God is the prime cause of all causes, Guru Ji wants to forewarn us how we would be judged after death and what is the best course of life for us. To God, he says: “(O’
God), You are running the world as per Your command and You judge each one individually, (according to one’s own deeds). In Your hands is (one’s ultimate) destiny and it is You who sounds pleasing to my mind. Binding us down, the demon of death would drive away everyone and no one would be able to save us. Old age (would so trouble each of us, as if) it is dancing while riding on our shoulders. The true Guru alone is like a ship and a barge who can save one (from the fear of death. In this world) the fire of desire is burning like an oven which is consuming the mortals daily, because like a bird trapped in the net, the mortal is pecking on the feed (of worldly enticements). Only by God’s command, would) one be released (from this net. In short) whatever the Creator does comes to pass. Falsehood would (ultimately) lose (and truth would prevail).”(26)

The message of this paurri is that we would be judged individually according to our deeds. Therefore instead of trying to win the worldly glories, we should follow Guru’s guidance, and meditate on God with true love and devotion. It is only by His command that we can live in peace during life and avoid any pain after death.
In many previous shabads, Guru Ji advised us that following the advice of the Guru, we should sing praises of God and always meditate on His Name. But the question arises how we identify a true Guru; what is the definition of a true Guru or what is the proof that anybody is a true Guru. In this salok, Guru Ji answers this question and also tells us what kind of blissful state a person can obtain under the guidance of a true Guru.

He says: “That wise person is the true Guru who shows one the house of God in the house (of one’s own heart. In that house) keeps playing the orchestral melody of five types (of instruments and one continuously hears) the beat of drum of Guru’s word.”

Now describing, how one feels, in such a divine state of mind, Guru Ji says: “(In this state), one is amazed seeing God’s wonders in the form of so many continents, worlds, nether worlds, and galaxies. Here amidst the shrill sound of many stringed instruments, one sees (God) the king sitting on His throne (in the heart). By listening to the (divine) music in this Sukhman (state of complete peace and poise), one is attuned (to God) in a state of void (in which no thoughts arise in the mind. In this state) by reflecting on the indescribable discourse (of God) the desires of mind get absorbed in the mind itself. Turning back (from the worldly attachments), the lotus (of the heart) gets filled with nectar (of God’s Name) and this mind then goes nowhere, (or thinks about anything, but God). Meditating without moving the tongue, the mind gets absorbed in (that God) who has been there throughout all ages. (In this way) through Guru’s grace one abides in one’s own house (of the heart, and remains in such a state of mind) in which all the sense faculties (such as eyes, ears, and nostrils) come under one’s control and one acquires all the five (divine virtues of truth, contentment, compassion, faith, and patience. Nanak (considers himself) a slave of that person, who by searching (and reflecting on the Guru’s) word finds this house (of God).”(1)

Mehla-1

Now Guru Ji shows us the way to address God and pray to Him for obtaining the charity of Name, which gives us the state of peace, and poise as described above. He says: “O’ God, dazzling like lightening (are the attractions) of this perishable world. (Swayed by this dazzle), my mind of gullible intellect has forgotten about death. (O’ God), I am but a lowly wretched person, but You are (large hearted like a) river. Please give me only one thing (Your Name); other poisonous things are not at all pleasing to me. O’ God, it is by Your (astounding) skill that this flimsy pot (of human) body is filled with the water (of life). You are all powerful; it is by Your creation that I have come (into this world). Nanak is like a stupid dog of Your court (and his stupidity keeps) multiplying daily. O’ God, this world is (painful like) fire while Your Name is soothing (like ice).”(2)

Paurri Navin Mehla-5

(As per Dr. Sahib Singh Ji, originally Guru Nanak Dev Ji composed this epic in Rag Malhar in 27 Paurris. Later, Guru Arjan Dev Ji added this paurri to elaborate on the
message of 26th paurri. That is why this paurri is titled Paurri Navin M: 5 (or New Paurri composed by the Fifth Guru).

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), this entire world is occurring like a play and it can be called a play. That all-pervading God (who created this play) is known by Guru’s grace only. (When one zealously follows Guru’s advice, one is rid of all evil tendencies, as if) with the beating of the drum of (Guru’s) word all one’s vices are removed. (In other words, we are) emancipated in the company of the saint (Guru) and become independent (of anyone else’s support). By meditating on God again and again we enjoy all kinds of pleasures. (Such a Guru’s follower) becomes manifest in the world, as if over him or her has been spread the canopy (of God’s grace). I am always a sacrifice to (God) who by forgiving on His own unites us with Him. O’ Nanak, they who are pleasing to the Master, He unites them with Him.”(27)

The message of this Paurri is that even though dazzling in appearance, this world is but a passing show. Like fire it is often very painful. Only God’s Name is soothing like ice. But that God’s Name can only be obtained through the guidance of the true Guru (or Gurbani as included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji). Therefore we need to carefully read, understand, and try to follow it daily. If we do so we would realize God in our own heart and would merge in His blissful union forever.

salok mehla 1.
Dhan so kaagad kalam Dhan Dhan bhaa’daa Dhan mas.
Dhan laykhaaree naankaa jin naam likhaa-i-aa sach.

mehlaa 1.
aapay patee kalam aap upar layk bhe too‘.
yko kahee-ai naankaa doojaa kaahay koo. ||2||

pa-orhee.
too‘ aapay aap varatdaa aap banaa saa-ee.
tuDh bin doojaa ko nahee too rahi-aam samaa-ee.
tayree gat miit toohai jaandaa tuDh keemat paa-ee.
too alakh agochar agam hai gurmat dihkaa-ee.
antar agi-aan dukh baram hai gur gi-aan gavaa-ee.

jis kirpaa karahi tis mayl laihi so naam Dhi-aa-ee.
too kartaa purakh agamm hai ravi-aa saabh thaa-ee.
jit too laa-ihi sachi-aa tit ko lagai naanak gun gaa-ee.
||28||1|| suDh.

Salok Mehla-1

Now Guru Ji has come to the end of this Vaar (epic). But since this epic, and in fact the entire Gurbani is about God’s praise and stresses upon meditation of God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “Blessed is that paper, blessed is that pen, and blessed is that inkpot and ink, and O’ Nanak blessed is that Writer who has made a person to write (God’s) eternal Name.”(1)
In the above *salok* one may note that Guru Ji is indicating that it is God who makes a person to write about or meditate on God’s Name. Because Guru Ji knows that on our own we cannot do anything and it is only by God’s grace that we do anything. Therefore he says: “(O’ God), You Yourself are the wooden slate, You Yourself the pen, and You Yourself are the writing on it. O’ Nanak, we should talk only about one God. Why should we say that there is any other?”(2)

**Paurri**

Guru Ji concludes this epic by saying: “(O’ God), You Yourself pervade everywhere and You Yourself have made the structure (of the universe). Except for You there is no other, and You are pervading in all. Only You know Your state and limit, and only You know Your worth. You are indescribable, unperceivable and incomprehensible and it is through the Guru’s intellect that You can be seen. Within human beings are the ignorance and pain of doubt, which are removed only through the Guru’s wisdom. On whom You show Your mercy, You unite with Yourself and that person meditates on Your Name. O’ God the Creator, You are incomprehensible and You are pervading everywhere. O’ eternal God, wherever You yoke a person, he or she is yoked there, and Nanak simply sings Your praises.”(28-1-corrected)

The message of this *Paurri* is that this world is like a play by God who is pervading everywhere. He yokes people to their different tasks and is behind all the happenings in the world. Therefore even if we are doing any good thing including meditating on His Name, we should never feel proud of it, but instead feel grateful to God, who has yoked us to a good task and blessed us with the opportunity to meditate on His Name.
From superficial reading of some of the shabads uttered by devotee Nam Dev Ji and listening to some stories connected with him, some people are under the mistaken impression that Nam Dev Ji was a worshipper of some lesser gods or goddesses, and that is why he used to go to worship before statues in some temples. In this shabad, Nam Dev Ji tells us clearly who he worships and at whose door he goes to beg.

Right at the outset, he clarifies and says: “(O’ my friends), I have served (and worshipped only that) Master, who is the king of the entire universe, has no particular lineage and is unaffected by Maya (the worldly riches and power, at whose door) the saints beg and ask Him to give them the charity of His devotion.” (1-pause)

Describing what kind of a great king is his God, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends, my God is such a great emperor), whose canopy is so vast that it extends in all the four directions, the heaven is His art gallery, and His writ is running equally in all the seven worlds. In His house, Laxmi (the goddess of wealth is the queen who always remains young like a) virgin. The sun and the moon are like the tiny lamps (in His house and the poor angel of) death
plays astonishing games (with the creatures), and who taxes (and troubles all, is like) God’s police official. So that is the kind of king (God is, who once even manifested Himself as) half man and half lion (to save the devotee Prehlad).”(1)

Now regarding gods and goddesses whom many people worship and believe that even Nam Dev Ji worshipped, he first refers to primary gods, Brahma, and Shiva, whom many Hindus believe as gods of creation and destruction respectively. He also refers to the angel Chitar Gupta who is believed to keep a record of person’s deeds and Dharam Rai who judges human beings according to their deeds. He says: “(O’ my friends, I worship that God) in whose house the four headed (god Brahma, who is believed to have) created the universe, is like a petty potter, who moulds (human) pots into shape. God Shiva (who is believed to be) the world Guru who recites divine knowledge and gives them the message of death is like a clown in God’s house. The vice and virtue are like the gate keepers (at His door, where) Chitar Gupat is the scribe, and Dharam Rai the god of destruction is a gate keeper. Yes, such is God the king of the universe.”(2)

Next Nam Dev Ji refers to the attendants and servants of the primary gods and or other lesser gods and goddesses, whom some people worship. He says: “(Such a great) king is the Master of all the three worlds, in whose house the attendants of Shiva, heavenly musicians and the poor sages sing like humble minstrels. (Before Him all holy books or) Shastras (are like) actors who adorn many garbs. This world is like His mini play arena where joining together in groups the saints sing songs (in His praise).

Pawan the (goddess of air) waves a fan over Him, and Maya (the worldly riches and power), who has won over the entire world is His maidservant. (This earth, which is believed to be in the shape of) an egg is like His hearth (or the means of providing sustenance to His creatures).”(3)

Next Nam Dev Ji refers to the Hindu legend, in which Koorma, a tortoise as incarnation of god Vishnu (the primary god of sustenance) supported a mountain, when gods tried to churn the ocean using this mountain as their churning stick. He also refers to Baasik, the king cobra, which has a thousand heads and is believed to be supporting the earth on its head. He says: “(O’ my friends, such a great king is) the Master of three worlds in whose house, Koorma (the tortoise incarnation of god Vishnu) is the bed, woven with the string of the thousand headed serpent Baasik. The entire vegetation of eighteen loads is (like His) gardener, and ninety six million cloud ranges are His water carriers. For Him, the river Ganges is (like a tiny drop of) perspiration from His nails and all the seven seas are like His water stands and as many are the creatures of the world they are all His utensils.”(4)

Finally Nam Dev Ji refers to some of God’s devotees and says: “(My God is the one), who’s near and dear ones are (devotees like) Arjan, Dhru, Prehlad, Ambreek, Naarad, Neja, (and other) adepts, (divinely) wise, and ninety two million attendants and musicians. Yes, He in whose house are creatures of so many kinds, that God is pervading in all. Nam Dev submits that he has the support of that God under whose flag are all the devotees.”(5-1)

The message of this shabad is that only one God who is the King of kings, and God of gods. Under His command are all the powers of wind, rain, and water. Even Maya (the worldly riches and power), who has conquered the entire world is His maidservant. Therefore, instead of worshipping any lesser gods and goddesses or other natural phenomenon like air or fire, we should worship only one supreme God and none else.
It is believed that devotee Nam Dev Ji uttered this shabad, when the high caste priests kicked Nam Dev out of a temple, because he was a low caste calico printer. Poor Nam Dev went to the back of that temple and desperately prayed to God to come and save his honor.

He said: “(O’ God), O’ my all-pervading God, do not forsake me, please don’t forsake me.”(1-pause)

He said: “O’ God, these people who are under the illusion of belonging to a high caste, are furious at me. Repeatedly calling me (low caste) Shudra, they have beaten me out. What may I do, O’ God, my Father?”(1)

Pleading to God to come to his rescue right now instead of any promises of later rewards such as salvation after death, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ God, even) if You grant me salvation after death still no one would know that (God rewarded His devotee). These pundits are calling (Your devotee) a low caste (person), and in this way actually Your own honor is being degraded. (Therefore, O’ God, please do something now rather than later).”(2)

Continuing his prayer, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ God), You are said to be kind and merciful and to have limitless long arms (who can reach everywhere and help His devotees. Therefore please come and help me right now).”

Describing what happened after that, Nam Dev Ji says: “(Listening to my prayer), God turned the front of the temple towards Nam Dev and it’s back towards the pundits (and thus honored His devotee and disgraced the pundits).”(3-2)

The message of this shabad is that we should never remain under any illusion that since we belong to a certain high caste or a rich family, God is going to show us any special favor. He would help and reveal Himself even to the poor and low caste persons if they worship Him with true love humility and devotion.
It is the same light

Malhar Bani Bhagat Ravidas Ji Ki

Word of devotee Ravi Das Ji

In the previous shabad, devotee Nam Dev Ji advised us that we should never remain under any illusion that since we belong to a certain high caste or a rich family, God is going to show us any special favor. He would bless and reveal Himself even to the poor and low caste persons if they worship Him with true love, humility, and devotion. In this shabad, devotee Ravi Das Ji who was a low caste shoe repairer and belonged to a family who used to cart away the dead animals gives us the same message on the basis of his personal experience.

First of all, openly acknowledging his low caste he says: “O’ citizens (of Banaras), it is well known that I belong to the (low) caste of cobblers. (But in my mind), I keep reflecting on God’ s merits, (which has raised my status).”(1-pause)

Now giving some examples to illustrate his point that it is not our birth but what we do that matters, Ravi Das Ji says: “The saintly people won’t drink alcohol even if it is made from the (sacred) water of (river) Ganges. (Similarly even if it is on the basis of one’s high caste or status any arrogance lowers a person in the eyes of the people). On the other hand any alcohol or other impure water when mixed with the (sacred) Ganges water doesn’t remain different (from sacred Ganges water. Similarly by attuning himself to God, even a low caste person becomes immaculate like Him).”(1)

Giving another example, devotee Ravi Das Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the Taarr tree is considered unholy (because its sap is intoxicating, therefore people) consider the paper made from it (also undesirable. But when on those very papers we) write about the praise or worship of God, then we worship the same by bowing before these.”(2)
Finally quoting his personal example and thanking God, Ravi Das Ji says: “(O’ God), people of my caste beat and dress leather and daily cart dead animals in the vicinity of Banaras. (But O’ God, now even) the Brahmins of high merit bow before Your (low caste) servant Ravi Das, who has sought the shelter of Your Name.”(3-1)

The message of this shabad is that honor and dishonor do not depend on our caste or family. It depends on the merit of our deeds, and worship of God is such a supreme deed that it can bring us the highest honor.

Malhar

In the previous shabad, devotee Ravi Das Ji advised us that honor and dishonor do not depend on our caste or family. It depends on the merit of our deeds and worship of God is such a supreme deed that it can bring us the highest honor. In this shabad, he quotes the examples of many famous devotees to make his point.

First describing the kinds of blessings those obtain who meditate on God, Ravi Das Ji says: “They who (truly) worship the lotus feet of God the Master of Laxami (the goddess of wealth), to them no one seems equal to that (God). To them, only one (God) seems to adopt innumerable forms and pervade in each and every heart.”(pause)

Now citing examples of the past devotees and the saints of his time who obtained glory by meditating on God’s Name, Ravi Das Ji says: “(Nam Dev) in whose house is now being written Bhagwat (in praise of God) and nothing else is seen beside (God’s Name), his caste is that of an untouchable calico printer (and he is being worshipped even by high caste Brahmins). Similarly we can see in the (books written by high caste persons such as) Bias and Sanak that the glory of (God’s) Name is spread over the seven continents (of the world).”(1)
Next quoting an example from Muslim tradition, Ravi Das Ji says: “He in whose lineage a cow is sacrificed on the occasion of Eid and Bakreid and whose family members believe in (Muslim) sheikhs, shaeeeds, and peeirs, whose ancestors did things like that, their son Kabir displayed such courage (that instead of bowing to government pressure, he continued to meditate on God’s Name. By doing so) he became famous in all the three worlds.”(2)

Finally Ravi Das Ji cites his own example and says: “He whose low caste family members live in the vicinity of Banaras and are roaming around even today, carting dead animals; with great respect (even the high caste) Brahmins bow before their son Ravi Das, the slave of (God’s) slaves.”(3-2)

The message of this shabad is that no matter what is one’s caste or lineage, if one becomes a true devotee of God and meditates on His Name with true love and devotion, one would be praised and honored by all.

Malhar

In the previous two shabads, Ravi Das Ji shared with us that in spite of belonging to a very low caste, he and many previous other devotees obtained both name and fame by meditating on God’s Name. In this shabad, he shares with us another important lesson and tells how and from where he learnt to discard his faults and obtain the supreme status.

He says: “(O’ my friends, I was wondering) with what kind of worship one could meet beloved (God, the) Master of our breaths? It was in the congregation of saintly persons (that I found my answer) and supreme status.”(pause)

Stating further what else he realized in the company of the saintly persons, Ravi Das Ji says: “(It was in the holy congregation that I asked myself): “For how long could I (continue to speak ill of others, which is like) washing the dirty clothes of others. When the sleep (of death) overpowers me, on what would I lean to sleep (because with all my bad habits and absence of any meditation on God’s Name, I wouldn’t have any support)?”(1)

Next describing, what happened when he realized the above, Ravi das Ji says: “(It was in the company of saintly persons that I realized my sins and my serious situation. Then) whatever I had collected (by sinful means) I tore off that (account. In a way my) entire business built upon falsehood was closed.”(2)
In conclusion, he says: “(In the holy congregation, I realized that) when my account is called for (in God’s court), I would see (in front of me) whatever (good or bad) I had done (in my life. Therefore I left all bad habits and devoted myself to the meditation of God’s Name, which has brought me honor and fame, in spite of my low caste).”

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the company of saints and learn to renounce our sinful habits, such as slandering others or remaining ignorant about the false worldly allurements, and meditate on God’s Name, which alone can help us in obtaining the supreme state of salvation.

Now Guru Ji begins the new chapter in Rag Kaannarra, which is a very popular melody among court singers, Muslim saints called Sufis and devotees of other faiths. Ordinarily this melody is played to bring out emotions of bravery in the listeners, but in Gurbani it is used for devotional effect. The previous shabad in Rag Malhar advises us that we should seek the company of saints and meditate on God’s Name, which alone can help us obtain salvation. Guru Ji begins this chapter by sharing with us how the company of saints (Guru) has blessed him.
He says: “Meeting with the saints my mind has blossomed (in spiritual bliss). I am a sacrifice again and again to the saintly people, (because) by joining their company I have crossed over (the worldly ocean).”(1-pause)

Unlike most of us who, after our purpose is served, forget about our benefactors, Guru Ji prays to God to keep him blessed with the company of saints and says: “O’ God, please show Your mercy (and bless me) that I may remain (in the humble service) at the feet of the saintly people. Blessed again and again are the saints who have known God, because meeting with the saints, (even) the sinners are saved.”(1)

Now Guru Ji explains with an example how the company of the saints helps a person. He says: “(O’ my friends, ordinarily) our mind keeps wandering in many directions, but on meeting the saints we bring it under our control, just as by spreading his net a fisherman catches the fish and takes it home.”(2)

Illustrating the merits of the company of saints with another example, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), very blessed and virtuous are the saints of God, meeting with those holy persons one’s filth (of evil desires) is removed. (Because in their company, one’s) entire sin of ego is dispelled, just as soap cleans dirt off a cloth.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “O’ Nanak, in whose destiny God has pre-ordained the writ (of union with the Guru), enshrines the feet (the immaculate advice) of the Guru in the heart. Such a person obtains that God who is the destroyer of all penury and pain, and by meditating on (whose) Name one is emancipated.”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want that our sins washed off and we may be emancipated from all the pains and suffering of the world, then we should enshrine Guru’s feet (Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) in our heart and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.
In the second stanza of the previous shabad, Guru Ji prayed to God to bless him that he may remain (in the humble service) of saints. In this shabad, he explains why he asked for this favor, and what this blessing has done for him.

He says: “(O’ my friends), my mind begs for the dust of the feet (the most humble service) of the saintly people. Joining their company, whosoever has listened to the discourse of God, that person’s absolutely blank mind has been (so imbued with God’s love, as if it has been) dyed in the color of God.”(1-pause)

Explaining further how the saint (Guru’s) company brings one closer to God, he says: “(O’ my friends, we human beings are) unaware and oblivious (of God. We) don’t know about His state or the extent (of His limit, but they who have sought his shelter), the Guru has made them aware and conscious (of God. As a result), the merciful God of the meek has taken their side and their mind has started meditating on God’s Name.”(1)

Therefore stating how much he is willing to sacrifice for the sake of meeting the saintly devotees, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), if the beloveds of my mind, the saints of God, come and meet me, I would cut out my heart and offer it to them. Whom the saints have met, they have met God. (In this way, the saints) have sanctified sinners like us.”(2)

Commenting further on the virtues of God’s saints, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God’s saints are called sublime in the world, meeting whom even the stone (hearted people) become compassionate. I cannot describe the glory of God’s devotees because God has made them sublime.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by making a prayer to God. He says: “O’ God my Master, You are like a big wholesaler (of the commodity of Name) and we are like petty peddlers, please give us (this commodity). Yes, please show mercy on devotee Nanak so that he may depart (from Your door) after loading that commodity.”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the adoration and humble service of the saints, so that we become aware of God and the need to meditate on His Name, and depart from here with this commodity.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should seek the adoration and humble service of the saints so that we become aware of God and the need to meditate on His Name, and depart from here with this commodity. In this shabad, Guru Ji presents a rare example of humility and tells us how, in spite of all his shortcomings, God’s Name has provided him with a supreme state of peace and bliss and by Guru’s grace he has been united with God.

Advising his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name, (by doing so, one) is illuminated (with divine knowledge). Meeting with God’s saints one is imbued with (God’s) love and becomes detached (even while living) in the household itself.” (1)

Now humbly sharing his experience of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when the merciful God showed mercy upon me, I meditated on the Name of God. Since then such a bliss has prevailed every day that my mind has been delighted and has started making efforts (to meditate on God’s Name) in the hope of meeting Him.” (1)

Describing the efforts he made and what the result was, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I so imbued myself with the love of our God and Master that for as many breaths or morsels of food I took, (I uttered His Name that many times. As a result) all my sins got burnt in an instant and the bonds of worldly attachments were broken.” (2)

However Guru Ji doesn’t want to take any credit for the above state. Instead, he deems it as a blessing of saint (Guru’s) company and a special favor of merciful God on him. He says: “(O’ my friends), we are (tiny) worms? What deeds can we do? It is that (merciful God, who) saved the blind fools (like us). Loaded with sins we are heavy like stones. It is only by joining the congregation of saints, that we are ferried across by the savior (God).” (3)

Showing even more humility, Guru Ji concludes by saying: “(O’ my friends, all the creatures in) the entire universe which God has created are higher (in merit) than us, the
It is the same light

lowly beings who are full of poison (of worldly sins). However He removed our faults in the company of the Guru, (and in this way) devotee Nanak was united with God.”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the company of saintly people, and in their company meditate on God’s Name with so much humility that we consider ourselves as the worst sinners so that God may show His mercy on us, destroy our sins, and breaking our worldly bonds, may unite us with Him.

Kaannarra Mehlaa-4

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should seek the company of saintly people and in their company meditate on God’s Name with so much humility that we consider ourselves the worst sinners so that God may show His mercy on us, destroy our sins, and breaking our worldly bonds, may unite us with Him. In this shabad, he shares with us the kinds of blessings he obtained by following his Guru’s advice.

He says: “(O’ my friends), following the Guru’s words, my mind meditated on God’s Name. Then God the Master of the universe showed His mercy upon me and all my evil intellect, duality, and (worldly) greed vanished.”(1-pause)

Describing what else he learned by meditating on God’s Name and meeting the saints, Guru Ji says: “(I learned that) there are myriad of forms of God and that God is secretly residing in each and every heart. When I met God’s saints, the (blinding) shutters of Maya (the worldly attachments) were opened and God became visible.”(1)
Therefore on the basis of his personal experience Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), great is the glory of saintly people, who with great relish (meditate on God’s Name, and who) have enshrined God in their hearts. After meeting God’s saints, I met God Himself and (then I was happy like a) calf who feels delighted upon seeing (its mother) cow.”(2)

Describing further the virtues of saints, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God Himself resides in His saints, and those saintly people are most sublime, who have enshrined God’s fragrance in their hearts and all the odor (of sinful tendencies) has left them.”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, You Yourself embarrass Your saints and You Yourself save them after making them Your own. Nanak says that You are the friend, brother, mother, father, and relative (of Your servants).”(4-4)

The message of this *shabad* that we should listen to and act in accordance with the words of the saint Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so, all our evil tendencies and sinful worldly desires would vanish, and we would be able to realize God in our own hearts.

**Kaannarra Mehla-4**

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we should listen to and act in accordance with the words of the saint Guru and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so, all our evil tendencies and sinful worldly desires would vanish and we would realize God in our own hearts. In this *shabad*, he elaborates on the benefits of meditating on God’s Name and joining the company of saints.
Addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name in your heart. (Within you is a precious) commodity of God’s Name, (but because of your worldly attachments it is beyond your reach, as if) it is locked in the fort of Maya. But some) have conquered (this fort with the help of) the Guru’s word.”(1-pause)

Explaining what is this Maya and why we need to try to break its barriers and obtain the commodity of God’s Name as soon as possible, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, ordinarily one) keeps wandering and lost in the pursuit of false illusions, attachments and love for one’s son or wife (and doesn’t care about the precious and ever-lasting commodity of God’s Name, hidden inside one’s own body. But one doesn’t realize that) just like the shade of a tree even one’s own wall (like body can) perish in an instant (and one may lose the opportunity to enjoy the bliss of God’s Name).”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji advises us to seek the company of saints of God, who can give us the right guidance and assure us about the existence of such a precious commodity in our body itself. He says: “(O’ my friends), the sublime saints of God are dear to me like my life, meeting whom (belief in the divine) wells up in the mind, and it feels pleased seeing that God pervading in all hearts. That eternal God can only be worshipped when one is imbued with His love.”(2)

Therefore stressing the benefits of the company of God’s saints, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), blessed are the sublime saints of God, meeting whom one’s mind is imbued with the love (of God. The quality of) God’s love (is that it) never fades or gets removed, and it is this God’s love, through which one meets Him.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by once again showing his extreme humility and expressing his gratitude to his Guru for everything. He says: “(As far as I am concerned), I, a great sinner, committed many sins but the Guru removed (all of them. He has helped me in meditating on God’s Name, as if he has) put the medicine of God’s Name in my mouth. (In this way) from a sinner, the devotee Nanak has become a sanctified person.”(4-5)

The message of this shabad is that if we humbly seek the shelter and guidance of saints (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name, our love of worldly things would vanish, our sins would be removed, and we would be imbued with God’s love. This love would never fade and would one day unite us with our beloved God.
Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad by humbly stating that he, a great sinner, had committed many sins but the Guru has removed (all of them and helped him in meditating on God’s Name, as if he has) put the medicine of God’s Name in his mouth. (In this way) from a sinner, the devotee Nanak has become a sanctified person. Therefore in this shabad, he again advises his mind and us to remember God’s Name and elaborates on its benefits.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on the Name of God, the Master of the universe. By extending his hand the true Guru has pulled out even those who were drowning in the whirlpool of poisonous Maya (of worldly attachment).”(1-pause)

Now Guru Ji shows us how to address God with complete humility and ask Him to save us. He says: “O’ the fearless, immaculate Master, please save us the sinners who are heavy like stones (with the load of so many sins on our head). We are engaged in lust, anger, and greed for the poison of (worldly wealth). Just as a piece of iron swims across (a river) in the company of a wooden (boat, please save us by keeping us in the company of saintly persons).”(1)

Acknowledging the excellence and the limitlessness of God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, You are a great Being, who is beyond the comprehension of our sense organs; we have exhausted ourselves but couldn’t find (the limit of) Your depth. O’ Master, You are infinite and beyond any limits. (In short), O’ God of the universe, only You know Yourself.”(2)

On the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji suggests: “O’ my friends, God) is beyond the comprehension of our sense organs and cannot be seen with ordinary eyes. One can meditate on His Name by joining the congregation of saintly persons and following the path laid out by the Guru. They, who have listened to the discourse of the indescribable God in the holy congregation, have meditated on His Name.”(3)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by making a humble prayer before God. He says: “O’ our God, the Master of the universe, O’ the owner of the universe, please save us (from the great worldly evils). O’ God, show mercy on Nanak, the slave of Your slaves, and keep him in the company of (Your) devotees.”(4-6)

The message of this shabad is that even if we are such great sinners that we are drowning in the whirlpool of worldly evils such as lust, anger, and greed, we should still pray to God to show mercy and bless us with the company of His devotees. By
Guru Ji started the previous shabad by advising his mind to meditate on the Name of God. He begins this shabad also, with the same advice. But this time he goes into a sort of ecstasy, imagining him to be a young bride who is so lost in the love of her beloved Spouse that she starts singing and dancing unmindful of the tune or beat. Perhaps that is why he has uttered this shabad in Parraal, a form of melody in which the “beat” changes many times.

Addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate upon God, the Master of the universe. (God’s Name is precious like) gems, jewels, and rubies. (God’s Name is like a beautiful ornament for you), pattern it in the mind of (the congregation) of Guru’s followers. (When we do so) God becomes very kind to us.”(1-pause)

However recognizing the limitlessness of God’s virtues Guru Ji humbly says: “O’ inaccessible, incomprehensible, beauteous all-pervading God, how can the one poor tongue (of mine) narrate Your merits. O’ my venerable God, Your indescribable discourse, only You know. By meditating on You, O’ God, I have been totally delighted.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by expressing how much he is in love with his beloved God and how every faculty and every part of his body is singing His praise. He says: “(O’ my friends), God is dear to me like my life breath. He is my Master and my friend. Within my mind, my body, and on my tongue is God’s Name. God’s Name for me is all my wealth and capital. (O’ my friends, the bride soul) whose destiny has awakened has obtained her Groom and following Guru’s instruction, she sings God’s praises. Slave Nanak is a sacrifice meditating on God’s Name in their company we might also be saved, just as a piece of iron swims across a river in the company of a wooden boat.
The message of this shabad is that so limitless are the virtues of God that our one tongue cannot count them. The only thing we can do is that by joining the congregation of saintly persons we can sing His praises, meditate on His Name, and enjoy the unlimited bliss of God's mercy upon us.
so drenched in God’s love that we may continuously keep meditating on His Name and singing His praises as if with millions of tongues.

Kaanrhoa melaa 4.

bhaj raamo man raam.
jis roop na raykh vadaam.
satsangat mil bhaj raam.
bad ho ho bhag mathaam. ||1|| rahaa-o.

In the previous shabad Guru Ji advised us that we should beg God to bless us with the instruction of the Guru so that every pore of our body is so drenched in God’s love that we may continuously keep meditating on His Name and singing His praises, as if with millions of tongues. In this shabad, he elaborates on this advice.

He says: “(O’ my friend), that God who has no form or feature, who is highest of the high, meditate on that God in your mind. Yes, join the congregation of saintly persons and worship God. This would make your destiny great.”(1-pause)

Describing the kinds of blessings one obtains by meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), the house, the temple (of the heart), in which are sung praises of God that heart enjoys bliss after bliss. (Therefore, O’ my friend), meditate on God’s Name again and again. (Yes, O’ my brother) keep singing praises of beloved God. This is the instruction and advice of the true Guru that one obtains peace by worshipping God again and again.”(1)

Therefore even for himself Guru Ji prays to God and says: “O’ God, You are the merciful Creator and supporter of the entire universe, and are pervading everywhere. Slave Nanak has come to Your shelter; please bless him with this Guru’s instruction that he may continue uttering God’s Name again and again.”(2-3-9)

The message of this shabad is that following Guru’s instruction we should keep meditating on God’s Name. It would bring us immense peace and bliss.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that following Guru's instruction we should meditate on God's Name. It would bring us peace and bliss. In this shabad, he expresses his utmost respect and gratitude for his Guru and tells us that in this way, not only peace and bliss, but one also finds the easy way to reach God, the source of all bliss.

Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends), I kiss the feet of that true Guru, meeting whom (one finds) the plain and simple way (to meet God. Seeking the shelter of the Guru, so meditate on God's Name, as if) you are drinking its relish in gulps. (But only) the one in whose destiny it is so written, (meditates on God's Name with such zeal)."(1-pause)

Now commenting on the effectiveness of doing ritualistic deeds or adorning holy garbs, he says: "(O' my friends), by doing the extensive six kinds of rituals (advocated by pundits), adorning matted hair like the yogis and adepts, or adorning (holy) garbs, we don't obtain union with God. We find God only in the holy congregation. Therefore, joining the saintly congregation and following Guru's instruction, open the gates of your mind (and enlighten it)."(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing the divine enlightenment he has obtained through his Guru. Addressing God, he says: "O' limitless God, You are extremely deep (unfathomable) and You are pervading in all lands and waters. You are the one and only one, and all the creation is from You alone. You know everything and understand all the ways. O' God, who is residing in the heart of slave Nanak, You reside in each and every heart."(2-4-10)

The message of this shabad is that God is not met by doing any ritualistic deeds or wearing holy garbs. We can meet Him only by following Guru's instruction and meditating on His Name in the congregation of saintly persons.

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**Kaannarra Mehla-4**

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that following Guru's instruction we should meditate on God's Name. It would bring us peace and bliss. In this *shabad*, he expresses his utmost respect and gratitude for his Guru and tells us that in this way, not only peace and bliss, but one also finds the easy way to reach God, the source of all bliss.

Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends), I kiss the feet of that true Guru, meeting whom (one finds) the plain and simple way (to meet God. Seeking the shelter of the Guru, so meditate on God's Name, as if) you are drinking its relish in gulps. (But only) the one in whose destiny it is so written, (meditates on God's Name with such zeal)."(1)

Now commenting on the effectiveness of doing ritualistic deeds or adorning holy garbs, he says: "(O' my friends), by doing the extensive six kinds of rituals (advocated by pundits), adorning matted hair like the yogis and adepts, or adorning (holy) garbs, we don't obtain union with God. We find God only in the holy congregation. Therefore, joining the saintly congregation and following Guru's instruction, open the gates of your mind (and enlighten it)."(1)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by describing the divine enlightenment he has obtained through his Guru. Addressing God, he says: "O' limitless God, You are extremely deep (unfathomable) and You are pervading in all lands and waters. You are the one and only one, and all the creation is from You alone. You know everything and understand all the ways. O' God, who is residing in the heart of slave Nanak, You reside in each and every heart."(2-4-10)

The message of this *shabad* is that God is not met by doing any ritualistic deeds or wearing holy garbs. We can meet Him only by following Guru's instruction and meditating on His Name in the congregation of saintly persons.

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**Kaarharhaa Mehlaa 4.**

jap man gobid maadho.
har har agam agaaDho.
mat gurmat har parabh laaDho.
Dhur ho ho likhay lilaaDho. ||1|| raha-oo.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we cannot meet God by doing any ritualistic deeds or wearing holy garbs. We can meet Him only by following Guru’s instruction and meditating on His Name in the congregation of saintly persons. In this *shabad*, he tells us about the blessings one obtains by meditating on God’s Name. He also gives some very beautiful examples to illustrate the benefits of meeting the saintly people and following their lead.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God the Master of Laxami (the goddess of wealth). That God is unapproachable, and of infinite depth. In whose destiny it is so pre-written finds that God by following Guru’s instruction.”

Guru Ji now draws our attention to our worldly life, and tells us what things lead us toward evil and bring us pain. He also tells us how we can purge ourselves of these evils and obtain peace. He says: “(O’ my friends), when we occupy ourselves in amassing the poison of Maya (the worldly wealth), then we start thinking of many evils (which bring us pain). We obtain peace when upon meeting the true Guru we sing praises of God in the company of the saints. Just as by touching the philosopher’s stone, the rusted iron becomes gold, similarly by joining the saintly congregation and following Guru’s instruction, the sinners get sanctified (and become persons of immaculate character).”

Giving another example, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), just as a lot of iron swims across in the company of wood, similarly the sinners are also ferried across (the dreadful worldly ocean) in the company of the saints and the true Guru.”

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “There are four castes (Brahmins, Kasharies, Vaish, and Shoodras), and four *Ashrams* (Brahamcharya or student life, Graastha or married life, Sanyas or renouncing of the world and Vanprastha or living in jungles). Out of these (castes), anyone who meets Nanak the Guru of all Gurus, that one is ferried across personally, and (also) gets all his or her generations emancipated.”

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to obtain salvation then irrespective of our caste, or stage in life, we should follow the advice of Nanak, the Guru of all Gurus, and meditate on God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain salvation, then irrespective of our caste or stage in life, we should follow the advice of Nanak, the Guru of all Gurus, and meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he tells us what we need to do to meditate on God’s Name, how God’s devotees meditate, and what blessings they enjoy.

He says: “(O’ my friends), sing praise of God, the Architect of our destiny. By singing His praise our sins are removed. With your ears listen to the instruction of the Guru. (When you do so), God becomes kind (to you).”(1-pause)

Now Guru Ji addresses God Himself and indirectly tells us how the devotees of God praise and meditate on Him. He says: “O’ God, Your saints meditate on You with single-minded concentration. By meditating on the treasure of Your Name, these saints obtain bliss. O’ God, meeting the true Guru these saintly devotees sing Your praises.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “O’ Master, in whose heart You are enshrined, they obtain peace and swim across the dreadful worldly ocean. (O’ my friend), deem them as (true) devotees of God. O’ God, please yoke me to their service; yes, O’ the Architect of the destiny of slave Nanak, yoke me to their service.”(2-6-12).

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain peace and swim across this dreadful worldly ocean, then we should pray to God to bless us with the company and service of those holy saints who sing praises of God and meditate on His Name under the guidance of the true Guru.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain peace and swim across this dreadful worldly ocean, then we should pray to God to bless us with the company and service of those holy saints who sing praises of God and meditate on His Name under the guidance of the true Guru. In this shabad, he invites us to come and join him in singing praises of God, and tells us what kinds of blessings we obtain by doing so.

He says: "(O' my friends), we should sing praises of that treasure of kindness, the Master of the universe, destroyer of pains, the peace-giving true Guru, seeing whom all one's tasks are successfully accomplished."(1-pause)

Now Guru Ji tells us what the virtues of meditating on God's Name are. He says: "(O' my friends), by meditating on God's Name, one's mind finds support (against evil. God's Name) ferries across millions of sinners in an instant."(1)

As for the merits of the Guru, he says: "(O' my friends), one who remembers (the advice of) one's Guru (and meditates on God's Name), doesn't suffer any pain even in dream."(2)

Now Guru Ji gives the sign when the true Guru is merciful on anybody. He says: "(O' my friends), whom the true Guru saves, that person meditates on God's (Name with love and enjoys) the relish (of Name) with his or her tongue."(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: "O' Nanak, on whom the Guru has bestowed his mercy, (that person has meditated on God's Name. Therefore, such a person) has been honored both in this life and after life (in God's court)."(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we do not want pain to touch us, and we are honored both in this world and God's court, then as per Guru's advice we should sing God's praises and meditate on His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want no pain to touch us, and we are honored both in this world and God’s court, then as per Guru’s advice we should sing God’s praises and meditate on His Name. Therefore in this shabad, Guru Ji describes how he himself meditates on God’s Name and tells how much he respects and loves those who have been blessed with God’s Name in this age.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ my Master, I meditate on You. Whether sitting, standing, sleeping or awake, I meditate on You with each and every breath.”(1-pause)

However, he notes: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name has been enshrined (only) in the hearts of those, on whom the Master has bestowed this gift.”(1)

Describing what kinds of blessing they obtain who follow Guru’s advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), peace comes to abide in the heart of those, who following Guru’s advice (meditate on God’s Name and) meet God.”(2)

Giving the reason for the above statement, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that person alone is proficient in all the (divine) skills whom the Guru has blessed with the mantra of (God’s) Name.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by expressing his love and admiration for such people as described above. He says: “O’ Nanak, say that I am a sacrifice to those who have obtained (God’s) Name in Kal Yug (the present age).”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain peace and contentment in the present difficult age called Kal Yug then following Guru Ji’s advice we should meditate on God’s Name at all times.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain peace and contentment in the present difficult age called Kal Yug, then following Guru Ji’s advice we should meditate on God’s Name at all times. In this shabad, which is so popular that even the sikh youth raised and educated outside Punjab sing it with great zeal in Gurudwaras and other holy congregations, Guru Ji advises his own tongue to sing praises of God and states the benefits of doing that.

Addressing his own tongue, Guru Ji says: “O’ my tongue, sing praises of God and salute the Guru innumerable times, because there (in Guru’s heart) resides the feet (true love and Name) of God.”(1)

Humbly acknowledging that it is only through God’s grace and not by any other means one can reach God’s door, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I know that even by performing ritualistic deeds of) countless kinds I cannot obtain (God’s) door. However if He Himself becomes gracious, then I can meditate on God’s Name (and meet Him).”(1)

Now comparing the effectiveness of saintly congregation in purifying anybody with other ritualistic deeds, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), even by performing myriads of (ritualistic) deeds, one’s body (soul) is not purified, but in the company of saints one’s mind is awakened (with divine knowledge and one’s soul is easily purified).”(2)

Stating another unique blessing of God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), even after enjoying many kinds of worldly pleasures, (people’s) fire (of worldly desire) has not been extinguished, but by meditating on (God’s Name, they feel so contented, as if they have) obtained all (kinds of) peace.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), Nanak says that when God becomes gracious (on anyone) then all one’s (worldly) entanglements are ended (and by meditating on God’s Name, one merges in Him).”(4)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all kinds of worldly involvements and enjoy true peace then joining the company of saintly people we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all kinds of worldly involvements and enjoy true peace then joining the company of saints we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. He also told us that when God becomes gracious (on anyone), all one’s (worldly) entanglements are ended and by meditating on His Name one merges in God. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us how to seek the grace of God and what to beg from Him.

He says: “(O’ my friend), beg for such a boon from God (that you are) in the service of the saints and have the company of the saints so that by meditating on God’s Name, (you may obtain the) supreme state (of salvation).”(1)

Stating what else one should ask from God, he says: “(O’ man, ask from God, that) you may always worship the feet of God, may always remain under His shelter, and whatever God does you may deem that as (true) happiness.”(1)

Describing what happens when the true Guru becomes gracious, he says: “(O’ man), accomplished becomes this precious human body on whom the true Guru shows mercy (and blesses with the gift of God’s Name).”(2)

Explaining how that happens, he says: “(O’ my friend), in whose heart resides the feet (the loving memory of the Guru, all that one’s sins and sorrows are banished, as if) the abode of ignorance, doubt and pain has been destroyed.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in the company of saints, they who have meditated on God with love, Nanak says, they have obtained the perfect (God).”(4)

The message of this shabad is that instead of begging God for riches or power, we should pray to Him to bless us with the service and company of the saints so that we
may sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. Only in that way would we obtain true pleasure and the perfect (God).

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of begging God for riches or power we should pray to Him to bless us with the service and company of the saints so that we may sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. Only in that way, would we obtain true pleasure and the perfect (God). In this shabad, he cautions us against doing a lip service instead of meditating on His Name with true love and devotion in our hearts or following those fake gurus who may have adorned holy garbs but are not true devotees of God.

Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, God's) devotion behooves (those true) devotees whose mind and body always remain so absorbed in their Master that He Himself unites them with Him." (1-pause)

Commenting on those who, even though sing devotional songs in melodious voices but are without true love for God in their hearts, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, even though) for the sake of customs the singing (world) sings songs (in praise of God), yet only those are emancipated in whose heart resides (the true love for their Master)." (1)

Illustrating the above with an example, Guru Ji says: “Even though the person who sets the dinner table sees the dainty dishes, (but by seeing this food, one doesn’t get any satisfaction); only those who eat (these dishes) are satiated.” (2)

Giving another example, he says: "(O’ my friends), an actor may adorn innumerable garbs (to play different roles but after playing those roles, that person) looks as he (or she really) is.” (3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), to say or get it said (from others anything except God’s Name) is all (worldly) entanglement. Slave Nanak says that living a life of truth is the essence (of all devotion).” (4-5)
The message of this shabad is that if we want our worship or devotion to be approved in God’s court, then we should worship God with true love and devotion from the core of our heart and live a truthful living.

Kaanhaar Meelaa 5.

The message of this shabad is that if we want our worship or devotion to be approved in God’s court, then we should worship God with true love and devotion from the core of our heart and live a truthful living.
In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji has described the merits of the devotees of God and has gone to the extent of saying that in essence the saints are the embodiment of God Himself and He resides in the saints’ heart. In this shabad, he tells us what the objective of God is to come and reside in their heart and what the benefit is of seeking their advice.

He says: “(O’ my friends, God) Himself comes to (reside in) the saint’s (heart) to emancipate (the world).”(1-pause)

Stating the virtues of coming to see the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends, on) seeing (the saint Guru and listening to his sermon) one gets sanctified, because (the Guru) enshrines God’s mantra (of Name in one’s heart).”(1)

Telling what happens after that, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they who partake the medicine of God’s Name (given by the Guru), their (worldly) ailments are cured and their minds become immaculate.”(2)

Listing other blessings of the medicine of Name, he says: “(O’ my friends, upon receiving the medicine of Name, one’s mind becomes) stable, remains in a state of peace, and doesn’t run anywhere else (in pursuit of worldly things).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all people are emancipated by the grace of the saint Guru), and O’ Nanak, the worldly attachment doesn’t afflict them.”(4-7)

The message of this shabad is that we should see the saint Guru (devotedly listen to his Gurbani) and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so, our mind would become stable and free from all worldly ailments. We would not only save ourselves but also help others with whom we come in contact.
In the previous shabad Guru Ji advised us that we should see the saint Guru (devotedly listen to his Gurbani) and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so, our mind would become stable and free from all worldly ailments. We would not only save ourselves, but would also help others with whom we come in contact. In this shabad, he tells us what kind of peace and bliss he has obtained since the time he has obtained the company and guidance of saint (Guru).

He says: “(O’ my friends), forsaken is all my sense of jealousy with others since the time I have obtained the company of the saint (Guru).” (1-pause)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends), now for me, nobody is my enemy nor a stranger. I get along (easily) with all.” (1)

Stating, what else he has learnt from the saint Guru, he says: “Whatever God has done I have accepted it as the best thing (for me). This good advice I have obtained from the saint (Guru).” (2)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(Since the time, I have obtained the company of the saint Guru), I see that in all is pervading the same one (God, and I) Nanak, feel delighted seeing Him again and again.” (3-8)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the company of the saint Guru (Granth Sahib Ji, read and act on the Gurbani with true love and devotion) and accept whatever God does as the best thing for us. By doing so, we would get rid of all our jealousy and enmity and would enjoy the bliss of God’s sight in everybody.

Kaannarra Mehla-5

In the previous shabad Guru Ji advised us that we should see the saint Guru (devotedly listen to his Gurbani) and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so, our mind would become stable and free from all worldly ailments. We would not only save ourselves, but would also help others with whom we come in contact. In this shabad, he tells us what kind of peace and bliss he has obtained since the time he has obtained the company and guidance of saint (Guru).

He says: “(O’ my friends), forsaken is all my sense of jealousy with others since the time I have obtained the company of the saint (Guru).” (1-pause)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends), now for me, nobody is my enemy nor a stranger. I get along (easily) with all.” (1)

Stating, what else he has learnt from the saint Guru, he says: “Whatever God has done I have accepted it as the best thing (for me). This good advice I have obtained from the saint (Guru).” (2)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(Since the time, I have obtained the company of the saint Guru), I see that in all is pervading the same one (God, and I) Nanak, feel delighted seeing Him again and again.” (3-8)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the company of the saint Guru (Granth Sahib Ji, read and act on the Gurbani with true love and devotion) and accept whatever God does as the best thing for us. By doing so, we would get rid of all our jealousy and enmity and would enjoy the bliss of God’s sight in everybody.
In the second stanza of the previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that whatever God has done he has accepted it as the best thing (for him). This good advice he has obtained from the saint (Guru). In this shabad, Guru Ji expresses his complete trust in God and also shows us how to completely surrender ourselves to God's will.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ my respected Master I lean only on Your support. All my honor and pride depend on You. I depend only on Your support and Your shelter.” (1-pause)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ God, I have) my hope and faith in You, and it is Your Name which I have enshrined in my heart. I depend on Your power, You are my mate and companion, and I do only what You say.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), it is only by Your mercy and grace that I obtain peace, and if You become kind, only then could I cross over the dreadful (worldly) ocean. (By Guru’s grace), I have obtained the gift of fearlessness and God’s Name, (therefore I) Nanak have placed my head at the feet of the saint (Guru).” (2-9)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the refuge of the saint Guru (Granth Sahib Ji), meditate on God’s Name, and have complete faith in the support and protection of God. By doing so we would lose all our fear and anxiety and would enjoy a state of complete peace and bliss.

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Kaannarra Mehta-5

The second stanza of the previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that whatever God has done he has accepted it as the best thing (for him). This good advice he has obtained from the saint (Guru). In this shabad, Guru Ji expresses his complete trust in God and also shows us how to completely surrender ourselves to God’s will.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ my respected Master I lean only on Your support. All my honor and pride depend on You. I depend only on Your support and Your shelter.” (1-pause)

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Kaanraa mehlaa 5.

saadhe saran chhitar laa-i-aa.
supan kee baat sunee paykhee supnaa naam manther satgururoo drirh-aa-i-aa. ||1|| rahaa-o.
nah taariptaano raaj joban Dhaar bahur bahur fir Dhaar-i-aa.
sukh paa-i-aa taarisnaa saah bujhee hai saa’t paa-ee gun gaa-i-aa. ||1||
bin boojhay passo kee ni-aa-ee bharam mohi bi-aap-i-aa.
saadh sang jam jayvree kaatee naanak sahj samaa-i-aa. ||2||10||
Kaannarra Mehla-5

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us to seek the refuge of the saint Guru, meditate on God’s Name and have complete faith in the support and protection of God. By doing so we would lose all our fear and anxiety and would enjoy a state of complete peace and bliss. In this *shabad*, as if sharing his personal experience, Guru Ji tells us about the truths one realizes by surrendering oneself to the immaculate advice of the Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends, earlier) I had only heard this thing that (this world is a) dream, but when I attuned my mind to the feet of the saint Guru (and carefully listened to his sermon) and when the true Guru instilled the *Mantra* of Name, I saw (with my inner eyes and realized that indeed this world is short lived like) a dream.”

Stating what else, he has learnt in the company of the saint (Guru), he says: “(I have realized that man’s mind) is not satiated by kingdoms, youth or wealth, and it keeps running after (such things) again and again. (But when) one sings (God’s) praises, one obtains peace, all one’s fire (of worldly desire) is extinguished and one obtains tranquility.”

Therefore on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji declares: “(O’ my friends,) without knowing (the true nature of the world, a man remains foolish like) an animal and remains afflicted by the illusion of (worldly) attachment. (But) in the company of the saint Nanak, one’s noose of death is cut off, and one merges in a state of poise.”

The message of this *shabad* is that we should seek the company of saint (Guru, listen and understand *Gurbani* in Guru Granth Sahib Ji). By doing so we would understand the reality of this world, our illusions about worldly riches and power would be removed and by meditating on God’s Name we would enjoy a true state of bliss.
He says: “(O’ my friends), by enshrining God’s feet (His Name) in your heart sing His praises. (Focusing) on His peace giving and tranquilizing form meditate on Him every day.” (1-pause)

Stating the merits of meditating on God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends, by remembering God), all one’s hopes are fulfilled and the pain of millions of births vanishes.” (1)

Finally enunciating the merits of keeping the company of saint (Guru), he says: “(O’ my friends), if one remains merged in the company of saint (Guru, one obtains the merit) of innumerable (virtuous deeds of) compassion and charity. O’ Nanak, all one’s sorrows and sufferings are erased and (the fear of birth or) death doesn’t torture one again.” (2-11)

The message of the shabad is that seeking the company of saintly people, and engraving Guru’s words (his Gurbani) in our mind, we should sing praises of God from the core of our heart. By doing so all sorrows and sufferings would go away and the pain of birth and death would not consume us again.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that seeking the company of saints and enshrining Guru’s words (his Gurbani) in our mind, we should sing praises of God from the core of our heart. By doing so all our sorrows and sufferings would go away and we would not be consumed by the pain of birth and death again. In this shabad, he tells us what we need to do when we are in the company of saints, and what the benefits are of doing that.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in the company of the saints we should talk about divine knowledge. (Because) by contemplating the embodiment of perfect and immaculate light of God, we obtain (true) honor.” (1-pause)

Listing additional blessings of meditating on God in the company of saints, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating on God in the company of saints, one’s comings and goings and the tiring efforts of the soul come to an end. By being imbued with the love of the all-pervading God, even the worst sinners are sanctified.” (1)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whoever sings or listens to God’s praise, (that person’s) evil intellect is destroyed. O’ Nanak, one achieves all one’s objectives and his or her every hope is fulfilled.”(2-1-12)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to achieve the objective of our life and end all our future comings and goings, then joining the company of saints we should talk about God and sing His praises.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to achieve the objective of our life and end all our future comings and goings, then joining the company of saints we should talk about God and sing His praises. In this shabad, he tells us what one obtains and achieves by joining the company of saintly people.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by joining the company of saintly people one obtains the treasure of God’s Name, which always remains in the company of one’s soul (till the end) and is always of service to it.”(1-pause)

Stating what blessings a person obtains who remains in the company of saints, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who (devotedly listens to the Guru’s words or Gurbani, as if one) bathes daily in the dust of the feet of the saints, gets rid of the sins of many births.”(1)

In conclusion, he says: “(O’ my friends), uplifting (for the soul) is the word of the saintly people, by meditating on it again and again (and living in accordance with it, many human beings have been emancipated.”(2-2-13)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be absolved of the sins of many births and want that we should have a reliable companion on our journey beyond death then we should join the society of saintly people and sing praises of God in their company.)
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to be absolved of the sins of many births and want to have a reliable companion on our journey beyond death, then we should join the society of saintly people and sing praises of God in their company. In this shabad, he once again stresses this point and shows us how to forsake all other allurements and surrender ourselves completely to the shelter of God.

He says: “(O’ my friend, by) joining the saint (Guru), one should sing praises of God. By worshipping that God, to whom belongs our mind, body, wealth, and life breaths, all our suffering goes away.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji asks: “(O’ man), why are you lured by this or that thing? Attune your mind to the one (God alone).”(1)

He says: “(O’ man), supremely immaculate is the abode of saint (Guru); meeting him you should meditate on God.”(2)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by showing us how to completely surrender to God and seek His protection. He says: “O’ God, forsaking all other (supports) I have come to Your shelter. Please unite Nanak with You.”(3-3-14)

The message of this shabad is that if we want all our pains and suffering to come to an end, then instead of being lured by other things we should attune our mind to God, and joining the company of saints we should sing praises of God in the company of saint (Guru).
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want our pains and suffering to end, then instead of being lured by other things, we should attune our mind to God. Joining the company of saints, we should sing praises of God in the company of saint (Guru). In this shabad, he tells us about the joy he feels seeing the wonders of that amazing God.

He says: “I feel delighted, seeing my friend (God) again and again (in so many forms, who even though is pervading everything, is) by Himself.”

Describing His uniqueness, Guru Ji says: “He is the embodiment of bliss, peace, and poise, and there is no one like Him.”

Commenting on the merits of meditating on God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by sincerely contemplating that God (just) one time, millions of one’s sins are destroyed.”

Continuing to state the blessings of singing God’s praises, he says: “(O’ my friends), by singing (God’s) praises one’s sorrows vanish, and peace prevails in the heart.”

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by advising himself (and indirectly us): “O’ Nanak, drink the nectar of God (by continuing to utter His Name) with your tongue and remain imbued with God’s love.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy a state of true peace, poise and bliss and get rid of all our sins, then we should keep meditating on God’s Name with true love and devotion of our heart.

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Kaannarra Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy a state of true peace, poise and bliss and get rid of all our sins, then we should meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. But he says that singing praises of God in the company of saintly people has its own unique merit. Therefore, in this shabad he invites his saintly friends, asks them to sing bliss giving songs in praise of God, and then describes the happiness and joy he feels in their company.
So lovingly inviting his saintly people to his house, Guru Ji says: “O’ my dear saintly friends come (and join me).”(1-pause)

Stating the purpose of his invitation, he says: “(O’ my dear saints), by singing praises of God (in your company) bliss and joys prevail (in my heart), and all my sins are removed.”(1)

Stating what happens in the company of saint (Guru), he says: “(O’ my friends), when I place saint’s feet on my head (and respectfully listen to his sweet words, my ignorant mind gets so illuminated with divine knowledge, as if) the dark house (of my heart) has been enlightened.”(2)

But that is not all; describing what else happens in the company of saints, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by the grace of saints (my heart feels delighted) like the blossoming of a lotus; seeing God near me I sing His praises.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I) Nanak am a sacrifice to that moment again and again when, by God’s grace, I obtained the company (and the guidance of) the saint (Guru).”(4-5-16)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our sins, and enjoy a true state of peace and bliss, then we should invite the saintly people and sing praises of God in their company.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our sins and enjoy a true state of peace and bliss then we should invite the saintly people and sing praises of God in their company. In this shabad, he shows us how to pray to God and what to ask from Him. He also tells us what kinds of blessings we can obtain by meditating on God’s Name.

Kaanarra Mehaa 5.

Kaanarra Mehaa 5
Guru Ji humbly addresses God and says: “O’ the Sustainer of universe, I have sought the shelter of Your feet (Your Name). Please save me by cutting off the fetters (and liberating me from the bonds of worldly) attachment, ego, deceit, and doubt.”(1-pause)

Expressing his confidence in God, he says: “O’ God, (many who were getting ruined by worldly entanglements, as if) drowning in the worldly ocean, were saved by meditating on God’s (Name, which is like) the mine of jewels.”(1)

Continuing his praise, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), Your Name is comforting. O’ God, You are my all pervading Master.”(2)

Guru Ji goes on to say: “(O’ my friends), God is (like a) ship to ferry across (the ocean) of pains. He is the treasure of mercy and sanctifier of sinners.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), it is after suffering millions of births, that a person obtains (the human body). But O’ Nanak, that person alone obtains peace in whom the Guru has firmly enshrined (God’s) Name.”(4-6-17)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the shelter of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so all our sins and evil tendencies would be destroyed and we would be saved from drowning in the worldly ocean.

In stanza (1) of the previous shabad, Guru Ji said that many who were getting ruined by worldly entanglements, as if drowning in the worldly ocean, were saved by meditating on God’s Name. Therefore he starts this shabad, by describing how fortunate are they who are in love with God, and he shows us how to completely surrender to God and express our full faith in Him.

Guru Ji says: “Blessed is that love which is attuned to the feet (the loving memory of God. One who is blessed with such a love) obtains the comforts of millions of worship and penances and by good fortune the perfect (God) comes to meet that person.”(1-pause)
Therefore most humbly and affectionately addressing God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), I am an orphan am a slave and devotee of Yours, I have abandoned all other support. O’ God, by meditating on Your Name, even my tiniest doubts have been removed and upon obtaining the eye powder of (divine) knowledge, I have awakened from the sleep (of worldly attachments).”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “O’ God, You are the extremely great and unfathomable Master. You are the ocean of mercy and like a mine full of jewels. The beggar Nanak has put forth his head at Your feet and begs for the charity of Your Name.”(2-7-18)

The message of this shabad is that we should attune ourselves to the love of God, and beg Him to bless us with the gift of His Name, which can wash away the sins of millions of births and reunite us with Him.

Kaanarra Mehla 5.

Most of us are too arrogant, self-conceited, and feel we are the best person on earth. If by chance we happen to do a little bit of God’s ritual worship we feel so proud, as if we hold a franchise on God and He has no choice but to give us the most honorable seat in heaven. But in this shabad, Guru Ji shows us how to approach God, frankly confess our misdeeds and sinful habits and without having an iota of pride or claim of any kind, humbly pray to Him for His mercy

He says: “(O’ God), we are immoral, stonehearted, deceitful and lustful (persons). Howsoever You know, save us O’ Master.”(1-pause)

Expressing his complete confidence in God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), You are all powerful and capable provider of shelter. (As per Your tradition), by using Your power, You save (those who seek Your shelter).”(1)

In closing, he says: “(O’ God), we cannot be emancipated by doing worships, penances, daily rituals, purifications, austerities, or any such means. (Therefore), O’ God, please cast Your glance of grace and pull Nanak out of the deep blind pit (of worldly evil).”(2-8-19)

The message of this shabad is that if we want that in spite of all our sins, hypocrisies, and vices, God may show His mercy on us and save us, then instead of any ritual worships or purifications we should honestly confess our sins before God, humbly seek His shelter, and pray to Him to save us.
In the previous shabad (4-6-17), Guru Ji advised us that we should seek the shelter of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God's Name. By doing so all our sins and evil tendencies would be destroyed and we would be saved from drowning in the worldly ocean. In this shabad, he states how much he respects that Guru who emancipates him and how delighted he feels seeing the wonders of God.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), we should salute that primal God, the King of all human beings. We should again and again be a sacrifice to such a Guru who himself is emancipated and can save (many other sinners like) me.”(1-pause)

However Guru Ji notes: “(O’ my friends, so numerous are the merits of that God, that one wonders) which of His merits we should mention because there is no end or limit to these. However it is only a rare person who thinks like this.”(1)

But expressing his own delight upon seeing God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, seeing You), I have been so amazed and delighted that (my face has become) crimson red (in Your love). Nanak says that just as upon eating a sweet thing a dumb person (can not describe, but only smiles, (similarly upon tasting God’s Name), His saints have enjoyed such a relish, (which they cannot describe)).”(2-1-20)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy the extremely unbelievable and indescribable relish of divine bliss then we should again and again bow to the feet of that true Guru who himself is emancipated and can also emancipate us.

**Kaanarhaa Mehma 5 Ghar-4**

kaanrhaa mehlaa 5 ghar 4
ik-o*kaar sangat parasaad.
aaaraa-in narpã namaskaarai.
aisay gur ka-o bal bal jaa-ee-ai aap muka t mohi taarai. ||1|| rahaa-o.
kavan kavan kavan gun kahee-ai anã nahee kachh paarai.
lakha laakh laakh ka-eem korai ko hai aiso beecharai. ||1||
**SGGS P-1302**

bisam bisam hee bha-ee hai bhaa-ee hai laal gulaal rangaarai.
ko naanak sanatan ras aa-ee hai ji-o chaakh goongaa muskaarai. ||2||1||20||
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the extremely unbelievable and indescribable relish of divine bliss, then we should again and again bow to the feet of that true Guru who himself is emancipated and can also emancipate us. In this shabad, he tells us what is so special about the character and conduct of saintly people for which he loves and respects them so much.

He says: “(O’ my friends), except for God, the saints don’t deem anyone else (residing anywhere. Seeing Him) equally pervading in the high and the low (the rich and the poor), they utter (God’s Name), and contemplate on Him.”(1-pause)

Describing his own belief and present state of mind, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that God who is dear to me like) my life is the destroyer of fear and ocean of comforts, He is pervading in each and every heart. They in whose ears (God has) enshrined the mantra of the Guru, their mind has been illuminated (with divine knowledge) and all their doubt has vanished.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the grateful saints keep talking about the merciful God, who is the knower of all hearts. Nanak too keeps singing God’s praises at all times, so that he may also beg for the charity of His Name.”(2-2-21)

The message of this shabad is that if we want our doubts dispelled and our mind illuminated with divine knowledge, then we should seek and act on the guidance of the Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and sing God’s praises at all times.

**Kaantarra Mehla-5**

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy the extremely unbelievable and indescribable relish of divine bliss, then we should again and again bow to the feet of that true Guru who himself is emancipated and can also emancipate us. In this shabad, he tells us what is so special about the character and conduct of saintly people for which he loves and respects them so much.

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The message of this shabad is that if we want our doubts dispelled and our mind illuminated with divine knowledge, then we should seek and act on the guidance of the Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and sing God’s praises at all times.
In the opening lines of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that except for God, the saints don’t deem anyone else (residing anywhere. Seeing Him) equally pervading in the high and the low (the rich and the poor), they utter (God’s Name), and contemplate on Him. In this shabad, he lists some more specific traits of the saintly persons and how they look at different situations in life.

He says: “(O’ my friends), there are many who call themselves or let themselves be called (great persons united with God). But rare is such a true servant (of God) who truly knows the quintessence of union (with God).”(1-pause)

Commenting on the nature and viewpoint of such a divinely wise person, Guru Ji says: “(In all situations, such a Guru’s follower) sees no sorrow; (for that person, there) is happiness in everything, and he or she sees only one (God everywhere and in everybody. To such a person), no one seems bad and everyone seems good; such a person never feels defeated, and every situation is a victory.”(1)

In closing, he says: “(O’ my friends, for such a person) there is never any sorrow, but always pleasure, and renouncing (divine bliss) he or she never accepts anything else. Nanak says, a devotee is an (embodiment) of God, so he or she doesn’t come or go.”(2-3-22)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be true devotees of God then we should accept sorrow and pain or defeat and victory with the same attitude.
“O’ my mother, the enticing (Maya) is enticing all. My body and mind have also been engrossed in that (Maya. Therefore I am afraid), lest the Beloved of my heart may not get forsaken (from my mind).”(1-pause)

Commenting on the state of the rest of the world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mother), to whomsoever I describe this (difficult) situation, (I find that all of them) have been caught (in the web of Maya and) stopped (from proceeding further in their spiritual journey. It appears that this Maya or worldly attachment is like) the same one net of innumerable kinds whose knot cannot be untied.”(1)

Now disclosing the end result of his search, Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, when after wandering around (in many existences one) comes to the shelter of the saint (Guru), then all one’s bonds of ignorance, illusion, and worldly attachment are cut off and (God) embraces (such a person) to His bosom.”(2-4-23)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to dispel all our doubts, and get rid of the bonds of worldly attachments, then we should (read, understand, and follow Gurbani in Guru Granth Sahib Ji and thus) seek the shelter of the saint (Guru).

Kaanraa mehla 5.

aanad rang binod hamaarai.
naamo gaavan naam Dhi-aavan naam hamaaray paraan aDhaarai. ||1|| rahaa-o.

naamo gi-aan naam isnaanaa har naam hamaaray kaaraj savaarai.
har naamo sobhaa naam badaa-ee bha-ojal bikham naam har łaarai. ||1||

agam padaarath laal amolaa bha-i-o paraapaat gur charnaarai.
kaho naanak parabh bha-ay kirpaalaa magan bha-ay hee-arai garsaarai. ||2||5||24||

Kaanaar Mehla-5

In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji told us that if we want to get rid of all our pain and suffering and enjoy a state of divine peace and bliss, then seeking Guru’s guidance we should meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, Guru Ji describes the kind of bliss he is enjoying by meditating on God’s Name and how God’s Name has become a source of divine wisdom and support for his life.

He says: “(O’ my friends, I am experiencing a unique state of) bliss, beauty, and pleasure (in my heart. Because God’s) Name has become the support of my life, my song (of joy), and (the focus of my) meditation.”(1-pause)

Describing how God’s Name has become the be all and end all of his life, he says: “(O’ my friends, God’s Name for me is all the) divine knowledge (I need); His Name is my ablution; it accomplishes all my tasks. (For me), God’s Name is my glory, God’s Name is my honor,
It is the same light (and I am confident that) God’s Name will ferry me across the difficult and dreadful (worldly) ocean.”\(^{(1)}\)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling us from where and how he obtained such a wonderful thing, and what kind of happiness it brings to a person. He says: “(O’ my friends, it is through the grace) of Guru’s feet that I obtained this unattainable priceless jewel. Nanak says, on whom God becomes gracious, that person experiences (this jewel) in his or her heart and gets absorbed (in its delight).”\(^{(2-5-24)}\)

The message of this shabad is that following Guru’s advice we should make the Name (the love and enlightenment of God) as our only song, our only occupation, and our only focus of meditation and divine wisdom. By doing so we would obtain a state of peace and bliss, which is priceless, and beyond description.

In the previous shabad, we were told that following Guru’s advice we should make the Name or the love and enlightenment of God as our only song, our only occupation, and our only focus of meditation and divine wisdom. By doing so we would obtain a state of peace and bliss, which is priceless and beyond description. But ignoring all such advice, most of us remain pre-occupied with amassing worldly wealth and power and don’t hesitate to commit many sins for our own gratification or for the sake of our families. In this shabad, he cautions us against committing sins for instant gratification and reminds us how God is watching our each and every deed.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that Beloved friend and Master (of all) is quite near us. He listens and sees everything because He is always in everybody’s company. So why do you indulge in evil deeds for the sake of petty objectives (of a short-lived life)?” (1-pause)

Warning us about the consequences of our deeds, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), except for God’s Name, with whatever (other thing) you are attached, nothing belongs to you (and none of it would accompany you after death. Here in this world), lured by the illusion of worldly attachment you are wandering in the darkness of doubt. But in the yond, you would see (for sure the result of your deeds).”\(^{(1)}\)
Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by saying: “(O’ my friend), you are stuck (in the attachment) of your son, daughter, wife, and worldly riches. But you have forsaken that Benefactor who gave you (all these relations and wealth). Nanak says, (O’ my friend), have faith only in one (Guru-God). Because my beloved Guru can cut off all the (worldly) bonds.” (2-6-25)

The message of this *shabad* is that God is always near and with us. He is watching each and every deed of ours. Therefore we shouldn’t indulge in any kind of sin or bad deed for fulfilling our own petty desires or for the sake of our families. Instead we should seek the shelter of our Guru (God), who can remove our doubts and free us from all worldly bonds.

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that God is always near and with us. He is watching each and every deed of ours. Therefore we shouldn’t indulge in any kind of sin or bad deed for fulfilling our own or our families’ petty desires. Instead we should seek the shelter of our Guru (God) who can remove our doubts and free us from all worldly bonds. In this *shabad*, he expresses his complete confidence in God and describes the powers and merits he has obtained by depending upon the support and the guidance of his Guru.

First addressing God, he says: “(O’ God, with the help) of Your saints I have annihilated the swarm of evil tendencies. O’ (my) Master, I lean only on Your support and I have my faith only in You and it is Your shelter that I seek.” (1-pause)

Stating what kinds of blessing those people obtain who seek God’s shelter, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, they who seek Your support), seeing You, they erase all their sins committed birth after birth. (Because on seeing You), their mind gets illuminated (with divine wisdom and) bliss, and they imperceptibly remain merged in Your meditation.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), who says that one obtains nothing from You? You are the all powerful Master of unfathomable powers. Nanak says (that whosoever has sought the shelter of the) Treasure of mercy, has obtained the profit of Name (which is the embodiment of) love, beauty, and pleasure.” (2-7-26)
The message of this *shabad* is that under the guidance of saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) we should meditate on God’s Name and have complete confidence in the support and power of God. By doing so we would conquer all our evil tendencies, wash off sins of myriads of births, and enjoy peace, and all kinds of worldly pleasures.

**Kaanra Mehla-5**

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that under the guidance of saint (Guru) we should meditate on God’s Name and have complete confidence in the support and power of God. By doing so we would conquer all our evil tendencies, wash away sins of myriads of births and enjoy peace, and all kinds of worldly pleasures. In this *shabad*, he shares with us how he himself meditates on God’s Name and what kinds of blessings he has obtained by doing so.

He says: “(O’ my friends) by meditating on God’s Name, even the one who is drowning (in the worldly ocean) obtains patience (and the resolve to continue his or her effort. By doing so) one’s worldly attachment, doubt, pain and sorrow are destroyed.”(1-pause)

Therefore addressing God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), day and night I contemplate on the feet (the immaculate words) of the Guru. Wherever I look, I see only Your refuge.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by saint (Guru’s) grace I sing praises of God, by meeting (and following the advice of) the Guru, Nanak has obtained peace.”(2-8, 2-27)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we are so overwhelmed as if we are drowning in sins and miseries of worldly problems then we should seek the shelter of the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name day and night. By doing so we would obtain patience and courage to carry on our fight, and would ultimately overcome all these problems and enjoy eternal peace.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we are so overwhelmed as if we are drowning in sins and miseries of worldly problems, then we should seek the shelter of the Guru and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name day and night. By doing so, we would obtain patience and courage to carry on our fight and ultimately overcome all these problems and enjoy eternal peace. In this shabad, Guru Ji shows us how to pray to God for the company of saints and the opportunity to sing His praises.

He says: “(O’ my friends), meeting saintly people we should sing praises of God, because by meditating on God’s Name we obtain peace of mind.” (1-pause)

Next praying even for himself, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, please show mercy and make Your abode in my heart. (Also please bless me that I may remain in the humble service of saint Guru, as if) my forehead is always on the feet of saints.” (1)

He concludes the shabad by saying to himself (and indirectly to us): “O’ my mind, meditate on the all-pervading God, and O’ Nanak, listen to God’s praise through the Guru.” (2-9-28)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy true peace, then we should pray to God to bless us with the company of saintly people and joining them, we should sing praises of God and meditate on Him in our minds.
Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in my mind is the love and craving for touching the feet of God. My tongue is fully satiated with the food of God's (Name) and my eyes have been soothed by the sight of God.” (1-pause)

Continuing to describe how every part of his body is filled with God’s love and what kinds of blessings he is enjoying because of this love, he says: “(O’ my friends), my ears are filled with God’s praise, which destroys the filth of all sins. My feet now walk on the sacred path of my Master and my body is filled with the delight of the company of saints.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), they who have grasped the shelter of the imperishable perfect God, (forsaking that shelter) they don’t exhaust themselves in making efforts for any other support. Because O’ Nanak, the devotees whom God has made His own won’t die in the pitch dark ocean (of worldly evils).”(2-10-29)

The message of this shabad is that if we have faith in the Guru’s words and his own experience, then we shouldn't do any ritualistic deeds or worships. All we need to do is to seek the company of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and under his guidance meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises with true love and devotion.

In the second stanza of the previous shabad, Guru Ji said that his ears are filled with God’s praise, which destroys the filth of all sins and evils. In this shabad, he describes the state and fate of the self-conceited persons who are involved in such evils and sinful habits. He says: “(O’ my friends), within whom rage the hypocritical and destructive demonic tendencies, they suffer humiliating death many times.” (1-pause)

Commenting on the conduct of such people, he says: “Intoxicated with self-conceit, (forsaking God, such people) remain imbued with other relishes. They make friends with false and evil minded people, and wander in millions of streets (filled with lust and sin).” (1)

However, in his compassion, even to such sinful people Guru Ji shows the way to save them selves. He says: “(Such people) remain engaged in dealing with short lived immoral (pleasures and things), and being intoxicated with worldly attachment they keep burning in the fire of anger. (However) O’ Nanak, they could find peace and save themselves, (if they
The message of this *shabad* is that if intoxicated with ego we commit sins, then we would suffer humiliating death myriads of times. To save ourselves we should seek the shelter of God and humbly pray to Him to forgive our sins and save us.

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if intoxicated with ego we keep committing all kinds of sins then we would suffer humiliating death myriads of times. To save ourselves from such terrible punishment we should seek the shelter of God and humbly pray to Him to forgive our sins and save us. In this *shabad*, he once again warns us against getting entangled in false worldly attachments and pleasures and shows us the way to get out of this mess.

Telling us about the consequences of forgetting God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), as soon as we forsake (that God) who is the giver of our soul, life breaths and mind, we suffer a loss.”(1-pause)

Therefore addressing any such person who forsakes God and gets hooked with false worldly pleasures, Guru Ji says: “O’ fool, forsaking God, you remain attached to other (worldly things. In this way you are wasting your precious life, as if) you are spilling the nectar on the earth. O’ fool, you are madly in love with vicious relishes, so how could you enjoy (spiritual) bliss?”(1)

In his compassion Guru Ji tells such sinners how to seek God’s mercy and save themselves. He says: “(O’ my friend, you are) afflicted by the malady of lust, anger, and greed, which is like falling in the mine of (repeated) births (and deaths, but Nanak says that you can still save yourself, if you humbly pray to God and say). O’ the sanctifier of sinners, I have come to Your shelter, please save me deeming (me as your) own.”(2-12-31)

The message of this *shabad* is that if forsaking God we remain involved in false worldly pleasures and remain afflicted with vices like lust, anger, and greed, then we are ensuring for ourselves nothing but the continuous pain of births and deaths. We can save ourselves from such punishment if we humbly seek God’s shelter and pray to Him to deem us as His own and save us.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if forsaking God we remain involved in false worldly pleasures and remain afflicted with vices like lust, anger, and greed then we are ensuring for ourselves nothing but the continuous pain of births and deaths. However we can save ourselves from such punishment if we humbly seek God’s shelter and pray to Him to deem us as His own and save us. In this shabad, he describes the peace and bliss he has obtained by joining the company of saints and searching for God in their company.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by searching (in the company of saints) I have obtained (the priceless) jewel (of God’s Name, and as a result) all my worry has gone. Now my eyes keep seeing the lotus like (beautiful) face of (my beloved) God.”(1-pause)

Describing what other blessings he has obtained, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by enshrining (God’s) lotus feet (His immaculate Name) in my heart all my torturing pain has been dispelled.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, now) for me God is my kingdom, wealth, family, and everything. Nanak says in the company of saints, (the person) who has obtained the profit (of God’s Name), doesn’t (take birth or) die again.”(2-13-32)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our worries and don’t want to suffer the pains of births and deaths again then we should seek the company of saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name in his company.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our worries and not suffer the pains of births and deaths again, then we should seek the company of saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name in his company. In this shabad, he repeats that advice, but cautions us against going on an ego trip, because God’s worship can only be performed when He Himself becomes gracious on us. Guru Ji asks us to always remain humble and beg for God’s grace.

He says: “(O’ my friends), worship God by seeking the shelter of Guru’s feet and meditating on His Name. (Then) you would enshrine the unfathomable God in your mind and through Guru’s grace you would (feel as if you have) conquered the world.”(1-pause)

However cautioning us against entering into the wrong type of God’s worship or feeling conceited about it, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I have investigated different kinds of worshipships (such as worshipping of statues, ablutions at holy places, and observance of fasts), but that alone is true worship, which is pleasing to God. (He has)

assembled (the human being like) a puppet of clay. (So on its own) what deeds can it perform? O’ God, grasping whose hand You Yourself put on the right path, that creature is united with You (Therefore it is very foolish for anyone to feel proud of one’s worship or any virtuous deed).”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I cannot think of any other support; I only hope in the support of God. When in all hearts God resides, what prayer can a poor person make (without God’s inspiration? I say), O’ God in my mind is the thirst of Your feet. (I) devotee Nanak am called Your servant, (please quench this thirst), I would be a sacrifice to You again and again.”(2-1-33)

The message of this shabad is that we should never feel proud or arrogant about our worship of God or any other virtuous deeds. It is only by His grace that we get the inspiration and the ability to meditate on His Name or follow the right path in life. As advised by our Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) we should humbly pray to God to bless us with His sight and grace.

kaanrhaa mehlaa 5 ghar 6
ik-o"kaar satgur parsaaad.
jagat uDhaaran naam pari-a tayrai.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should never feel proud or arrogant about our worship of God or any other virtuous deeds. It is only by His grace that we get the inspiration and the ability to meditate on His Name or follow the right path in life. As advised by our Guru we should humbly pray to God to bless us with His grace. In this shabad, he again stresses this point, and describes how he advises his mind to forsake all other worldly desires, and prays to God for blessing him with His Name.

Addressing God, and his own mind Guru Ji says: “O’ my beloved (God), Your Name is the emancipator of the world. (O’ my friends), God’s Name is (precious like) all the nine treasure of wealth. O’ my mind, myriad are the colorful wonders of God, why are you getting absorbed in the attachment of these worldly (plays or things)? Instead see the sight of the saint (Guru with these eyes and listen to his advice). But only that person obtains (the sight and guidance of the Guru) in whose destiny it is so written (by God).”

Now describing what he does and what the benefits of doing that are, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I always try to) serve at the feet of the saints and devotees. I seek the dust of their feet (their humble service), which sanctifies (man’s life conduct. It has the merit of) ablutions at all the sixty eight holy places (which are believed to) wash away the filth (of sins. O’ my friends), meditate on God’s Name with every breath and don’t turn your face away (from God. After one’s death), none of the thousands or millions accumulated by a person go along with him or her. It is God’s Name alone which comes to one’s aid in the end.”

Finally addressing God, and us Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), have only the craving for the formless (God) in your mind. Forsake the love of all other things. O’ my beloved (God), which of Your merits may I narrate? I cannot describe even one of Your gifts. In my mind...
The message of this shabad is that if we want to remove the dirt of millions of births and enjoy the blissful sight of God, then we should humbly seek Guru’s guidance and pray to God to bless us with His Name and never let us forget Him.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised that if we want to see God, then following Guru’s advice, we should shed our ego and attachment and crave for God like a fish. Only then would God become merciful and bless us with His sight. However, we come across some people who practice many ritualistic deeds and austerities such as visiting holy places, observing fasts, doing penances sitting on ice, or standing in cold water in the hope of seeing the sight of God. Seeing them, questions may arise in our minds about the usefulness of such practices and methods. In this shabad, Guru Ji beautifully answers all such questions.

First praising the wonderful God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), very colorful and wonderful are the ways of that amazing God. From the (tiny) ant to the (huge) elephant, He is fully pervading with all (His creatures).”

Commenting on the usefulness of ritualistic worships, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, in order to see God, some are) regularly observing fasts or visiting holy places including Ganges. Some are standing in ice-cold water and remain hungry or naked. Some are doing ritual worships, joining together their limbs; some are making chakras and putting marks on six parts of their bodies (the two legs, two arms, the chest, and the forehead). But without seeing (and following the advice of) the congregation of saints (all these efforts are futile).”

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, even if) by the force of his will one controls all one’s sense faculties and walks without feet (to any holy place, still instead of seeing God one is) afflicted with the malady of ego, doubt of one’s mind is not destroyed, and one keeps burning in lust, anger, and the (fire of worldly) desire. O’ Nanak, that person alone is emancipated (from all such evil impulses who is blessed with the guidance of a) true Guru.”

The message of this shabad is that no matter what other kinds of rituals, austerities, worships or penances we may do, none of these would lead us to God. Instead, these things would afflict us with more ego, anger, greed, and worldly desires. The one and only way to see God is to join the congregation of saints and sing God’s praises in their company.
In many previous shabads, Guru Ji advised us to join the company of saints and meditate on God’s Name in their company. In this shabad, Guru Ji shares with us his personal experience and tells us what kinds of blessings he has obtained by doing that.

He says: “Upon meeting the saints, my thirst (for worldly riches) is quenched. While singing songs in praise of God with love and longing for (God), the five thieves of (lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) have easily and imperceptibly vanished.”(1-pause)

Expressing his gratitude to God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, I don’t know how I can return the favor You have done for me. I can only sacrifice my heart for You.”(1)

Now Guru Ji describes the stages through which he passed in this process of meeting God. As if still talking to God, he says: “(O’ God), first I fell to the feet of the saints, then I meditated on You with great love. O’ God, (now I wonder), what is that abode of Yours sitting where You think about (the welfare) of Your creatures? Innumerable are Your devotees who sing Your praise. But only that person meets You who is pleasing to You. Slave Nanak (says), O’ Master, You are pervading everywhere, and everywhere, it is You alone.”(2-1-37)

The message of this shabad is that when we fall at the feet of saints and humbly pray to them to lead us to God, they make us meditate on God’s Name with love and devotion. Our desire for worldly things and our evil impulses for lust, anger, and greed are dispelled, and we are imbued with love and devotion for God. Then God shows His mercy and merges us in Him.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji described how falling at the feet of the saints and meditating on God’s Name with love and devotion blesses us with the sight of God. In this shabad, he tells us many other beautiful things, which we need to keep in mind and adopt in our daily life, so that we may remain in good standing with God, our Master.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should shed the pride or ego (of anything), because our merciful beloved (God) is watching our (every deed). Yes, O’ my mind, (remain humble, as if you are) the dust of the feet (of all).”(1-pause)

Next suggesting what we should do, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, keep) the mantra (the instruction) of the saint (Guru in your mind), and meditate on God (in your heart).”(1)

Guru Ji further advises: “(O’ my friend), imbuing yourself with the love of the lotus feet (the immaculate Name) of the merciful Master of the meek, keep singing praises of the heart-captivating God.”

Guru Ji concludes the shabad, by showing us how to pray to God. He says: “O’ kind Master, show Your mercy. Shedding all his (worldly) attachment, doubt, and ego Nanak begs for the charity of (Your) Name, (please bless him with this gift).”(2-1-38)

The message of this shabad is that following the instruction of the saint (Guru) we should shed all our ego, worldly attachment, and doubts, and become so humble as if we are the dust of the feet of all. Then we should meditate on God with true love and devotion and beg Him for the charity of His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that following the instruction of the saint (Guru), we should shed all our ego, worldly attachment, and doubts, and become so humble as if we are the dust of the feet of all, and meditate on God with true love and devotion. In this shabad, he tells us what that thing is which burns away all our sins and how it can be obtained.

Right at the outset, he says: “(O’ man), God’s praise, which burns away the dirt of sins is only obtained by meeting (and listening to the advice of) the Guru. There is no other way to obtain it.” (1-pause)

As for other ritualistic ways, such as wandering around the holy sea shores, doing six kinds of deeds prescribed for Brahmins (which include giving and receiving alms, learning and teaching, and performing or sponsoring fire ceremonies), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, such practices as) roaming around holy sea shores, performing six kinds of holy deeds, keeping matted hair, doing Hoam yaggs (fire worships), or becoming staff wielding yogis serve no purpose.” (1)

Explaining why he doesn’t believe in any such things and giving his conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by many such efforts as doing penances in front of fires, going around holy places, or delivering innumerable sermons, the depth (of God’s merits) cannot be reached. After reflecting on all (methods, I have concluded and say): “O’ Nanak, for (true) peace, meditate on God’s Name.” (2-2-39)

The message of this shabad is that any kinds of rituals such as doing pilgrimages, roaming around like yogis, or performing ritualistic worships are useless. If we want to burn the dirt of our sins and obtain true peace, then we should meet the true Guru, (listen, understand, and act in accordance with Gurbani), and meditate on God’s Name.
Most humbly and affectionately approaching God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, You are the purifier of sinners, the lover of devotees, the dispeller of fears and like a ship, which ferries (the mortals across the dreadful worldly ocean).”(1-pause)

Describing the satisfaction he gets by seeing God and listening to His praise, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), my eyes feel satiated upon seeing You, and my ears feel contented by listening to Your praise.”(1)

Continuing his prayer, Guru Ji says: “O’ the Sustainer of our life breaths, supporter of the supportless, and benefactor of all, O’ the Master of the universe, I the humble one have sought Your support. O’ the Fulfiller of hopes and destroyer of pains, (I) Nanak have sought the support of Your feet, (please bless me with Your Name).”(2-1-40)

The message of this shabad is that God can destroy all our sins, dispel our pain and suffering, and can ferry us across the dreadful worldly ocean. Therefore we should always seek His shelter and beg for the charity of His Name.

Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad, saying: “O’ the Fulfiller of hopes and destroyer of pain, I Nanak have sought the support of Your feet, (please bless me with Your Name). In this shabad, continuing his prayer he shows us how to pray to God for all humanity.

Guru Ji says: “O’ merciful Master, I have sought the shelter of Your feet. (I know that to save oneself from the worldly evils), there is no place (other than Yours). O’ Master, to purify the sinners is Your tradition; they who meditate on God are emancipated.”(1-pause)

Now in his compassion, Guru Ji prays for the entire suffering world and says: “(O’ God), this world is (like) a quagmire of evils and sins. The blind foolish mortals remain caught up in (worldly) attachment and ego. They keep puzzled in worldly struggles. O’, Master of the universe, extending Your hand, please pull them out (of this quagmire) Yourself and save them.”(1)
Guru Ji concludes his prayer by saying: “O’ the Support of the supportless, anchor of the saints and destroyer of millions of sins, in my mind is the thirst for You. O’ the perfect Master, the treasure of virtues, kind and merciful God, (bless) Nanak that his tongue may keep singing God’s praises.”(2-2-41)

The message of this shabad is that the world is like a quagmire of sins, evils, worldly attachment and ego. If we want to be saved, then we should humbly pray to God to show His mercy and extending His hand, pull us out of this quagmire.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that the world is like a quagmire of sins, evils, worldly attachment and ego. If we want to be saved, we should humbly pray to God to show His mercy and extending His hand, pull us out of this quagmire. In this shabad, Guru Ji illustrates how God’s union is more valuable and peace giving than any kind of worldly wealth or pleasure.

Putting himself in place of a young and faithful bride who is telling her friend how much she loves and values the company of her beloved spouse, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), I would sacrifice again and again and cast away innumerable (comforts of life) for the sake of spending just one moment of the night of union with my beloved (God).”(1-pause)

As for the worldly riches, he says: “O’ my dear friend, I don’t have any craving for (such things as) golden palaces or silken beds.”(1)

Giving the reasons why God’s Name is so important to him and why he prefers to live in the company of God even if he has to live a life of utmost poverty, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, I) Nanak say that without God’s Name all such things as pearls, rubies, and other innumerable enjoyments lead to death (moral and spiritual decline. On the other hand even if one has to survive on) dry bread and sleep on bare floor, one’s life passes in (perfect) peace in the company of one’s beloved (God).”(2-3-42)

The message of this shabad is that we should be so much in love with God that for us all the worldly riches and pleasures should mean nothing as compared to the pleasure of God’s grace and His union, which can only be obtained by meditating on His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us is that we should be so much in love with God that for us all the worldly riches and pleasures should mean nothing as compared to the pleasure of God’s grace and His union which can only be obtained by meditating on His Name. In this shabad, he tells us how to imbue ourselves with God’s love and enjoy the bliss of His union.

Calling us as his young female friends, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), snap your bonds of ego, and sit together with saintly persons. Utter Guru’s Name again and again and search (for God) in your mind, with (true) love, which is very dear to my beloved (God).”(1-pause)

Just as an ordinary young bride will like to enjoy the company of her groom on a soft and beautiful bed, Guru Ji suggests: “(O’ my friends), snap your bonds with the five demons (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego. By doing so, in the) house of your (heart) itself, would form a comforting soft bed (for enjoying the company of your beloved God).”(1)

Describing the blessings enjoyed by such a united bride (soul), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, in this way the soul bride) who has sung the praises of God, from within her ends the noise (and disturbance of) ego and the inverted lotus of her heart blossoms and turns up (towards God). Now her mind doesn’t come or go anywhere and keeps (steadily) residing in its own place.”(2-4-43)

The message of this shabad is that we should renounce our lust, anger, and greed etc., and repeat God’s Name with true love and devotion. So that God may come to reside in our own heart and we may enjoy the bliss of His eternal union.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should renounce our lust, anger, and greed, and repeat God’s Name with true love and devotion so that God may come to reside in our own heart and we may enjoy the bliss of His eternal union. In this shabad, he again emphasizes seeking the guidance of the saint (Guru) and meditating on God’s Name.

Addressing his own mind and indirectly all of us, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, both the saints and (holy books like) Vedas, say that the way to meet God is very difficult, because (ordinarily a human being remains) involved in (worldly) attachment and afflicted with the ailment of ego. Therefore O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name.” (1-pause)

Now cautioning us against remaining intoxicated with worldly wealth, he says: “(O’ my mind), they who remain involved and imbued with the love of the wretched Maya (the worldly riches and power), suffer from the troubles of (worldly) attachment.” (1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling us who those fortunate ones are who are saved by meditating on God’s Name. Addressing God, he says: “(O’ God), only (that person) whom You Yourself emancipate gets emancipated by meditating on Your Name. (I) Nanak say that by the grace of saint (Guru, one’s worldly) attachment, fear, and doubt are destroyed.” (2-5-44)

The message of this shabad is that on our own we remain attached with the malady of ego, attachment and anger. If we want to be saved and ferried across the worldly ocean, then we have to pray to God to bless us with the company of the saints, so that in their company our fear, doubt and worldly attachment are destroyed, and we may meditate on God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that on our own we remain attached with the malady of ego, attachment, and anger. If we want to be saved and ferried across the worldly ocean, then we have to pray to God to bless us with the company of the saints, so that in their company, our fear, doubt, and worldly attachment may be destroyed and we may meditate on God’s Name in our mind. In this shabad, he shows us how we should pray to the saint Guru and what we should ask from him.

As if describing his personal conversation with his Guru, he says: “O’ respected saint (Guru), please bless me with such a gift, that I may feel like sacrificing my life for you. (My life) is enticed by ego and has been deceived by the (evils of lust, anger, and greed). It is so entangled with (these evils, as if it remains) residing near (these demons). O’ saint (Guru), I have sought your shelter. Please liberate me from the company of these demons.”

Continuing his prayer on our behalf, he says: “(O’ saint Guru, because of these evil impulses), I have been wandering around in millions of existences. Now, totally exhausted, I have fallen at your door. (Please save me).”

Describing the result of his prayer, Guru Ji says: “I have been blessed with the mercy of God, and have obtained the support of His Name. O’ Nanak, this very difficult to obtain (human) birth has become fruitful, and I have been ferried across the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want our human birth to be fruitful, then we should pray to the Guru to so bless us that we may get rid of our worldly attachment and impulses of lust and anger, and meditate on God’s Name.
never be proud of our merits or our efforts. Instead we should always be humble and thankful to God and our Guru for bestowing so many honors on us.

As if narrating the story of his union with God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I don’t know anything. I had nothing to show for my efforts, but imperceptibly on His own, God the Giver of peace came and met an innocent child like me.” (1-pause)

Describing his present state, he says: “(Some) pre-ordained destiny has united me with the company of saint (Guru, and now my mind) doesn’t wander anywhere. It remains stable in its own home, and (God) the treasure of merits has become manifest in this body.” (1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “Now my mind is lured by the feet (the loving memory of God). It has abandoned the love for all other (things. Now I can see that God) is pervading in all places and everybody, and with great relish Nanak is uttering His praises.” (2-1-46)

The message of this shabad is that when, without feeling arrogant about our merits or efforts, we sing praises of God and meditate on His Name, God shows His mercy on us and on His own He imperceptibly reveals Himself to us in everything.

In the opening lines of the previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that he didn’t know anything and had nothing to show for his efforts. Still imperceptibly on His own, God came and met an innocent child like him. In this shabad, he again stresses the point that union with God is not obtained by any cleverness or ritual practices. He comes to meet a person only when He becomes merciful on him or her.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), it is extremely difficult to meet God, the Master of the universe. Even though He is pervading everywhere, His form is beyond limits and is beyond the grasp of our sense faculties.” (1-pause)

Stating categorically that He cannot be obtained through our cleverness or efforts, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, no one has ever met Him) through any utterances, roaming around (holy places), or has obtained Him by any tricks or cleverness.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God) doesn’t meet through innumerable efforts. He meets only when He becomes kind (on anyone). O’ Nanak, the kind and
It is the same light

merciful God (meets only when one performs the most humble service of the Guru and so devotedly acts on his advice as if one has) become the dust of the feet of the saint (Guru).”(2-2-47)

The message of this shabad is that we cannot meet God by our cleverness or ritual practices. It is only when we most humbly follow the advice of our saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) that God shows His mercy and blesses us with His sight.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that we couldn’t meet God by our cleverness or ritual practices. It is only when we most humbly follow the advice of our saint (Guru) that God shows His mercy and blesses us with His sight. In this shabad, he describes how he is following Guru’s advice and what kinds of blessings he is enjoying by doing that.

As if talking to his mother, he says: “O’ my mother, I continue meditating on God. (Because I have realized that) except for God, there is no other. Therefore day and night with every breath I cherish (His Name, which is like) His immaculate feet.”(1-pause)

Describing the depth of his love for God, he says: “Imbuing myself with His love I have made Him so much my own, that my union with Him doesn’t break. (He) is my breath, my mind, and my wealth. That God, the treasure of virtues, is the peace of my life.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes this shabad by telling us how he is able to see God in his heart. He says: “(O’ my mother), that God is pervading everywhere. I am able to see Him in the cave of my heart. By seeking the shelter of saint (Guru), Nanak has obtained (that God, who is like) a ship (to ferry the mortals across the worldly) ocean and my severe pain (of birth and death) has been destroyed.”(2-3-48)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the company of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name with such love and devotion that for us God should be our life, our wealth, our health, and everything. Then God would become manifest to us everywhere including the core of our heart. In this way in the company of saint (Guru) all our miseries and pains would be dispelled and we would be ferried across this worldly ocean.
Kaanarre Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should seek the company of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name with such love and devotion that for us God should be our life, our wealth, our health, and everything. Then God would become manifest to us everywhere including the core of our heart. In this shabad, he shows us how, after we develop such a love for God that He is everything for us, we can go to Him and affectionately ask for anything that we need or desire.

Leading us in that kind of true affection filled prayer, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), Your servant is imbued with loving fondness for You. O’ my Beloved, You are my friend, everything is available in Your house.”(1-pause)

Approaching God, like a dear child, Guru Ji says: “(Father), I beg for honor, and power, and ask You to bless me with wealth, wife, and son.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by expressing his full confidence in God’s power and benevolence. He says: “(O’ God), You are the Giver of salvation, way of life, and fulfiller of life’s needs. You are the supreme treasure of perfect peace and bliss. You fully gratify those who worship You with love and fear, therefore Nanak is always a sacrifice to You.”(2-4-49)

The message of this shabad is that if we worship God with childlike love and fear, then we can ask anything of Him.
In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji has advised us that the only way to fulfill the purpose of life, and obtain salvation from the unending pains of births and deaths, is to seek the guidance of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. But he notes that in spite of all such advice from him, other devotees, and holy books, people keep roaming around in various holy garbs and talking about their particular ways of ritual worships and the ways to obtain salvation. In this shabad, he once again strongly advises us, not to waste any time in all such practices and meditate on God’s Name because death may overtake us any time.

First commenting on all those preachers and yogis who wander around to different places lecturing others, Guru Ji says: “There are many yogis, meditators and wearers of holy garbs professing to be men of divine knowledge who keep roaming around different places on earth and keep entering into useless discussions and discourses.”(1-pause)

Revealing the truth about all such people, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all such people are filled with (false) ego, conceit, and vanity. They are all foolish crazy and mad. (They don’t realize) that wherever they go, death is hovering over their heads.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji admonishes such people, and advising all of us says: “(O’ people, I tell you again and again), renounce your ego, and remember that death is very near you. Therefore, meditate on God’s Name again and again. Nanak says, listen O’ fools, meditate on God’s Name again and again, because without meditation, this invaluable (human) birth is wasted.”(2-5-50-12-62)

The message of this shabad is that we should remember that at any time, death might overtake us. So instead of wasting our time in useless rituals, holy garbs, discussions, or going after the false yogis, and preachers, we should simply meditate on God’s Name again and again so that our invaluable human birth may not be wasted.
With this \textit{shabad}, Guru Ji begins a new section of this chapter in which each \textit{shabad} (hymn) is composed of about eight stanzas, and that is why it is named \textit{Ashtpadia}. In this \textit{Ashtpadi}, using a very beautiful poetic style, Guru Ji tells us the essence of divine wisdom and leads us through all the stages of love, respect for God, and absorption in God’s Name. He also cautions us about the allurements of \textit{Maya} or the worldly riches and how these things become like an unbearable load on us and interfere with our spiritual efforts.

Addressing his own mind and indirectly us, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name, by doing so you would obtain peace. The more one worships God, the more one obtains peace, and by following the true Guru, merges (in God’s Name).” (1-pause)

Now describing the desires and conduct of true devotees of God, he says: “(O’ my mind), the true devotees (of God) long to contemplate on (God’s) Name. (They know that) by meditating on (God’s) Name, they would obtain peace. Therefore, from within them, (the
It is the same light of the Supreme Being, and all desires for other delights fade away and except for the Name of God, nothing else seems pleasing to them."(1)

Next, describing the blessings obtained by a person to whom God's Name seems sweet, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends), through Guru's advice to whom God's Name seems sweet, the Guru makes that person utter sweet words. The word of the true Guru comes from the supreme Being. Therefore one who attunes oneself to the (Guru's) word, (gets attuned to God) the sublime Being."(2)

Sharing his own experience in this regard, Guru Ji says: "By listening to the Guru's word, my heart has softened, and being drenched (with divine love), it has come to its own house (its true divine state of peace). In that state it keeps playing the continuous melody of nonstop (celestial music, and the mind remains in such a state of bliss, as if) a steady stream of spring is flowing through it."(3)

Describing the divine state, which the mind of a true devotee continues enjoying, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, a God's true devotee), sings God's Name at every instant, and through Guru's advice that person's mind merges in God's Name. A devotee listens only to the Name, to his or her mind only God's Name seems pleasing, and is satiated by Name alone."(4)

Now Guru Ji tells us what happens to those who, instead of meditating on God's Name, remain absorbed in enjoying worldly pleasures, such as wearing costly clothes and ornaments, He says: "(O' my friend), one may wear many bracelets of gold, or may dress in many kinds of costly clothes, (but) without (meditating on God's) Name, all these things are of insipid tastes, (and such a person) remains involved in the rounds of birth and death and coming and going (in and out of this world)."(5)

Commenting further on the consequences of remaining involved in the affairs of worldly riches and power, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friend), the veil of *Maya* (involvement in worldly affairs) is like being covered with a very heavy curtain, which makes a person caught in a whirlpool, and all the sins and evil deeds committed by the person (for the sake of worldly wealth) become like a heavy load of rusted iron (on one's head), because of which such a person cannot swim across the poisonous worldly ocean."(6)

In his compassion Guru Ji tells how a person can swim across this dreadful worldly ocean. He says: "(O' my friends), God's fear and detachment from the world are like a boat, and the Guru is like the boatman, who ferries a person across with the raft of the word (the God's Name). By meditating on God's Name we meet Him, and through His Name we merge in Him."(7)

In closing, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, in His will God has made the human being) asleep in ignorance, and He Himself awakens a person by blessing him or her with (divine) knowledge through the Guru. O' Nanak, in His will He runs the world as He wishes."(8-1)

The message of this *Ashtpadi* is that we cannot obtain true pleasure by amassing gold or silver or adorning costly clothes. Instead we keep drowning in the whirlpool of worldly riches and power. We can only be saved if God shows mercy on us, and following Guru's advice we meditate on His Name.
kaanrhaa mehlaa 4.
jap man har har naam ṭaraavaigo
jo jo japai so-ee ḍaṭ paa vai ji-o Dharoo par-hilaad samaavaigo. ||1|| rahaa-o.

SGGS P-1309
kirpa kirpa kirpa kar har jee-o kar kirpa naam lagaavaigo.
kar kirpa saṭguroo milaavhu mil satgur naam Dhi-aavaigo. ||1||

janam janam kee ha-umai mal laagee mil saṅgaṭ mal leh jaavaigo.
ji-o lohaa ṭaṛi-o sang kaasat lag sabad guroo har paavaigo. ||2||
saṅgaṭ saṅṭ milhu saṅsaṅgaṭ mil saṅgaṭ har ras aavaigo.
bin saṅgaṭ karaṇi abhimaane kadh paṇee cheekaṭh paavaigo. ||3||

bhagat janaa kay har rakhvaaray jan har ras meeth lagaavaigo.
khīn khīn naam ḍay-ay vadi-aa-ee satgur updays samaavaigo. ||4||

bhagat janaa ka-o saḍaa niv rahee-ai jan nīvhe ṭaa fal gun paavaigo.
jo ningāa dusat karahi bhagtaa kee harnaakhas ji-o pach jaavaigo. ||5||

barahm kamal put meen bi-aasaa ṭap ṭaapan
jo jo bhagat ho-ay so poojahu bharman bharam chukaavaigo. ||6||

jaat najaat daykh ḍaṭ bharmanu suk janak
pagee⁴ lag Dhi-aavaigo.
joottan joott pa-ee sir oopar khīn manoo-aa ḍīl na dulaaavo. ||7||

janak janak baithay singhaasen na-o munee
Ḍhoor lai laavo.
naanak kirpa kirpa kar ṭhaakur mai ḍaasan ḍaas karavaaigo. ||8||2||
worldly riches and power. We can only be saved, if God shows mercy on us, and following Guru’s advice, we meditate on His Name. In this Ashtpadi, he quotes many legendary examples to make his point.

First he refers to the famous devotees Dhru and Prahlad, both of whom were very young children when their own fathers mistreated them. One of them even tried to kill his son. But God saved both because of their sincere devotion and firm faith in Him. He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name, which would ferry you across (the worldly ocean). Whosoever meditates (on God’s Name) obtains salvation just as the devotees Dhru and Prahlad merged in God (by meditating on Him).”(1)

However since it is only when God Himself yokes a person to meditation on His Name, and unites him or her with the true Guru that person meditates on His Name, Guru Ji prays: “O’ respected God, please show Your mercy and yoke me to the meditation of Your Name. Showing Your mercy unite me with the true Guru so that meeting the true Guru I may meditate on Your Name.”(1)

Next explaining the benefit of the company of saintly persons and necessity of Guru’s guidance, he says: “(O’ my friends), our soul has been polluted with the filth (of sins) of ego of myriad of births; by joining the (saintly) congregation, this filth is removed. Just as iron swims across in the company of wood, (similarly) by attuning (one’s mind to Gurbani) the word of the Guru one attains God.”(2)

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), join the company of the true saints, because in the company of saints you would obtain the relish of God’s Name. But the self-conceited person who does his or her own (ritualistic) deeds without the benefit of the holy congregation, (pollutes himself or herself with ego, as if) taking out (clean) water he or she is putting mud (in his or her vessel).”(3)

Describing, how God protects His devotees and blesses them with special favors, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God is the savior of His devotees, that is why the relish of His Name seems so sweet to them. One who (so acts on the instruction of) the true Guru as if one has merged in it, God, blesses (such a person) with the glory (of His Name) at each and every moment.”(4)

Now Guru Ji tells us about the benefits of respecting the devotees of God and the consequences of slandering or trying to harm them in any way. In this regard he refers to the story when God destroyed king Harnaakash who tried to kill his own son Prahlad for meditating on God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), we should always (respectfully) bow to the devotees (of God); they who respect the devotees obtain the fruit of their divine merits. But the villains who slander the devotees are consumed like Harnaakash.”(5)

Next Guru Ji explains how irrespective of caste or the history of their births God’s devotees are respected and worshipped by the world. He cites the examples of god Brahma who is believed to have emerged out of a lotus and sage Beas who was conceived by a fish. He says: “(O’ my friends), Brahma the son of a lotus and Beas the son of a fish were worshipped (by the world because) of their penance. Therefore whosoever, is the devotee (of God), worship him with respect. By doing so, you would remove your greatest doubt.”(6)
Guru Ji advises us to remain humble even if we belong to a high caste or a prestigious family. He cites the legend of Sukdev who, in spite of being a Brahmin, not only bowed before the lower caste king Janak but also didn’t mind at all when the food leftovers were thrown at him. He says: “(O’ my friends), don’t be misled by any doubts even if you belong to the highest caste. (See how) bowing at the feet of Janak, Sukdev meditated on God and didn’t let his mind waver, even when food leftovers were thrown over his head.”(7)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing how humble the wise king Janak was, and how he respected God’s devotees. He says: “(O’ my friends), even the divinely wisest king Janak, while sitting on the throne, applied the dust of the feet of nine sages (because of their meditation. Therefore), Nanak (prays and says), “O’ God, show mercy on (me) and make me a servant of Your servants.”(8-2)

The message of this shabad is that without worrying about our caste or status we should join the company of God’s devotees and meditate on His Name with true love and devotion. So that God may show mercy on us and bless us with His union.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that without bothering about our caste or status we should join the company of God’s devotees and meditate on His Name with true love and devotion. Then God may show mercy on us and bless us with His union. In this Ashtpadi, he explains how the company and guidance of saint (Guru) imbues us with the love of God and His Name.

First talking about the miracle of repeating God’s Name as per instruction of the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), following Guru’s instruction, one whose mind starts singing God’s praises with relish, (that one is imbued with so much divine love that his or her) one tongue turns into millions of tongues and these millions (of tongues) repeat God’s Name millions of times.”(1-pause)

However Guru Ji cautions us that God is so limitless that even by uttering His praises millions of times, we cannot find the limit of His virtues. He cites the example of a legendary cobra called Shesh Naag who is so named because it is believed to have one thousand tongues and with each tongue it keeps uttering different names of God based on His qualities. He says: “(O’ my friends), even Shesh Naag who has one thousand tongues meditated on God’s Name but by worshipping God it couldn’t find His limit. (O’ God), You are like a fathomless (ocean) and beyond the reach of senses, through Guru’s instruction one’s mind becomes steady.”(1)

Now Guru Ji cites the example of Bidar, who was the son of a poor maidservant, but because of his true devotion, god Krishna preferred to stay at his poor house instead of the palace of king Daryodhan. So addressing God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), they who have meditated on You are the sublime ones. By meditating on God they have obtained peace. (For example look at the case of) Bidar who was the untouchable son of a maidservant. (Because of his loving devotion, god) Krishna hugged him to his bosom.”(2)

Giving another example to illustrate how God loves His devotees, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), wood is born out of water, which ferries it across keeping it on its top. (Similarly) God Himself embellishes His devotees and keeps His tradition (of saving them).”(3)

Guru Ji now cites the example of devotee Kabir, a low caste weaver whom God saved by blessing him with the guidance of the saint Guru. He says: “(O’ brothers, because of our sins) we are like heavy stones and iron pieces (but if we pray to God, He can) ferry us
across (the worldly ocean) by making us ride the boat of Guru’s company. (God) is very pleasing to the minds of saintly people. Therefore just as in the company of saints the weaver (Kabir) was ferried across, (we would also be saved in their company).”(4)

Next describing the conduct of true devotees of God and how the Guru’s instruction helps them obtain salvation, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whether sitting, standing or walking on the road, (a God’s devotee) keeps meditating on God. (O’ my friends, Gurbani), the word of the Guru is the Guru itself and this (Gurbani) tells us the way to salvation.”(5)

Commenting further on the conduct of a true devotee and the blessings one obtains by following Guru’s instruction, he says: “(O’ my friends, a true devotee of God, not only) meditates on God’s Name with every breath, but with every breath obtains (spiritual) power (of God’s Name, so that even when) not breathing, such a person keeps meditating on God’s Name. (In this way), when through Guru’s grace one’s ego is stilled, then following Guru’s instruction one merges in (God’s) Name itself.”(6)

However regarding the state and fate of those who don’t care for the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), the true Guru is the giver of life to all beings. But to the unfortunate ones he doesn’t seem pleasing. (Therefore, they don’t care to listen to his advice and meditate on God’s Name). They don’t get this opportunity again and then they regret it and wail very badly.”(7)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad, by saying: “(O’ my friends), if anyone wants one’s welfare, one should fall before the Guru again and again (and most humbly seek his guidance). O’ Nanak (one should pray to God) again and again, and ask Him to anoint him or her with the dust of the feet (the most humble service of) the true Guru.”(8-3)

The message of this shabad is that we should most humbly serve the true Guru (by listening and acting on Gurbani as enunciated in Guru Granth Sahib Ji). Following that advice, we should meditate on God’s Name with such love and relish as if not one tongue but millions of tongues are singing His praise. Then irrespective of our caste, race, or station in life, God would show mercy on us and embrace us to His bosom.
It is the same light

In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that we should most humbly serve the true Guru (by listening to and acting on Gurbani included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji). Following that advice, we should meditate on God’s Name with such love and relish as if it is not one tongue but millions of tongues are singing His praise. Then irrespective of our caste, race, or station in life, God would show mercy on us and embrace us to His bosom. In this Ashtpadi, he gives beautiful examples to explain how Guru’s advice helps us imbue ourselves with God’s love, and when imbued with that love we sing God’s praises how our mind forsakes all its worldly allurements and is attuned to God residing in our body and everywhere else.

First he uses the metaphor of the old custom of processing a new cloth by boiling in salt water or baking soda before dying it in any color. Because without processing the new cloth in this manner it wouldn’t get properly dyed. Using this example, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the one who processes one’s mind as per the instruction of the Guru, his or her fears are removed, (his her) immaculate mind is imbued with God’s love and he or she keeps singing God’s praises at all times.”(1-pause)

Describing what kinds of merits such a person imbued with divine love obtains and how much he respects such holy persons, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the person who is imbued with the love of God remains detached (from the worldly allurements). God
becomes so near to such people that He comes and resides in their hearts. If I obtain the
dust of the feet (the humble service) of such people, I feel rejuvenated. (But I know that)
showing His mercy God Himself helps one to obtain this (blessing).”(1)

Explaining why ordinarily human beings do not get imbued with God’s love and how
Guru’s instruction helps them in this regard, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), ordinarily
human beings are attached to duality and greed. Their minds are like the unprocessed
cloth, which does not get dyed with the color (and imbued with love of God). However
by listening to the words of the Guru, they whose mind has turned back (from worldly
attachment), upon meeting the person of the Guru, it is imbued with the color (of love) of
God.”(2)

Elaborating on the way in which, by believing in (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, one’s mind
comes under control, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, ordinarily), all one’s ten sense organs
(such as eyes and ears) keep roaming in (all the) ten directions and swayed by the three
impulses (for virtue, vice, or power), one’s mind doesn’t remain steady even for a moment.
But when one is convinced by what the Guru says then it comes under control and obtains
emancipation (from worldly attachments) and salvation (from birth and death).”(3)

Now stating one fundamental truth about God and this world, Guru Ji says: “(O, my
friends), it is the one supreme Creator, who is pervading everywhere and ultimately the
entire world would merge in that one (God). Even though He has only one form, while
expanding He manifests Himself in many forms and runs the entire (world) as per His one
(universal) law.”(4)

Next describing the attitude of a Guru’s follower and blessings obtained by him, Guru
Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru’s follower recognizes the one and the only God and
becoming Guru’s follower one understands this. The Guru’s follower meets God in His
mansion and then (so enjoys the celestial bliss, as if he or she is) playing the music of
continuous divine melody.”(5)

Stressing further the importance of the guidance of the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends,
even though) all the creatures and beings have been created (by one God, only those)
who follow Guru’s advice obtain glory (in this and the next world). Without seeing (and
following the Guru) no one attains (God’s) mansion, and one keeps suffering through the
pain of coming and going.”(6)

Therefore acknowledging the absolute necessity of Guru’s guidance, Guru Ji himself prays
to God and says: “O’ my beloved Master, we have been separated from You for so many
births. Showing Your mercy please unite us with the Guru. Because upon meeting the true
Guru (and following his advice), one obtains supreme bliss and one’s soiled mind blossoms
forth (in joy).”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, the life of the universe, show mercy and attune me to
the loving devotion of Your Name. O’ God, Nanak is the true Guru and Guru of all gurus,
please unite me with the shelter of the true Guru.”(8-4)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be saved and emancipated from the
pain of perpetual comings and goings, then we should pray to God to bless us with
the company of the Guru who may teach us how to control our mind, attune it to the
loving devotion of God’s Name and help us to ultimately attain to the mansion of our beloved God.

kaanraa mehlaa 4.
man gurmāṭ chaal chalaavaigo.
ji-o maigal maasat deejai tal kunday gur ankas sabad darīẖ-aaavoiguo. ||1|| raha-o.
chaltou chalai chalai dahi dah dis gur raakhai har liv laavoiguo.
satgur sabad day-ay rid antar mukh amrit naam chu-aaavoiguo. ||1||
bisee-ar bisoo bharay hai pooran gur garurh sabad mukh paavaiigo.
maa-i-aa bhu-i-ang tis nayṛ na avai bikh jhaar
jhaar liv laavoiguo. ||2||
su-an lohh nagar meh sablaa gur khin meh maar kadhāavoiguo.
sat santokh Dharam aan raakhay har nagree har gun gaavoiguo. ||3||

SGGS P-1311

pankaj moh nighrāṭ hai paraanee gur nighrāṭ kaadh kadhāavoiguo.
taraahi taraahi saran jan aa-ay gur haatheey day niklaavoiguo. ||4||
supnanṭar sansaar sabh baajee sabh baajee khaay khilaavoiguo.
laahaa naam gurmāṭ lai chaalahu har dargee pāiDhāa jaavoiguo. ||5||
ha-umai karai karaavai ha-umai paap ko-ilay aan
jamaavoiguo.

aa-i-aa kaal dukh-daa-ee ho-ay jo beejay so khalaavoiguo. ||6||
santahu raam naam Dhan sanchahu lai kharach chalay paṭ paavoiguo.
khā-ay kharach gavay zhutayraa har dayday tot na aavoiguo. ||7||
raam naam Dhan hai rig antar Dhan gur saran-ee paavoiguo.
naanak da-i-aa da-i-aa kar deenee dukh dhalaad
bhanj samaavoiguo. ||8||5||

It is the same light
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji told us how Guru’s instruction helps a person to detach the mind from the worldly allurements and get imbued with the love of God’s Name. In this *shabad*, he cites some additional examples to illustrate how Guru’s instruction helps a person to purge the mind of evil tendencies. He also tells how, by seeking the Guru’s shelter we obtain the wealth of God’s Name, which brings us peace in this world and honor in God’s court.

First addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ (my) mind, the Guru’s instruction makes you conduct yourself (in the right way of life). Just as we discipline a wild elephant by keeping it under (the tip of) a goad, similarly when the Guru enshrines his word in us it acts like a controlling device (for our mind).”(1-pause)

Explaining further how the Guru helps us control our mind, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, ordinarily) man’s mercurial mind roams in all the ten directions. When the Guru stabilizes it at one place he imbues it with God’s love. Yes, the true Guru enshrines his (immaculate) word in one’s heart and (one starts uttering God’s Name with such love and devotion, as if the Guru has) trickled the nectar like Name in one’s mouth.”(1)

Now Guru Ji refers to the old Indian practice when people used to believe that the only cure for snakebite is the recitation of a verse called Garurr mantra. He says: “(O’ my friends, there are many) snakes which are completely filled with poison. (Just as the person bitten by such poisonous snakes is cured when someone recites to him or her the Garurr mantra, similarly when) the Guru puts his (immaculate) word in one’s mouth the snake like Maya doesn’t come near that person, and dispelling the poison (of ego from one’s mind, the Guru’s word) attunes it to God.”(2)

But ego is not the only problem in human mind. It is also afflicted with other evil impulses such as lust and greed. Now referring particularly to greed which Guru Ji compares to a dog, he says: “(O’ my friends, in the township (of human body, lives) a ferocious dog called Greed. But the Guru gets it beaten and driven out in an instant. (In place of greed, he fills man’s mind) with truth, contentment, and righteousness. (Then) in this city of God man sings God’s praises.”(3)

Next referring to man’s impulse for worldly attachment, which Guru Ji compares to a quagmire, he says: “(O’ my friends, a human being keeps sinking in the quagmire of worldly attachments (and involvements), but the Guru pulls the person out from sinking (in such marshes). They who come to (the Guru’s) shelter crying “save us, save us”; by extending his hand the Guru pulls them out (of the quagmires of worldly problems).”(4)

Now Guru Ji tells us about the real nature of this world and the best way to make use of our stay in it. He says: “(O’ my friends, just as we see a play in a dream, (similarly) this entire world is like a play, and God is making us participate in this play (of the worldly drama. I suggest that) following Guru’s instruction, you amass and depart from here with the profit of God’s Name. (By doing so) you would go to God’s court wearing the robe of honor.”(5)

However, warning those who keep indulging in ego because of their wealth, power, or position, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who does deeds intoxicated with ego, or makes others satisfy his or her ego, that one’s conduct is like sowing coals like sins (in the
It is the same light of one’s mind). When death comes near (one has to bear the consequences of one’s misdeeds done to others). Such a person suffers in pain and has to eat what he or she has sown.”(6)

Therefore once again advising us to meditate on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “O’ my dear saints, earn and amass the wealth of God’s Name, because when you depart with (this wealth) as the fare on your journey (after death), you would obtain honor in God’s court. (They who meditate on God’s Name themselves, inspire others to do the same, as if) after consuming and spending it themselves, they give it to others, while giving, they never come across any shortage.”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the wealth of God’s Name is present in the heart (of every human being). But this wealth is only obtained through Guru’s shelter. Nanak (says), showing His mercy whom (God) has given (this wealth), destroying all his or her pain and poverty, that person merges (into God Himself).”(8-5)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of our evil impulses, avoid the pains and sufferings caused by worldly allurements, and go to God’s court with honor, then we should bend our mind according to the instruction of Gurbani as enunciated in Guru Granth Sahib Ji and amass the wealth of God’s Name.
Kaannarre Mehla-4

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of our evil impulses, avoid the pains and sufferings caused by worldly allurements, and go to God's court with honor, then we should bend our mind according to the instruction of the Guru and amass the wealth of God's Name. In this shabad, he cites many beautiful examples to explain how in the shelter of the Guru and in the company of saintly people one gets rid of all one's evil impulses, becomes immaculate like them, and obtains divine bliss by meditating on God's Name.

First citing the example of iron, which is believed to become gold upon getting in touch with a philosopher's stone, he says: "(O' my friends), just as upon coming in touch with the philosopher's stone a piece of iron acquires the merits of that stone (of turning other pieces of iron into gold, similarly) under the shelter of the true Guru, (whose) mind meditates on God's (Name, that person acquires the merits of the Guru of motivating others to meditate on God also)."(1-pause)

Illustrating the qualities of the true Guru and referring to the story of devotee Prehlad, he says: "(O' my friends), the sublime being true Guru is like a philosopher's stone: whosoever comes in contact with him obtains the fruit (of God's Name). Just as by following Guru's advice (many devotees like) Prehlad have been saved, similarly the Guru would save the honor of his servants (who follow his advice)."(1)

Next citing the example of another sage Ambreek, Guru Ji tells the importance of the true Guru's word, and says: "(O' my friends), the word of the true Guru is most sublime, it is through the Guru's word that you obtain the nectar (of God's Name). Just as devotee Ambreek obtained immortal status by meditating on God, (similarly believing) in the truth of the words uttered by the Guru's tongue (one who meditates on God, obtains immortal status)."(2)

Describing the conduct of those devotees to whom Guru's shelter seems pleasing, and blessings the Guru bestows on them, he says: "(O' my friends), to whose mind the shelter of the Guru seems pleasing, deeming (God's Name) as immortalizing nectar, that person meditates on it. The merciful true Guru becomes gracious on such a person and he shows the devotee the way to (meet) God."(3)
Stating, what kinds of blessings God bestows on such devotees who come to the shelter of the true Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), they who seek the shelter of the true Guru, are anointed (with glory, because) God (Himself) comes to save them. (So much so, that one who tries to harm them is destroyed, as if the one) who aims an arrow towards the devotees, that arrow turns around to injure that (shooter).”(4)

Describing, what other honors those devotees enjoy who as per Guru’s advice join the saintly congregation and sing God’s praises, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, they who keep singing God’s praises in the company of saintly persons, as if) they keep bathing in the sacred tank of holy congregation, (God) gets them honored in His court. Yes, following Guru’s instruction they who meditate on Him, embracing them to His bosom, God unites them with Him.”(5)

Commenting on the high regard a Guru’s follower has for the Guru and the sublime spiritual status he or she achieves, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), for a Guru’s follower the Guru is the Naad (or primal word), and Guru is his or her Veda (or holy book), to please the Guru, such a person meditates on God’s Name. Seeing the form of God (everywhere, such a person) becomes the form of God, (and God) gets His devotee honored (very much)).”(6)

Now Guru Ji tells us about the state and fate of those who do not follow Guru’s advice and instead run after Maya or worldly riches and power. He says: “(O’ my friends), the worshippers of power who haven’t sought the shelter of the true Guru, God makes them wander around (in existences). The wave of greed (in one’s mind is like the) company of a dog. (Just as a dog keeps) licking the skeletons of dead animals (similarly a greedy) person keeps licking the poison (of worldly riches).”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is like a ship to ferry across the entire world. Therefore joining the congregation of saintly persons you should meditate on (God’s) Name. Nanak prays, O’ God, save me, save me and merge me in You by keeping me in the congregation of saintly persons.”(8-6-the Sexteplet-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to become pure like gold and become one with God, then we should come in touch with the philosopher’s stone like Guru, and following his true instruction, we should join the company of saintly persons and meditate on God’s Name.
In this shabad, Guru Ji gives us the gist of the above six Ashtpadis. He tells us what blessings those people have obtained who in the company of saints, have meditated on God’s Name and what kinds of consequences they suffered who have remained involved in amassing worldly wealth and power, so that we may do the right thing.

He says: “(O’ my friends), they who have meditated on God have been saved. But the efforts made (by people) to amass Maya (the worldly riches and power) didn’t serve (any) purpose (in the end). They who have meditated on God have obtained all the fruits (they desired. Therefore), blessed are those fortunate ones. They who in the company of the saints have awakened (to the false worldly allurements) and have yoked themselves to God’s Name, their minds are attuned to the one (God. I wish that), shedding my ego, worldly attachment, and evil tendencies, I may also be emancipated by seeking the shelter of the saint (Guru). Nanak prays for the shelter of His Master and begs for the good fortune of obtaining the sight (of the saint Guru).”(1)
But Guru Ji doesn’t want to enjoy the bliss of meditating on God’s Name alone. Moved by his love and affection for us all, he says: “Come (O’ my friends), let us join with the saints and meditate on God, and with relish sing praises of our Master. One who sings praises of God, lives (eternally), drinks the (immortalizing) nectar of God, and that person’s (round) of birth and death vanishes. Now let us also join the company of saints and meditate on God, so that we may not suffer the pain (of birth and death) again.”

So going into a prayer mode, Guru Ji says: “O’ Benefactor and Creator (of the universe), please show mercy (and bless me that) I may earn the service of the saints (Guru). Nanak submits that they who crave for the dust of the feet (the humble service) of (God’s) devotees easily merge in God’s vision.”(2)

Next stressing the importance of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “O’ all mortals, meditate on the Master of the universe, because in this perfect effort (are the merits of all) worships, penances and austerities. Yes, daily sing praises of the Master, the inner knower of all hearts, (in this way the) entire (human) life becomes fruitful. We should sing praises of the Master of the universe and meditate on Him daily; approved is the advent of such a person alone. (O’ my friends), meditation of the immaculate God is (true) worship, penance, and self-discipline. It is only the wealth of God’s (Name), which accompanies (us after death. O’ God), Nanak begs You to show mercy and give me the jewel of Your Name, (so that I may) enshrine it in my heart (to take it along with me).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by describing the blessings a person enjoys who meditates on God’s Name, and showing mercy whom God comes to meet. Comparing such a person to a human bride who has been blessed with the union of her beloved Groom, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that bride soul) revels in bliss and songs of joy whom showing His mercy, God the embodiment of bliss and Giver of all comforts comes to meet. All the desires of her heart are fulfilled. (Her heart is in such a state of bliss, as if she is being) continuously congratulated and she imperceptibly merges (in the union of her beloved Master). After that, she doesn’t have to suffer or cry in pain. All the sins and evils (in her mind) get destroyed; (God) embraces her to His bosom, and lets her experience the bliss (of His company). Nanak submits, (this is the kind of joy a person enjoys) whom that Master of supreme bliss comes to meet.”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of the pains of birth and death and enjoy eternal peace and bliss of union with our beloved God, then instead of remaining pre-occupied with amassing of the worldly riches and power, we should try to earn the wealth of God’s Name. This wealth can only be obtained by singing God’s praises in the company of the saintly people under the guidance of true Guru.
This epic composed by Guru Ramdas, the 4th Guru is to be sung as per the tune of the balled of Musa, who was a brave Muslim warrior. He was engaged to be married to a beautiful girl but motivated by greed, the girl’s parents married her to another, richer Muslim chief. Not tolerating this insult, Musa raided the house of her in-laws. After bravely fighting all those present he imprisoned the girl along with her husband. On reaching home, he asked the girl whether she wanted to live in his house or that of her in-laws. The girl replied that he could do whatever he wanted to do with her since she was in his custody, but her real desire was to remain with her husband whom her parents have married her.

Listening to this answer Musa very bravely set both the girl and the husband free and sent them home with lavish gifts from him. The bards of that time composed a Vaar (epic) based on this story. Guru Ram Das Ji has composed this epic reflecting on the unique merits of God and has directed that this Vaar be sung to the tune of the epic of Musa. In this epic Guru Ji wants to impress upon us the point that by meditating on God’s Name no evil tendencies can sway our mind. Therefore every moment that we spend in remembering God’s Name is most fruitful and auspicious. This epic has a total of fifteen Paurrees with two saloks before each Paurree, which as per the practice with other epics, were added later by fifth Guru Ji while compiling Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Salok Meela-4

Guru Ji begins by saying: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is the (real) treasure. Following Guru’s instruction, keep it enshrined in your heart. Dispelling the poison of ego (from within you), remain (so humble, as if) you are the servant of the servants (of God. One
who has done that) has won the objective of life and never comes (home) losing (the battle of life). O’ Nanak, blessed are they who, following Guru’s instruction, have cherished the relish of God’s essence in their hearts.”(1)

Mehla-4

In this salok again Guru Ji stresses the benefits of meditating on God’s Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), God of the universe is the treasure of all merits. When through Guru’s instruction we meditate on God, we obtain honor in His court. By meditating on God’s Name we are recognized with honor in His court. (In short) O’ Nanak, the Guru is (the embodiment of) God, upon meeting (and following) whom we obtain God’s Name.”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji himself utters praises of God in a beautiful style of his own while repeating the same words many times. Addressing God, he says: “O’ my God, You Yourself are the adept, Yourself the seeker, and You Yourself are the (true) Yogi. You Yourself are the enjoyer (of worldly things) and You Yourself are their user. You Yourself pervade everywhere and whatever You do happens. Blessed is that holy congregation, joining which, one utters God’s Name. All should utter God’s Name from their tongues, because by uttering God’s Name all sins are washed off.”(1)

The message of this Paurri is that whether householders or recluses, God is pervading in the hearts of all, and residing in all creatures He is doing all the deeds. The best thing for us to do is that by joining the company of saintly persons, we should sing God’s praises and meditate on His Name with true love.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that joining the company of saintly persons we should sing God’s praises and meditate on His Name. However in this salok, he cautions us that not everybody is blessed with this unique treasure.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is (a gift) which only a rare person obtains through the Guru’s grace. (One who obtains it), that one’s ego and worldly attachment is destroyed (and with the help of Name), washes out the bad intellect. O’ Nanak, in whose destiny it has been so written (from the beginning), they utter God’s praises day and night.”(1)

“(O’ my friends), God Himself is the embodiment of compassion, and whatever He Himself does happens. He Himself pervades everywhere and there is no one as great as God. Whatever pleases God happens; whatever God does comes to pass. No one has ever been able to estimate His worth because that God is limitless. O’ Nanak, by Guru’s grace one who has praised Him, that one’s body and mind have been soothed.”(2)

Praising God, Guru Ji says: “O’ the life of the world, Your light is shining everywhere. You are imbuing each heart with Your love. O’ my Beloved, all meditate on You, You are the true eternal immaculate Being. You are the one Giver and the entire world is Your beggar. All beg everything from You. O’ God, You Yourself are the servant and the Master. When we follow Guru’s advice, You seem most pleasing. (Therefore O’ my friends), all of you utter again and again the Name of that God who is the Master of all faculties and from whom You can obtain all the fruits (of your desire).”(2)

The message of this Paurri is that God is pervading everywhere and in every heart. By meditating on God’s Name through Guru’s guidance, we can wash off our poison of ego and worldly attachment.
Salok Mehla-4

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that God is pervading everywhere and in every heart. By meditating on God’s Name through Guru’s guidance, we can wash off our poison of ego and worldly attachment. But it is only by Guru’s grace that we obtain the gift of God’s Name, which is the source of all peace and bliss. In this salok, he tells us what other blessings we obtain by meditating on God’s Name.

Addressing his own mind and indirectly us, he says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name. (By doing so) you would obtain honor in God’s court. Whatever you wish, you would obtain. (However it is only through Gurbani) the Guru’s word that the mind gets attuned (to God). Then all one’s sins and evils are destroyed and one is rid of one’s ego and self-conceit. Also by Guru’s grace, the lotus of one’s heart blossoms forth (in delight) and one recognizes God pervading everywhere. O’ God, show mercy so that devotee Nanak may keep meditating on Your Name.”(1)

Mehla-4

Continuing to narrate the virtues of meditating on God’s Name and stressing the importance of Guru’s advice, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), immaculate is the Name of God because by meditating on God’s Name all one’s pain goes away. They in whose destiny it has been so pre-written, (Name) comes to reside in their hearts. They who live as per the true Guru’s will, their pain and poverty go away. But O’ people, you can try in your minds and find out for yourself that none of those who live as per their own self-conceit ever obtain (this treasure of Name). Therefore devotee Nanak is a servant of those servants who (humbly follow Guru’s advice and) bow to the true Guru’s feet.”(2)

Paurri
Now Guru Ji once again addresses God and utters His praise. He says: “(O’ God), You are pervading in all places. Everything is Your creation. It is You who has created this universe of myriad colors and forms and fashioned it in myriad ways. In the entire universe is Your light, and You are present in this light.”

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ God), it is only You who yokes the creatures to the Guru’s instruction. They on whom You become gracious, You unite them with the true Guru, and through the Guru You impart them with divine wisdom. (Therefore O’ my friends, all) utter and repeat God’s Name, by virtue of which all poverty, hunger, and pain is removed.”(3)

The message of this Paurri is that it is only through God’s Name that we obtain honor in God’s court and our sins and evil tendencies are destroyed. But it is only when God shows His mercy and unites us with the Guru that we meditate on God’s Name. Therefore seeking Guru’s guidance we should utter God’s Name again and again. By doing this, all our pain and poverty is removed and we can see God pervading everywhere.

salok mehlaa 4.
har har amrit naam ras har amrit har ur Dhaar.
vich sangat har parabh varatdaa bujhahu sabad veechaar.
man har har naam Dhi-aa-iaaa bikh ha-umai kadhee maar.
jin har har naa chayti-o tin joo-ai janan sabh haar.
gur tuthai har chaytaa-iaaa har naamaa har ur Dhaar.

jan naanak tay mukh ujlay titt sachai darbaar. ||1||

mehlaa 4.
har keerat utam naam hai vich kalijug karnee saar.
mat gurmat keerat paa-ee-ai har naamaa har ur haar.
vadbhaagee jin har Dhi-aa-iaaa tin sa-upi-aa har bhandaar.
bin naaai je karam kamaavan niit ha-umai ho-ay khu-aar.
jal hasteee mal naavaalee-ai sir hhee fir paavai chhaar.
har maylu saattgur da-i-aa kar man vasai aykankaar.
jin gurmukh suh har mani-aa jan naanak tin jaikaar. ||2||

pa-orhee.
raam naam vakhar hai ootam har naa-ik purakh hamaaraa.
har khayl kee-aa har aapay vartai sabh jagat kee-aa vanjaaraa.
sabh jot tayree jotee vich kartay sabh sach tayraa paasaaraa.
Salok Mehla-4

In the previous Paurree, Guru Ji advised us to utter God’s Name again and again. By doing this, all our pain and poverty is removed and we are able to see God pervading everywhere. In this shabad, he goes one step further and tells us not only to utter God’s Name, but also enshrine it in our hearts, and explains the benefits of doing that.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is the immortalizing relish. Enshrine this divine nectar in your heart. By reflecting on (Gurbani), the Guru’s word, understand this concept that God pervades in the congregation (of saintly persons). They who have meditated on God’s Name in their minds, have driven out the poison of ego (from their within. But they who have not remembered God’s Name, have lost the (game of) life in gamble. (On the other hand), becoming merciful, whom the Guru has (made to) remember God; they have enshrined God’s Name in their hearts. Devotee Nanak says such people are honored in the true court (of God).”(1)

Mehla-4

Now Guru Ji tells us what the best deed is, which one can do in this age. He says: “(O’ my friends), to praise God and meditate on (His) Name is the most sublime and the best deed in Kal Yug (the present age). But it is through the Guru’s instruction, that we obtain the wisdom of praising God and enshrine God’s Name in our hearts. Fortunate are they who have meditated on God; (to them God) has entrusted the storehouse (of the wealth of Name). To do (any) ritual deeds without meditating on (God’s) Name is to waste oneself in ego each day. (Doing all such deeds is acting like an) elephant who, after being bathed and scrubbed (clean) in water, again throws dust over its head. (Therefore we should pray to God and say): “O’ God, showing Your mercy, please unite us with the true Guru so that the one Creator may get enshrined in our hearts. Devotee Nanak hails those who after listening to the Guru have believed in God.”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji tells us about the nature of this world and how much he values God and respects His Name. He says: “(O’ my friends), God is our heroic Master and the most sublime commodity (in this world) is God’s Name. God Himself has set up the play of this world and God Himself pervades (everywhere). He has made the entire world as the dealer (of something). O’ God, Your light shines in all (the universe) and You Yourself reside in that light and all true is Your expanse. All contemplate You. Through Guru’s instruction, they all who praise the formless God succeed (in achieving the object of life. Therefore O’ my friends), all of you should meditate again and again on (God), the life of the world. Meditating on whom, one is ferried across the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”(4)

The message of this Paurri is that the most sublime deed in this world is to meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises. This understanding we obtain in the company of...
the Guru, that praising God as per Guru’s advice brings us honor in the court of the eternal God and ferries us across this dreadful worldly ocean of *Maya*.

**Salok Meela-4.**

In the previous *Paurri*, Guru Ji advised us that the most sublime deed in this world is to meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises. This understanding we obtain in the company of the Guru that praising God as per Guru’s advice brings us honor in the court of the eternal God and ferries us across this dreadful worldly ocean of *Maya*. But the problem is that God’s virtues are so limitless that with our one tongue we cannot even scratch the surface and cannot even guess where to start. In this *shabad*, Guru Ji shows us the way out of this predicament.
Putting himself in our place, he affectionately prays to God and says: “O’ God, we have but one tongue and Your merits are indescribable and uncountable. How we ignorant ones can worship You when You are so great, unfathomable, and incomprehensible. O’ God, bless us with sublime understanding and yoke us to the feet (the guidance) of the true Guru. O’ God, unite us with the congregation of saintly persons and in their company ferry us sinners across (this worldy ocean). O’ God, forgive slave Nanak and becoming gracious, unite us with You (through the Guru). O’ God, showing Your mercy listen to our prayer, so that we sinners may swim across.”(1)

**Mehla-4**

Now Guru Ji tells us what happened when he made the above prayer. He says: “(I said to God), O’ the life of the world, show Your mercy and unite me with the kind and true Guru. (Listening to this prayer), God became merciful, then doing Guru’s service (following his instruction) sounded pleasing to me. Then all my desire and hope was forsaken and I was rid of all family entanglement. Becoming gracious, the Guru enshrined God’s Name in me and blessed me with his (divine) word. (In this way) devotee Nanak obtained inexhaustible wealth and commodity of God’s Name.”(2)

**Paurri**

Now Guru Ji sings praises of God and says: “O’ God, You are the greatest of the great, the most sublime, lofty, and highest of the high. They who meditate on the limitless God, become the embodiment of God. O’ Master, they who sing or listen to Your praises, their millions of sins are washed off. O’ God, they who follow Guru’s instruction are very fortunate. They become like You. (O’ my friends), you all should worship that God, who was existing before the beginning of ages, exists now, and will exist forever. Nanak is the slave of His slaves.”(5)

The message of this *shabad* is that we should meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises, but praises of God are so limitless that our one tongue cannot utter these. Therefore we should pray to God to show mercy and bless us with the guidance of the true Guru so that following his advice we may sing praises of God. Then all our sins and vices would be dispelled and while singing praises of God we would one day merge into God Himself.
It is the same light

Salok Mehla-4.

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji told us that we should meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises, but praises of God are so limitless that our one tongue cannot utter these. Therefore we should pray to God to show mercy and bless us with the guidance of the true Guru so that following his advice we may sing praises of God. Then all our sins and vices would be dispelled and while singing praises of God we would one day merge into God Himself.

In this shabad, he shares his own experience and tells us how imperceptibly God Himself blessed him with His sight and what kinds of unique virtues he was able to observe in Him.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), our God is the giver of life to the world. I meditated on that God as per the mantra (instruction) of the Guru. (Then) without my knowing, the unfathomable and incomprehensible God came and met me on His own. (I have now realized that) God Himself pervades each and every heart and He Himself is beyond limit. God Himself enjoys all relishes and He Himself is the Master of Kaula (the goddess of worldly wealth). He has Himself created the entire world along with all the beings and creatures, and He Himself gives them the charity (of their sustenance). But O’ merciful God, give me that charity, which the saints and devotees of God beg from You. O’ God of devotee Nanak, please come and meet us so that we may continue singing songs in Your praise.”(1)

Mehla-4.

Guru Ji now expresses in a beautiful couplet how God and His Name is pervading all over his body and mind and how he feels as if all his wishes and desires have been fulfilled. He says: “(O’ my friends), God and His Name is now my only friend and mate and His (loving) Name is (residing) in my body and mind. By Guru’s grace all my desires have been fulfilled and (the mind of) devotee Nanak feels contended by listening to God’s Name.”(2)

Paurri

Now on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji declares: “(O’ my friends), most sublime is God and fulfilling is His Name. That immaculate God is blooming everywhere.
They who meditate on God day and night, (feel so prosperous in their hearts, as if) Kaula (the goddess of wealth) serves them daily. Every day (God) takes care of all the creatures and beings; He abides near (them all, yet) remains separate from all. Only that person understands Him whom He Himself makes to understand and upon whom the true Guru becomes pleased. Therefore all of you should sing God’s praises because by singing His praises, one merges in that praiseworthy (God).”(6)

The message of this Pauree is that if we don’t want to have any worldly problems, and want to merge in that praiseworthy God, then under the guidance of the Guru we should keep singing praises of God at all times.

Mehla-4

In the previous Pauree Guru Ji advised us that if we don’t want to have any worldly problems and want to merge in that praiseworthy God, then under the guidance of the Guru we should keep singing praises of God at all times. In this salok, he again emphasizes that advice, and tells us what blessing we obtain when the Guru becomes gracious on us.

Addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, remember that God, (not only while awake, but even when) asleep; (in this way) remain merged in the state of equipoise. O’ my mother, in the mind of devotee Nanak is a craving (to see God. But I know that only when) the Guru becomes gracious, he unites a person (with God).”(1)

Mehla-4

Now expressing the extent of his love for God alone and no other gods or goddesses, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), my love is only with that one (God) and only that one (God is
enshrined) in my heart. For slave Nanak, the one and only support is God Himself and it is only from that one (God), that one obtains sublime status and honor (everywhere).”(2)

**Paurri**

Now Guru Ji describes what kind of bliss a Guru’s follower enjoys when God becomes manifest in that person. He says: “(O’ my friends), in that fortunate person in whose mind Guru’s instruction is enshrined, starts playing such a divine continuous melody (that even though there is no musical instrument, one enjoys such a relish, as if all) the five kinds of musical instruments are playing in one’s heart. By reflecting on the Guru’s word, God of the universe (becomes so obviously manifest in that person, as if He has) loudly spoken (and that person) has seen the Source of all bliss pervading everywhere. (Such a person firmly believes that) from the beginning to the end of the ages, that God has only one form, and He can be worshipped only by following the instruction of the Guru. O’ merciful God, You give your devotees the charity (of Your Name) and save their honor. (O’ my friends), you all should say again and again that blessed is the Guru, the true Guru, upon meeting whom God has covered your secrets (and saved your honor).”(7)

The message of the *Pauree* is that if we want to save our honor and experience the bliss of union with God, then following the advice of Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) we should meditate on God’s Name both while awake and aslee.

**Salok Mehl-4**

In the previous *Paurri* Guru Ji advised us that if we want to save our honor and experience the bliss of union with God, then following the advice of Guru, we should meditate
on God’s Name both while awake and asleep. In this shabad, he illustrates with a very beautiful example how the Guru’s guidance helps a person to meditate on God’s Name.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the Guru is like) an ocean. (When he becomes gracious on his congregation, he starts delivering his divine and bliss giving sermon with such a loving zeal, as if) the ocean is overflowing (and the people listening to this sermon are also so impressed and filled with divine love that they also start singing God’s praises with such emotion, as if many) creeks filled to the brim are flowing. Therefore devotee Nanak says that those fortunate persons who have put faith in the true Guru, obtain (the gift of God’s devotion from the Guru).”(1)

Mehla-4

Now Guru Ji ponders over the question how can anybody utter all God’s praises and meet Him or unite others with Him when God’s virtues are so limitless and when He has no form or feature? He finds the answer and says: “Countless are the names (and qualities) of God, His merits cannot be described. God is inaccessible and unfathomable, so how can His devotees meet Him themselves or help others to meet Him? Even by continuously meditating on God, His devotees cannot estimate His worth. Devotee Nanak (says, the only way is to pray to Him and say: “O’ incomprehensible God, please attune and unite us with You.”(2)

Paurri

In this Paurri also Guru Ji reflects over the above question and tells us how the Guru and his holy congregation help us in this search. He says: “(O’ my friends), God is inconceivable, incomprehensible, and unapproachable. (I wonder) how can I see His sight? If He were some (tangible) thing, we could describe it, but He has no form or feature. Only that person is able to see Him, whom He Himself makes to understand. (This understanding one obtains in) the congregation of the true Guru (which is like) a school where one learns about God’s qualities. Therefore blessed again and again is that tongue, blessed are the hands, and blessed is that teacher true Guru, meeting whom one writes the account of God’s Name (in one’s destiny, which is the only way to meet Him).”(8)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to meet God, who has no form or features, then we should join the holy congregation of the true Guru. There, we should devotedly listen to the Guru and sing God’s praises and meditate on God’s Name with true devotion.

salok mehlaa 4.
har har naam amrit hai har japee-ai satgur bhaa-ay.
har har naam pavi hai har japat sunat dukh jaa-ay.
har naam tie ne aaraDhi-aa jin maatak ikhi-aa Dhur paa-ay.
har dargeh jan painaa-ee-an jin har man vasi-aa aa-ay.
jan naanak tay mukh ujlay jin har suni-aa man bhaa-ay. ||1||
mehlaa 4.
In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised that if we want to meet God, who has no form or features, then we should join the holy congregation of the true Guru. There we should devotedly listen to the Guru, sing God’s praises and meditate on God’s Name with true devotion. In this shabad, he tells us what a great treasure God’s Name is, and what kinds of honors those devotees obtain who meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is the immortalizing elixir. We should meditate on God as per true Guru’s pleasure (and guidance). God’s Name is so immaculate that by reciting or listening to it, one’s sorrow vanishes. However only those have meditated on God’s Name in whose destiny it was prewritten by God. Those devotees are robed with honor in God’s court in whose mind God comes to reside. Slave Nanak says, “They who have listened to God’s Name with (true) love (and devotion) are honored (both in this and the next world).”

Mehla-4

Now Guru Ji tells us how that treasure of Name can be obtained and who those fortunate persons are who obtain this gift. He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is a treasure, but it is only obtained through Guru’s grace. Further, only they in whose destiny it is pre-ordained, the true Guru comes to meet them. Then their body and mind is soothed, and peace comes to abide in their minds. O’ Nanak, by uttering God’s Name, all one’s poverty and pain goes away.”

Paurri

In the above salok, Guru Ji stated that God’s Name is a treasure, but it is only obtained through Guru’s grace. Further only they in whose destiny it is so pre-ordained, the true Guru comes to meet.
Therefore expressing his love and respect for those who have met the true Guru, he says: "(O’ my friends), forever I am a sacrifice to those who have seen my beloved true Guru. Because the true Guru has met only those in whose destiny it was pre-ordained. Through Guru’s instruction they have meditated on that God who has no form or features. Through the Guru’s instruction they who have contemplated the incomprehensible God, meeting with the Master, those servants have become one with Him. (O’ my friends, I suggest that) all of you should again and again utter the Name of that Master of all beings because most sublime is the profit of God’s meditation.”(9)

The message of this Paurri is that we should pray to God to bless us with the company of the true Guru. Then under his guidance we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the most sublime profit in this world. It dispels all one’s poverty and pain, and blesses one with eternal peace.

In the previous Paurri, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to bless us with the company of the true Guru. Then under his guidance we would meditate on God’s Name, which is the most sublime profit in this world. In this salok, he again advises us to worship that God who is pervading everywhere and who has created this colorful world.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, meditate on that God) who is pervading everywhere. That God is present in each and every heart and has created this wonderful world in His own...

Salok Mehla-4

salok mehlaa 4.
raam naam ram rao rahay ram raamo raam rameet.
ghat ghat aatam raam hai parabh khayl kee-o rang reet.
har nikat vasai jagjeevanaa pargaas kee-o gur meet.

SGGS P-1317
har su-aamee har parabh tin milay jin likhi-aa Dhor har pareet.
jan naaank naam Dhi-aa-i-aa gur banchan japi-o man chheet. ||1||

mehla 4.
har parabh sajan lorr lahu bhaag vasai vadbhaag.
gur poorai daykhaali-aa naaank har liv laag. ||2|| pa-orhee.
Dhan Dhan suhaavee safal gharthee jit har sayvaa man bhaanee.
har kathaa suavhau mayray gursikhahu mayray har parabh atath kahaege.
ki-o paa-ee-ai ki-o daykheee-aa mayraa har parabh sughar sajnaa.
har mayl dikha-ay aap har gur bachnee naam samaanee.
tin vitahu naaank vaar-aa jo japday har nirbaanee. ||10||
wonderful way. My friend Guru has illuminated me with this (divine) wisdom that (God) the life of the world, resides near (everyone). But that Master God meets only those in whose destiny He has pre-ordained love for God from the very beginning. Devotee Nanak (says that only those who have) meditated on God’s Name, following Guru’s instruction have cherished Him in their minds.”(1)

Mehla-4

Therefore advising us to search God in our own hearts, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), find God (your true) friend (in your heart). It is only by great good fortune that He comes to reside (in one’s heart). O’ Nanak, whom the perfect Guru has shown (God residing in the heart, that person) is attuned to God’s (meditation).”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji shares with us how blessed he is feeling since the time God’s meditation has seemed pleasing to him. He also tells us how much he loves and respects those who worship that immaculate God. He says: “(O’ my friends), for me, blessed and auspicious is that beautiful moment when the service (and meditation) of God seemed pleasing to the mind. O’ the beloved sikhs (disciples) of the Guru recite to me the discourse of God and the indescribable story of God my Master. (Please tell me) how we could attain and see my sagacious wise God? (I think the answer is that) on His own He reveals Himself (to that person) who, following the Guru’s instruction, merges in God’s Name. Therefore Nanak is a sacrifice to those who meditate on the carefree God.”(10)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to attain that all-pervading immaculate and carefree God, then following Guru’s instruction, we should join the congregation of saints and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. Then showing His mercy God would bless us with His wonderful sight.

It is the same light
In the previous Paurree, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to attain to that all-pervading immaculate and carefree God, then as per Guru’s instruction, we should join the congregation of saintly persons and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. In this shabad, he tells us what the Guru does which we ourselves cannot do, how does he unite us with God, and what is his own experience.

He says: “(O’ my friends, whom) the Guru gives the eye powder of (divine) wisdom, their eyes crave for the loving sight of God. (This is how) I have attained to God, my friend, and imperceptibly slave Nanak has met Him.”(1)

Elaborating on the merits and blessings a person obtains by following Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), one who follows Guru’s advice, within that one remains a state of peace and that person’s body and mind remain merged in (contemplation of God’s) Name. (Such a person) thinks only about God’s Name, reads only about Name, and remains attuned to the love of Name. When we obtain the enlightenment of Name, all our anxiety goes away. (But only when) we meet the true Guru, (love for God’s) Name wells up in us and all thirst and hunger (for worldly things) goes away. But O’ Nanak, we are blessed with (God’s) Name (only when) we are imbued with (the love of God’s) Name.”(2)

Guru Ji concludes this Paurri by acknowledging God’s powers and lovingly addressing Him, he says: “(O’ God), You Yourself have created the world and You Yourself have kept it under Your control. Making some self-conceited, You have made them lose (the game of life). But) some You have united with the true Guru; they have won (that game). Sublime is the Name of God, but only (a rare) fortunate person has meditated on it by following Guru’s advice. When the Guru blessed one with the Name, all one’s pain and poverty were removed. Therefore all of you should serve that captivating (God), the enticer of the world, who after creating it has kept it under His control.”(11)

The message of this Paurri is that we should consider ourselves very fortunate because God has already united us with the eternal Guru (Granth Sahib Ji. If we devotedly listen to) the divine wisdom (in it), we would see God pervading everywhere, obtain permanent peace and bliss, and would ultimately be united with God.

salok mehlaa 4.
man anṭar ha-umai rog hai bharam bhoolay
manmukh durjanaa.
naanak rog vanjaa-ay mil satgur saaDhoo sajnaa.
||11||

mehlaa 4.
man ṭan ṭaam sagaaravaa jaaḥ daykhaa har nainay.
Salok Mehla-4

In the previous Pauree, addressing God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), You Yourself have created the world and You Yourself have kept it under Your control. Making some self-conceited, You have made them lose (the game of life). In this salok, he tells, what the main problem with the self-conceited persons is, and in his compassion he also suggests their remedy.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the self-conceited evil persons remain lost in doubt because within their minds is the malady of ego. O’ Nanak, (a person) can get rid of this malady by meeting with (our) saintly friend, the true Guru.”(1)

Mehla-4

Describing how much he is in love with his beloved God, he says: “(O’ my friends), my mind and body feel embellished only when I see God with my eyes. Nanak (says: “When) I meet that God, I live listening to His call.”(2)

Paurri

Guru Ji is enjoying God’s love so much that he wants us also to experience that bliss. Therefore, first addressing God, he says: “O’ the Creator and Master of the universe, You are the limitless Being, whose worth cannot be assessed.”

Now addressing us, he says: “O’ my beloved Gursikhs (Guru’s disciples, all of you should) meditate on God’s Name, because God’s Name is most sublime and priceless. They who have meditated on God (from the core of) their hearts, they have met God; there is no doubt in it. (But only by) good fortune one obtains the congregation (of the Guru, from where) one gets the perfect advice (of the Guru. Therefore) all of you should meditate on God, by doing which your entire problem or dispute with the demon of death would end (and you won’t have any fear of death).”(12)

The message of this Paurri is that if we want to get rid of our malady of ego and fear of death then we should seek the company of the true Guru and meditate on God’s Name from the core of our hearts.
In the previous Paurri (11), Guru Ji stated that after creating the world, God has kept it under His control. Making some self-conceited, He has made them lose (the game of life. But some He has united with the true Guru; they have won (the game of life).

In this salok, he makes another observation and says: “O’ Nanak, if any foolish (self-conceited) person aims an arrow (plans to harm) those who are meditating on God, by virtue of their love these devotees are saved, but they who have tried to harm them are themselves ruined as if their own arrow has killed them.”(1)

M : 4

Describing, how they who are truly imbued with God’s love see the power and expanse of God’s Name pervading everywhere, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they whose eyes are enchanted with God’s love, see (the supremacy of God’s Name everywhere. (They feel that if these eyes believe or) see any other, these should be taken out.”(2)

Paurri

Now Guru Ji tells us how he views God and what advice he has for us in that regard. He says: “(O’ my friends), that limitless God is completely pervading in all the lands, waters, and the skies. He sustains all the creatures and beings, and whatever He does that alone happens. He is our mother, father, son, brother, and friend; there is no one except Him. Let anyone meditate (on God, he or she would be convinced that God) is pervading each and every heart. Therefore all of you should contemplate on the merits of God who is manifest in the entire universe.”(13)

The message of this Paurri is that God is our protector and He is pervading each and every heart. So without any fear we should meditate on His Name. Even if somebody tries to harm us God would take care of that.
In the previous Pauree, Guru Ji advised us that God is our protector and He is pervading each and every heart. So without any fear we should meditate on His Name. Even if somebody tries to harm us, God would take care of that. We should understand that God is our protector and He is pervading each and every heart. So without any fear, we should meditate on His Name. In this salok, he tells us what kinds of merits those persons obtain, who seek the shelter of the Guru and meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “Those good friends who seek the Guru’s shelter (and meditate on God’s Name) are blessed with God’s love. O’ devotee Nanak, you too should praise God’s Name and happily go to God’s court without any worry.”(1)

Mehla-4

Now Guru Ji shows us how to pray to God to bless us with the bounty of His Name. Addressing God, he says: “O’ God, You are the benefactor of all, and all beings are

Yours. All worship You, and O’ beloved, You give charity to all. When God the Giver has pulled out His hand (to signal the Guru), the rain (of Guru’s) sermon has poured over the world. (Then anyone) who has (meditated on God, as if) one has lovingly farmed (the field of one’s mind); the corn (of Name) has grown (in it and one) keeps cherishing God’s Name. O’ God, devotee Nanak also begs for the charity (of Name, so that it may become) the support (of his life).”(2)

Paurri

Now on the basis of his personal experiences Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), we should all worship (God), the ocean of bliss and thus fulfill the wishes of our heart. Through the jewels of Guru’s words we should contemplate on (God’s Name, which is like His) lotus
feet. By joining the company of saints (and meditating on God) we obtain emancipation and the writ of Death’s courier is torn off (and we are not subjected to the pain of birth and death again. In this way by) worshipping the detached God we win the object of (our human) birth. Therefore, all of you should seek the shelter of the true Guru, so that even the trace of any pain or stain (in your life) is completely erased.”(14)

The message of this Pauree is that if we want to get all our wishes fulfilled, obtain emancipation, and happily go to God’s court without any fear or anxiety then we should meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance.

In the previous Pauree, Guru Ji told us that if we want to get all our wishes fulfilled, obtain emancipation, and happily go to God’s court without any fear or anxiety, then we should meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. In this salok, he tells us another fundamental truth about God.

He says: “I was searching for my friend (God, but I found that) friend is with me. Devotee Nanak says: “(On our own), we cannot comprehend that indescribable (God), but the Guru helps us see (Him).”(1)

Regarding his present state, Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, that eternal (God) has so imbued me with His love that I cannot live without Him. If we meet the true Guru, then by meditating on God with relish, we obtain the perfect (God).”(2)

Guru Ji concludes this epic of Kaannarre by listing the blessings one may obtain by lovingly remembering Him. He says: “(O’ my friends), anyone who sings, listens to, or recites to others (the praises of God), that one’s dirt of sins (accumulated) births after births is removed, and one obtains (the fruit) of one’s heart’s desire. By singing praises of God
one erases one's comings and goings (in the world). One swims across and ferries all one's companions across (this worldly ocean). Slave Nanak is a sacrifice to such a person who is pleasing to my God.” (15-1-Corrected)

The message of this Pauree is that it doesn’t matter whether we listen, sing or utter praises of God, as long as we remember Him with true love and meditate on His Name as per Guru’s guidance, without searching Him anywhere outside, we would realize Him within ourselves. Then not only us, but also all those who join us in meditating on Him would be saved.

Guru Ji concludes the chapter on (melody) Rag Kaannaarra with a beautiful shabad by devotee Nam Dev Ji, in which he briefly explains the nature of God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), just as our face is clearly visible in the mirror, God the King and Inner knower (of all hearts) is pervading in all.” (1-pause)

Commenting further on God’s unique qualities, Nam Dev Ji says: “(Even though, He) abides in each and every heart, He is not affected by worldly blemishes. He is free from (worldly) bonds.” (1)

In conclusion, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends), just as we can see our face in water, (it remains unaffected by the wetness of water), similar is God and Master of Nam Dev.” (2-1)

The message of this shabad is that God is pervading everywhere and in each and every heart. But just as we can see our face in water, similarly even though God resides in each and every nook and corner of the world, He remains detached and unaffected by worldly bonds or blemishes.
Guru Ji now begins another chapter based on the melody Kalyaan, which literally means emancipation. Guru Ji begins this shabad, by describing the merits of God and His bounties.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ all-pervading God, while uttering God’s Name nobody has obtained Your limit. (O’ God), we Your children are sustained by You, and You are the most sublime being, our father and mother.”(1-pause)

Now addressing us, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), countless and mysterious are the names of God, and beyond the reach of our senses is God the king. The men of merits and wisdom have reflected upon Him a lot, but they have not obtained even an iota of His worth.”(1)

Continuing his observation, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, myriad of creatures) always sing praises of the Master of the universe, but they haven’t found the limit of God’s praises. (O’ God) the Master, You are beyond limit and Your worth cannot be assessed, even by meditating on You, no one has obtained the depth (of Your merits).”(2)

Now resuming his address to God, Guru Ji says: “O’ Master of Laxami (the goddess of wealth), Your slaves praise You and sing about the virtues of God the King. But You are (like) the ocean, and we are (like) the fish (in this ocean, and just as the fish don’t know the extent of the ocean, similarly), we have not been able to find Your end (or limit).”(3)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by making a humble prayer to God and saying: “O’, the Slayer of demons, show mercy on Your slave and bless him with the meditation
of Your Name. For a foolish person (like) me, Your Name is (the only) support, and slave Nanak says that through Guru’s grace he has obtained (Your Name).” (4-1)

The message of this shabad is that God’s praises are so limitless that just as a fish living in the ocean cannot find its end or limit similarly we cannot find the limit of God’s virtues. The only thing, which we can do, is to pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru so that through his grace we may be blessed with His Name.

Kalyaan Mehl-4

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that God’s praises are so limitless that just as a fish living in the ocean cannot find its end or limit, similarly we cannot find the limit of God’s virtues. The only thing that we can do is to pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru so that through his grace we may be blessed with His Name.

In this shabad, he cautions us about the slanderers and evil minded persons who may feel jealous, seeing us meditate on God’s Name, and may try to harm us. But if we don’t falter in our devotion, in the end we would be the winners and even laugh at the foolishness of our opponents while the slanderers would suffer in the poison of their own ill will.

He says: “(O’ my friends), while singing (God’s) praises, His servant remains happy. Through Guru’s instruction God’s worship seems pleasant (to the devotee). From the beginning God has written this in devotee’s destiny.” (1-pause)
Therefore stating what he is doing and why, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), day and night I worship the feet of my Guru (and reflect on his immaculate words. By doing so) God has come to reside in my mind. Just as by rubbing sandal wood (we spread its fragrance), similarly the praise of God spreads (fragrance and peace) throughout the entire world.”(1)

Now describing the conduct and the end fate of God’s devotees and the worshippers of power, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the devotees of God remain attuned to the love of God, but the (the egocentrics) worshippers of power, keep looking for the ways to harm them. As pre-ordained, the slanderer keeps burning in the poison of jealousy throughout life, (like the one) who burns in pain when one’s foot accidentally comes in contact with a serpent.”(2)

Next referring to the legend of devotee Prehlad and demon Harnakash, he says: “O’ God, You are the protector of Your devotees; throughout all ages You have saved Your devotees. The demon (Harnakash) who thought ill (of devotee Prehlad) couldn’t harm him. Instead, after trying again and again, all the demons got burnt (to death).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), as many creatures God has created, are in the grip of death. But God has always saved His devotees; therefore slave Nanak has sought His shelter.”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that without bothering about the attacks of the slanderers or the worshippers of power on us we should keep meditating on His Name and like sandalwood keep spreading the fragrance of His praises in this world. God would take care of the slanderers and award them the punishment they deserve.
Kalyaan Mehla-4

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that without bothering about the attacks of the slanderers or the worshippers of power on us, we should keep meditating on His Name and like sandalwood, keep spreading the fragrance of His praises. That is what Guru Ji is doing in this *shabad* by first advising his own mind to sing God's praises.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God of the universe. Through Guru’s advice whosoever has meditated on God’s Name all that person’s pains and sins have been removed.”(1-pause)

However acknowledging the limitlessness of God’s merits, Guru Ji humbly prays: “O’ God, this one tongue (of mine) cannot sing (all Your) praises. (Therefore please multiply this one tongue) into many tongues. (O’ God), again and again, all (creatures) sing (Your) praises but still they cannot utter (all Your) virtues.”(1)

Describing the extent of his love for God, Guru Ji says: “O’ my Master, I am (so) deeply imbued with (Your) love (that at all times) I crave to see Your sight. (O’ Master), You are the great giver of life to (all) creatures and You know the pain of my (heart, so please bless me with Your sight).”(2)

Now addressing us Guru Ji asks a question and then answers it himself. He asks: “(O’ my friends), tell me, what should we give to anyone who tells us the way (to meet God? As far as I am concerned, if someone) who has himself met (God and) unites me (with Him), I would surrender all my body and mind forever to him.”(3)

However so limitless and beyond anyone’s capacity are the virtues of God that Guru Ji concludes by saying: “(O’ my friends), extremely limitless are the virtues of God but we describe these after greatly minimizing the same. (Therefore, I say), O’ the all-powerful God of slave Nanak, our intellect is in Your hands, (please bless us with right intellect so that we may be able to do at least some justice to Your limitless merits).”(4-3)

The message of this *shabad* is that we should be so much in love with God that we may feel that even after singing God’s praises all the time our one tongue is insufficient to sing His praises. Therefore we should pray to God to unite us with the Guru who may teach us to sing God’s praises and unite us with Him.

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*Kali-aan mehlaa 4.*

mayray man jap har gun akath suntha-ee.

Dharam arath sabh kaam mokh hai jan peechnai lag firtha-ee. ||1|| raha-o.

so har har naam Dhi-aavai har jan jis badhaag math-ee.

jah dargahi parabh laykhaa maagai tah chhutai naam Dhi-aa-itha-ee. ||1||

hamray dokh baho janam janam kay dukh ha-umai mail lagtha-ee.
In the previous so many shabads, Guru Ji advised us to meditate on God's Name. In this shabad, he lists very specific and tangible fruits of doing this.

First addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on the merits of God which are said to be indescribable. (By doing so, all the four objects of life, namely) righteousness, wealth, heart’s desire, and salvation (are so readily fulfilled, as if these) are running after (you).” (1-pause)

Describing how fruitful God’s Name is and how fortunate are they who meditate on it, he says: “(O’ my friends), only that devotee of God’s meditates on God’s Name who has been blessed with great destiny. Where in His court, God asks for the account (of one’s deeds), there that person alone is delivered who has meditated on the Name.” (1)

Guru Ji now tells us why it is necessary to meditate on God’s Name and seek the guidance of the Guru. He says: “(O’ my friends), we have been collecting sins of many births; and are afflicted with the pain and filth of ego. Showing mercy, the Guru bathes us in (the immaculate) water of (God’s) Name and then all our evils and sins go away.” (2)

Describing the conduct of the devotees and the reward they obtain by meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), within the hearts of the devotees is abiding God the Master and the devotees keep meditating on God’s Name. When their last moment (time of death) arrives, (God’s) Name saves them like a true companion.” (3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by humbly saying: “O’ God, Your saints always sing Your praises and contemplate You. O’ God the Master and savior of devotee Nanak, save us who like stones, are sinking (in the worldly ocean).” (4-4)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the Guru’s shelter and following his Gurbani wash off the filth of our sins and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so all our desires would be fulfilled and we would obtain all the objects of human life including righteousness, wealth, heart’s desire, and salvation.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised that we should seek the Guru’s shelter and following his Gurbani, wash off the filth of our sins and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so all our desires would be fulfilled and we would obtain all the objects of human life including righteousness, wealth, heart’s desire, and salvation. In this shabad, he tells us how God knows about the inner feelings and thoughts of our mind and protects us against all those who try to harm us.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God knows, what we are thinking. If someone else speaks ill of a God’s devotee, God doesn’t believe what he or she says.” (1-pause)

Therefore he advises: “(O’ my friend), forsaking all other means, serve (and worship) the imperishable God who is the highest Master. By serving God even the (demon of) death cannot come near, instead he comes and falls at the feet (of the devotee) deeming him (embodiment of) God. (Thus God’s devotee becomes free even from the fear of death).” (1)

Describing further the blessings received by the person whom God provides shelter and on whom He is pleased, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whom my Master provides shelter and whose devotion my God recognizes, He carefully blesses that person with wise intellect. Then no one can equal that person whose devotion my God recognizes.” (2)

Now Guru Ji addresses us and says: “(O’ my friend), look at the wonders of God who discriminates between the true and the false ones in an instant. That is why, the devotees (of God) are in bliss (because they know that those) whose hearts are pure have met (God), but the false ones had to repent.” (3)
Guru Ji concludes by humbly saying: “O’ God, You are all powerful Master, I beg from You one charity. Show mercy on devotee Nanak and bless him that in his heart may always abide (the love of) Your feet (Your Name).”(4-5)

The message of this shabad is that when we are singing praises of God from the core of our heart, we should not care about what others say about us. God knows the inner state of our mind and without paying any attention to things uttered against us, God protects us and utters the words of wisdom into our ears. We should always pray to God to bless us with this gift that His Name may always reside in our heart.

Kalyaan Mehlaa-4

Guru Ji concluded the last shabad, by praying to God to show mercy on him and bless him that in his heart he may always abide in the love of His Name. In this shabad, he shows us with what kind of love, hope and childlike affection we should pray to God, and asks Him to embrace us to His bosom. He also shows us what to ask of God.

Guru Ji says: “O’ God the treasure of mercy, please show Your kindness (and bless us) that we may keep singing Your praises. Every day I hope and wonder, when (my loving) God would embrace me to His bosom.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji doesn’t make any claims about his merits, but acknowledging himself as a young child prone to errors, says: “O’ God, we are (like) ignorant foolish children and You are (like our kind) father who corrects us. Just as at every moment a son makes mistakes (and is still dear to his father, similarly O’) Father of the world, we are dear to You.”(1)
Next acknowledging our complete dependence on God, he says: “O’ my Master, we can obtain only that which You give us. There is no other place where we could go to ask for (anything. Please bless us with Your Name.”(2)

Describing, who those are who are pleasing to God and what blessings they obtain, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the devotees who look pleasing to God, (only) to them God seems pleasing. By uniting their (soul) light with the prime (soul) light (of God), they would merge in the (prime soul) light (of God Himself).”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), on His own, our loving God becomes gracious and Himself attunes us to His love. Devotee Nanak has sought the shelter of His door, (and hopes that) God would save his honor.”(4-6-sixteplet-1)

The message of this shabad is that we should have such childlike pure love for God that we confess to Him and say: “O’ God, we are like ignorant children who make many mistakes. But just as a father always corrects his children and loves them, similarly please ignore our faults; imbue us with the love of Your Name and save us.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should affectionately pray to God to ignore our faults, imbue us with the love of His Name and save us. In this shabad, he shows us how to say that prayer.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ the all-pervading God and Master, You are the destroyer of pains. O’ the Ocean of peace, the wish-fulfilling Jewel, who ferries all across the dreadful (worldly) ocean, all devotees beg (at Your door).”(1-pause)

Next, addressing God by His different names, Guru Ji says: “O’ Jagdish (Master of the world), Damodar (god Krishna around whose belly his mother had tied a string so that he may not run into some trouble), You are the merciful Master of the meek, inner knower of our hearts, and support of the earth, all-pervading God, slayer of demons, and giver of salvation, following Guru’s instruction, they who have meditated (on You), have become fear-free.”(1)
In conclusion, he says: “O’ Nanak, they who have come to the shelter of feet of God of the universe, those devotees are ferried across the dreadful (worldly) ocean. God shows mercy and saves the honor of His devotees.” (2-1-7)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to achieve a state of complete fearlessness and want to be ferried across this dreadful worldly ocean, then we should seek the shelter of God and pray to Him to save our honor.

In the previous *shabad* (4-6), Guru Ji showed us the kind of childlike affection, with which we should pray to God and ask Him to embrace us to His bosom. In this *shabad*, he cites some beautiful examples to lovingly tell God that he would not be satisfied by anything less than His sight and that is for what we should also long.

So lovingly addressing God, he says: “O’ God, do me this favor that just as the black-bee is again and again lured to the sap in a flower, similarly my mind should remain attuned to Your lotus feet (the immaculate Name).” (1-pause)

Using the example of *Chaatrik* (pied cuckoo), he says: “(O’ God), just as a *Chaatrik*, has no use for water but the *swanti boond* (water drop, during certain star configuration), similarly please bless me (with the water of Your) Name.” (1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji submits: “(O’ God), I don’t feel contented without meeting You. It is only by seeing You that Nanak survives (spiritually. Therefore please bless him with Your sight).” (2-1)

The message of this *shabad* is that our love and devotion for God should not simply be a routine of reciting some hymns or going through some kind of a drill, but like a black bee and a pied cuckoo we shouldn’t feel contented unless we enjoy the nectar of His Name and the bliss of union with our beloved God.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that our love and devotion for God should not be a routine of reciting some hymns or going through some kind of a drill, but like a black bee and a pied cuckoo we shouldn’t feel contented unless we enjoy the nectar of His Name and the bliss of the sight of our beloved God. In this *shabad*, he again stresses the importance of meditating on God with true devotion and even when we beg from Him, we should have full faith in His generosity and truly believe that whatever God does is in our best interest.

But as for himself, Guru Ji humbly prays to God and says: “O’ the Support of all (creatures), the Master of all, and Giver of all comforts, Your beggar again and again asks (for the charity of) Name (from You).”(1-pause)

Stating how all beg at His door and what they obtain, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), myriad (of people) make myriad of demands (at Your door), but we obtain only that which pleases (God).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), most fruitful is the sight (of that God). Touching again and again (His feet by lovingly cherishing Him in our mind), we should sing His praises. O’ Nanak, just as with one diamond, we pierce another diamond, similarly let us unite our essence with His essence (or our soul with His Prime soul).”(2-2)

**Kalyaan Mehla-5**

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want our honest and sincere desires fulfilled, and our soul may merge in the prime Soul (of God) then we should meditate on His Name with true love and devotion.
In so many previous shabads, Guru Ji has advised us to sing praises of God. In this shabad, he describes how glorious and magnificent is the glory of that God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), ever fresh and appealing to the heart and mind is the glory of my beloved God.”(1-pause)

Stating how even gods beg for the opportunity to sing God’s praises, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, even), Brahma, Shiva, Indira (the gods of creation, destruction, and rain), adepts, and sages beg for the charity of God’s praise.”(1)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the yogis, men of wisdom, those engaged in meditation, and Shesh Nag (the thousand hooded serpent), worship that God of many playful moods. Nanak says, “I am a sacrifice to those saints who (remain attuned to Him, as if) they are God’s permanent companions.”(2-3)

The message of this shabad is that so exhilarating is the glory of God that we should pray to Him to bless us also with the company of those saintly people who sing His praise, so that in their company we may also meditate on His Name and enjoy the bliss and magnificence of His love and splendor.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that so exhilarating is the glory of God that we should pray to Him to bless us also with the company of those saintly people who sing His praise so that in their company we may also meditate on His Name and enjoy the bliss and magnificence of His love and splendor. In this shabad, he lovingly talks to God Himself and describes what kind of bliss, honor, and delight he obtains by listening to God’s praises, beholding Him all around, and joining the company of His devotees.

He says: “(O’ God, with the help of the honor given by You, we behold You with our eyes, listen to Your sweet words with our ears, and feel comfort in all the parts of our body and life breaths.”(1-pause)
Now telling us how God is pervading everywhere, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, from the highest mountain) Meru to the (smallest) straw, (God) is equally pervading here, there, and in all the ten directions.”(1)

In conclusion, he says: “(O’ my friends), Nanak utters this divine knowledge that in the company of saints all one’s doubts and dreads are removed, (and) wherever we see we find (God) the supreme Being.” (2-1-4)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of all our doubts and dreads and enjoy peace and bliss in each and every limb of our body, then we should seek the company of saints and sing praises of God.

Kalyaan Mehla-5

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our doubts and dreads and enjoy peace and bliss in each and every limb of our body, then we should seek the company of saints and sing praises of God. But this is not the only shabad in which Guru Ji has given us this advice. He has stressed this point in many previous shabads as well. The question arises what is so special about the congregation of saints, what they do in that place, and what are the special benefits of doing that? In this shabad, Guru Ji briefly answers all such questions.

He says: “(O’ my friends), when the saints and silent sages gather, they utter and listen to praises of God. For them, in this lies all the bliss and merit of listening to the tune of yogis and wisdom of Vedas.”(1-pause)

Describing what else they do and what kinds of blessings one obtains in such a congregation, he says: “(O’ my friends, in the congregation of saintly persons), where the seekers of the relish of God’s Name meditate on God, one obtains divine wisdom, meditation (on God), honor, charity (of Name, and all one’s) sins are destroyed.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, in the congregation of saints), those who know the way to yoga (union with God, the divinely) wise who know about the essence of food (for the soul), and the secret of attunement to the (divine) word do the penance and worship (of continuously meditating on God’s Name). Like warp and woof, they remain merged in the (divine) light and O’ Nanak, no pain or punishment can make them suffer.”(2-2-5)
The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to obtain divine wisdom, meditation, honor, charity of Name, and that sublime state where no pain or punishment can affect our peace and poise, then joining the congregation of saints, we should sing God’s praises and meditate on God’s Name.

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to obtain divine wisdom, meditation, honor, charity of Name, and that sublime state where no pain or punishment can affect our peace and poise, then joining the congregation of saints, we should sing God’s praises and meditate on God’s Name.

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain divine wisdom, meditation, honor, charity of Name, and that sublime state where no pain or punishment can affect our peace and poise, then joining the congregation of saintly persons we should sing God’s praises and meditate on God’s Name. In this *shabad*, he ponders over the question, how can one obtain salvation from evil tendencies, and then he shares the answer with us.

As if talking to himself, Guru Ji says: “(I wonder), what is the way (to meet God) and what should I do? Some contemplate Him; others who know Shastras (the Hindu holy books) discourse on those. (But nothing satisfies me, and this state of uncertainty is unbearable). I still wonder how I can bear that unbearable state.” (1-pause)

Reflecting on the possibility of seeking the shelter of some adepts, or gods, Guru Ji asks himself: “There are many gods like Vishnu, Shiva, and Indira, or adepts and silent sages, but I wonder at whose door may I seek shelter?” (1)

After reflecting on the powers of all gods and sages, he concludes: “Some may have the power to grant kingdom, others may give me paradise, but rare among millions is the one about whom I could say that he or she can grant salvation from evil tendencies. Nanak says that (salvation is only obtained) through the relish of God’s Name, (which is only obtained in the shelter of saints). Therefore I should grasp on to the feet of saint (Guru).” (2-3-6)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to know the true way to salvation, then we need not go to any pundits, scholars, yogis or even gods like Brahma, Shiva, and Indira. Instead we should humbly seek the shelter of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to know the true way to salvation, we need not go to any pundits, scholars, yogis or even gods like Brahma, Shiva, and Indira. Instead we should humbly seek the shelter of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he shows us how to pray to God to bless us with His Name and make sure that it remains enshrined in our heart.

So addressing God, he says: “O’ the Sustainer of life breaths, our merciful master, friend, and liberator from the entanglements of births and deaths; O’ God, You are the destroyer of pains and You are our savior.”

Continuing his prayer, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), I have enshrined Your Name and I have sought Your shelter. O’ my merciful God, You (alone) are my support.”

Elaborating on his above statement, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, we the meek and the humble have our hope in You alone. (Please show mercy, that the) mantra of Your Name may remain enshrined in my mind.”

Guru Ji continues: “(O’ God), except for You, I don’t know anything. In all ages You alone are my acquaintance.”

He concludes the shabad by praying to God and saying: “O’ God, please abide in my mind day and night. O’ God, You alone are the support of Nanak.”

The message of this shabad is that if we want to win the pleasure, love and affection of God, then we should completely surrender to Him and say: “O’ God, it is in You and You alone that we have our faith, You are the life of our life breaths, destroyer of our pains, and fear of births and deaths.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to win the pleasure, love and affection of God, then we should completely surrender to Him and say: “O’ God, it is in You and You alone that we have our faith, You are the life of our life breaths, destroyer of our pains and fear of births and deaths.” In this shabad, he tells us again what kinds of blessings, we obtain when we meditate on God with true concentration of our mind and body.

Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), we should meditate upon God with full concentration of our body and mind. (One who has done so), the perfect Guru is pleased, with that one and (his or her mind) has always been in peace and pleasure.” (1-pause)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends, whosoever) has sung praises of God all that person’s tasks have been accomplished. Meeting with the company of saints, such a person has meditated on God and, all his or her pain (and fear of) death has hastened away.” (1)

Guru Ji even prays for himself and says: “O’ my perfect illuminating God, slave Nanak has sought Your shelter. Please show mercy (and bless me) that I may serve (and meditate on) You day and night.” (2-5-8)

The message of this shabad is that if we want our tasks to be successfully accomplished, there is peace and bliss in our mind, and we are free from any pain or fear of death, then we should pray to God to show mercy on us and bless us that we may meditate on His Name with full attention of our mind.
Guru Ji concluded the previous shabad, by praying to God and saying: “O’ my perfect illuminating God, slave Nanak has sought Your shelter. Please show mercy (and bless me) that I may keep serving (and meditating on) You day and night.” In this shabad, he continues that prayer and indicates why he has so much faith in God and His Name.

Guru Ji says: “O’ my God, You are the inner knower of all hearts. O’ perfect all-pervading God, show Your mercy (and bless me) with Your immortal Word (Your Name, which is) the entry permit (to enter Your kingdom).”(1-pause)

Stating how much faith he has in God and in no one else, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, except for You there is nobody else who is all powerful, (therefore I have my) hope only in You and my mind depends only on Your support. O’ the Master of all hearts, we eat and wear only that which You give us.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by counseling his own mind (and indirectly all of us). He says: “O’ Nanak, (always meditate on God’s Name, because it is by) meditating on the Name that we obtain sublime intellect, wisdom, glory, (inner) beauty, love, wealth, and honor and enjoy all kinds of comforts and salvation.”(2-6-9)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain wisdom, glory, honor, beauty, and salvation then we should pray to God to bless us that we always meditate on His Name, which is like a visa to His kingdom.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain wisdom, glory, honor, beauty, and salvation then we should pray to God to bless us that we always meditate on His Name, which is like a visa to His kingdom. In this shabad, he once again tells how liberating and purifying God’s Name is and how none of the other ways to obtain salvation are anywhere near equal in merit to the worship of God.
He says: “(O’ my friends), emancipating is shelter of God’s feet and God’s Name is purifier of the sinners.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the merits of meditating on God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends), even the demon of death cannot consume (or scare the person) who in the company of saints, unhesitatingly meditates (on God’s Name).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), none of the ways to obtain salvation, or myriads of comforts equal (the merits of) God’s loving adoration. O’ Nanak, the seeker of God’s sight doesn’t wander into existence again.”(2-7-10)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to enjoy all comforts and obtain salvation then forsaking all other ways we should join the company of saintly persons and unhesitatingly meditate on God’s Name.

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kali-aan mehlaa 4 asatpadee-aa.

raamaa ram raamo sun man bheejai.
har har naam amrit ras meethaa gurmat sehjay peejai. ||1|| raha-o.

na-o darvaaj navay dar feekay ras amrit gavsat chuj-eejai.
kirpaa kirpaa kar pi-aray gur sabdeee har ras peejai. ||2||

kaa-i-aa nagar nagar hai neeko vich sa-udaa har ras keejai.
raatan laal amolak satgur sayvaa leejai. ||3||

laalan laal laal hai rangan man rangan ka-o gur deejai.
raam raam raam rang raatay ras rasik gatak niet peejai. ||5||

basuDhaa sapat deep hai saagar kadh kanchan kaadh Dhareejai.
mayray thaakur kay jan inahu na baachheh har maageh har ras deejai. ||6||

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In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy all comforts and obtain salvation, then forsaking all other ways we should join the company of saintly persons and unhesitatingly meditate on God's Name. In this Ashtpadi, he elaborates on the merits of God's Name, tells us how to obtain it, and also states how the worshippers of power waste themselves running after worldly wealth, while the devotees of God long only for the wealth of God's Name.

He says: “(O my friends), by listening to the Name of the all-pervading God one's mind is delighted. The relish of God's Name is nectar sweet, through the Guru's instruction we should slowly and calmly drink (and enjoy) it.”(1)

However God's Name is such a mysterious and intangible concept, which most people find difficult to understand and enjoy. Guru Ji explains it with a couple of beautiful examples. He says: “(O my friends), just as fire is hidden in wood by rubbing (the sticks) with care we can bring out the fire, (similarly) the light of God's Name (is hidden in our body, but) by following Guru's instruction we can bring out its essence (and enjoy its relish).”(1)

Next Guru Ji explains where the relish of God's Name is located and how to procure it. Referring to human body parts like the eyes, ears, and nostrils, He says: “(O my friends, the human body has nine doors, the tastes (enjoyed through) all these nine doors are insipid (as compared to the supreme) relish of the nectar which flows out of the tenth door (which is secret). This divine relish we drink through the Guru's word when God shows His utmost mercy on us.”(2)

Giving yet another example from our daily life, Guru Ji says: “(O my friends), our body is like a very beautiful township, and in this township we should bargain for the relish of God's Name. (This relish of God's Name) is priceless like the jewels and rubies and is obtained through the service of the true Guru.”(3)

Now explaining how to approach the Guru for such a valuable gift as God's Name, Guru Ji says: “(O my friends), the true Guru is the embodiment of unfathomable and mysterious Master. (It is only through the Guru that we can) worship (God), who is like the ocean, brimful (with priceless jewels. The only way to approach Him is to humbly pray to Him, and say: “O God, we are like) humble pied cuckoos: please put a drop of (water) of Name in our mouths.”(4)
Continuing his love filled request, Guru Ji says: “O’ my beloved Guru, most loving and endearing is Your Name, please bless me with love of Your Name, so that I may imbue my mind with that love. They who are imbued with the love of the all-pervading God, drink every day the relish of God with gusto.”(5)

Describing how much God’s devotees prefer wealth of God’s Name over the worldly wealth, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, even if) we dig out and place before them the entire gold from all the seven continents and the oceans, still the devotees of my Master won’t crave it; they only beg God to bless them with the relish of His Name.”(6)

In contrast showing the state of mind of the worshippers of power and wealth, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the worshippers of worldly wealth are hungry for (material things) and always keep crying for it. They keep running after wealth and cover distance of thousands of miles lured by the infatuation for worldly riches.”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), most sublime are the devotees of God, I don’t know how to glorify them. There is no greater glory than God’s Name. O’ God, show mercy on Nanak (and bless him also with Your Name).”(8-1)

The message of this shabad is that there is nothing better than God’s Name. Therefore God’s devotees always prefer His Name to all worldly treasures. This treasure is present in everybody and it is only found by slowly and steadily meditating on God as per Guru’s instruction.
In many previous shabads, Guru Ji told us that there is no better thing than God’s Name and His devotees always prefer His Name to all worldly treasures. This treasure is secretly present in everybody, but it is only obtained by slowly and steadily meditating on God as per Guru’s instruction. In this Ashtpadi, Guru Ji explains with many beautiful examples how the instruction and company of the saint Guru purifies our intellect, destroys myriads of our sins, and helps us to see the sight of God, which is the only thing that satisfies His devotees.

First of all Guru Ji cites the example of the philosopher’s stone, about which it is believed that if any iron piece comes in its contact it turns into gold. So comparing the Guru to such a stone, he prays: “O’ God, bring me in touch with the philosopher’s stone (Guru). Like the meritless rusted iron, we are (persons of) extremely insipid (character. Please show mercy and) make us (virtuous like) philosopher’s stone by uniting us with the true Guru.”(1-pause)

Describing the signs of a true devotees of God and that for which they truly long, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all crave for heaven and salvation and everyday hope and pray for it, but the lovers of the sight of God do not ask for salvation; their mind gets satiated only when they see Him.”(1)

Next giving the example of a duck, which although lives in water, yet never lets its feathers get wet, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, even though) the attachment for worldly things is extremely powerful and one often gets stained with the filth of worldly attachments, yet the devotees of my Master remain completely detached and free (of any such stain) just as the feathers of a duck don’t get wet.”(2)

Now Guru Ji poses a question and then answers it himself. Comparing God within us to a fragrant sandal tree and the worldly allurements and evils to the poisonous serpents surrounding it, he says: “(O’ my friends, just as) a sandal tree is surrounded by serpents and it is very difficult to obtain and enjoy its fragrance, similarly within us is the light of
God, which is surrounded by our evil impulses). So the question is how do we enjoy the fragrance of sandal tree (the love of God within us?)

Answering the question himself, Guru Ji says: “By pulling out the sharp sword of Guru’s (divine) wisdom and cutting again and again the poisonous parts (driving out the evil tendencies), we should drink the relish (of God’s love).”(3)

Above metaphor is very useful and practical for those who are already attuned to God. But what about those worshippers of worldly wealth whose entire life has been spent in worldly pursuits and they have committed myriad of sins for its sake? Guru Ji has a message of hope even for such morbid sinners. Therefore quoting another vivid example, he says: “(O’ my friends), by bringing again and again we may collect lot of wood, but by applying a little fire we reduce it to ashes in an instant, similarly even if an worshipper of power has committed many most heinous sins, these can also be destroyed by meeting the saints and applying the torch (of God’s Name).”(4)

Now educating us about the signs of true saints and how blissful is the company of such holy persons, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), sublime are those saintly persons within whom is enshrined (God’s) Name. They who come in touch with such saintly devotees feel so blessed, as if they have seen God Himself.”(5)

However advising us to remain away from the worshippers of power, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), like an entangled cotton thread the life of the worshippers of power has become very complicated and it cannot be woven into a fruitful life. Just as out of the entangled mesh no (useful straight) strings can be taken out (similarly no benefit comes out of an egocentric, therefore) we should not keep company with a worshipper of power.”(6)

But then telling us what we should do or whose company we should seek, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), meritorious is the saintly congregation of the true Guru, joining this congregation we should meditate on God’s (Name). Within (us are hidden) gems, jewels and rubies (of God’s Name), through Guru’s grace we can procure (these).”(7)

Guru Ji concludes this shabad by posing a question and then answering it himself. He says: “Great and magnificent is my Master, (but) how could we meet Him? O’ Nanak, only the perfect Guru can bring about this union. (Therefore, we should pray to God and say: “O’ God, please) bless Your devotee with (the guidance of) the perfect (Guru).”(8-2)

The message of this shabad is that even if we have committed many sins and think that our life is beyond redemption, still we shouldn’t lose hope, because just as a small flame can burn a heap of firewood, similarly with the enlightenment of his word the Guru can wash off the dirt of all our sins and unite us with God. But we should remain away from the worshippers of power and pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru.
jee-a jaνt sabh jag hai jaytaa man dolaт dol kareejai.
kirpa kirpaa kar saaDh milaavhu jag thamman ka-o thamm deejai. ||1||
basuDhaa таlaи таlaи sabh oopar mil saaDhoo charan ruleejai.
at ootam aт ootam hovhu sabh sisat charan тaл deejai. ||2||
gurmukh jot bhalee siv neekee aan paanee sakaт bhareejai.
aิงaнт nисay gur bachnee saar chab hаr ras pееjai. ||3||
raam naаm anooaгruhа baho kee-aа gur saaDhoo puraκh mіleejai.
gun raam naаm bіstheeran kee-aа hаr saаDhoo bhаvan jаs deejai. ||4||
saaDhoo ѕaabDh ѕaabDh man pareетam bіn dаykhaу rеh nа sаkeejai.
ji-o jal meen jala` jal pareet hai khin jal bіn fооt mаreejai. ||5||
mахаа abhaag abhaag hai jin kау тіn ѕaabDhoo Dhoor nа pееjai.
tіnа tіnnaа jаlaт jаlaт nahee bоojheh dаnD Dhаram rаа-ау kаa deejai. ||6||
sаbh тіrаth bааt hаg-y punn keе-aу hіdаv gаal gаal тαn cхееjai.
atуlаа tоl raаm naаm hаi gurmat kо pуjaу nа tоl тuлеjai. ||7||
tаv gуn bаrahm bаrahm тοо jaаneh jаn nаnаk sаran pееjai.
tоо jаl niDh mеen hаm тауrаy kаr kіrраа sаng rаkhеjai. ||8||3||

Kalyaan Mehla-4

In the fifth stanza of the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji stated that sublime are those saintly persons within whom is enshrined (God’s) Name. They who come in touch with such saintly devotees, feel so blessed as if they have seen God Himself. In this Ashtpadi also, he advises us to seek the company of God’s devotees and enjoy the bliss of God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should again and again meditate and repeat the Name of the all-pervading God. Sublime are the saintly servants (of God), meeting the saints we should imbue ourselves with God’s love.”(1-pause)
Next praying to God on behalf of the entire world, he says: “(O’ God), as many are the creatures and beings in this entire world, their mind always keeps wavering and worrying. (O’ God), showing Your mercy unite them with the saint (Guru) who like a supporting column may provide support to the world.” (1)

Now Guru Ji gives a lesson in humility. Citing a beautiful example, he says: “(O’ my friends, you know that) the earth remains below the feet of all, (but in the end, after death, it) stays above us all. Similarly meeting the saint Guru you should (so humbly serve him, as if you) are rolling under the saint’s feet. (By doing so) you would become extremely great and sublime (and you would so rule over the world, as if) you have put the entire world under your feet.” (2)

Listing additional merits of following the saint (Guru’s) advice, he says: “By seeking the shelter of the Guru, the blessed divine light shines (in us and we obtain such merits that even worldly wealth) or *Maya* (starts serving us, as if it) fetches our water. Following the Guru’s words (one becomes so kind hearted, as if) one has teeth of wax in the mouth. (Then, one can so control one’s evil passions, as if) one can chew steel and drink the nectar of God’s Name.” (3)

Describing what happens when one meets the saint (Guru), he says: “When one meets the saint (Guru), he shows great mercy of blessing that person with God’s Name. The Guru has widely spread the merits of God’s Name (in the world) and in this way he is spreading the glory of God in all the worlds.” (4)

Next illustrating the depth of love of the saintly persons for God, Guru Ji says: “Within the minds of the saintly devotees always resides their beloved (God) and they cannot live without seeing (Him). Just as a fish living in water has love for water and without it, it instantly dies in pain, (similarly without seeing God the saints feel lifeless).” (5)

Stating how unfortunate are they who don’t serve (or follow) the saints, he says: “Most unfortunate are they who (do not listen to the words of the saint-Guru and thus) drink the wash of the saint’s feet. The burning fire (of their worldly desires) never gets quenched and they are made to suffer punishment at the hands of Righteous Judge.” (6)

Many people believe in doing ritual worships like penance and observing certain fasts. Comparing all such practices to God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, even if one) visits all holy places, observes fasts, performs sacred feasts, gives charities, and ruins one’s body by living in snow caves, still none of these is equal in merit to the inestimable worth of meditating on God’s Name under Guru’s instruction.” (7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), about Your merits only You know, devotee Nanak has simply fallen at Your feet. You are like the ocean and we are like Your fish, please show mercy and keep us in Your company.” (8-3)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to enjoy true peace and bliss then taking the shelter of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and following his *Gurbani*, we should meditate on God’s Name. This meditation is more beneficial than all other ritual worships, such as going on pilgrimages, observing fasts, or giving charities.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to enjoy true peace and bliss, then taking the shelter of the saint (Guru) and following his Gurbani, we should meditate on God’s Name. This meditation is more beneficial than all other ritual worships such as going on pilgrimages, observing fasts, or giving charities. Therefore once again Guru Ji
advices us to meditate on the Name of the all-pervading God, and also tells us how much
he respects and what he is ready to offer to that saint who makes him firm in meditating on
God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should worship the all-pervading God. I would surrender my
entire body and mind to him, who through the Guru’s instruction implants the relish and
bliss of God’s Name in me.” (1)

Referring to the old Hindu practice of worshipping God by picking and offering some
leaves from a particular holy tree, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is like a tree
and its merits are like the small branches. Picking and offering the (flowers of virtues from
these branches), we should daily worship God. (O’ my friends), God alone is the source of
divine enlightenment, so attuning ourselves to the relish of God’s Name, we should worship
Him.” (1)

Commenting further on the merits of Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in this world,
most immaculate is the wisdom to discriminate between good and bad. By reflecting (with
this sense) again and again, we should drink the relish of God’s (Name. This commodity
of Name) is obtained only through the Guru, (and for that we should) surrender our mind
to the true Guru (and follow Guru’s guidance without listening to the dictates of our own
mind).” (2)

Now comparing God’s Name to a diamond, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name
is like an extremely beautiful and priceless diamond. With this (divine) diamond we
pierce the diamond of our mind. Through (Gurbani) the Guru’s word one’s mind becomes
(immaculate like) the most sublime pearl, because by virtue of Guru’s word we can assay
and realize the value of the diamond (of God’s Name).” (3)

Next commenting on the advantage of joining the company of saintly persons, he says: “(O’
my friends), just as the big Peepal tree absorbs in itself (a useless plant) like Palaas (and
makes it like itself, similarly) by joining the true company of the saintly persons and by
humbly serving them one acquires high character (like them. In this way the one in whom)
abides the fragrance of God’s Name, becomes the most sublime person among all human
beings.” (4)

Elaborating on the merits acquired by a person who thus molds his or her character
according to Guru’s instruction, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, by following Guru’s
instruction, one) who has done many immaculate and pure deeds (that one’s virtues start
multiplying rapidly, as if) on the tree of that person’s life, everyday grows a new green
branch. Soon this plant (of new personality) grows into a big tree which yields the flowers
of righteousness, and the fruit of knowledge imparted by the Guru and the fragrance (of
divine wisdom from this tree) spreads throughout the world.” (5)

Now describing the kind of divine wisdom, which such a person realizes and imparts to
others, he says: “(O’ my friends, such a holy person spreads the message that in the entire
world) is pervading only the one light and only one (God) is residing in the hearts (of
all) and we should see the one God in all. Only one God is pervading in the entire world,
therefore we should bow our heads to all.” (6)

Next commenting on the fate of those who do not meditate on God’s Name. He says: “(O’
my friends), look at those (shameless) persons who are bereft of God’s Name. (Every day
they are so disgraced, as if they are) getting their nose chopped off. Such worshippers of power are called arrogant; without (God’s) Name they live an accursed life.”(7)

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), Nanak says that as long as there is even one breath in our mind (our body), without delay (we should) seek the shelter (of God, and say to Him: “O’ God), please show mercy upon me so that I may keep washing the feet of the saints (and performing their most humble service).’”(8-4)

The message of this shabad is that so long there is even a single breath in our body we should hasten to seek the shelter of the saint Guru and pray to God to bless us with the most humble service of the true Guru so that in his company we may meditate on God’s Name with such love and relish that we may also become immaculate and spread the fragrance of God’s love all over.

**SGGS P-1326**

\[\text{man ka-o pareet lagee gur saytnee ji-o chakvee daykh sooreejai.} \]

\[\text{nirkhat nirkhat rain sabh nirkhee mukh kaadhai amrit peeji.} \]

\[\text{saakaat su-aa-ay kaihee-ahi baho lophee baho gurmat mail bhareejai.} \]

\[\text{apan su-aa-ay kaihee baho baaataa jinnaa kaa visaauh ki-aa keejai.} \]
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised that so long there is even a single breath in our body, we should pray to God to bless us with the most humble service of the true Guru, so that in his company we may meditate on God’s Name with such love and relish that we may also become immaculate and spread the fragrance of God’s love all over.

In this Ashtpadi, he shows us how to pray to God to bless us with the service of the saint (Guru) and tells us about many more blessings of the saint (Guru’s) company.

Speaking most humbly, Guru Ji says: “O’ my Master, show mercy on me and bless me that I may keep (daily serving and) washing the feet of the saint (Guru. By doing this, all) one’s sins get destroyed in an instant.”(1-pause)

Stating what else he has come to beg from God, he says: “O’ God, we the humble beggars are standing at Your door to beg. Please give us the charity (of Your Name, for which we) are craving. Crying again and again, we have come to Your door. (Please save us from the sins) and through Guru’s instruction instill Your Name within us.”(1)

Giving the reason why he is begging for Guru’s protection, he says: “O’ God, within our (body) township reside the powerful demons of lust and anger, rising up every day we have to battle with them (to control these passions). Please help us and protect us (from these evils), and through the perfect Guru liberate us (from the grip of these passions).”(2)

But that is not all, listing other important blessings of Guru’s guidance, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), within us is the raging fire of poisonous (worldly desires; to put off this fire) bless us with the ice cold word of the Guru. Then, our body and mind are immensely comforted, the affliction is removed and we may sleep in peace.”(3)

Now explaining the blessings of the saints’ company, he says: “Just as through its rays the sun is pervading everywhere, similarly God is pervading in all hearts. When one meets a saint, (through his union, one can also) experience the relish (of God’s presence), and in this way, even while sitting in the home, one drinks the (divine) essence.”(4)

Guru Ji illustrates the devotees’ love for the Guru by citing the example of a bird called Chakwi who gets separated from her male partner in the night and is able to see and reunite with him after daybreak only. For this reason every night the Chakwi keeps looking forward to the sunrise. Referring to this metaphor, he says: “(O’ my friends), the devotees (of God) are so attuned to the Guru that just as a Chakwi feels alive (again) on seeing the sun, (similarly they feel alive on seeing the Guru. Just as the Chakwi) spends all night looking
(towards the sun and enjoys the bliss of union with her partner, similarly when the Guru) shows his face (the devotee) drinks the nectar (of God’s Name).”(5)

However commenting on the nature of the worshippers of power who do not care for God or Guru and telling us how to deal with them, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the worshippers of power are said to be very greedy like dogs, they are filled with too much filth (of evil intellect). For their self-interest they prattle, (but) we shouldn’t trust them.”(6)

Therefore Guru Ji prays for the company of saintly persons for himself (and indirectly advises us to do the same). He says: “(O’ God, bless me with) the company of Your saints, because in their company one can obtain the relish of God’s (Name). Please bless me with the company of those who are very virtuous and talk about the welfare of others.”(7)

In closing, he says: “(O’ God), You are an unfathomable, compassionate, and kind Master. Please show mercy on all and save them. You are the only one Giver of life to all beings in the world. Nanak says please sustain them (all).”(8-5)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to bless us with the company and guidance of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) so that in his guidance we may learn to control our evil passions and meditate on God’s Name, which is the true source of peace and bliss.
In the previous Ashtpadi (8-4), Guru Ji advised us that so long there is even a single breath in our body, we should seek the shelter of the saint Guru and pray to God to bless us with the most humble service of the true Guru, so that in his company we may meditate on God’s Name with such love and relish, that we may also become immaculate and spread the fragrance of God’s love. In this Ashtpadi, he prays to God to make him the servant of His servants and bless him with the utmost humble service of His devotees and beautifully explains the blessings of doing that.

He says: “O’ God, make me the servant of (Your) servants. As long as there is breath in our mind (and body we should most humbly remain in their service and keep) drinking the (wash of the) dust of saints’ feet.”(1-pause)

Stating how not only he, but also the great sages and gods crave for the dust of the saints’ feet, he says: “(O’ my friends, even the gods and sages like) Shiva, Naarad, Sheish Nag (the legendary thousand headed cobra) and silent sages crave for the dust of the saints, because each and every house where the saints put their feet, these all become sanctified.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), shedding our sense of shame and self-conceit, we should meet the saints and live in their company. (One who does that) sheds the fear of Righteous judge (because the saints) pull out the one drowning in the poisonous worldly ocean (and save that person from wasting life in evil worldly pursuits).”(2)

Continuing to state the blessings of the saints’ company, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), even those who are so obsessed with amassing worldly wealth (that they could be) called (spiritually) dried out standing trees, by joining the company of saints, even they (develop godly qualities, as if they have become spiritually) green. Therefore, we shouldn’t tarry even an instant, and go and cling to the feet (and seek the shelter) of the saint (Guru).”(3)

Guru Ji gives another very important reason for seeking the service and guidance of the saint (Guru). He says: “(O’ my friends), the Name of God and His praise is (like) a very valuable jewel, which God has kept with the saint (Guru). The person who deems
as true and devotedly obeys the Guru’s word, the Guru takes out and places it before that person.”(4)

Now Guru Ji uses the metaphor of the olden day practice of conveying any important proclamation of the king to his citizens. In those days a person would go from street to street and after loudly beating a drum, would pull out a roll of paper and ask all to listen to the important announcement from the king. Comparing the Guru to a messenger of God the king, he says: “Listen O’ my saintly brothers and sisters, holding out his hand the Guru is shouting (and saying to you that) if for every day you search for the supreme peace for your soul, then seek the shelter of the true Guru.”(5)

But Guru Ji observes: “(O’ my friends), only if one is very fortunate, does one imbibe God’s Name through Guru’s instruction. When imperceptibly we drink the relish of God’s (Name), we swim across the torturous worldly ocean.”(6)

However commenting on the fate of those who love worldly wealth and nothing else, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they who are extremely obsessed with worldly riches, get wasted and consumed in (the pursuits of) of worldly wealth. Within them is the pitch darkness of ignorance, due to which their journey of life becomes very tortuous; because of their ego they remain loaded (with the weight of their sins.?”(7)

Guru Ji concludes this Ashtpadi by advising himself (and indirectly us). He says: “O’ Nanak, keep meditating on the all-pervading God, because it is only by meditating on God that we can obtain the supreme state (of salvation). When we meet the true Guru, he enshrines the (God’ Name in us and then we get absorbed in God’s Name.”(8-6-sixteplet-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want everlasting peace for our soul, then we should go to the saint (Guru) and pray to him to instill God’s Name in us and pull us out of the false worldly attachments.
Rag Parbhati, Vibhaas Meha-1
Chaupadey Ghar-1

Guru Ji begins this new chapter under the heading Rag Parbhati, Bibhaas (Melody Parbhati and Bibhaas). Both these melodies are very old Indian musical measures about which not much detail is available. As the name Parbhati indicates this melody is generally played during early morning hours. Like many other chapters, in this chapters also the single most important point, which has been emphasized is meditation on God's Name and blessings of Name.

Addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O' God, it is only through Your Name that we swim across (the worldly ocean), and it is only through the Name that we obtain any respect or reverence. Your Name is the embellishing ornament (of life) and the object of (true) wisdom. (Because of) Your Name, one is known all over and without (meditating on) the Name one never obtains any honor. (1)

Guru Ji continues: “Other cleverness (such as impressing people with rituals or knowledge of holy books) is all a false show. Whom (God) blesses (with the gift of Name, all that person's life) object is accomplished.”(1-pause)

Continuing to list the blessings and glories one obtains through God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O' God), Your Name is the power and the true support (for the human beings). Your Name (is one's) army (and one who has) Your Name (feels like a) king. Through Your Name, one obtains honor, importance, and recognition, and it is through Your grace that one is stamped with the sign of permission (to enter Your court.”(2)

Next stating the kinds of virtues one obtains by meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O' God), it is through Your Name that one obtains a state of peace and poise, and it is through Name that one sings Your praise. Your Name is (such a) nectar, by drinking, which, the poison (within a person) is washed off. Therefore, through Your Name all kinds of comforts come to reside in one's mind. (But the rest of world, which) doesn’t meditate on God’s Name is bound to go to the city of death (and keeps suffering the pains of birth and death).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by cautioning us against getting too involved in worldly pleasures and not taking the time to meditate on God’s Name. He says: “(O' my friends, love of one's) wife, houses, mansions, or kingdoms, is like fetters. For the sake of the mind’s pleasures we wear (many costly) dresses. But when (God wants to) call us He doesn’t wait. O’ Nanak, then the entire false (worldly expanse) becomes false (and doesn’t accompany us).”(4-1)
The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to obtain honor, power, bliss, and happiness here and in the hereafter, then we should start meditating on God’s Name now. When it pleases God, He calls us without giving any notice and then we may not have any opportunity to meditate on His Name.

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain honor, power, bliss, and happiness, here and in the hereafter, then we should start meditating on God’s Name now. In this *shabad*, he again stresses this point.

Addressing God, he says: “(O’ God, in that) intellect is the light (of divine wisdom, in which, through) Your grace, is studded the jewel of Name. (But the) rest of the world is enveloped by the) darkness (of ignorance. Because of which), we lose our entire (capital of life breaths and depart from here losing the game of life).”(1)

Commenting further on the state of the world and the importance of God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), this entire world is involved in sin. O’ limitless Creator God, Your Name alone is the panacea; there is no other remedy.”(1-pause)

Next illustrating the merits of God’s Name with a metaphor, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, if on one side of the scale are put all the merits of) underworlds and cities of the world as one bundle, and there may be millions of such bundles on that side, still they could (not equal the merits of) the jewel (of Your Name). They could equal the value of Your Name only) if they have some other (merit, such as the praises of God).”(2)

Now Guru Ji enlightens us about the significance of pains and pleasures in life, which we all go through, and tells us the best way to avoid sorrows in our life. He says: “(O’ my
friends), it is from sorrows that happiness grows, and pleasures bring pain; (in sorrow we realize our mistakes, remember God, and start doing the right things. But during happiness we start indulging in many wrong habits, which are harmful for our health, and we start indulging in many egoistic and sinful deeds, which bring us the wrath of people and our Creator. But O’ God, that person) doesn’t suffer from any kinds of hunger (for worldly pleasures) who sings Your praises (and meditates on Your Name.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by humbly admonishing himself (and indirectly us). He says: “O’ Nanak, (If you don’t meditate on God’s Name, then) You alone are the fool and the rest of the world is better (than you). The bodies in which (God’s Name) doesn’t well up are wasted (in evil pursuits).”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that if we don’t want to keep groping in the darkness of ignorance and do not want to be wasted in the pursuit of false worldly pleasures, then we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the cure for all worldly problems and pains.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised that if we don’t want to keep groping in the darkness of ignorance and do not want to be wasted in the pursuit of false worldly pleasures, then we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the cure for all worldly problems and pains. In this shabad, he elaborates on the greatness of God and His Name.
He says: "(O’ my friends), for whom Brahma uttered Vedas, Shiva abandoned worldly riches, the adepts renounced (the world), and other gods (tried their best, they couldn’t) understand (that God’s) mystery.’’(1)

Regarding that God, Guru Ji says: “Within our mind we should meditate on the eternal (God), and with our tongue utter the Name of that eternal (God). By doing so) we swim across (the worldly ocean and become like the) eternal (God). No enemy or sorrow comes near the one who acquires the wisdom of (meditating on) God.”(1-pause)

Commenting on the basic nature of the world and the importance of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, in the final analysis the) world is made of fire, water, and air (or the impulses for vice, virtue, and power. These impulses cannot affect those who meditate on God’s Name as if) the three impulses are the slaves of God’s Name. But they who don’t meditate on God’s Name, are like thieves who live in the forts of the five robbers (the evil impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, and they suffer because of these impulses).”(2)

Now Guru Ji compares our petty mindedness with the broad mindedness of God. He says: "(O my friends, in this world if) anyone does one good thing (for another), that person feels very proud (and regrets very much, if later the other person doesn’t return the favor. But God) bestows so many merits and so may virtues (on the human being, yet He) never regrets doing so many favors.”(3)

In conclusion Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), they who praise You, in their minds is the wealth (of Your Name), and for Nanak also that (Name) is the (true) wealth. Whoever pays respect to those (devotees) is not summoned by the demon of death (and is not subjected to the punishment by the judge of righteousness).”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that we should also try to be large hearted like God and shouldn’t regret if someone doesn’t return our favors. Instead we should always respect and try to emulate those devotees who meditate on God’s Name, so that in their company we may also be ferried across this worldly ocean.
In so many previous *shabads*, Guru Ji advised us to meditate on God’s Name as per Guru’s instruction. In this *shabad*, while apparently talking to a yogi, he clarifies how it doesn’t matter what rituals one performs, or what one’s caste, age, or gender is, if following Guru’s guidance one meditates on God’s Name with sincere devotion.

He says: “(O’ yogi, even those) who don’t have any beauty, (high) caste, nor any (sharp) feature or physical health, when they met the true Guru (and followed his advice, they) obtained immaculate God. (O’ God, in this way by meeting and following the Guru’s advice they have obtained) abode in Your Name.”(1)

Therefore advising all of us in general and the yogi in particular, Guru Ji says: “O’ detached yogi, calmly reflect on the essence (of the way to union with God, by adopting which) you may not have to come to the world again.”(1-pause)

Stating how the Guru saved those who didn’t know about any faith rituals, he says: “(O’ yogi, even those) who do not perform any ritualistic deeds, don’t follow any particular faith, didn’t observe outside purification, nor said any rosaries, when the true Guru became their savior, they obtained wisdom from the divine light (to unite with God).”(2)

Continuing to describe the virtues of meeting the Guru and following his guidance, he says: “(O’ yogi, even) those who don’t observe any fasts, don’t follow any (religious) routine, or don’t enter into any arguments or discussion; (when they) listened to the true Guru (and started acting on it, they) didn’t worry about salvation, or no salvation.”(3)

In closing, he says: “(O’ yogi), one who lives neither in any hopes (of worldly possessions), nor is living in a state of hopelessness (about the world, that one wants to renounce it), but has (enshrined Guru’s instruction in) mind and soul. Nanak says, that one has obtained such wisdom that his or her essence has united with the prime essence (God).”(4-4)

The message of this *shabad* is that it doesn’t matter to what caste we belong, what rituals we perform, or how physically fit we are. If we listen and act on the Guru’s advice; we would meet God and merge in Him.
Parbhati Mehla-I

Guru Ji concluded the previous *shabad*, with the remark that one who lives neither in any kinds of hopes (of worldly possessions), nor is living in a state of hopelessness (about the world), but has (enshrined Guru’s instruction in) the mind and soul, that one has obtained such wisdom that his or her essence has united with the Prime essence (of God).

In this *shabad*, he describes the blessings enjoyed by such balanced persons who accept all pains and pleasures with the same sense of balance and equanimity and cheerfully accept the will of God.

Guru Ji says: (O’ my friends), one who looks at poison and nectar (of pain or pleasure) alike, that one’s utterance is approved in (God’s) court.”(1)

Acknowledging God’s will in all happenings in the world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), whatever is happening (in the world is happening as per) Your will. What else can we say (in this regard), when we know that You are pervading in all, (and it is You who is going through any pain or pleasure in everybody).”(1-pause)

Describing the blessings a person to whom the Guru gives the nectar of Name obtains, he says: “The one to whom the true Guru has given the immortalizing elixir of Name, (in that one) manifests the (divine) light and (he or she) is rid of self-conceit.”(2)

Now stating whose advent in this world we should deem as fruitful, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), deem approved the advent of only that person in this (present) *Kal Yug* who receives honor in the true court (of God).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), it is fruitful only to utter and listen to those words through which one reaches the home of the indescribable (God). O’ Nanak, (all other talk or speech, which takes us away from God is wasted, as if) it is burnt down (into ashes).”(4-5)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to achieve the objective of this life, then we need to accept alike, both pain and pleasure as God’s sweet will. We should utter and listen to only those things, which bring us honor in His court. We should meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises at all times.
In the second stanza of previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that to whom the true Guru has given the immortalizing elixir of Name, in that one manifests the (divine) light. That person is rid of self-conceit. In this shabad, he lists many other gifts and virtues, which the Guru bestows on his disciple, and also tells about the powers and merits the true Guru possesses.

Guru Ji says: “(One who so enshrines the Guru’s instruction, as if one has) bathed in the ambrosial water (of Guru’s) wisdom, (along with other benefits, that person) also receives the merit of bathing at all the sixty eight holy places. In the Guru’s instruction are contained the (priceless) gems and jewels (of divine wisdom); the disciple who serves (and attentively listens to the Guru), finds (these diamonds).”(1)

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), no pilgrimage place is equal (in merit) to the Guru. That Guru is (like) the ocean of (peace and) contentment.”(1-pause)

Now comparing the Guru to a great river, he says: “(O’ my friends, the) Guru is like a river whose water (of God’s Name remains pure and pristine. Meeting whom, all one’s dirt of evil intellect is washed off. On meeting the true Guru (and following his advice we get rid of all our evil tendencies and thus) obtain complete ablution. (In this way, the Guru turns even those who are evil like) animals and ghosts, into (immaculate and virtuous persons like) gods.”(2)

Advising us on how much we should value the true Guru and how much we should venerate him, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who is imbued with the true love of (God’s) Name from the bottom of one’s heart, we should value such a Guru like Sandal,
through whose fragrance the surrounding vegetation also gets embellished (and listening to whose sermon all the people around become immaculate), we should remain attuned (to such a Guru).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), It is through Guru’s grace, that within one wells up the spirit of life and it is through the Guru, that we reach the house of God. O’ Nanak, it is through the Guru, that we merge in the eternal (God), and through the Guru we obtain the (pure) state of self.”(4-6)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain the most meritorious objects of life, such as peace, contentment, self-realization, and oneness with God, then we should bathe in the divine sermon of the true Guru by carefully reading, understanding and acting on the advice given in Guru Granth Sahib.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we want to obtain the most meritorious objects of life such as peace, contentment, self-realization, and oneness with God, then we should bathe in the divine sermon of the true Guru by carefully reading, understanding, and acting on the advice given in Guru Granth Sahib. In this shabad, he shows us what kind of honor and blessings we obtain when through Guru’s grace, we read and reflect on his advice, and what kinds of virtues and merits we should beg from God.

First describing the kinds of blessings one obtains who reflects on the divine knowledge, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), through Guru’s grace, one who reflects on the (divine)
knowledge, by reading it again and again, obtains honor (in the world. Then one’s true self (true virtuous nature) becomes manifest within and one obtains immortilizing Name.”(1)

Now Guru Ji uses a very beautiful metaphor and taking his poetic imagery to unbelievable heights, he imagines himself one of those pundits who go to the houses of their jajmaans (hosts), expecting to be served with delicious foods, and given gifts in the forms of food grains, cows, cash, and whatever else the pundit asks for and desires.

Comparing himself to such a pundit and God to his host, Guru Ji says: “O’ Creator, You are (like my) Jajmaan; I ask from You the one Dakshana (or charity, that) You bless me with Your Name.”(1-pause)

Stating the reason for asking for the charity of Name, he says: “(O’ God, I am asking for the charity of Your Name, because one who has obtained this blessing, has so controlled one’s five impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, as if one has) put a check on the five wandering thieves and robbers, and the ego of one’s mind is removed. (O’ God), such is Your divine knowledge by virtue of which, one’s sinful outlook and evil intellect vanishes.”(2)

But that is not all. Like the pundits, he also specifies what kinds of food grains, and other such things he would like to have from God, his Jajmaan. He says: “(O’ God, instead of) rice I beg for self-control and truth; compassion (instead of) wheat, and attainment of God as my food plate served on leaves. (O’ God, bless me with) the milk of (good) deeds, and clarified butter of contentment; such is the charity for which I beg.”(3)

Finally alluding to the tradition of giving a cow to the pundits in addition to the charity of food grains and clothes, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, give me in charity), the milk (yielding) cow of compassion and contentment so that the calf (of my mind) may peacefully drink the milk (of Your Name. Finally O’ God), I ask for the robe of Your devotional praise, (and request You to bless) Nanak that he may remain engaged in uttering God’s praises.”(4-7)

The message of this shabad is that instead of asking God for worldly riches and power, we should ask Him for the charity of His Name, the Guru’s guidance, divine wisdom, and such divine virtues as truth, compassion, contentment, and the inspiration to keep singing His praises.

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<th>11</th>
<th>parbhaat parbhau taa 1.</th>
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<tr>
<td>aavat kinaa raakhia jaaat ki-o raakhia jaa-ay.</td>
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<td>jis tay ho-aa so-ee par jaanaa jaahi us hee maahi samaa-ay.</td>
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<td>toohai hai vaahau taaree rajaa-ay.</td>
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<td>jo kicha karahi so-ee par ho-iba avar na karjaa jaa-ay.</td>
<td>(1) rahaa-o.</td>
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<td>jaisay harhat kee malaai tind lagaat hai ik sahknee hor fayr bharee-at hai.</td>
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<td>taiso hee ih khayl khasam kaa ji-o us kee vadi-aa-ee.</td>
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Many people ponder over the mystery of this world and reflect on such questions as from where one comes, where one goes after death, or why there is so much misery and pain in this world. Sometimes overwhelmed by family problems or sufferings, people get so frustrated that they start hating the world and renouncing it, go to live in jungles and mountains in the hope of obtaining peace of mind and union with God, which is often fruitless.

In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us the right attitude with which to view the world, how to remain truly detached from world’s problems and obtain acceptance in God’s court even while living in the family.

First commenting on birth and death, he says: “(O’ my friends), nobody has ever been able to stop (a creature from being born or) coming into this world. So how can we stop one from (dying or) departing from here? Only that (God from whom) has emanated (this world) understands (this mystery, and the creature ultimately) merges in Him.”(1)

Next going into ecstasy over the astonishing ways of God, he says: “O’ God, wonderful are You and astonishing is Your will. Whatever You do, only that would come to pass, (and beside that) nothing else can be done.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji now explains the process of birth and death with a beautiful example of a Persian wheel in which some buckets are attached to a continuous chain. With the help of an animal, and a mechanical arrangement, some empty buckets keep going down into the well, while others keep coming up filled with water, and emptying into a trough, from where the water is diverted into different fields. So using this metaphor, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), just as on the chain of the Persian wheel are attached some buckets, one is being emptied and the other is being filled again, similar is the play (of the world, set up by) the Master, as is His wondrous glory.”(2)

Addressing all those who keep reflecting on such questions from where they have come and where they have to go, and sometimes renounce the world and look down upon the house holders with disdain, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), only the mind of that person has been illuminated (by divine wisdom), who by adopting the way of attuning his or her consciousness to the word (of the Guru) has turned the attention of the mind away from (worldly attachments). O’ my friend, who considers himself a divinely wise person, reflect in your mind (and then decide, who truly) is a householder and who is detached, (the one who renounces world, but still keeps getting involved in worldly desires, or the
It is the same light

one who, even though living in the household, detaches the mind from worldly hopes and desires?"(3)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by telling us the way to get detached and approved in God’s court. He says: “(O’ my friends), one who surrenders all ones hopes and desires to (that God) to whom it belongs, remains detached. O’ Nanak, one who believes that God to be eternal, from whom (this world has) emanated, whether a householder or a recluse, is approved in God’s court.”(4-8)

The message of this *shabad* is that whatever happens in this world, happens as per the will of that God, who has created it. Therefore we should accept all pain and pleasure, including birth and death as God’s sweet will, and rise above all worldly hopes and desires. Any Guru following person who adopts such an attitude of mind obtains acceptance in God’s court, no matter whether he or she is a householder or a recluse.
and virtue remains strayed (from the right path of life and wastes his or human birth) in vain.”(1)

Therefore, Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends), utter the eternal Name of the Creator. (By doing that), your turn to come back (into this world) would not come again (you would not go through the rounds of birth and death).”(1-pause)

Stating the extent of God’s power and the blessings obtained by those who have realized Him, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God brings down those who are (occupying) high (positions), and can elevate the lowly (and poor to the status of) kings. Approved is the advent of those in the world who have realized that all-wise (God).”(2)

Sometimes people start complaining about unpleasant happenings in the world or in their families, and say,” God shouldn’t have done this or that.” Advising us to refrain from all such remarks, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), we could go to advise (God to do things differently), if He were mistaken. But it is only a rare person who understands that the Creator Himself executes all His plays (of the world).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), shed the love of worldly (things), and meditate on God’s Name in the early morning hours. Nanak the servant of servants of God supplicates that they who have lost (interest in the riches or powers of) the world, have won (the object of human life or reunion with God).”(4-9)

The message of this shabad is that we should recognize that God is infallible and whatever He does that is right. So we shouldn’t complain about any unpleasant happenings in the world or in our family. Instead we should humbly submit to His will and meditate on His Name in the early morning hours.
In stanza (1) of the previous shabad, Guru Ji stated that he is a sacrifice to the one who binds down (and keeps under check) the vicious tendencies with the bond or discipline of Name. One who doesn’t know the difference between vice and virtue remains strayed from the right path of life and wastes the human birth in vain. In this shabad, he comments further on the nature of our mind and tells us how to control it and enjoy the bliss of God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ God), our mind is so obsessed with worldly riches that it keeps running after it. (Sometimes), the mind runs after (worldly wealth or Maya) like birds in the sky, (with the result that, spiritually speaking, the township of body appears lonely and uninhabited. But when by reflecting on the Guru’s) word, the thieves (of lust, anger, and attachment are) driven out (from the body township, then there is so much joy in the body, as if this) city has become inhabited and he is being congratulated. (But O’ God, only when, through) the word of the Guru, You want to protect it, You save it (from these evil impulses) and one’s capital (of breaths) becomes whole (and fruitful).”(1)

Therefore specifying his prayer, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, please) bestow upon me such a jewel (of Your Name) that it becomes my treasure. (O’ God), I bow to Your feet, please bless me with the instruction of the Guru so that I may keep adhering to Your feet (and always remain in Your shelter).”(1-pause)

Commenting on the nature of the human mind, Guru Ji says: “Our mind is like a foolish ignorant person. (Sometimes it becomes detached like) a yogi and sometimes it becomes an indulger (in worldly pleasures. Sometimes it becomes) the giver and sometimes the beggar. (However) the mind is under the overall control of Guru God. (When a person realizes this, the mind acquires) such divine reflection that controlling one’s five (impulses) one obtains peace.”(2)

In some minds the question may arise that when God is present in all of us, then why instead of wandering and suffering in existences, can we not see Him and remain united with Him?

Answering such like questions, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends including me, we all say that the same one God) resides in each and every heart, but simply by saying that, He cannot be seen (or realized. The reason is that because of one’s) false (pursuits, one is punished and made to suffer in pain by being) hung upside down and without meditating on (God’s) Name one loses one’s honor. (O’ God), when You Yourself unite and when it is Your will, only then can I remain united (with You).”(3)

Finally Guru Ji advises: “(O’ my friends, whenever we meet anyone), we shouldn’t ask (about such things as what is his or her) caste (or the family in which he or she was) born. We should find out the way to reach the house of the eternal (God. Because one’s true) caste or honor is determined by the deeds one does. O’ Nanak, our pains of births and deaths are ended and we are emancipated only by meditating on God’s Name.”(4-10)
The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to get emancipated and enjoy the bliss of union with God, then following Guru’s advice, we should control our mind and save it from being swayed by the evil impulses of lust, anger, and greed, and attune it to the meditation of God’s Name.

In stanza (3) of the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji stated that because of false pursuits, man is punished and made to suffer in pain by being hung upside down, and without meditating on (God’s) Name one loses one’s honor. In this *shabad*, he elaborates on the state of mind of the ordinary human being, how one is so entangled in the web of worldly affairs that one cannot get out of it and without the guidance of the Guru doesn’t find a place of rest.

He says: “(Even though apparently an ordinary human being) is awake and is feeling happy, (in reality) the blind one is being robbed (of the wealth of one’s life breaths). Around one’s neck is the noose (of worldly attachments) and the worldly business (is so agonizing, as if it) is hitting one on the head. One comes into the world with many hopes, but departs with (many unfulfilled) desires. So entangled is the web (of one’s life) that one feels helpless.”(1)

Now telling us who is truly awake (to the false worldly allurements), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), awake only is that (God who is) the life of the entire world. He is the ocean of peace and the storehouse of immortalizing nectar.”(1-pause)

Resuming his comments on the nature of ordinary human beings, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, man is so misguided by worldly attachments, that) one doesn’t understand what is..."
being told (to one by the wise people). The blind fool doesn’t realize that he or she is doing evil deeds. (But man is helpless, because) God Himself imbues one with His love and by His grace one obtains the honor (of meditating on God’s Name and doing the righteous deeds).”(2)

Now Guru Ji draws our attention to the daily passing away of our life. He says: “(O’ my friends), one by one each day of life comes and man’s life keeps lessening bit by bit, but the attachment of worldly riches resides in man’s heart. Without the guidance of the Guru man drowns (in the ocean of worldly problems). So long there is even a bit of duality (or worldly desire) in one, one doesn’t find a place of rest (for one’s soul).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), day and night God looks after His creatures (and dispenses them) pain or pleasure in accordance with their past deeds. O’ Nanak, when the unfortunate being humbly asks for the charity of (God’s) true Name, only then does one obtain honor (in God’s court).”(4-11)

The message of this shabad is that even though we might be awake, the thieves of lust, anger and greed keep robbing us. If we don’t take notice and remain involved in our worldly pursuits we would keep suffering the pains of births and deaths. The only way to find a permanent place of rest for our soul is to follow Guru’s advice and beg God for the charity of His Name.
In the previous so many *shabads*, Guru Ji told us that the only way to meet God and obtain salvation from the repeated rounds of births and deaths is to seek guidance of the Guru and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. But still most of us keep doing ritual worships. Not only that we often make fun and talk ill of those devotees who meditate on God’s Name. In this *shabad*, Guru Ji pleads to God on behalf of such saintly people and tells us the right way to conduct ourselves and obtain honor in God’s court.

Speaking on behalf of the saints, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, if (without caring about the worldly rituals and focusing only on the meditation of Your Name) I remain silent, the world calls me a fool and if I speak too much (to explain, that what I am doing is the right thing), then my concentration (in You) is broken. (O’ God, whatever my) mistake or shortcoming is, (that is going to be judged) in Your court. (But O’ God, I wonder) how can there be any kind of good conduct without (the meditation of Your) Name?” (1)

Therefore stating what he thinks about the conduct of the world and his own attitude in this matter, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, I think that) the world is being cheated by such false practices. A slanderer slanders (those who meditate on Your Name, but such a devotee who meditates on God’s Name) is dear to me.”(1-pause)

Listing the merits of God’s devotee whom people often slander, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), whom (the worldly people) slander, that (person) alone knows the right way of life. (Through) the Guru’s word (and following Guru’s advice), such a person attains the door (to God’s house) and is honored there. That person enshrines the Name of (God) the cause of all causes in the heart. But that person alone understands the way (to meet Him) on whom (God) shows His grace,).”(2)

Commenting further on the state of those egocentrics who because of their self-conceit keep indulging in false practices and consider themselves as pure, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the person who is involved in the sense of) I-amness, is filthy (from inside). Only that eternal (God) is immaculate. By claiming oneself to be sublime, one doesn’t become high (in God’s eyes). The self-conceited partakes with abandon the worldly poison (and unhesitatingly indulges in worldly sins). But one who follows Guru’s advice remains imbued with the (God’s) Name.”(3)

Continuing his comments on the conduct of self-conceited persons, Guru Ji says: “(The self-conceited person who remains involved in worldly pleasures and doesn’t listen to Guru’s advice) is like a blind, dumb, foolish, and uncivilized person. Such a person is wretched, low, and vilest of the vile. That person doesn’t realize that) love of (God’s) Name is the true wealth for a unwealthy person. (For such a person, except for this, all other worldly wealth is useless like) ashes.”(4)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), we should salute that (God) who assigns praise, slander, or the reflection on Guru’s word (to us. We should say to Him, O’ God),
only if You bestow upon us (the gift of Your Name, we obtain high) caste or honor. O’ Nanak, (ultimately it is) He, who says or causes to be said (anything).”(5-12)

The message of this shabad is that intoxicated by their self-conceit, most of us indulge in false rituals, and slander those who meditate on God’s Name. But we should love and respect such devotees of God. We should always bow before that God who assigns different roles to His creatures and meditate on His Name.

parbhaatee mehlaa 1.
khaa-i-aa mail vaDhais-i-aa paiDhai ghar kee haan.
bak bak vaad chalaa-i-aa bin naavai bikh jaan. ||1||
baabaa aisaa bikham jaal man vaasi-aa.
bibal jhaag sahj pargaasi-aa. ||1|| raha-o.
bikh khaanaa bikh bolnaa bikh kee kaar kamaa-ay.
jam gar baadhay maaree-ah chhootas saachai naa-ay. ||2||
jiv aa-i-aa tiv jaa-isee kee-aa likh lai jaa-ay.
manmukh mool gavaa-i-aa dargeh milai saajaa-ay. ||3||
jag khotou sach nirmalou gur sabdee® veechaar.
tay nar virlay jaanee-ahe jin antar gi-aan muraar. ||4||
ajar jarai neejhar jharai amar anand saroop.
aanak jal kou meen sai thay bhaavai raakho pareet. ||5||13||

Parbhati Mehla-1

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should love and respect those devotees of God who meditate on God’s Name because they know the true way of life and how to merge in God. We should also ourselves pray to God to bless us with His Name, which alone can secure us true honor in His court. In this shabad, he tells us what happens to those who remain busy in enjoying different foods and clothes or other such false pleasures of life and don’t care to meditate on God’s Name or reflect on (Gurbani) the word of the Guru, and conduct their lives in accordance with it.

Speaking in practical terms, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who eats (too much food, only) increases the filth (in the body). Similarly by wearing (costly) clothes, one is incurring loss (to one’s spiritual progress). By prattling too much, one creates strife (with others. In short, O’ man) except Name, deem (all other things) as poison.”(1)
Next citing the example of a boat caught in the murky waters of an ocean, which is full of foamy waters, Guru Ji says: “O respected sir, (ordinarily) one’s mind is so caught in such treacherous web (of harmful worldly enjoyments and disputes), as if it is in the middle of an ocean full of stormy foam producing waves. (But by meditating on God’s Name, it) safely crosses (that worldly ocean and then) a state of poise manifests (in the mind).” (1-pause)

Stating the harmful effects of living a life without remembering God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, if one doesn’t remember God, then whatever) one eats, whatever one wears, or whatever one does, is all (harmful) like poison. (Such people) are bound at the door of the demon of death (and subjected to the punishment of birth and death). They are delivered (from this punishment only when they get attuned to meditating on the) eternal Name.” (2)

Now Guru Ji explains how this process of rounds of birth and death continues for those who don’t meditate on God.

He says: “(O’ my friends, one who doesn’t meditate on God’s Name) departs from the world (as empty handed as) one had come (into it) and whatever one has done (in one’s life, one) takes the written (account of these deeds) with him or her. Thus the self-conceited person even loses the capital (of previous good deeds) and is awarded (additional) punishment in God’s court (and continues suffering in pains of births and deaths).” (3)

Therefore Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, by) reflecting on the word of the Guru, (we come to know that) attachment with the world is false (and all its pleasures are short lived), but the (Name of) eternal God is pure (and it purifies the mind). But rare are those human beings, who are known to have (such) knowledge about God.” (4)

Guru Ji concludes this shabad by describing what kind of bliss a person enjoys after bearing the unbearable manifestation of divine knowledge. Therefore he prays to God and says: “(O’ my friends), the one who bears the unbearable (illumination of God’s Name, in that one’s mind starts) trickling a (spring) of immortalizing form of bliss. (Therefore O’ God), just as a fish loves water, similarly keep Nanak imbued with Your love (so that one day, he too may enjoy the bliss of the manifestation of Your Name in him).” (5-13)

The message of this shabad is that without the meditation of God’s Name all other worldly enjoyments and involvements are harmful like poison. Therefore they who don’t meditate on God’s Name depart from this world as empty handed as they had come and keep suffering pains of births and deaths. The only way to obtain emancipation from these rounds of births and deaths is to meditate on God’s Name.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji told us that without the meditation of Name, all other worldly enjoyments and involvements are harmful like poison. Therefore they who don’t meditate on God’s Name depart from this world as empty handed as they had come and they keep suffering pains of births and deaths. The only way to obtain emancipation from these rounds is to meditate on God’s Name. In this *shabad*, he shares his personal experience about the bliss and satisfaction he obtains by meditating on God’s Name and how it includes the merits of all other worships.

Describing his present state of mind, he says: “(O’ my friends), now none of such things as songs, tunes, worldly pleasures, cleverness, comforts, merry making, issuing commands, (enjoying dainty) dishes, or (wearing costly) clothes interests my mind at all. Because God’s Name has enshrined eternal peace and poise (in my mind).”(1)

But Guru Ji shows us that even when we are enjoying the bliss of God’s Name, we should never let any egoistic thoughts enter our mind. Because it is God’s own grace that He instills us with the love of His Name. Therefore, he says: “(O’ my friends), I don’t know what He is doing or getting (done from me, but I know only this, that now) except His Name nothing seems pleasing (to me).”(1-pause)

Describing further the state of his mind, Guru Ji says: “(By the grace of) God’s true love and devotion, (I am enjoying) the relish and bliss of the wonders of yoga. Now to utter and sing God’s praises has become my daily avocation. My within is enlightened by Him who provides light even to the sun and the moon.”(2)

Elaborating on his present conduct of life and the bliss he is enjoying, he says: “(O’ my friends, such is) the love of my beloved I have enshrined in my heart (that like a song bird), I keep uttering the Name of my Love. That merciful Master of the meek is the owner of this

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### Parbhati Mehla-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shabad</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Gur kaa sabad mahaas meethaa.</em></td>
<td>God’s Name has enshrined eternal peace and poise (in my mind).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aisaa amrit antaar deethaa.</em></td>
<td>Because it is God’s own grace that He instills us with the love of His Name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Jin chaakhi-aa poraa pad ho-ay.</em></td>
<td>But Guru Ji shows us that even when we are enjoying the bliss of God’s Name, we should never let any egoistic thoughts enter our mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Naanak Dharaapi-o tan sukh ho-ay.</em></td>
<td>Because it is God’s own grace that He instills us with the love of His Name.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Garden of the universe. To meditate on His Name every day, is now my giving of charity or observing fasts. By reflecting on the essence I have become satiated from the waves (of worldly) desires.”(3)

However still maintaining his humility, Guru Ji acknowledges God’s grace on him and says: "(O’ God), what powers have I to describe (You) the indescribable One? Whatever worship I do, is because You make me do that. When (Your Name) resides within me all my sense of mine-ness and self-conceit is finished. (Beside You), who else could I serve (or worship, because I know that) there is no other (like You).”(4)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), sweet is the supreme elixir of (Gurbani) the Guru’s word. Such nectar, I have seen (and experienced) within me. They who have tasted it have obtained perfect (spiritual) status. O’ Nanak, (such a devotee) gets satiated (from worldly desires) and peace prevails in his or her (entire) body.”(5-14)

The message of this shabad is that instead of running after worldly pleasures such as eating dainty dishes or wearing fancy clothes, we should listen to (Gurbani) the Guru’s word and relish the nectar of God’s Name. Then we would forget about all other relishes and enjoyments and would feel fully satiated from all worldly desires.

Guru Ji started the previous shabad by sharing with us that he was so absorbed in true peace and poise of God’s Name, that now none of such things as songs, tunes, worldly pleasures, cleverness, comforts, merry making, issuing commands, enjoying dainty dishes, or wearing costly clothes interests his mind at all. Because the meditation on God’s Name...
It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

has enshrined eternal peace and poise in his mind. In this shabad, he explains how all this has happened.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by seeing (God) in my heart through the word (of the Guru), my mind has been convinced that except for (God) there is no one else who can imbue us with His love. Day and night, He looks after and takes care of His creatures and it is His rule (which governs all).”(1)

Describing the captivating beauty and loving nature of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), my God is imbued with deep love and is very handsome. That merciful master of the meek, beloved captivator of hearts, has extremely sweet tongue, and is immensely full of love.”(1-pause)

Guru Ji now describes, where in our body is located the source of the divine nectar and how can one enjoy its relish. He says: “(O’ my friends), the well (of the nectar) is located high in the heaven (of our brain). Only the person with high spiritual thinking can drink this nectar (through God’s grace). The Guru’s follower has reflected on (this divine) wisdom that He who has created this creation alone knows the way to (take care of it).”(2)

Elaborating on the way how the divine knowledge provides spiritual bliss and removes all one’s fears including the fear of death, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), just as with the spreading of the sun rays the lotus flowers blossom forth, (similarly in whose mind spreads the ray of divine knowledge, that person’s mind blossoms with such delight and peace as if the) sun (of dark impulses) has merged in the house of the moon (of peace). Also by overcoming (the fear of) death one kills the (worldly) desire of one’s mind in the mind itself, and by Guru’s grace obtains God.”(3)

Therefore, on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the tongue which is thoroughly imbued with the Love (of God) cannot be imbued with any other kind of love. O’ Nanak, they who have made their tongue taste the relish of God’s Name (are able to see) that God is pervading every where.”(4-15)

The message of this shabad is that when by Guru’s grace we reflect on the true divine wisdom we are able to experience God within us and our mind is satiated and realizes that it is by His own grace that God imbues us with His love. Then we also realize that He who has created all beings also looks after His creatures, His command is running all over, and He is pervading everywhere.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that when by Guru’s grace we reflect on the true
divine wisdom we are able to experience God within us and our mind is satiated and
realizes that it is by His own grace that God imbues us with His love. However in this
shabad, Guru Ji notes that instead of listening to the Guru, we keep pursuing our own
self-conceited ideas and without meditating on God’s Name, keep ruining ourselves.

First taking the example of yogis, sanyasies, and other such recluses, Guru Ji says: “(O’
my friends), yogis consume themselves in the conceit of their twelve sects (such as Hayt,
Paav—and) Raaval, and the sanyasis in their ten classes. (Similarly the yogis who call
themselves as) Kaapparrya roam about wearing tattered rags, (and the Jains who)
have the hair on their heads plucked (also get ruined), because without following the advice
in the Guru’s word all get noose of death put around their necks.”(1)

Next describing who are the truly detached persons and what is their conduct, Guru Ji says:
“(O’ my friends), perfectly detached (persons) are they who remain imbued with the love of
the word (of the Guru). They are attuned only to the love of one (God) and they beg for the
alms (of Name) from God abiding within their own hearts.”(1-pause)

But the pursuit of their own self-conceit is not limited to yogis, sanyasies, or other such
recluses who renounce the world; even the pundits and scholars who read holy books, also
keep practicing their own egoistic ways. Regarding such people, Guru Ji says: “(Instead
of giving true guidance, a) Brahmin recites (the stories of) strife and asks his clients to do
all kinds of ritualistic deeds. Without understanding (the true essence of the holy books),
he cannot think of anything (else except these false practices), therefore getting separated
(from God) he suffers pain (of birth and death).”(2)

Now describing the merits and blessings enjoyed by those who remain attuned to the
Guru’s word, he says: “They who day and night remain united with (and attuned to Guru’s)
word are (truly the men) of purity, and they are recognized as such in the eternal court (of
God). Day and night, they remain attuned to the jewel of God’s Name, throughout all ages
(forever), they remain absorbed in the eternal (God).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the merits of) all kinds of deeds of
righteousness, piety, ablution, austerities, worships, penances, pilgrimages are contained in
(following Guru’s instruction). O’ Nanak, one meets (God) only when the Guru unites one,
and then all one’s pains, sins, and (the fears of) death flee away.”(4-16)
The message of this shabad is that instead of following the self-conceited ways of yogis, sanyasis, or pundits, we should follow the Guru’s word (Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib) and meditate on God’s Name. Then all our pains and sufferings would end and we would be united with God Himself.

Parbhati Mehla-1

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of following the self-conceited ways of yogis, sanyasis, or pundits, we should follow the Guru’s word and meditate on God’s Name. Then all our pains and sufferings would end and we would be united with God Himself. In this shabad, he admonishes his mind in the strongest possible words to meditate on God’s Name and states what kinds of blessings and virtues we obtain when we seek the humble service of the saint (Guru) and in his company sing praises of God.

Addressing his own mind (and indirectly us), he says: “(O’ my mind), in the dust of the feet (the most humble service) of saints and the company of saintly persons, sing praises of God (and in this way) swim across (the worldly ocean). Even the demon of death is afraid of a Guru’s follower and can do him or her no harm in whose heart resides God.”(1)

Stressing on the necessity of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind, the life without God’s Name is so useless, that) may the life without God’s Name be burnt...
down. Therefore O’ my mind, I meditate on God’s Name again and again, (as if it is) my rosary. (In this way), I obtain great relish by following Guru’s guidance.”(1-pause)

Now commenting on the virtues of following Guru’s guidance, he says: “(O’ my friends, there is nothing) to which we can compare the true bliss enjoyed by the person who has been blessed with the instruction of the Guru. By searching through the Guru, we find (such virtues, which are like priceless) jewels, rubies, and gems.”(2)

Describing the merits of attuning to God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who attunes the mind to the one word (of God’s Name), recognizes (true divine) wisdom, meditation, and the wealth of true (Name). Such a person then remains absorbed in the meditation of the immaculate fearless (God), who doesn’t need any support, or sustenance.”(3)

Elaborating on the merits of attuning one’s mind to God, he says: “In whom all the seven oceans (the senses of touch, taste, smell, sound, speech, mind, and intellect) get filled with the true immaculate waters (of God’s Name), that one’s mind turns back (from the worldly pursuits and thus) ferries across the boat of life (across the worldly ocean). Such a person holds steady the outgoing (mind) and through Guru’s grace merges in the state of equipoise.”(4)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that person alone is the true) householder, and truly detached servant (of God), who through the Guru’s grace has recognized his or her self. Nanak says whose mind has been convinced through the Guru’s word, except (God), doesn’t see any other.”(5-17)

The message of this shabad is that to meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s instruction is the true way of life. The person who in the company of saints sings praises of God gets rid of all pains, sufferings, and even fear of death. That person alone is the true householder and the true detached yogi who recognizes his or her self.
Rag Parbhati Mehla-3 Chaupadey

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that to meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s instruction is the true way of life. The person who in the company of saints sings praises of God, gets rid of all the pains, sufferings, and even fear of death. In this shabad, he tells us who are those who realize that God is hidden in (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, and the real profit of life lies in meditating on His Name and singing His praises day and night.

He says: “By (Guru’s) grace only a rare person understands that God is (invisibly) pervading in the Guru’s word. One who is imbued with the love of God’s Name and always remains attuned to the eternal (God) always enjoys peace.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji affectionately advises: “O’ my brotherly devotees, always meditate on God’s Name. Through Guru’s grace, one’s mind becomes stable and remains satiated with the relish of God’s (Name) day and night.”(1-pause)

He adds: “O’ my brothers, worship (God) day and night; this is the true profit of life in this age. They who attune their mind to the eternal Name, are not soiled by the dirt (of evils) and such devotees always remain immaculate.”(2)

On the basis of his personal experience Guru Ji advises “(O’ my friends), the peace giving ornament which my true Guru has shown me is that the greatest glory lies in (God’s) Name. The inexhaustible stores (of God’s Name) always remain full and never run short. Therefore O’ my brothers, always keep serving God (by meditating on His Name)”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, this treasure) comes to abide only in that person’s heart whom God Himself gives. Nanak says, always meditate on God’s Name, (which is the way) the true Guru has already shown you.”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that we should always pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru, who may show us the right way to meditate on God’s Name, which is the true embellishment and profit of human life.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru, who may show us the right way to meditate on God’s Name, which is the true profit of human life. In this shabad, he shows us how to make such a prayer and what kinds of peace one obtains, when one lives in accordance with God’s will.

Humbly addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, forgive me the merit less one and You Yourself unite me with You. O’ God), You are limitless; no one has found Your limit. Please make me understand You through the Guru’s word.”(1)

Next surrendering himself completely before God, he says: “O’ my respectful God, I am a sacrifice unto You. I surrender my body and mind and place it before You and (I wish that) I may always remain in Your shelter.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on his prayer, Guru Ji says: “O’ my Master, always keep me in Your will (so that I may always act in accordance with Your desire), and bless me with the glory of Your Name. (Also bless me with the guidance of the Guru, because only) through the guidance of the true Guru one understands Your will and day and night remains absorbed in a state of peace and poise.”(2)

Now explaining, why he is asking God to bless him that he may conduct his life in accordance with God’s will, Guru Ji humbly submits: “O’ God, if it so pleases You only then one can worship You while acting in accordance with Your will. Forgiving one on Your own, You unite one with Yourself. (O’ God, the one who has lived) in accordance with Your will has always obtained peace and the Guru has quenched the fire of (worldly) desire (in such a person).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes this shabad by acknowledging that everything happens as per God’s will, and nothing is greater than God’s Name. He says: “O’ Creator, whatever You do, only that happens and nothing else can be done. Nanak says that no other bounty is equal (in merit) to (Your) Name, which is obtained (only) through the perfect Guru.”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that nothing happens outside God’s will, and there is no bounty greater than His Name. This gift can only be obtained through the perfect
Guru. Therefore we should always pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru who may teach us how to live in accordance with God’s will and who may also help us in obtaining the gift of God’s Name.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that nothing happens outside God’s will and there is no bounty greater than His Name. This gift can only be obtained through the perfect Guru. Therefore we should always pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru who may teach us how to live in accordance with God’s will, and may also help us in obtaining the gift of God’s Name. In this shabad he tells us, what kinds of virtues, those persons have obtained who by Guru’ grace meditated on God’s Name and uttered His praises. He also tells us how much he loves and thanks his Guru who has helped him to enjoy the relish of God’s Name.

He tells: “(O’ my friends), through the Guru’s grace, they who have praised God, have realized God by praising Him. From within them has gone out the doubt of duality and through the Guru’s word they have recognized (God).”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji humbly submits: “O’ my respected God, You are my only one (friend) who takes care of me. (Therefore, I only) meditate upon You, sing only Your praises, (and I know that it is only) through You, that one obtains the intellect to obtain the supreme state (of salvation).”(1-pause)
Describing the kind of relish those people enjoy who praise God through the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), they who praise (God) through the Guru obtain the sweet and supreme nectar (of God’s Name). Yes, they who reflect on (God), through the Guru’s word (to them the relish of God’s Name) always seems sweet and never insipid.”(2)

Next expressing his gratitude to his Guru for the above blessing, he says: “(O’ my friends), he who has made (God’s Name taste) sweet (to me, that Guru) alone knows (how he did that). I am (simply) a sacrifice to him. (Now) banishing my self-conceit from within through the Guru’s word I praise (God) who is always the Giver of peace.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), my true Guru is always the giver, whatever one desires one obtains that fruit (from the Guru). O’ Nanak, (by singing God’s praises through Gurbani) the Guru’s word, one obtains the glory of Name and attains to the eternal (God).”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the guidance of Guru (Granth Sahib Ji and through the Gurbani) sing God’s praises. By doing so, meditation of Name would start seeming sweet to us and ultimately we would be blessed with His eternal union.

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the guidance of Guru (Granth Sahib Ji and through the Gurbani) sing God’s praises. By doing so, meditation of Name would start seeming sweet to us and ultimately we would be blessed with His eternal union.
Parbhati Mehla-3

In the central idea of the previous shabad, while expressing his full faith in God, Guru Ji said: “O’ my respected God, You are my only friend, who takes care of me. Therefore I only meditate upon You, sing only Your praises, and I know that it is only through You that one obtains the intellect to obtain the supreme state of salvation.” In this shabad, he again expresses his trust in God and tells us how powerful and capable is God to provide protection to those who seek His shelter, and what pains those people suffer who forsaking God seek the shelter of anyone else.

Addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ my respect God, whosoever seek Your shelter, You are capable of protecting them. I cannot think of any body else like You; neither there has been, nor would there be any one (like You in future).”(1)

Now Guru Ji shows us how to place ourselves under the shelter of God with full faith in Him, he says: “O’ my respected God, I am always in Your refuge. Howsoever it pleases You, save me O’ my Master, (because) this is Your glory (that You save all those who seek Your shelter).”(1-pause)

Continuing to express his faith in God, Guru Ji says: “O’ my respected God, they who seek Your shelter You sustain them. Showing mercy You Yourself protect them, then even the demon (fear) of death cannot touch them.”(2)

Next comparing the shelter provided by God with that provided by any one else, he says: “O’ God, Your shelter is everlasting, it neither diminishes nor goes away. But forsaking God, one who is attached to the love of the other (worldly riches and powers), takes birth and dies (and keeps suffering pains of repeated births and deaths).”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, they who seek Your shelter don’t suffer from any pain or hunger (for worldly riches) Therefore O’ Nanak, always praise (God’s) Name so that you may remain merged in the praise of eternal word.”(4-4)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be free from any kind of pain, hunger, and even fear of death, then we should seek the shelter of God, express full faith in Him and beg Him to save us, howsoever He pleases.

The message of this shabad is that if we want to be free from any kind of pain, hunger, and even fear of death, then we should seek the shelter of God, express full faith in Him and beg Him to save us, howsoever He pleases.
In many previous shabads, Guru Ji advised us to meditate on God's Name under the guidance of the Guru. In this shabad, he once again stresses on this point and lists the benefits of acting on his suggestion.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), as long as there is life in you and you are breathing, always keep meditating on God under the guidance of the Guru. (One who has meditated on God in accordance with Gurbani), the Guru’s word, that one’s mind has become immaculate, and the conceit of mind has been dispelled. Fruitful becomes the life of such a human being, who thus remains absorbed (in the meditation of God’s Name).”(1)

Therefore addressing his own mind (and indirectly us), he says: “O’ my mind, listen to the advice of the Guru. God’s Name is always the giver of peace; slowly and steadily drink this divine nectar (of God’s Name.”(1-pause)

Describing what kind of wisdom and bliss those persons obtain who by following Guru’s advice realize (God) their original source, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they who recognize (God as) their true origin (He who gave them life), abide in their own home (of the heart, their mind remains attuned to God), and quite naturally they enjoy (a state of) peace. Through the Guru’s word, the lotus (of their mind) blossoms (in joy) and they get rid of their ego and evil intellect. (They also realize that) in all abides the one (God; however) only a rare person understands (this concept).”(2)

Continuing to describe the divine understanding obtained by the one whose mind is purified by Guru’s instruction, he says: “One whose mind has become immaculate through the Guru’s intellect utters the essence of the nectar (of God’s Name). God’s Name always abides in the mind, and the mind remains satiated within itself (and doesn’t run outside to seek satisfaction). Such a person always is a sacrifice to the Guru through whom one recognizes God (within).”(3)
In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who has not served (and followed) the true Guru, has wasted one’s (human) life. (But in a way, man is helpless. Because only when God) shows (His) mercy, then He unites (a person) with the true Guru and then imperceptibly one merges in a state of (spiritual) poise. In short O’ Nanak, through perfect destiny one who has meditated (on God), obtains the glory of (meditating on the) Name.”(4-5)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to unite us with the true Guru so that following his advice we may purify our mind and enjoy the peace and bliss of meditation of God’s Name.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to unite us with the true Guru so that following his advice we may purify our mind and enjoy the peace and bliss of meditation of God’s Name. In this shabad, he tells us how God has created this world in myriads of ways and how He is invisibly pervading in every body.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), on His own (God) creates the world of myriad colors (and kinds) and by creating the world, He has produced a play. After creating (this world play)
He looks after it. He does and gets every thing done and has provided sustenance to all the creatures.”(1)

Commenting upon the all pervasive nature of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in \textit{Kal Yug} (the present age), God is pervading everywhere. (Actually) that one (God) is pervading in each and every heart. Through the Guru, one who has meditated on Him, God’s Name becomes manifest in that person.”(1-pause)

Once again clarifying this point, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that God who is pervading in each and every heart, His invisible Name (power and light) is present even in this (present age, called) \textit{Kal Yug}. But this jewel of Name has become visible (only) in the hearts of those who have hastened to seek the shelter (guidance) of the Guru.”(2)

Describing, what other merits and blessings that person obtains who seeks and acts on the Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends, one who follows Guru’s advice), gains control over all the five sensory organs (the senses of touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound), and through Guru’s instruction acquires (the qualities of) forgiveness and contentment. Blessed and perfect becomes such a devotee, who under the fear and respect (for the Guru) sings praises of God in a state of detachedness (with true love and devotion, and not for the sake of any worldly gains).”(3)

Now commenting upon the state and fate of those self-conceited persons who don’t care for Guru’s advice, he says: “If any one turns one’s face away from the Guru (doesn’t follows his advice), doesn’t enshrine in the mind what the Guru has said, and amasses lot of wealth by doing ritualistic deeds, whatever such a person does (goes waste and he or she) falls into hell.”(4)

However Guru Ji concludes the \textit{shabad} with the one overarching principle. He says: “(O’ my friends), it is the one command of the one God which pervades (every where), that the entire creation is being run by the one (God). O’ Nanak, through the Guru whom He unites with Him, by meditating on God’s Name, (that person) merges in God.”(5-6)

The message of this \textit{shabad} that God Himself has created and set up the play of this entire universe. He is pervading in each and every heart. Following Guru’s advice they who meditate on His Name obtain divine virtues and are able to experience His light in them. But they who don’t listen to the Guru, no matter what faith rituals they observe, or how much wealth they amass, they still fall in hell.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that following Guru’s advice they who meditate on God’s Name obtain divine virtues and are able to experience His light in them. But they who don’t listen to the Guru, no matter what faith rituals they observe, or how much wealth they amass, still fall in hell. Therefore in this shabad, he urges his mind and indirectly all of us to meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises. He also tells us what other kinds of virtues and blessings we obtain if we remember Guru’s advice and keep following it.

So first addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, praise your Guru. On whose forehead manifests the perfect destiny, always sings praises of God.”(1-pause)

Advising us to deem it as God’s grace if we are meditating on God's Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind), God distributes the fare of the rejuvenating nectar of His Name (to all). But it is a rare one among millions partakes (this food) on whom (He) casts His glance of grace.”(1)

Next describing the virtues one obtains by sincerely acting on Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), one who enshrines Guru’s feet (his advice) in the mind, from within that one departs (all) pain and darkness (of ignorance). Then the eternal (God) Himself unites such a person with Himself.”(2)

Therefore Guru Ji suggests: “(O’ my friend), one should imbue oneself with the love of (Gurbani) the Guru’s word. Then it would become one’s support both here (in this world) and there (in the next). However it is on His own that the Creator blesses (some one with this love).”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “The eternal (God) Himself makes us obey His will. That person alone is the (true) devotee, sagacious, and wise (person, who obeys God’s will). Nanak is always a sacrifice to that person.”(4-7-17-7-24)

The message of this shabad is that we should imbue ourselves with the love of Gurbani (devotedly listen, understand, and act on it) and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. Then all our pain and darkness of ignorance would go away and on His own God would unite us with Him.

Detail of shabads:

Parbhati M: 1=17, Parbhati M: 3=7, Total=24
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji suggested to us that we should imbue ourselves with the love of Gurbani (devotedly listen, understand, and act on it) and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion. Then all our pain and darkness of ignorance would go away and on His own God would unite us with Him. In this shabad, he expresses his love for God and lovingly invites us to come and join him in singing praises of God and enjoy the bliss of doing that.

Addressing us, he says: “(O’ my friends, following) Guru’s instruction let us again and again sing God’s praises with relish. In this way going into a state of ecstasy the mind gets attuned (to God). Through the Guru’s word I have partaken the ambrosial relish (of God’s Name, and I have enjoyed it so much that) I am a sacrifice to God’s Name.”(1)

Describing the merits of the Guru’s mantra, he says: “(O’ my friends), God the life of universe is (like) our life breaths. In whose ears the Guru has put the mantra (of God’s Name), God becomes dear in that person’s heart.”(1-pause)

Therefore once again affectionately inviting us, Guru Ji says: “Come O’ my saintly brothers, join me and joining together talk about God’s Name, and give me the charity of teaching me how we could attain to our God.”(2)

As if his saintly friends answer his question, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God resides in the congregation of saintly people, joining such a society acquaint yourself with the merits
It is the same light

of God. By good fortune, one who has obtained the company of saintly persons through the (grace of the) touch of the true Guru has obtained (union with) God.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by once again inviting us and saying: “(Come O’ my friends), let us sing praises of the incomprehensible God, because we are astonished (when we sing about His) virtues. The Guru has shown mercy to slave Nanak and has instantly blessed him with the bounty of (God’s) Name.”(4-10)

The message of this shabad is that joining the company of saintly persons we should sing praises of God with relish and abandon. By doing so we would get astonished by His virtues and would be totally imbued with His love. Then through Guru’s grace we would also enjoy the bliss of His sight and holy union.

**Parbhaatee mehlaa 4.**

ugvai soor gurmukh har boleh sabh rain sam’aalih har gaal.

hamrai parab ham loch laga-ee ee ham karah parabhoo har bhalaal. ||1||

mayraa man saaDhoo Dhoor ravaal.

har har naam darirh-aa-i-o gur meethaa gur pag jhaarah ham baal. ||1|| raha-o.

saakaat ka-o din rain anDhaaree moohi faathay maa-i-aa jaal.

khin pal har parabh ridai na vasi-o rin baaDhay baho biDh baal. ||2||

satsangat mil mat buDh paa-ee ha-o chhootay mantaa jaal.

har naamaar har meeth lagaanaa gur kee-ay sabad nihaaal. ||3||

ham baarik gur agam gusaa-ee gur kar kirpaa partipaal.

bikh bha-ojal dubday kaadh layho parab guranak baal gupaal. ||4||2||

**Parbhati Mehla-4**

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that joining the company of saintly persons we should sing praises of God with relish and gusto. By doing so we would get astonished by His virtues and would be totally imbued with His love. Then through Guru’s grace we would also enjoy the bliss of His sight and holy union. In this shabad, he describes the conduct of Guru’s followers and tells us how taking a cue from them what he himself does. He also tells us what happens to those self-conceited persons who do not listen to the Guru and do not meditate on God’s Name at all.

First describing the conduct of Guru’s followers, and the effect it has on their own conduct, he says: “(O’ my friends), when the sun rises the Guru’s followers utter God’s Name.
During all the night also they keep thinking and talking about God. (In me also) God has instilled a craving (for Him, therefore) I too keep looking for God.”(1)

Expressing his love for the Guru who has imbued him with God’s love, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I feel so indebted to the Guru that my mind has become the dust of the feet of the saint (Guru). The Guru has implanted in me the sweet Name of God, therefore I feel like dusting Guru’s feet with my hair.”(1-pause)

However commenting on the state of the Saakats (worshippers of power), he says: “For the Saakats there is pitch darkness (of ignorance) both day and night, because they remain caught in the web of worldly attachments and wealth. Even for a moment they don’t enshrine God in their mind; they are bound from head to toe in (spiritual) debt.”(2)

On the other hand once again narrating the blessings obtained by those who by joining the saintly congregation obtain good intellect, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by joining the company of saints they who have obtained (immaculate) intellect and understanding, they have been liberated from the net of ego and (worldly) attachment. God has made them love God’s Name and the Guru has blessed them with his word (the Gurbani).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by showing us how to humbly pray to God, and what to beg from Him. He says: “(O’ God, we are Your little children and You are the unfathomable Master of the universe; please show mercy and save us. (I) Nanak say, we are drowning in the sea of (worldly) poison, please pull us out of it, we are Your small children.”(4-2)

The message of this shabad is that like innocent children we should pray to God to save us from drowning in the worldly ocean. We should also pray to Him to bless us with the company of saintly persons and guidance of the Guru, so that every day we may sing His praises and listen to the immaculate advice of the Guru.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that like innocent children we should pray to God to save us from drowning in the worldly ocean. We should also pray to Him to bless us with the company of saintly persons and guidance of the Guru so that every day we may sing God’s praises and listen to the immaculate advice of the Guru. In this shabad, on the basis of his personal experience he tells us what kind of peace, bliss, and honor those devotees have obtained on whom God has shown even a little bit of mercy and they have uttered or listened to God’s praises.

He says: “On whom God has shown mercy even for a moment, they have sung His praises with great relish. Both those singers and the listeners have been emancipated, who under Guru’s shelter have tasted God’s nectar” (1)

Describing his personal experience and the bliss he is enjoying, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by Guru’s grace, God’s Name is steadily enshrined in my mind. I have obtained the refreshing water of God’s Name through the Guru, and I have (so enjoyed the meditation on God’s Name, as if) I have drunk the relish of God’s Name in gulps.” (1-pause)

Now describing the glory and bliss obtained by all those devotees whose hearts have been imbued with the love of God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in whose hearts (the Guru) has instilled love of God, (they have obtained such honor in this and the next world, as if) their foreheads have been anointed with a shining frontal mark. Yes, the glory of devotees of God spreads all over the world, just as the moon stands out among the stars.” (2)

But regarding the state of those in whose heart God’s Name is not enshrined, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they in whose mind is not enshrined God’s Name, all their tasks (have no fruitful outcome, as if they) are insipid. Just as if a nose less person may decorate him or herself (in many different ways, yet he or she still looks ugly, similarly the persons) without God’s Name look (shameless) like those whom (God) has made nose less.” (3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that) all pervading God is present in every heart. He alone pervades in the entire world and in all beings. When God showed mercy on devotee Nanak, following Guru’s advice, he started meditating on Him each and every moment.” (4-3)

The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to show mercy on us so that following Guru’s advice we too may start singing God’s praises day and night and enjoy the relish and bliss of the nectar of His Name.
Parbhati Mehla-4

Guru Ji started the previous shabad, with the remark that on whom God has shown mercy even for a moment, they have sung His praise with great relish. In this shabad, he relates his personal experience and tells us what kinds of virtues and blessings he obtained when God showed mercy on him and he repeated God's Name from his tongue.

He says: “When the incomprehensible and merciful God showed mercy (upon me), I repeated God’s Name with my tongue and I meditated upon the Name of God’s the purifier of sinners, all my sins and vices were washed off.”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind (and indirectly us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, keep meditating on the Name of that God who is pervading every where. Under Guru’s instruction, (who has) sung praises of the merciful Master of the meek and the destroyer of pains, that person has obtained the commodity (of God’s Name).”(1-pause)

Now describing what happens when one obtains the gift of God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), our body is like a township. In this township resides God, but it is through the instruction of the Guru that one develops faith in it and God’s Name becomes manifest in the body’s pool and then one realizes God in the mansion of one’s heart.”(2)

But regarding the state of those who keep wandering around in jungles for this purpose, Guru Ji says: “Those human beings who keep wandering in jungles, those foolish worshippers of wealth are (ultimately) cheated (of their life purpose and waste their life in vain. Their condition is like) a deer, within whose navel resides the musk, but it keeps running in doubt and smelling one bush after the other (in its search).”(3)

Therefore Guru Ji humbly prays to God and says: “O’ God, You are extremely incomprehensible, unfathomable and beyond our understanding. O’ God, please give us the
The message of this shabad is that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru so that following it we may meditate on God’s Name and realize God who resides within our own body.

Parbhaatee mehlaa 4.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray to God to bless us with the guidance of the Guru so that following it we may meditate on God’s Name and realize God who resides within our own body. In this shabad, he describes what kinds of blessings, one obtains when God shows mercy on him or her.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), on whom God shows mercy, to that one’s mind the words of the true Guru seem pleasing. Then one’s mind is imbued with the love of God’s Name and one meditates on God, the supreme Being.” *(1)*

Therefore advising his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name at every moment. (Whom) the perfect Guru has given the charity of Name, in that person’s mind and body God’s Name comes to reside.” *(1-pause)*

Describing the conduct of the Guru’s followers and the blessings enjoyed by them, he says: “(O’ my friends), within the township of the body, in the temple of heart resides God. Meditating on Him the Guru’s followers obtain glory. (Thus both in) this and the
next world, the devotees enjoy peace, obtain honor, and by Guru’s grace they are ferried across.”(2)

Continuing to state the blessings enjoyed by those devotees who have enshrined God in their hearts Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they whose mind has been attuned to the fear free God and who have enshrined God in their hearts even for a moment, God has dispelled the sins of millions of births of such devotees in an instant.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad, by making a very powerful statement about the relationship between God and His devotees. He says: “(O’ God), Your devotees are known because of You and those devotees who have known (and realized) You, they have become supreme in the world. O’ Nanak, (the fact is that) God has placed Himself in the devotees, therefore the devotees and God are one (and there is no difference between God, and His true devotee).”(4-5)

The message of this shabad is that we should realize that God and His devotee are one and the same. So if we want to enjoy the relish of God within our own heart then following Guru’s advice ( the Gurbani as included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji ) we should meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.
It is the same light
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we wish to obtain union with God then shedding our ego and worldly greed we should join the society of saintly people and meditate on God’s Name under the guidance of the true Guru. Therefore in this shabad, he lists the merits of meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name, the treasure of (virtues), so that you may obtain honor in God’s court. They who have meditated (on God’s Name) have been ferried across (this worldly ocean).”(1-pause)

But meditating on God’s Name isn’t restricted to uttering God’s Name with our tongue, listening to its recitation with full attention and devotion is also meditation of God’s Name. Therefore advising his mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind listen to God’s Name, while paying full attention to it. O’ my mind, listen to the praise of God; this has the merit of bathing at the sixty-eight holy places. O’ my mind, seeking the shelter of the Guru listen to (the recitation of God’s Name). By doing this) you would obtain honor (in God’s court).”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate upon the all pervading supreme God, who in an instant destroys millions of sins. (In short) O’ Nanak, always remain attuned to God (by meditating on His Name).”(2-1-7)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to obtain the merits of bathing at all the sixty eight holy places, honor in God’s court, destroy millions of our sins, and meet God Himself, then seeking Guru’s guidance, we should recite and listen to God’s praises and meditate on His Name.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain the merits of bathing at all the sixty-eight holy places, honor in God’s court, and destroy millions of our sins, then seeking Guru’s guidance we should recite and listen to God’s praises and meditate on His Name. In this shabad, he tells us about so many priceless gifts for which we are indebted to God and how He is always our best companion and helper.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that God who created your mind, fashioned your entire body, and making your frame out of five elements (air, fire, earth, ether, and water) blessed it with His light (and soul). He gave you earth for rest and water for your use. Don’t forsake that God even for a moment, serve Him (by always meditating on His Name).”(1)

So advising his own mind, he says: “O’ my mind, obtain supreme (spiritual) status by serving the true Guru. If you remain unaffected) by happiness or sorrow, you would meet (God) the Master of our life-breaths.”(1-pause)

Reminding us about so many blessings bestowed upon us by God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my mind, He who) has helped you enjoy beautiful clothes, and relishes of many foods, who created your mother, father, and all the family members, and O’ my friend, who provided you with sustenance both in water and on earth, serve that God day after day.”(2)

Now listing some of the unique virtues and the blessings, which only God can bestow, he says: “(O’ my friend), that God becomes your helper, where there is no one else available. In an instant, He washes off millions of one’ s sins. He bestows (many gifts, but) never regrets. If once He forgives, He doesn’t call that person again (to account).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by telling us how we can find and meet that God. He says: “(O’ my friends), that Master of the earth resides in the company of saintly persons. (If it is so written) in our destiny, (which is based on our past deeds), then we find Him, by searching for Him (in the saintly congregation. Then we say, O’ God), O’ the destroyer of demons, seeking the shelter of the Guru I have come to Your door, please bless Nanak with Your sight.”(4-1)
The message of this *shabad* is that we should always gratefully remember that God who has blessed us with our body, sustenance, friends and family, and who stands by us even in those places where there is no body else. The best way to meet Him is to join the congregation of saintly persons and sing His praises under the guidance of the Guru (Granth Sahib).

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we should always gratefully remember God who has blessed us with our body, soul, sustenance, friends and family, and who stands by us even in those places where there is no body else. In this *shabad*, he gives us other very important reasons to thank and praise God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), service of God (by singing His praise) brings glory to the devotee (also. Because when one sings God’s praise, one’s impulses) of lust, anger, and greed are wiped out. (O’ God), the storehouses of the devotees remain full with Your Name. Therefore, they keep singing Your praises for the love of Your sight.” (1)

However, Guru Ji humbly recognizes that a person sings His praise only when God Himself bestows His grace. Therefore addressing God, he says: “O’ God, You Yourself have taught Your worship (to Your devotees). Cutting off their bond (of worldly attachment), You have got Your devotees liberated (from all punishment).” (1-pause)
It is the same light

Now Guru Ji tells us what a pleasing experience is the love of God. He says: “(O’ my friends), the devotee who is imbued with God’s love, has obtained bliss in the company of God. However only the one who has experienced the relish (of this divine bliss, knows how delightful it is). Seeing (God) again and again, one feels amazed in the mind.”(2)

Therefore telling us who is the happiest and most worthy person in this world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), that one alone is in peace and the most sublime person in whose heart is enshrined that God. He alone is immortal, neither comes (in) nor goes (out of the world), who day and night sings praises of God.”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by advising us and praying himself to God to bless him with the service of such devotees. He says: “(O’ my friends), you should all bow to him, in whose mind is enshrined the perfect formless (God. I my self pray to Him and say, O’ my God and Master show Your mercy that Nanak is saved by serving Your devotees.”(4)

The message of this shabad is that those devotees who serve God by singing His praises obtain glory and emancipation. Therefore if we also want to be emancipated then we should serve such devotees and in their company sing praises of God and meditate on His Name under the guidance of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib).
we should serve such devotees and in their company sing praises of God and meditate on His Name under the guidance of the saint (Guru). In this shabad, he expresses his utmost gratitude to his Guru for his wonderful advice, which has brought him so many unique blessings.

First sharing with us why he keeps singing God’s praises, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), by singing praises (of God) bliss wells up in the mind. Therefore at all times I worship God. I bow to the feet of that Guru (by whose guidance I worship that God), meditating on whose (Name) all one’s sins are dispelled.”(1)

But still Guru Ji humbly says to his Guru: “O’ my dear saint (Guru), bless me with such immaculate instruction that I may keep meditating on (God’s) Name, which may ferry me across (the worldly ocean).”(1-pause)

Now Guru Ji tells us how much he values that Guru who has shown him the straight path to God. He says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru who has shown me such a straight (and easy) path to God (by virtue of which) renouncing all other things (my mind) has become happily engaged (in meditating) on God’s Name, we should always be a sacrifice to that Guru from whom we obtain (the gift) of mediation on God.”(2)

Further expressing his love and respect for the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), I am always a sacrifice to that Guru who has ferried across those who were drowning (in the worldly ocean); by whose grace the worldly attachment doesn’t allure a person and who has embellished both this and the next (world of a devotee).”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji humbly says: “(O’ my friends), indescribable is the story of Guru’s (merits), who has turned (even) the most ignorant person into a (very) wise being. Nanak says, the Guru-God is (the embodiment of) the all pervading God, and only by good fortune, we obtain (the opportunity) to serve that God.”(4-3)

The message of this shabad is that we should seek the shelter of the true Guru (Granth Sahib) who shows us the straight path to God’s abode and under his direction meditate on God’s Name, which washes off all our sins.

parbhaatee mehlaa 5.

saglay dookh mitay sukh dee-ay apnaa naam japaai-aa.
kar kirpaa apnee sayvaa laa-ay saglaa duraat mitaa-ia-aa. ||1||

ham baarik saran paraph da-i-aal.
avgan kaat kee-ay paraph apunay raakhi lee-ay mayrai gur gopaal. ||1|| rahaa-o.

taap paap binsay khin bheetaar bha-ay kirpaal gusaa-ee.
ssaas saas parbaarhah aaraDhee apunay satgur kai bal jaa-ee. ||2||
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we should seek the shelter of the true Guru who shows us the straight path to God's abode and under his direction meditate on God's Name, which washes off all our sins. In this *shabad*, he shares with us the blessings he has obtained when under the guidance of his true Guru he meditated on God's Name.

He says: "(O' my friends, God) has made me meditate on His Name, (by virtue of which) all my sorrows have been dispelled and He has blessed me with all kinds of comforts. Showing His mercy, (He has) yoked me into His service and destroyed my entire bundle of sins."(1)

Describing how all this has happened, he says: "(O' my friends), like a little child I sought the shelter of the merciful God, then purging me of all my faults, He made me His own and in this way my Guru God saved me."(1-pause)

Elaborating on the blessings he has obtained and his present conduct, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends), when God of the universe became merciful (upon me), all my sins and sorrows vanished in an instant. (Now) with each and every breath, I meditate on that all pervading God and am a sacrifice to my Guru (who showed me such a blissful divine path)."(2)

Therefore on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji advises: "(O' my friends), that Master is inaccessible, incomprehensible, and limitless; His end (or limit) cannot be found. We should meditate on that God of ours and become (spiritually) rich by earning the profit (of His Name)."(3)

Guru Ji concludes the *shabad*, by stating how he himself has enriched himself. He says: "(O' my friends), at all times I meditate on the all pervading God and I have been always singing His praise. Nanak says that all my wishes have been fulfilled because I have obtained the Guru God."(4-4)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we serve our Guru with love and devotion and follow his advice, the Guru makes us meditate on God's Name. Then showing His mercy God rids us of all our sins and unites us with Him.

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The message of this *shabad* is that if we serve our Guru with love and devotion and follow his advice, the Guru makes us meditate on God's Name. Then showing His mercy God rids us of all our sins and unites us with Him.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji told us that if we serve our Guru with love and devotion and follow his advice, the Guru makes us meditate on God’s Name. Then showing His mercy God rids us of all our sins and unites us with Him. In this shabad, he describes the blessings those devotees obtain who following Guru’s advice meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), whom the Guru has given the commodity of (God’s) eternal Name, by meditating on the Name, all their sins have hastened away. They obtain honor in God’s court and while serving (and meditating on God), these devotees always look beauteous.” (1)

Therefore Guru Ji very affectionately advising us says: “O’ my brothers, meditate on God’s Name. (By doing so), all your ailments and sins would be destroyed and your mind would be purged of the darkness of ignorance.” (1-pause)

Describing further the blessings received by those who have been imbued with the love of God’s Name, and how it has changed their entire outlook, Guru Ji says: “O’ my friends, they who are attuned to the love of God’s Name, have been saved from (the rounds of) birth and death. Their troubles of millions of births have been wiped out (and now they deem that) whatever pleases Him that would be for the best.” (2)

Therefore expressing his gratitude to his Guru, he says: “I am a sacrifice to that Guru by whose grace I meditate on God’s Name. It is by good fortune that we find such a Guru, meeting whom we are attuned (to meditation on) God.” (3)
Guru Ji concludes the *shabad* by praying to God on our behalf. He says: “O’ the all pervading Master, the inner knower of hearts, devotee Nanak has sought Your shelter. O’ God, show mercy and make him attuned to You at all times.”(4-5)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want that all our problems, sins, and sufferings should be completely wiped out and our mind is rid of all its darkness and ignorance then we should seek the guidance of the true Guru and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion at all times.

Parbhati Mehl-5

Guru Ji had concluded the previous *shabad* with the prayer, saying: “O’ the all pervading Master, the inner knower of hearts, devotee Nanak has sought Your shelter. O’ God, show mercy and make him attuned to You at all times. In this *shabad*, he shares with us the result of his prayer and gives us advice on the basis of his personal experience.

He says: “Showing His mercy, whom God has accepted as His own, He has given them God’s Name to meditate. One who sings praises of God at all times, all that one’s fears are destroyed and all his or her worry is removed.”(1)

Giving the gist of blessings received by those who seek the shelter of the true Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends, innumerable persons) have been saved by attaching themselves to
the feet of the true Guru (and obediently following his advice). By shedding the intellect of their minds (they deem) sweet and pleasant whatever the Guru says.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the bliss experienced by those who love God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they don’t face any trouble or obstruction in whose mind and body abides that (God. They feel that) God is always accompanying their soul. All the filth (of evil impulses in them) is washed off by the dye (love) of (God’s) Name.”(2)

But that is not all. Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends, by seeking the shelter of the Guru), one is imbued with the love of the lotus (like) lovely feet of God, and all one’s lust, anger, and ego are destroyed. The one who has realized the way to meet God, through His loving adoration that one’s mind has been won over (by God).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by addressing us in the most loving manner. He says: “Listen O’ my saintly friend and mate, priceless and inestimable in worth is the jewel of (God’s) Name. (Therefore) ever and forever, we should sing praises of God, (who is) the treasure of merits. Nanak says, only by good fortune (we) obtain (such opportunity).”(4-6)

The message of this shabad is that shedding our own false intellect, we should follow the Guru’s advice and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so we would destroy our impulses of lust, anger, greed, dreads and doubts, and we will know the way to meet God.

The message of this shabad is that shedding our own false intellect, we should follow the Guru’s advice and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so we would destroy our impulses of lust, anger, greed, dreads and doubts, and we will know the way to meet God.

Most of us think that we would be very happy and feel successful in this world if we become the richest and most honored persons in the world. But if we observe closely we would find that most of those people who have all such things, from inside are very miserable and depart as losers from this world. In this shabad, Guru Ji tells us who is the truly rich person in God’s eyes and obtains honor in His court.

He says: “They alone are rich and they alone are true bankers who have earned God’s Name to go to God’s court.”(1)
Therefore addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my friendly mind, meditate on God’s Name again and again. Only by good fortune, we obtain the perfect Guru (who teaches us the) immaculate and perfect way (of meditation).”(1-pause)

Describing the blessings one receives who sings God’s praises, he says: “(O’ my friends), by saint’s grace, one who sings God’s praises, obtains (the profit of) Name, (and feels so happy within, as if he or she is being) congratulated.”(2)

Therefore Guru Ji advises us: “(O’ my friend), through Guru’s grace, enjoy (the bliss of) God’s love. (By doing so, your human) birth would become fruitful and your life (conduct) would be approved (in God’s court).”(3)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, they who have meditated on God’s Name, their impulses such as) lust, anger, and ego have been destroyed, and O’ Nanak, (such) Guru’s followers are ferried across (this worldly ocean).”(4-7)

The message of this shabad is that instead of running after worldly riches and power we should earn the wealth of God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. It would bring us true happiness in the world and honor in God’s court.
In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that instead of running after worldly riches and power, we should earn the wealth of God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. It would bring us true happiness in the world and honor in God’s court. In this *shabad*, he explains in detail how all our fears and worries are removed and what really happens when we seek the guidance of the Guru and his immaculate and assuring words are enshrined in our body and mind.

First of all commenting upon the power of the Guru and his word (the *Gurbani*), he says: “(O’ my friends), perfect is the Guru and perfect is His power. Irrefutable ever and forever is the word of the Guru (whatever the Guru says that happens for sure). In whose mind abides (*Gurbani*) the Guru’s word all that one’s pain and sorrow hastens away.”(1)

Describing what happens when a person follows Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), when one (listens and acts in accordance with the Guru’s advice, as if one is) bathing in the dust of the saint’s feet, imbued with God’s love one’s mind keeps singing praises of God and one is emancipated (from the worldly bonds).”(1-pause)

Elaborating on the blessings received by those who enshrine the Guru’s advice in their mind, he says: “(O’ my friends, they in whose) mind and body are enshrined the Guru’s feet (the Guru’s words), becoming fear free such saints seek the shelter of God. Then all their dreads, doubts, and sins are destroyed and by Guru’s grace they are ferried across.”(2)

Now commenting on the state of those whom the Guru has accepted as his own, he says: “(O’ my friends), accepting as his own whom the Guru has saved, by meditating on God’s Name all their sins have been washed off. No enemy or pain even comes near them and (they enjoy) the relish of many kinds of comforts, poise, and bliss.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), all those saints, friends, and disciples have obtained peace, whom the perfect Guru has united with God. Nanak says, the Guru has saved their honor, and has cut off their noose (and emancipated them from the pains) of birth and death.”(4-8)

The message of this *shabad* is that we should have full faith in Guru (Granth Sahib Ji), and enshrining his immaculate *Gurbani* in our mind, we should meditate on God’s Name. By doing so we would get rid of all our sorrows and sufferings, enjoy peace and bliss, and would be emancipated from the rounds of birth and death.

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**Parbhati Mehla-5**

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that instead of running after worldly riches and power, we should earn the wealth of God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. It would bring us true happiness in the world and honor in God’s court. In this *shabad*, he explains in detail how all our fears and worries are removed and what really happens when we seek the guidance of the Guru and his immaculate and assuring words are enshrined in our body and mind.

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In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that we should have full faith in Guru (Granth Sahib Ji), and enshrining his immaculate Gurbani in our mind, we should meditate on God’s Name. By doing so we would get rid of all our sorrows and sufferings, enjoy peace and bliss, and would be emancipated from the rounds of birth and death. In this *shabad*, he once again assures us that those who have sought the shelter of the Guru, they have obtained every kind of peace and happiness. Therefore he not only advises others, but also prays to God to bless him with God’s worship.

He says: “*(O’ my friends, whom) the perfect true Guru has blessed with God’s Name, (that person) has obtained bliss, joy, salvation, and eternal peace, and (that person’s) entire object of life has been successfully accomplished.*”(1-pause)

Summarizing the blessings obtained by the one who has enshrined the Guru’s words in the mind, Guru Ji says: “*(O’ my friends), in whose mind have been enshrined the lotus feet (the immaculate words) of the Guru, all (that one’s) false sorrows, pains, and doubts have been destroyed.*”(1)

Therefore advising us all Guru Ji says: “*O’ human beings, rise up daily to sing *Gurbani* (the immaculate words of the Guru) and meditate upon God at all times.*”(2)

Describing his own state of mind, Guru Ji says: “*(O’ my friends), that God is pervading both in the house and outside, and in all places. Wherever I go (I find Him) in my company.*”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji prays: “*(O’ my friends), with folded hands I make this prayer (to God, that) Nanak may always contemplate on (God), the treasure of all merits.*”(4-9)

The message of this *shabad* is that seeking the shelter of the Guru we should enshrine his advice (as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) in our heart and sing praises of God. By doing so we would obtain peace, poise, and bliss, and our object of life to re-unite with God would be accomplished.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that seeking the shelter of the Guru we should enshrine his advice in our heart and sing praises of God. By doing so we would obtain peace, poise, and bliss, and our object of life to re-unite with God would be accomplished. In this shabad, he describes many more blessings and merits, which one could obtain by the grace of the perfect Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), that all pervading God is most wise and sagacious. But (only when) by good fortune we meet the perfect Guru, (that we meet Him. Therefore we should) be a sacrifice to the sight (of such a great Guru).”(1-pause)

Describing the virtues obtained by the person whose sins, the Guru destroys through his word, he says: “(O’ my friends), whom the Guru has blessed with contentment through his word (the Gurbani, that person) has dispelled all his or her sins. Such a person then becomes capable of meditating on God’s Name. In the company of saints that person’s mind is illuminated (with divine wisdom), and the lotus feet (immaculate Name of God) resides in the mind.”(1)

Commenting on the blessings bestowed by God on the person who resorts to the shelter of the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends, one who seeks the shelter of the Guru), is preserved by (that God) who has created that one. That perfect God is the support of the support less. Showing His mercy whom He honors, that one’s deeds and conduct become perfect.”(2)

Describing the blessings obtained by the one who sings praises of God with new zeal every day, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the person) who every day sings songs in praise (of God) with renewed zeal, doesn’t roam around in millions of existences. (That person is respected so much, as if) his or her feet are being worshipped both here and there (in this and the next world. Such a person’s) face shines (with honor) in the true court (of God).”(3)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), among millions, rare is such a servant on whose forehead the Guru has placed his hand (of grace. Such a person) sees God fully pervading in all waters, lands, and skies. O’ Nanak, one is ferried across (the worldly ocean, by the grace) of the dust of the feet (humble service of) such a devotee.”(4-10)
The message of the *shabad* is that it is only by following *Gurbani* (the word of the Guru included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji) that one sheds one’s sinful tendencies and gets emancipation from the pain of birth and death.

Parbhaatee mehlaa 5.

kurbaan jaa-ee gur pooray apnay.
jis parsaad har har japnay. ||1|| raha-o.
amrit baane suhat nihaal.
binas ga-ay bikhi-aa janjaal. ||1||
saach sabad si-o laagee pareet.
har parabh apunaa aa-i-aa cheet. ||2||
aam jaa pat ho-aa pargaas.
*bGGS P-1341*
gur sabday keenaa rigid nivaas. ||3||
gur samrath sadaa da-i-aal.
har jap jap naanak bha-ay nihaal. ||4||11||

Parbhati Mehla-5

In the previous *shabad*, Guru Ji advised us that it is only by following *Gurbani* (the word of the Guru) that one sheds one’s sinful tendencies and gets emancipation from the pain of birth and death. In this *shabad*, he expresses his gratitude to his Guru by whose grace he has meditated on God and has obtained so many blessings.

He says: “I am a sacrifice to my perfect Guru, by whose grace I meditate upon God’s Name again and again.”(1-pause)

Continuing to express his gratitude, he says: “(O’ my friends, I am a sacrifice to the Guru), by listening to whose nectar sweet word, I was totally blessed, and my entanglements in poisonous worldly affairs were destroyed.”(1)

Stating his present state of mind, Guru Ji says: “I am now attuned to the love of the true word (of the Guru), and my God and Master has come to reside in my mind.”(2)

Commenting further on the state of his mind, he says: (O’ my friends, while) meditating on God’s Name, my mind has been illuminated with (divine) wisdom and through the Guru’s word (God) has come to reside in my heart.”(3)

Therefore on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the all powerful Guru is always merciful. Nanak says that he has been blessed by meditating on God (through Guru’s grace).”(4-11)

The message of this *shabad* is that if we want to destroy all our entanglements in poisonous worldly riches, and if we want that we should be imbued with the love of God’s Name, then we should seek the shelter of the merciful and all powerful Guru, and pray to him to bless us with the gift of God’s Name.
Guru Ji started the previous shabad, by saying: “I am a sacrifice to my perfect Guru, by whose grace I meditate upon God’s Name again and again.” In this shabad, he describes the bliss he enjoys by always remembering his Guru.

He says: “By uttering the Name of my Guru repeatedly (remembering him at all times), I have always obtained peace. The merciful Master of the meek has become kind and He Himself has made me meditate on His Name.”(1-pause)

Describing how all his desire was fulfilled, he says: “(O’ my friends), by joining the congregation od saintly persons I obtained this (spiritual) enlightenment, (and then) by meditating on God’s Name my desire was fulfilled.”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), Guru Nanak became gracious (upon me, and) I started singing God’s praises. (After that) all kinds of pleasures and comforts have welled up in my mind.”(2-12)

The message of this shabad is that we should always remember our Guru and keep meditating on God’s Name. By doing so God would become kind to us and would bless us with all kinds of comforts, peace, and bliss.
Parbhati Mehla-5 Ghar-2 Bibhas

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should always remember our Guru and keep meditating on God’s Name. By doing so, God would become kind to us and would bless us with all kinds of comforts, peace, and bliss. In this shabad, Guru Ji elaborates on the importance of meditating on God’s Name and the benefits of doing that.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we don’t have any other place (of support) except God’s Name. (Only by meditating on God’s Name we obtain) all kinds of miraculous powers and comforts and all our tasks are accomplished.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji advises: “O’ my friends, we should daily meditate on God’s Name, (by doing so our impulses of) lust, anger, and arrogance are destroyed and we are imbued with the love of the one (God alone).”(1-pause)

Stating what happens when one gets attuned to the meditation of God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, when one) gets attuned to (the meditation of God’s) Name, one’s pain hastens away, because (God is) powerful enough to protect those who seek His shelter. However, only the one who has been blessed from the very beginning with such a union, meets the true Guru (and meditates on God’s Name, and then even) the demon of death doesn’t reprimand one.”(2)

So Guru Ji once again advises us and says: “(O’ my friends), shedding all the doubts of Your mind, day and night meditate on God’s Name. Whose destiny comes to fruition, meets God in the company of saintly persons.”(3)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, they who have meditated on God’s Name) their sins and sufferings of many births have been destroyed (and God) has Himself saved them. O’ slave Nanak,” (God) Himself is our mother, father, friend, and brother. Therefore you should always repeat God’s Name.”(4-1-13)

The message of this shabad is that joining the congregation of saintly persons we should meditate on God’s Name, because only then we can shed our evil impulses and save ourselves from the sins of many births.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that abandoning our own ego and cleverness, we should surrender ourselves completely to our Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and following his advice (the Gurbani) we should meditate on God’s Name, and have this much faith in God that like our parents He would protect us from all dangers.

The message of this shabad is that abandoning our own ego and cleverness we should surrender ourselves completely to our Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and following his advice (the Gurbani) we should meditate on God’s Name, and have this much faith in God that like our parents He would protect us from all dangers.

In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that joining the congregation of saintly persons, we should meditate on God’s Name because only then we can shed our evil impulses and save ourselves from the sins of many births. Guru Ji now says the same thing in a very beautiful little poem and humbly submits that he doesn’t know any thing except calling upon God to save him just as a child depends upon its parents for its safety and every need.

First affectionately addressing us, he says: “(O’ my friends), utter and repeat the Name of that all pervading God. (By doing so) all your sufferings, greed, attachment, and affliction of arrogance would be destroyed.”(1-pause)

Also advising us to seek the shelter of the saint (Guru), he says: “(O’ my friend), surrendering your self (conceit, obediently follow Guru’s advice or Gurbani without any question. In this way) attach yourself to the feet of the saint (Guru. By doing so) your mind would become immaculate and all your sins would go away.”(1)

Finally acknowledging his own inability, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), Nanak is just like a child, who doesn’t know any thing (about his safety. But he believes that) God is there to save him like his mother and father.”(2-1-14)

The message of this shabad is that abandoning our own ego and cleverness we should surrender ourselves completely to our Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and following his advice (the Gurbani) we should meditate on God’s Name, and have this much faith in God that like our parents He would protect us from all dangers.
meditate on God’s Name and have so much faith in God that like our parents He would protect us from all dangers. In this shabad, he shows us how like innocent children we should pray to God and seek His blessings and protection.

Praying on our behalf, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, all creatures) seek the shelter and support of Your lotus feet (Your immaculate Name). You are the highest, greatest, and limitless Master, and You alone govern all.”(1-pause)

Acknowledging God as the giver of all gifts, he says: “O’ God, You are the support of our life breaths, the destroyer of pains, and the giver of the sense of discrimination between good and bad.”(1)

Therefore Guru Ji concludes the shabad by advising us: “(O’ my friends), salute and contemplate in your mind the one and only God the savior. (O’ my friends, I humbly follow Guru’s advice and thus) bathe in the dust of the feet of the saint (Guru, because) O’ Nanak, (whosoever does that) obtains innumerable comforts.”(2-2-15)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to enjoy innumerable comforts, then we should seek the shelter of the saint Guru (Granth Sahib) and following Gurbani sing God’s praises and meditate on His Name at all times.
It is the same light

Parbhati Ashatpadia Mehla-1 Bibhas

In this Ashtpadi (hymn of eight stanzas), Guru Ji comments upon Maya (human beings’ affinity for worldly riches and power), which gives rise to the sense of duality or love of things other than God in a person. He also tells us what are the consequences of this duality and how we can get rid of it.

He says: “(O’ my friends), swayed by the crazy duality (the foolish love for worldly things, one’s) mind becomes crazy, and in the false greed (for worldly riches and power, one) wastes one’s life. This sense of duality (love of worldly things rather than God, has so tightly) caught (us in its grip), that we cannot put a stop to it. The true Guru has protected only those persons (from its influence, in whom he has) implanted (God’s) Name.”(1)

Stating the reason for the above state, he says: “(O’ my friends), neither the mind dies (gets detached from Maya, the worldly desires), nor dies Maya (and goes out of our mind. As soon as our one desire is fulfilled, immediately another desire takes its place). Only He who has created all this (play of the world knows how one can save oneself from this affliction. However one who) reflects on the (Guru’s) word crosses over the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”(1-pause)

Commenting further on the nature of Maya (the worldly riches and power), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, by amassing Maya, the kings become arrogant, but their beloved Maya doesn’t accompany them (after death). Further the attachment for Maya is of many different kinds (such as love of wealth, love of power, love of family), but except God’s Name none of these proves to be (one’s true) friend or companion (in the end)).”(2)

Now describing the influence of Maya (or the attachment for worldly riches and power on man’s mind), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, under the influence of Maya, as men think about themselves and) see their mind, they think that others’ mind is also like that. (In other words, if we are greedy, we think others are also similarly greedy). As is one’s desire, so
becomes one’s condition (or the conduct of one’s life). Then as is one’s daily conduct, one attunes one’s mind accordingly. (In this way, one remains caught in the web of worldly riches and power. Only after) taking instruction from the true Guru, one obtains to the house (or state) of peace and poise.”(3)

As stated above the love for Maya is of many kinds; it is not limited to one’s attachment for worldly riches, power, or family comforts. Cautioning us against even such things as common song and dance programs, he says: “(O’ my friends, even the attachment for worldly) music and tunes leads the mind to the love of other things (other than God. Love for such worldly entertainments also produces) evil desires within one’s (mind) and one suffers great agony. It is only when one meets (and listens to) the true Guru, that one is awakened (to the undesirable influence of such entertainments) and then remains attuned to the Name of eternal (God).”(4)

Explaining further what a person has to do to obtain honor in God’s court, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when following the true word (of advice of the Guru, one) earns the true (wealth of God’s Name) and sings praises of God, that one obtains residence in one’s (real) own home (of the heart, where God resides) and obtains immortal status. Only then one obtains honor in the court of the eternal (God).”(5)

Now stressing upon the absolute necessity of serving the Guru (and following his advice), he says: “(O’ my friends), even if one may make innumerable efforts, still (God’s) worship cannot be performed without the service (without following the guidance) of the Guru. Because only (by following Gurbani) the word of the Guru one can dispel ego and I-am ness (from one’s mind), and the immaculate Name (of God) comes to abide in such a mind (alone).”(6)

Therefore suggesting the best way of living in this world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, to live in accordance with Gurbani the word of the Guru and thus to) practice the word is the most sublime deed to do in this world. (To live any other way) without the word (of Guru’s guidance is to live) in the darkness of (worldly) attachment. (Because it is by following Guru’s) word that one keeps God’s Name enshrined in one’s heart, and it is by acting in accordance with the (Guru’s) word that one obtains sublime understanding and the door to salvation.”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, by reflecting on the Guru’s word one realizes that except (God), there is no one else, who after creating (this world) is looking after it also. That eternal Being is of unparalleled beauty and beyond limits. It is only by meditating on God’s Name that one obtains supreme state (of understanding), and O’ Nanak, only a rare person finds out (that eternal God).”(8-1)

The message of this shabad is that we should live in accordance with (Gurbani) the eternal word of the Guru and meditate on God’s Name. Only then we would understand the true nature of this world, remain detached from false worldly pursuits, and live in a state of peace and bliss while attuned to the eternal God.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that we should live in accordance with (Gurbani) the eternal word of the Guru and meditate on God’s Name. Only then we would understand the true nature of this world, remain detached from false worldly pursuits, and live in a state of peace and bliss while attuned to the eternal God. In this shabad, he tells us how without reflecting on Gurbani and without following Guru’s guidance the entire world...
remains attached to everything else in the world except God and keeps suffering in endless pains.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the influence of) worldly attachments has spread over the entire world (in one form or the other. Some where) seeing a beautiful woman, a man is lured by lust. (At another place, one has too much) exaggerated love for one’s son and gold. (In short, the world) deems everything its own and only God as a stranger.”(1)

But stating what he himself does, he says: “(O’ my friends), I keep doing such a meditation and saying such a rosary that) forsaking (any thoughts of) pain or pleasure I only keep performing the loving devotion (of God).”(1-pause)

Next addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ the Treasure of merits, no one has found Your limit. (One who attunes oneself to Your) eternal word (the Name), merges in You. You Yourself have set up (the process of) coming and going (in and out of the world). But they alone are (Your true) devotees who have attuned their minds to Your eternal (Name).”(2)

However, Guru Ji cautions us and says: “(O’ my friends, without meeting the Guru (and learning from him), no one can obtain (the divine) knowledge or the way to meditate on the detached God. His light is pervading in the pools of all (hearts and) I am a sacrifice to that embodiment of bliss.”(3)

Describing what happens when a person seeks the advice of the Guru, he says: “(O’ my friends), one acquires loving devotion (of God) through Guru’s instruction. (By reflecting on the Guru’s) word one burns the sense of ego from one’s within. One keeps under control one’s wandering (mind) and enshrines the eternal Name (of God) in the mind.”(4)

Elaborating on the blessings obtained by a Guru’s follower, he says: “(A Guru’s follower’s) mind is convinced by Guru’s instruction, it is attuned to one God, and one’s allurement for intoxicating worldly entertainments ceases. Seeing God pervading in water and fire one gets rid of one’s ego. But only a very fortunate person understands this thing.”(5)

Guru Ji adds: “(O’ my friends, one who) serves (follows Guru’s advice), gets rid of one’s doubt. Day and night, (that person) remains awake (to worldly allurements) and remains attuned to the eternal (God). Such a person recognizes only one (God) and no one else, and by serving (worshipping God) the giver of peace becomes immaculate.”(6)

Describing what happens when a person reflects on Gurbani, he says: “(When a person) reflects on the word (of the Guru), one’s mind turns to the service (of others). By stilling ego (one obtains the merits of) worship, penance, and self-discipline. When (the Guru) recites the (divine) word, one gets emancipated in life (detached from worldly allurements, even while living in the world). Then through truthful living, one enjoys eternal peace.”(7)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by commenting on the state of mind and attitude of such a person. He says: “(O’ my friends, such a devotee realizes that God alone is) the giver of peace and destroyer of pain. (Therefore to the devotee, except meditation upon God’s Name) no other deed seems (fruitful. The devotee) surrenders his or her body, mind, and wealth before (God), and Nanak says (such a person) has tasted the supreme relish (of God’s Name).”(8-2)
The message of this Ashtpadi is that it is God who has started the process of coming and going, and man’s entanglement in the worldly affairs. The one and the only way to get out of this vicious circle is to reflect on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word and remain absorbed in God’s Name. When one does that one is able to still one’s ego and stop one’s mind from being allured by false worldly attachments and obtain union with God.

parhaatee mehlaa 1.

nivlee karam bhu-angam bhaathee raychak poorak kumbh karai.
bin satgur kichh sojhee naahee bharmay bholaa bood marai.
anDhaa bhari-aa bhar bhar Dhoavai antar kee mal kadiy na lahai.
naam binaa fokat sabh karmaa ji-o baajeegar bharam bholai. ||1||
khate kram naam niranjan so-ee.
too gyn saagar avgun mohee. ||1|| raha-o.

maa-i-aa DhanDhaa Dahvneee durmat kaar bikaar.
morakh aap gaa-iaa booh na sakai kaar.
mansaas maa-ia-aa mohnee manmukh bol khu-aar.
majan jhootee chandaal kaa fokat chaar see’gaar. ||2||

jhootee man kee mat hai karnee baad bibaad,
jhootheey vich ahankaran hai khasam na paavai saad,
bin naavai hor kamaavanga fikaa aavai saad,
gustee sabhaa viguchee-ai bikh vaathee jeewan baad. ||3||

ay bharam bholay marahu na ko-ee.
satgur sayv saajh sukh ho-ee.
bin satgur mukat kinai na paa-ee.
aavahi jaa’hi mareh mar jaa-ee. ||4||

ayhu saaree hai tarai gun Dhaat,
is no vi-aapai sog saantaap.
so sayvhu jis maa-ee na baap.
vichahu chookai jsnaa ar aap. ||5||

jah jah daykhaa tah tah so-ee.
bin satgur bhaytay mukat na ho-ee.
hirdai sач ahh kargee saar.
hor sabh pakhand pooy khu-aar. ||6||

dubiDhaa chookai taav sabad pachhaan.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji told us that it is God who has started the process of coming and going and man’s entanglement in the worldly affairs. The one and only way to get out of this vicious circle is to reflect on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word and remain absorbed in God’s Name. When one does that, one is able to still one’s ego and control one’s mind from being allured by false worldly attachments and obtain union with God. But instead of following this simple and straight path many people are misled by yogic breathing exercises and postures, which may be good from physical health point of view but are ineffective in providing true spiritual enlightenment and salvation from the false worldly attachments and may even lead a person into worse spiritual state than before. Therefore in this Ashtpadi, Guru Ji cautions us against being misled by the false promises of such practices and rituals and once again stresses upon following the guidance of the true Guru and meditation on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends, one may perform such deeds as) the Niwali Asana (rotation of intestines), elevating the breaths to the tenth gate, or such exercises as holding, inhaling, and exhaling, but without (the guidance of) the true Guru, one doesn’t obtain any (spiritual) understanding, and lost in doubts gets drowned (in the worldly ocean). Such a blind person filled with (the dirt of evil thoughts) may keep washing again and again (his or her intestines with yogic exercises) but his or her inner filth (of evil tendencies) never gets removed. (The fact is that) just as a person is misled by the (antics) of a juggler, similarly without meditation on (God’s) Name all other deeds are without any merit.”

Similarly rejecting, the six kinds of rituals (the reading and teaching of Vedas, sponsoring and performing ritualistic worships, and receiving and giving alms) propagated by Brahmmins for man’s salvation, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), for me the meditation on the Name of that immaculate (God) is the performing of six (holy) deeds. (O’ God), You are the ocean of merits and I am full of faults.”

Next Guru Ji comments on the state of those persons who ordinarily keep running after worldly riches and commit many sins in its pursuit. He says: “(O’ my friends), to keep running after worldly riches is an (ultimately) useless and false occupation led by evil intellect. Such a foolish (person) may call him (or herself a worldly wise person) but cannot understand what is the true deed (or purpose of life). The craving of the self-conceited person is always governed by the attachment for worldly riches and one is ruined by one’s own words. Even the bathing of such an evil person at holy places is false and all outward piety and decoration (to make one look holy) is an empty show.”

Commenting further on the conduct of such a false person and the result of associating with evil persons, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the false person is full of arrogance and
cannot enjoy the relish of union with (God), the Master. (Such a person doesn’t realize that) to engage in any other thing (such as ablution at holy places, or doing yogic exercises) is useless, and insipid is its taste. Even by sitting in the congregation of such villainous persons we get ruined. Because their speech is harmful like poison and their (own) life is a waste.”(3)

Therefore warning us against all such ritualistic deeds and yogic practices, Guru Ji says: “O’ people, strayed by illusions, kill yourselves (wasting your lives in false pursuits. I tell you) that there is always peace by serving (and following) the true Guru, and without (the guidance) of the true Guru no body has ever obtained salvation. (They who follow any other path except the one shown by the true Guru, simply) come and go and suffer death again and again.”(4)

Now Guru Ji cautions us against even too much attachment with our own body. He says: “(O’ my friends), this body is an embodiment of three modes of Maya (and it keeps being swayed by the impulses of vice, virtue, or power. Often because of its unfulfilled worldly desires) it remains afflicted with sorrow and suffering. (Therefore instead of serving it and trying to fulfill its desires) serve that (God) who doesn’t have any mother or father (and has no worldly desire. By serving and remembering Him) the fire (of desire) and sense of I-am ness is dispelled from within.”(5)

Sharing with us his own experiences and the conclusions he has arrived at, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, as for my self), wherever I see, I see that same God pervading there. (I have come to the conclusion that) without seeing the true Guru (and without listening and following the true Guru), no salvation is possible.”

Therefore Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), to enshrine the eternal (God) in one’s heart is the only sublime deed. All other (kinds of) worships are a hypocrisy and wastage (of time).”(6)

Now briefly telling us what to do, he says: “(O’ my friends), follow the Guru’s advice so that you are rid of duality (love of things other than God. Because only when) the duality is ended, one realizes the word (the God’s Name). Then a person deems the one (God) pervading both in and outside one’s house, and this is the essence of wisdom of the word (the God’s Name). But if within one remains duality, then one obtains nothing but disgrace.”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), to praise God in accordance with Guru’s instruction is the purest of deeds. Therefore joining the congregation of saintly people, reflect upon (divine) wisdom. One who can still one’s mind; deem that one knows how to die in life (or how to remain detached from worldly desires even while living in the world). O’ Nanak, by (God’s) grace that person realizes (God).”(8-3)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that instead of ritualistic worships, yogic exercises, or running after worldly desires we should reflect on the Guru’s wisdom and meditate on God’s Name, only then we would realize God.
It is the same light

Parbhati Mehla-1 Dakhani

In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that instead of ritualistic worships, yogic exercises, or running after worldly desires we should reflect on Guru's wisdom and meditate on God's Name, only then we would realize God. Before proceeding further he wants to warn us against falling victim to any kind of ego or arrogance on account of our good deeds, charities, or even devotion to God. In this Ashtpadi, he quotes many famous stories from Hindu mythology to illustrate how even gods and highly religious and benevolent kings fell victim to ego and suffered very badly.
First Guru Ji cites the example of Indira who is believed to be the king of gods and ruler of heaven. As per the legend, one time, god Indira was enthralled by the beauty of Ahallya, the wife of a sage Gautam. So, one early morning when Gautam had gone out to the river to take a bath, Indira stealthily entered his house and tried to seduce Ahallya. Luckily Gautam came back early and caught Indira red handed. Then he cursed Indira to have thousands of permanent vagina marks on his body. Being permanently disfigured by this curse, Indira was overtaken by grief and repentance.

Referring to the above story, Guru Ji says: “Seeing Ahallya, the wife of sage Gautam, Indira was overtaken by lust. (But when due to Gautam’s curse), thousands of vulva marks appeared on his body, he repented in his mind.”(1)

Naturally a question arises why a great king like Indira who is believed to have thousands of the most beautiful fairies in his court be so allured by an ordinary woman that he was tempted to commit such a heinous crime. Guru Ji provides a simple but very important answer. He says: “O’ brothers, no one knowingly goes astray. That one alone gets a strayed whom God Himself misleads, and that (alone) realizes the (right path) whom He Himself makes to realize.”(1-pause)

To illustrate his point, Guru Ji cites the story of a king named Hari Chand. This king was so charitable that his acts of charity cannot be counted. But he started feeling proud, thinking that there is no one who is more charitable than him. To break his ego, one day God sent a Brahmin to him who so highly impressed the king with his divine wisdom that he promised the Brahmin to give him whatever he wants. The latter asked the king for his entire wealth and possessions. The king gladly gave him every thing he had and started to proceed to a different city along with his wife and only son. But then as per the Hindu custom the Brahmin asked for Dakshana (a little gift in addition to the main charity). Then the king sold himself and his family in the market. But later he had to repent grievously for his mistake, when while working as a caretaker of a cremation ground he didn’t allow his wife to cremate their dead son without paying for it.

Referring to the above story, Guru Ji says: “That king Hari Chand, who was like the king of the entire earth (did so many acts of charity) that their worth (or account) cannot be written on paper. If he had known (that even giving charity beyond limit is a sin), then why would he give so much alms that he had to sell himself in the open market?”(2)

Next Guru Ji quotes the story of Bal Raja. He also felt egoistic on account of his charitable acts. To chasten him, god Vishnu disguised himself as pigmy Brahmin and after impressing Bal Raja with his divine sermon asked for the gift of land, which he could cover in his two and a half steps. (Thinking that such a pigmy couldn’t cover more than a very small area, the king readily acceded. But then the pigmy (who in reality was god Vishnu in disguise) expanded himself so much that just in his two steps he covered the entire earth, and to take the next half step he put his foot on the king’s head and pushed him underground. Referring to this story, Guru Ji says: “In the disguise of a pigmy form (god Vishnu) asked for two and a half steps of land. Why would have king Bal allowed himself to be so deceived and why he would have to go underground had he recognized that (in reality this person was god Vishnu) in the disguise (of a dwarf)?”(3)

Finally Guru Ji quotes the story of king Janmeja who had done innumerable acts of charity and sponsored many holy feasts. He used to think that those who commit mistakes are themselves responsible for these. A sooth seer had warned him not to be so egoistic about
himself and predicted that he himself would commit eighteen murders. It so happened that in spite of warning by his Guru Vyaas not to commit certain mistakes, he ended up committing those very mistakes and killing eighteen Brahmins, whom he had invited to preside over a holy feast sponsored by him.

Referring to this legend, Guru Ji says: “(The sage) Vyaas, had taught king Janmeja and forbade him (from doing certain acts. (But still he made those very mistakes, against which his Guru had warned him). Committing those very mistakes, he killed eighteen (Brahmins, and learnt the lesson) that whatever is written in one’s destiny cannot be changed.”(4)

Now as if praying to God and asking saving him from any egoistic thoughts, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God, bless me that) I may never count (my merits), I should (always) recognize Your will and whatever I speak I should say it in a very natural sort of way (without any conceit. Whatever happens I should praise You and deem all as Your glory.”(5)

Comparing the conduct and attitude of Guru following and the self-conceited persons, he says: “The Guru following person remains detached (from worldly allurements) and always remains in the shelter (of God). But the self-conceited fool doesn’t remember (God) before hand, but when afflicted with sorrow then (such a person) regrets.”(6)

Now acknowledging God as the cause and doer of every thing, and man’s in-ability to shed ego, Guru Ji humbly says: “(O’ my friends), He who has created this creation that Creator Himself does and gets every thing done. (But) O’ God, as long as arrogance doesn’t go away from our minds, we are ruined by falling (a pray) to self-conceit.”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, God has created every one (in such a way, that one is) likely to make mistakes. (But) the Creator Himself never makes a mistake. O’ Nanak, salvation is obtained only by meditating on the eternal Name (of God), and it is only a rare person who by Guru’s grace escapes making such mistakes.”(8-4)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that even while doing all the right things, we should never feel self-conceited. Because the last thing which God likes is arrogance, and for that reason He can so arrange the circumstances that even the most pious person in the world many times ends up committing the most heinous sin, and then repents for it. Therefore we should always remember that it is God who does and gets every thing done, and we should always pray to Him to never let us become arrogant and never let us forget Him.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that we should always remember that it is God who does and gets every thing done, and we should always pray to Him to never let us become arrogant and never let us forget Him. In this Ashtpadi, he shows us how to admonish our mind for remaining entangled in useless pursuits of worldly riches for the sake of satisfying our ego and then keep suffering through the endless rounds of births and deaths. He also describes the conduct of a Guru’s follower, who forsaking all such worldly pursuits remains engaged in meditating on God’s Name.

Right at the outset, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, one who has) made uttering and listening (to God’s) Name as one’s main stay is rid of fruitless (worldly) deeds. But Just as a self-conceited person loses honor (in God’s court) for the love of other (worldly riches, similarly) for me except for God’s Name, there is no other (source of support).”

Parbhati Mehla-1
Therefore admonishing his own mind (and indirectly advising us to do the same), he says: “Listen, O’ my uncivilized foolish mind, don’t you feel ashamed coming and going (in and out of this world) and without (the guidance of) the Guru you keep drowning (in the worldly ocean) again and again.”(1-pause)

However, Guru Ji notes: “(O’ my friends), this mind gets destroyed due to attachment for Maya (worldly riches and power). But when it has been so pre-ordained (by God Himself), what can we say (to any body)? It is only a rare Guru’s follower who reflects on this thing that (the person) without meditation on God’s Name is never emancipated.”(2)

Comparing the state and fate of the self-conceited and the Guru following persons, he says: “(O’ my friends, the self-conceited person, who doesn’t meditate on God’s Name) wanders again and again through millions (of existences). Without understanding the Guru’s (teachings, such a person) keeps getting caught in the noose of death. In an instant, this mind (of ordinary persons) keeps tossing between the sky and nether world (wavering between the extremes of hope and despair. But a) Guru’s follower is emancipated by meditating on God’s Name.”(3)

Now commenting on the will of God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whom (God) Himself calls into His service, it doesn’t take any time (for that person to get attuned to God. Reflecting) on the (Guru’s) word such a person (becomes so immune to worldly attachments, as if he or she dies (to the worldly attachments) and that person then lives a very easy life. (However, remember that) without the Guru’s (guidance), no one obtains (this) understanding that it is (God) who Himself does and gets everything done.”(4)

Describing further the conduct of such a person whom God attunes to Himself, he says: “(Whom God attunes to Himself) ends his or her inner strife and sings God’s praises. The perfect true Guru helps such a person to merge in a state of poise. If this mind of that person wavers, (He) makes it stable. Then such a person does only the true deed (of meditating on God’s Name).”(5)

However, Guru Ji notes: “(O’ my friends), one who is false from inside, how could that one become pure? It is only a rare person who washes (and purifies the mind) through (Guru’s) word. Only a rare Guru following person amasses the true (wealth of God’s Name) and then stops comings and goings (or rounds of births and deaths).”(6)

Continuing to describe the conduct of such a Guru following person, Guru Ji says: “(Such a person always reveres God and) makes (God’s) fear as his or her food and drink, and for that person this is the essence of (true) peace. Joining the company of God’s devotees he or she crosses over to the other shore (of the worldly ocean. Such a Guru’s follower always) speaks truth, and (the Guru makes him or her) utter loving words. For such a person to obey Guru’s word is the most sublime deed.”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(For such a Guru’s follower), praising God is the (essence of all) deeds of righteousness, honor, and worship. Such a person burns down his (or her evil impulses, such as) lust and anger in fire. When such a person tastes the relish of God’s (Name) his or her mind is attached to it. Nanak submits, that such a person doesn’t recognize any other (except God).”(8-5)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that until a person depends only on God’s Name, he or she keeps on wandering in the pursuits of worldly affairs. However only a rare Guru
following person realizes this truth. One who does that always sings praises of God and gets satiated with it, and then except God one doesn’t recognize any other.

Parbhati Mehla-1

In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji told us that until one depends only on God’s Name one keeps wandering in the pursuits of worldly affairs. However only a rare Guru’s follower realizes this truth. One who does that always sings praises of God and gets satiated with it and then except God doesn’t recognize any other. In this Ashtpadi, he explains how meditation on God’s Name is the true form of worship and is much better than all other ritualistic worships.

He says: “(O’ my friends), meditate on God’s Name, this is the true worship (of God) within your inner self. By reflecting on the Guru’s word (you would understand that) except for God there is no other (god who needs to be worshipped).”(1)

Emphasizing the above statement, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the same one (God) is pervading every where. (Except for Him), I cannot see any one else, (so I wonder) to whom may I make my worship offerings?”(1-pause)
Therefore Guru Ji devotedly and humbly submits: “(O’ God, I surrender my) mind, body, and soul to You. I (humbly) pray to You to save me as You please.”(2)

Now stating the blessings enjoyed by a person who lovingly utters God’s Name from his or her tongue, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, that person) is the embodiment of truth who has helped his or her tongue to relish the relish of God’s (Name). By following Guru’s instruction and seeking God’s shelter such a person is liberated (from worldly bonds.”(3)

Next commenting on the merits of doing ritualistic deeds, versus meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, since God is the doer of everything, we have to acknowledge that) it is my God who has brought about all the rituals and faith worships, (but we should remember that) He has ranked the glory of Name above all other deeds.”(4)

Guru Ji also tells us how the true Guru is capable of blessing us with all the four kinds boons including salvation. He says: “(O’ my friends), all the four objectives (of life, namely righteousness, riches, worldly satisfaction, and emancipation) are in the hands (and within the power) of the true Guru. (But in the shelter of the Guru, the desire for the first) three gets stilled and then one is blessed with the fourth (object or salvation from worldly bonds).”(5)

Stating what kind of glory such people obtain whom the true Guru blesses with emancipation from worldly bonds, he says: “(O’ my friends, they whom the true Guru has blessed with focus on salvation (from worldly attachments), they realized the state of (union with) God, and became supreme (in this and the next world).”(6)

Continuing to describe the blessings enjoyed by those whom the Guru has helped to understand how to lead a spiritual, life, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they whom the true Guru has given the knowledge (of spiritual life), their mind and body has become calm. God has glorified them (so much) that no one has found the worth (of such honor).”(7)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), Nanak says that the Guru has given him this understanding that without (meditating) on (God’s) Name, no one has obtained the state (of emancipation).”(8-6)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that for achieving salvation, no other kind of faith ritual or worship is as effective as meditation on God’s Name. This understanding, one obtains only by seeking the shelter of the true Guru and acting in accordance with his teachings (or Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji).
In the previous *Ashtpadi*, Guru Ji told us that for achieving salvation, no other kind of faith ritual or worship is as effective as meditation on God’s Name. One obtains this understanding only by seeking the shelter of the true Guru and acting in accordance with his teachings. In this *Ashtpadi*, he acquaints us with some other astonishing aspects of God’s creation. He reflects on the fact that on one side God has created some human beings who following Guru’s advice remain attuned to Him and do the right things. While there are others who keep following the dictates of their own minds and then keep suffering on account of their own cleverness. He also describes how God has created this world out of such basic elements as air, water, and fire and how cleverly made sure that they cannot destroy each other.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the perfect Guru has made such an eternal arrangement that some He has graced them from the very beginning. They always remain imbued with God’s
love and their mind remains permeated with true love (for God). Their sorrows become the
things of the past and they obtain honor (in God’s court).”(1)

So warning us right here, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), false is the cleverness (based on)
evil advice. Because it doesn’t take much time for (a person) to get ruined (on account of
such false cleverness).”(1-pause)

Comparing the state of the self-conceited persons and Guru’s followers, he says: “(O’
my friends), the self- conceited persons remain afflicted with sorrows, and the pain of an
ego-centric person never goes away. But the Guru’s followers realize (God), the giver of
both pleasure and pain, keeping them in His shelter (God) unites them with Him.”(2)

Continuing his comments regarding the self-conceited persons, Guru Ji says: “The
self-conceited persons cannot worship (God from the core of their) heart. (Because these)
foolish ones are consumed by their ego. As long as they don’t understand the (Guru’s)
word, this mind of theirs keeps (going from one extreme to the other like) jumping from
sky to the nether-world in an instant.”(3)

Commenting on the general state of the world, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, the entire)
world is afflicted with the hunger and thirst (for worldly riches), and without obtaining
(guidance from the) true Guru it cannot find any comfort. (Only through Guru’s wisdom),
we obtain peace and poise, and one goes to (God’s court) robed (in honor).”(4)

Describing what else one learns by reflecting on (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, he says: “(O’
my friends, through) the immaculate word of the Guru (one learns that) in God’s court, He
Himself is the wise and far-sighted being who Himself listens to every thing, reflects upon
truth and Himself understands about the state of dispassion.”(5)

Explaining what else one realizes by reflecting on the Guru’s word, he says: “(By reflecting
on Gurbani, one also understands that it is God who) has created the water waves, fire, and
air. Mixing these three elements together, He has created this world. He has given these
elements such power and deceptiveness, (that they can bring havoc, but still) He has kept
them in control under His command.”(6)

Now coming back to the state of human beings Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), rare are
such persons in this world, whom after testing (God) has accepted in His treasury
(and blessed them with His union. Such persons) have become detached from (the
considerations) of caste or color and they have got rid of (worldly) attachment and
greed.”(7)

In conclusion, regarding such persons Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, such persons who)
are imbued with His Name are immaculate like the holy places, because they have got rid
of the malady and filth of ego. Such Guru following persons, whom the true God seems
pleasing, Nanak (respects them so much that he wishes) to wash their feet.”(8-7)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that if we want to be accepted in God’s court then
shedding our self- conceit and worldly attachments we should follow Guru’s advice
and worship God from the core of our heart.

SGGS P-1346

It is the same light
It is the same light
Parbhati Mehla-3 Bibhas

In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to be accepted in God's court, then shedding our self-conceit and worldly attachments we should follow Guru's advice and worship God from the core of our heart.

Naturally the question arises where is this court of God, or more appropriately the temple of God where He resides and how can we enter that temple and meet Him. In this Ashtpadi, Guru Ji answers all such questions.

Revealing this secret right at the outset, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friend), seeking Guru's grace, look carefully (within you and see that) the temple of God is right with you (in your own body). This divine temple can be found through (Guru's) word. Therefore, (meditate and) secure God's Name (in you)." (1)

So addressing his own mind and indirectly us, he says: "O' my mind, the person who is imbued with the love of the Guru's word is imbued with the love of God's Name. You should note that one within whose mind is) true devotion (of God), within that one is also the true temple of God and (soon) one's eternal glory becomes manifest." (1-pause)

Removing our doubts about the temple of God, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends), this body of ours is the temple of God, and it is revealed by the (light of) the jewel of (divine) wisdom. But the self-conceited persons do not know any thing about (God, who is) the source (of the world, therefore they think that) human body couldn't be God's temple."(2)

Now telling us who is the builder and architect of this temple, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends), the reverend God has (Himself) built this divine temple and has embellished it as per His will. (Sitting in this temple), whatever God has written in one's destiny from the very beginning, one has to live accordingly and no one can erase (that destiny)."(3)

Describing how we can enjoy peace and make this temple more beautiful and enjoyable, he says: "They who have imbued themselves with the love of the eternal Name, by reflecting on the word (of the Guru), have obtained peace. Through the word of the Guru their temple becomes beauteous (and looks like) a fort of gold for the limitless God."(4)

What to speak of human body, Guru Ji declares: "(O' my friends, God lives every where, therefore) this entire world is the temple of God. But without (the guidance of the) Guru, there is pitch darkness (of spiritual ignorance and people cannot see this temple). Falling in love with duality (the worldly riches), those who worship (entities) other than God, are uncouth self-conceited fools."(5)

Next informing us about what really matters in God's court, he says: "(O' my friends, the God's court) where we are asked to render account (of our deeds, there our) body or caste
doesn’t go. They who are imbued with truth (the eternal Name) are honored, but they who are in love with the other (entities instead of God), suffer in pain.” (6)

Therefore once again drawing our attention to the wealth of God’s Name within our body temple, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), within the temple of God is the treasure of God’s Name, but the foolish uncivilized persons don’t understand this. By Guru’s grace, those who have realized this (fact), they have enshrined (God’s) Name in their hearts.” (7)

Describing the merits acquired by those who remain imbued with the love of Guru’s word, he says: “(O’ my friends), they who remain imbued with the love of the Guru’s word, understand Guru’s instructions from the Guru. Such devotees remain merged in God’s Name and become pure and immaculate.” (8)

Next telling us about the one most important function of God’s temple (in the body), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the temple of God is (like) the God’s shop, which has been embellished with the word (of the Guru). In this (shop is sold) the one merchandise of (God’s) Name, with which the Guru’s followers embellish (themselves).” (9)

However commenting on the unhealthy nature of human mind and how it too can be rectified, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in the (body) temple of God, our mind is like a piece of iron which has been allured by the love of other (worldly riches and power). But if we bring it in contact with the philosopher’s stone (of the Guru’s word), then it too becomes (pure like) gold whose worth cannot be described.” (10)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), in God’s temple, God Himself resides; within all is that same (God). O’ Nanak, if through Guru’s grace we purchase (the commodity of God’s Name), it becomes a true bargain.” (11-1)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that within our own body is the temple of God, which is like a God’s shop where through the Guru’s grace; we purchase the commodity of God’s Name, which is truly the best bargain.
ha-umai vich jaagran na hova-ee har bhagat na pav-ee thaa-ay.
manmukh dar dho-ee naa laheh bhaa-ay doojai karam kamaa-ay. ||4||

Dharig khaaanaa Dharig pain'naa jin'aa doojai bhaa-ay pi-aar.
bistaa kay keerrh bistaa raatay mar jameh hohi khu-aar. ||5||

jin ka-o satgur bhayti-aa tinhaa vitahu bal jaa-o.
tin kee sangat mil rahaa'n sachay sach samaa-o. ||6||

poorai bhaag gur paa-ee-ai upaa-ay kitai na paa-i-aa jaa-ay.
satgur tay sahj oopjai ha-umai sabad jalaay-ay. ||7||

har sarnaee-ee bhaj man mayray sabh kichh karaii jog.
aanak naam na veersaii jo kichh karai so hog. ||8||2||7||2||9||

Parbhati Mehla-3

There are some people who engage in special ritual worship called Jagraatta, in which they remain awake all night and keep dancing and singing in praise of certain gods and goddesses. In this Ashtpadi, Guru Ji tells us what is the way to remain truly awake and alert to the worldly evils and thus perform true Jagraatta and please the one supreme God.

He says: “(O’ my friends, only they) alone perform the (real) Jagraatta (or spiritual awakening) who removing their dirt of ego remain awake (and conscious of) love and fear (of God). They always remain alert and keep the house (of their mind) safe and beat out the five thieves (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego out of their mind).”(1)

Therefore advising his own mind (and indirectly all of us), Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name through Guru’s grace. O’ my mind, we should do only those deeds (and follow that) path by which we attain to God.”(1-pause)

Now listing the benefits of following Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my mind), by following Guru’s advice a celestial tune of equipoise wells up (in the mind) and the malady of ego departs from within. (In its place) God’s Name and God comes to reside in the mind and imperceptibly one (keeps) singing praises of God.”(2)

Stating the blessings obtained by such persons who follow Guru’s advice, he says: “(O’ my friends), by following Guru’s advice, they who (have enshrined God in their minds, are respected everywhere, so) their faces look beauteous. Both here and there (in this world
and God’s court), they enjoy immense peace, and by meditating on God’s Name they cross over (this worldly ocean and obtain emancipation from the rounds of birth and death).”(3)

Now coming back to the topic of *Jagraatta* or keeping awake all night to do ritualistic worships, Guru Ji cautions: “(O’ my friends), no (true) *Jagraatta* (spiritual awakening) takes place in (the state of) ego, and (all the) worship (done in this way) is not accepted (in God’s court). The self-conceited persons, who do such deeds motivated by the love of other (entities instead of God), they don’t find any refuge in (His) court.”(4)

Pronouncing his verdict upon those who are in love with duality (or worldly riches), he says: “(O’ my friends), accursed is their eating and accursed is the wearing of those who are in love with things and entities other than God. Just as the worms of ordure are attracted by ordure, similarly they are allured by the ordure (of worldly wealth), so they keep dying and getting born and remain suffering in existences.”(5)

Therefore expressing his love and respect for those who have met the true Guru (and acted on his advice), Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), I am a sacrifice to those who have met the true Guru. (I wish that) I may meet and remain in their company and in this way always remain attuned to the remembrance of the true and eternal (God).”(6)

However pointing to the difficulty of finding the true Guru, and the kinds of blessings which one can only get through Guru’s grace, he says: “(O’ my friends), only by perfect destiny we obtain (the guidance of the) true Guru; he cannot be obtained by any kind of effort. (But when one does find the) true Guru (and starts following his advice) then tranquility wells up in one’s mind and one burns off one’s ego by acting in accordance with the word (of the Guru).”(7)

In closing, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, hasten to the shelter of God who is capable of doing everything. O’ Nanak, pray that you may never forsake God’s Name, because whatever He does that happens (for sure).”(8-2-7-2-9)

The message of this *Ashtpadi* is that if we don’t want that this life is wasted away in the love of duality or impulses of lust, anger, and greed etc., then we should seek the shelter of God and pray to Him to bless us with the guidance of the saint (Guru). Following his advice we should burn down our ego and keep awake in God’s fear and love, which is the true *Jagraatta* or spiritual awakening.

**Detail: - Ashtpadis M: 1=7, M: 3=2, Total=9**
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that if we don’t want that this life be wasted away in the love of duality or impulses of lust, anger, and greed etc., then we should seek the shelter of God and pray to Him to bless us with the guidance of the saint (Guru). Following his advice we should burn down our ego and keep awake in God’s fear and love, which is the true Jagraatta or spiritual awakening. In this Ashtpadi, he shares his experience with us and tells us how he got rid of all his weaknesses or shortcomings.

(However it may be mentioned here that it doesn’t mean that before this happening Guru Ji was actually suffering from these problems. Out of the three general methods of conveying any advice (1) by referring to a third person, (2) talking to a person directly, or (3) as if referring to oneself, here he is using the last method).
First talking about attachment with one’s near and dear ones in which most of the world remains involved, he says: “(O’ my friends), associating with their mother, father, brother, and wife, (people) keep enjoying (worldly pleasures) like the (birds) pecking at their feed. (In this way, their) mind remains entangled in this (seemingly) sweet taste (of worldly attachment). But the support of my life breaths (are those saintly people) who are the seekers of (divine) merits.”(1)

Summarizing these merits which have become his cardinal life principles, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the one (God, who is) the inner knower of all hearts is my (only support). I only depend on that one support and only that one anchor. That supreme Master is the King of all the kings.”(1-pause)

Describing the kind of immaculate wisdom he has obtained from his Guru and what is his present state of mind, he says: “(O’ my friends), the Guru has told me that this (Maya, the worldly attachment) is a deceiver. Therefore, I have broken (my relations) with this deceitful serpent. (It is like that thing, which when put) in the mouth tastes sweet, but when eaten it proves bitter (or harmful). Therefore now my mind remains satiated with (God’s) Name only.”(2)

But not just the worldly attachments, listing some of other undesirable tendencies which he has got rid of, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the kind Guru has done me a (special) favor and I have lost my trust (in any such things) as greed and (worldly) attachment. This gang of cheats (the impulses of greed and attachment) has ruined many households, but the merciful Guru has saved me (from these impulses).”(3)

Elaborating on the beneficial effect of Guru’s advice on him, he says: “(O’ my friends, upon) listening to the Guru’s advice with my ear I didn’t feel any interest in lust and anger. Wherever I look, I see that these terrible monsters (have people in their grip). But my Guru-God has saved me (from these evil passions).”(4)

Comparing the ten faculties (the senses of touch, taste, sight, smell, sound, and the five impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) to ten evil wives, Guru Ji says: “I have deserted the ten women (and freed myself from the control of these faculties), because the Guru has told me that all these relishes are like poisonous fires. Whosoever remains connected with these, (gets ruined and) goes to hell? The Guru has saved me (from these by attuning me to God).”(5)

Listing other evil tendencies from which the Guru has saved him, he says: “(O’ my friends), now I have stopped consulting with self-conceit (and I no longer let it guide me), because the Guru has told me that this (arrogance makes a person) foolish and obstinate. (I have so forsaken this ego, as if I have driven it out of the house of my mind. Now) this homeless (entity) finds no home anywhere. By attuning me to God the Guru has saved me (from ego).”(6)

Now using an interesting example that when one breaks off relationships with one’s evil friends, they become one’s enemies, Guru Ji says: “(When I drove out these evil tendencies from within me, as if telling these people that we cannot live in the same house), I became (like) their enemy. (When they still tried to bother me, I approached God and seeking His protection I said, “O’ all knowing God, please do justice (and save me from these intruders).”(7)
Concluding the Ashtpadi in the same metaphor, he says: “(Upon listening to my prayer), God smiled and pronouncing His judgment, He yoked all these five demons into my service. Nanak says, God settled the entire matter and said (to me), this entire house (of the body) is yours, you are its master (and all the impulses are your servants).”(8-1)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that if we don’t want that the worldly Maya and other evil impulses mislead our mind, then we should seek and follow Guru’s advice. By doing so we would get rid of our evil passions, such as lust and anger. In fact we would become master of our sense organs and no false worldly allurements or thoughts of ego would be able to mislead us and we would remain attuned to loving meditation of God.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that if we don’t want that the worldly Maya and other evil impulses mislead our mind, then we should seek and follow Guru’s advice. By doing so we would get rid of our evil passions, such as lust and anger. In fact we would become master of our sense organs and no false worldly allurements or thoughts of ego would be able to mislead us and we would remain attuned to loving meditation of God. In this Ashtpadi, he tells us how all the ritualistic ways being practiced by various Hindu sects of those days were ineffective in dispelling the evil instincts of the mind and provide any kind of spiritual peace or attainment. Therefore he once again stresses upon the need to follow the guidance of a true Guru.

First commenting upon the ways of Brahmins who anoint themselves with various religious chakras (symbols), and believe that by bathing at some holy places they can wash off the inner dirt of their mind as well, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one may perform worship with great elaboration, after taking a bath make chakras (religious marks on the body), but if within one’s mind is lust and immense pride, one’s inner dirt (of evil instincts) never goes away.”(1)

Conveying similar message to those who adorn certain symbols and call themselves as Bhagautis or worshippers of god Vishnu, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), no one has attained to God by observing such disciplines or adopting symbols of a Bhagauti, if one’s mind remains allured by worldly attachments.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on his comments, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, there are some who) under the control of the five (impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego) commit sins, but after bathing at some pilgrimage places, say (and think that all their)
sins have been removed, and then without any hesitation start committing more (sins again). Such sinners are bound and driven to the city of death (to be severely punished).”(2)

Now Guru Ji refers to Raas Dharees, who in those days used to roam around the streets wearing anklets. They would dance and sing about various Hindu gods. Addressing such a person, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, you) tie ankle-bells and dance in rhythm (in worship of some god. But within you is deception and you are moving around like a ghost. (O’ my friend, just as by) destroying its hole a serpent is not killed (similarly by performing
outward worship, your inner evil instincts are not stilled); God who has created you knows everything, (so you will not escape punishment).”(3)

Next Guru Ji takes the case of those who in order to avoid their worldly troubles run away from their homes and become yogis. He says: “(The person) who lights fire (in front of him) and wears ochre clothes, vexed by some calamity (he might have) run away from his household. Abandoning his own country he has come to foreign lands, but he has brought the five demons (the evil impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) with him.”(4)

Continuing his comments, Guru Ji says: “(Such a person) gets his ears torn and goes around looking for crumbs. He goes begging from door to door and is never satiated. Deserting his own wife he glances at other’s women with evil intent. (In short) by adorning (holy) garbs we don’t obtain (peace, instead we become) the most miserable persons.”(5)

Next Guru Ji talks about those who become silent sages or won’t eat food for many days. Regarding such persons, he says: “The one who becoming a silent sage doesn’t speak, within (his mind, there is always the disturbing) urge (for speaking), he is made to wander around in many existences. By avoiding food he is making his body suffer in pain. He doesn’t realize (God’s) will and remains afflicted with (worldly) attachment.”(6)

Summarizing, his comments, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), you may go and consult all the (religious books like) Vedas and Simritis, no one has obtained salvation without the (guidance of the) true Guru. Just as the house built in sand leaves no sign or mark, (similarly all the ritualistic) deeds, which a self-conceited person may do, go waste.”(7)

Now telling us who are those who obtain salvation for themselves and also help others, Guru Ji says: “On whom the merciful God has become gracious, that person has internalized the Guru’s word. But such a rare saint is only seen among millions. O’ Nanak, one is ferried across (the worldly ocean) in the company of such saints.”(8)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friends), only if we are fortunate we see the sight (of such a saint, and then one) saves oneself and ferries across one’s entire family.” (1-pause second-2)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that we cannot find any peace of mind or salvation by adopting religious garbs or doing ritual worships. The only way is to seek the company and advice of the saint Guru (the Gurbani as contained in Guru Granth sahib Ji), and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion.
It is the same light

Parbhati Mehla-5

In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that we couldn’t find any peace of mind or salvation by adopting religious garbs or doing ritual worships. The only way is to seek the company and advice of the saint Guru and meditate on God’s Name with true devotion and concentration of mind. In this Ashtpadi, he describes the kinds of virtues and blessings those people obtain who meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating on God’s Name all one’s sins are erased (so completely, as if all the sins listed in the) papers held by the judge of righteousness are torn off. Yes, joining the congregation of saintly persons, one who has obtained the relish of God’s Name, God is enshrined in that one’s heart.”(1)
Therefore addressing God, Guru Ji humbly states: “(O’ God), whosoever has come to the shelter of Your devotees, has enjoyed divine peace by meditating on God’s Name.”(1 pause)

Continuing to describe the blessings obtained by the one who has come to the shelter of God’s devotee, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, one who has come to the shelter of the Guru), that one’s round (of birth and death) has ended, and darkness (of ignorance has been) removed, because the Guru has shown that person the door to salvation. (That person’s) mind and body always remains imbued with the loving devotion of God. But one has known (this thing only, when God has Himself made one know it.”(2)

Describing what kind of divine wisdom such a person acquires, whom God reveals His divine knowledge, Guru Ji says: “On whom the God of immaculate soul has bestowed (this favor, realizes) that the same (God) is pervading in each and every heart, and except for Him there is no other second. Therefore such a person discards all enmities, oppositions, dreads, and doubts.”(3)

But that is not all, Guru Ji adds: “(O; my friends, upon whom God has bestowed His favor), escaping the high waves (of worldly ocean, such a person) has reached (the divine) shore; (and in this way, one who was) separated (from God) for many births, has been re-united (with Him. Instead of) worship, penance, or self-discipline, (such a person) has only meditated on (God’s) Name and His Master has blessed (that person) with His glance of grace.”(4)

Describing the happiness enjoyed by people where the devotees of God reside, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, all kinds of) joys, comforts, and pleasures of every kind are there where reside the servants (and devotees) of the Master of the universe. God becomes gracious on (them) and their bad deeds done birth after birth are erased.”(5)

Now highlighting the significance of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, one) who has enshrined the immaculate lotus feet of God in the heart, by meditating on God’s Name gets all his or her tasks accomplished. (Such a person has earned the merits of performing all kinds of) sacrificial feasts, holy worships, penances standing on head, and worship. (As if that person has) bathed at millions of holy places.”(6)

Therefore acknowledging the highest status of God and His devotees, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), highest is the abode of God. The devotees of God remain attuned to Him in a state of equipoise. My Beloved God is full of all powers, and I crave for the dust of the feet (the most humble service) of the servants of the servants (of God).”(7)

Guru Ji concludes this Ashtpadi by humbly saying to God: “O’ my beloved God, You are my mother, father, and most near and dear to me. O’ my Friend and Mate, I depend only on Your support. O’ God, holding out Your hand, You have owned Your servants. O’ the Treasure of merits, (bless) Nanak that he may live meditating on You.”(8-3-2-7-12)

The message of this Ashtpadi is that joining the congregation of saintly persons we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. By doing so our sins of millions of births would be erased and we would get re-united with our beloved God from whom we have been separated for millions of births.
In the previous Ashtpadi, Guru Ji advised us that joining the congregation of saintly persons we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. By doing so our sins of millions of births would be erased and we would get re-united with our beloved God from whom we have been separated for millions of births. But Guru Ji doesn’t want us to solely rely on his words. He cites the personal experiences of the famous devotees who enjoyed similar kind of peace and bliss by meditating on God’s Name. In this shabad, devotee Kabir Ji is sharing with us the bliss obtained by him by reflecting on God’s Name and the quintessence of the teachings of his Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), now my fear of birth and death has hastened away, because by the grace of (God’s) own love, (a state of) equipoise has manifested within me.”(1)

Describing what happened, when he reflected on the word of his Guru, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends), while reflecting (on the word of my Guru) I obtained the jewel of God’s (Name). Then the light (of divine wisdom) became manifest in me and the darkness (of ignorance) was removed.”(1-pause)

Elaborating on his experience, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends), where there is (such a divine) bliss, sorrow goes far away (from there), and becoming (valuable like) a jewel, the mind is absorbed in the love of (God) the quintessence.”(2)

Now describing how such a person accepts and thinks about the events in his or her life or the world in general, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ God, one who is attuned to Your Name deems that) whatever has happened is as per Your will. The one who understands (all the happenings in one’s life or in the world) like this merges in a state of poise.”(3)
In conclusion, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends), Kabir says (that the one who realizes the above truth) all that person’s sins are dissipated and his or her mind gets absorbed in (God) the life of the world.”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to get rid of the darkness of mind and sufferings caused by our sins then we should reflect on the word of the Guru and meditate on God’s Name. By doing so a divine light would become manifest in us, our fear of birth and death would go away, and we would merge in a state of divine peace.

During the life time of Kabir Ji and at other times as well there has been a strong prejudice and fanatic kind of self-conceit between the Hindus and the Muslims in India. This kind of differences are very much prevalent even now in the present days and some over zealous persons think that only the people of their faiths would go to heaven and others would go to hell. In this shabad, Kabir Ji questions the beliefs and rituals of both Hindu and Muslim
faiths and advises us to rise above these false differences and believe in one God who resides everywhere and in every heart.

Questioning both the Muslim and Hindu beliefs regarding the abode of God, Kabir Ji says: “(If as per Muslim belief), Allah resides only in a mosque (then I wonder) to whom does the rest of the country belong. (Similarly) the Hindus believe that (God’s) Name resides in an idol, (it means that) both of them have not realized the essence (of truth).”(1)

Therefore addressing God by both His Muslim and Hindu names, he says: “O’ Allah, O’ Raam, (bless me that) I may live (meditating) on Your Name. O’ my Master, please do this favor to me.”(1-pause)

Rejecting both Hindu and Muslim beliefs regarding the abode of God, Kabir Ji says: “(The Hindus believe) that God’s abode is (in Jagan Nath) in the south of the country, but (the Muslims believe) that God is stationed in (Mecca) in the west. (But O’ my friends, I say to you), look into your heart and search Him in each and every heart, (because this place) alone is (God’s) seat and His abode.”(2)

Next commenting on the ritualistic fasting advocated by both faiths, Kabir Ji says: “The (Hindu) Brahmins observe fasts on each 11th lunar day, and thus do it twenty four times in a year, and Qazi (the Muslim priest) fasts during the entire (Muslim calendar month of) Ramadan. (It means that) they put eleven months aside (and don’t observe any faith discipline during eleven months, and thus believe that they would obtain the divine) treasure in just one month.”(3)

Therefore plainly telling the believers of both faiths about the fruitlessness of their ritualistic pilgrimages, if they still have deceit in their hearts, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ man), what is the use of taking a bath at (Jagan Nath temple in) Orissa, (India), and what is the use of bowing your head in the mosque and why do you bother to say Nimaaz (prayers) and go on Hajj (or pilgrimage) to Kaaba (in Mecca, Saudi Arabia), if within your heart is falsehood?”(4)

Now Kabir Ji states his own belief and addressing God, he says: “O’ God, so many men and women, whom You have created, are all Your images (or manifestations). Kabir is but a young innocent child of both Allah and Raam, and all the (Hindu) Guru’s and the Muslim prophets are ours (and we should respect them all).”(5)

In conclusion, Kabir Ji says: “Listen O’ men and women, Kabir says that seek the shelter of only one (God. Instead of doing any rituals) meditate only on (His) Name, then alone you would swim across (the worldly ocean) for sure.”(6-2)

The message of this shabad is that instead of doing ritualistic deeds such as observing fasts, going on pilgrimages, believing that God resides only in our idol, or only in our holy place, we should search Him in each and every heart and meditate only on His Name. Only then we would be ferried across this worldly ocean.
In the previous shabad, Kabir Ji advised us that instead of doing ritualistic deeds such as observing fasts, going on pilgrimages, believing that God resides only in our idol, or only in our holy place, we should search Him in each and every heart and meditate only on His Name. Only then we would be ferried across this worldly ocean. In this very famous shabad, Kabir Ji is telling us that it is the same one God who has created the people of all faiths, colors, castes, and races, therefore just on the basis of one's birth we cannot say who is good and who is bad. He also gives us the definition of a truly good human being and wants us to see the same God pervading in every heart.

He says: "(O' my friends), first of all, Allah (God) created one light, and all the human beings are the creation (of that one Creator). It is from one light that the entire world sprang up, so whom (can we call) good and whom bad?"(1)

So loudly proclaiming this truth, Kabir Ji cautions us and says: "O' people, do not be strayed by doubt. The Creator of the creation lives in the creation and He is pervading in all places."(1-pause)

Now Kabir Ji explains with a very beautiful metaphor, why there is difference between features and colors of different human beings. He says: "(O' my friends), just as a potter makes different kinds of pots from the same clay, (similarly out of the same materials), the Creator has created pots (creatures and beings) of many kinds. (Just as when different pots look different), neither there is any defect in the pots nor in the potter, (similarly if different human beings look different, there is nothing wrong with them, nor in the Creator)."(2)

Stating the basic truth about the entire creation, Kabir Ji says: "(O' my friends), within all abides the one eternal (God), and whatever happens is as per His will. (The person) who realizes His will, deems the same one (God pervading in all), that person alone is called a (true) human being (or the true lover of God)."(3)
Kabir Ji concludes the shabad by sharing with us what he has realized and experienced. He says: “My Guru has given me the sweet brown sugar (of divine wisdom), that God is incomprehensible and He cannot be comprehended. But I Kabir say that now all my doubt has been removed and I have seen that immaculate God (pervading) in all.”(4-3)

The message of this very famous shabad is that all creatures have been created by the same one Creator, whose light (soul) pervades in all. Therefore we should love all humanity without any kind of bias or prejudice against any body on account of his or her race, color, form, feature, or faith. We should also realize that whatever happens, is as per God's will. Only then we would be deemed as true human beings and true servants of God.

Note: Inspired by the above shabad, the humble author named the title of his translation as “It Is The Same Light-The enlightening wisdom of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, and also composed a song, which when sung in many interfaith gatherings was very much applauded. It runs as follows: -

No one is wrong, no one is right,
No one is black, and no one is white.
It is the same light; it is the same light,
Who made the days, who made the nights,
Who made the blacks, who made the whites.
It is the same light, It is the same light-------- (chorus)

You call Him Bhagwan, you call Him Allah,
You call Him Waheguru, you call Him Buddha,
You call Him Jehovah, you call Him the Christ,
It is the same light, it is the same light ---------

Out of the same clay, out of the same lot,
He made the pots of different sorts.
No one is at fault, no one is at fault,
Neither, it is the potter, nor it is the pot,
If some one is dark, and some one is bright.
It is the same light, it is the same light------

He gave us enough air; for all of us to share,
The water in plenty, the land fertile,
Then why do we quarrel, then why we fight?
It is the same light, it is the same light-----
In the previous shabad, Kabir Ji told us that all creatures have been created by the one Creator, whose light (soul) pervades in all. Therefore we should love all humanity without any kind of bias or prejudice against any body on account of his or her race, color, form, feature, or faith. But we often indulge in criticizing and condemning people of other faiths including their scriptures and practices while we think that whatever we do is perfectly all right.

In this shabad, Kabir Ji is asking us not to condemn the scriptures and practices of other faiths, and instead try to realize the essence of truth in these.

Therefore, first addressing people in general, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends), do not call Vedas and Katebs (the Hindu and Muslim scriptures) as false. False is that person who does not reflect on the essence (of these scriptures).”

Now addressing a Mullah, (or a Muslim priest), he says: “(O’ my friend, if you) say that in all the (creatures), the same one God resides, then (tell me), why do you kill a chicken? (In whom also the same God resides)?”

Challenging that Mullah further regarding his mistaken belief, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Mullah, you ask (others to be aware of) the divine justice, but the doubt of your (own) mind doesn’t go away, (because you are doing things which don’t make sense according to your own belief).” (1-pause)

Now Kabir Ji goes into detail about the Muslim practice of getting hold of an animal, and killing it slowly after reading certain verses from Quran, and then believing that they have done Halaal (or made it fit for sacrifice before God). He says: “(O’ Mullah), catching hold of a creature when you kill it, its body gets destroyed and it becomes as good as clay. (But you think that you have done Bismil (killed and sacrificed it in the name of Allah. But in reality) its undying soul merges in God, (tell me) then what thing you have made Halaal (food fit for sacrificing before Allah)?” (2)

Next Kabir Ji challenges the Mullah about his ritualistic prayer (Nimaaz) and Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), without the purity of mind. He says: “(O’ Mullah), what is the use of purifying yourself by doing Ujju (the ceremonial washing of hands, feet), and your
mouth, and then bowing your head in the mosque; what is the use of going on *Hajj* to *Kaaba* (pilgrimage to Mecca) and saying *Nimaaz*, if there is (still) deceit in your heart?"(3)

In conclusion, Kabir Ji says: "(O’ *Mullah*, excuse me for my bluntness, but I tell you that in spite of all your ritual worship and sacrifices), you are still un-holy and you have not realized the Holy (God), and you have not understood His secret. Kabir says that you have deprived yourself (of a place in) the heaven and your mind has chosen hell."(4-4)

The message of this *shabad* is that God pervades in all creatures, therefore we should not kill those creatures and call them as our pure food. There is no use of doing any kind of ablutions, fasting, or pilgrimages if our mind is full of hypocrisy and falsehood. We should not call the religious books of any other faith as false, because false is the one who does not reflect on the essence of teachings contained therein.

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Parbhataee.

Parbhataee.
sunn sanDhi-aa tayree dayv dayvaakar aDhpaa aad samaa-ee.

layho aartee ho purakh niranjan satgur poojahu bhaa-ee.

siDh samaaDh aant nahee paa-ia laag rahay samaa-ee. ||1||

thaadhaa barahmaa nigam beechaarai alakh na lakhi-aa jaa-ee. ||1|| raahaa-o.

udhu d Buzz kinaa shakti dinaat roh dinsar).

tat tayl naam kee-aa baatee deepak dayh uj-yaaraa.

jot laa-ay jagdees jagaa-i-aa boojhai boojhanhaaraa. ||2||

panchay sabad anaahad baajay sangay saringpaanee.

kabeer gaas tayree aartee keenee nirankaar nirbaanee. ||3||5||

Parbhati

In the previous *shabad*, Kabir Ji advised us not to criticize the scriptures or the ways of other faiths and instead try to understand the true essence of the teachings in them. In that *shabad*, he particularly questioned the *Mullahs* who criticize Hindus for their beliefs, but don’t question their own practice of killing innocent animals in the name of *Allah*, and yet proclaiming that same *Allah* lives in all creatures. In this *shabad*, he focuses on *Aarti* (the Hindu worship of idols with lighted lamps), and tells them what is the true worship or *Aarti* of God.

First addressing God, he says: “O’ God, who always remains in a thoughtless trance, O’ the Mine of light, the Master of the entire world from the very beginning, I worship You. (O’ God), even the adept saints who remain absorbed in Your meditation have not been able to find Your limit and have (ultimately) sought Your shelter.”(1)
Now inviting us to learn the true way of doing Aarti or worship of God, Kabir Ji says: “Come O’ my brothers, (learn the way to) do true Aarti of that immaculate Being. O’ brothers, (the best way to God’s Aarti is to) worship (and follow the path shown by) the true Guru. (Remember that) even though standing at His door, god Brahma is reflecting on Vedas, yet even he cannot comprehend that incomprehensible God.”(1-pause)

But regarding the right way of doing worship of God, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends, only) a rare knowledgeable person knows (the way to worship God). He makes the essence (of wisdom) the oil, God’s Name as the wick, and the light of Name in the body as the lamp. Lighting such a lamp he has awakened the Master of the universe.”(2)

Kabir Ji concludes the shabad by sharing with God Himself, what kind of bliss he is experiencing by doing the kind of worship described above. He says: “O’ the immaculate formless Being, the Master of the earth, slave Kabir has also done Your Aarti (in the way described above and as a result) all the five (kinds of) melodies of non stop divine music are playing (within me, and I am enjoying their celestial bliss).”(3-5)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to perform true worship of God and enjoy the divine bliss of all the five melodies of celestial music within us, then instead of doing any ritual worships, such as rotating lighted lamps before an idol, we should follow Guru’s advice, and sing God’s praises from the core of our heart.
In the previous shabad, devotee Kabir Ji advised us that if we want to perform true worship of God and enjoy the divine bliss of all the five melodies of celestial music within us, then instead of doing any ritual worships, such as rotating lighted lamps before an idol, we should follow Guru’s advice, and sing God’s praises from the core of our heart. In this shabad, devotee Nam Dev Ji comments on the nature of our mind and tells us how by meditating on God’s Name, our mind can get rid of its duality (or love of things other than God) and we can experience God within our own heart.

First commenting on the nature of the mind and telling us with whom should we share the inner pain of our mind, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends), either one’s own mind knows the pain in the mind (or God knows about it. So if we must say), then we should say about it only before that Inner knower. Since I contemplate on the Name of that inner knower, therefore I don’t need to be afraid (of any body).”(1)

So describing the state of his own mind, Namdev Ji says: “My mind has been pierced by God the Master of the universe, and that God of mine is pervading everywhere” (1-pause).

Explaining how God, whom Nam Dev Ji compares to a grocer, knows everything in one’s mind, Kabir Ji says: “(O’ my friends), within our mind is His shop, His city, and the Grocer Himself. (That God) of many garbs resides in the mind itself, but a worldly (attached) person keeps wandering around (outside in His search).”(2)

Describing the wisdom gained by a person whose mind is imbued with the love of Guru’s word, and who lovingly starts understanding the Guru’s advice, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends), whose mind is imbued with the love of Guru’s word, that person’s sense of duality merges in a state of peace and poise, (and he or she realizes that) God’s command is prevailing everywhere and sees the fear-free (God) equally pervading everywhere.”(3)

Nam Dev Ji concludes this shabad by telling us what kind of high status those devotees obtain, who worship God with above understanding. He says: “The devotees who worship the sublime Being, deeming Him pervading everywhere, their speech becomes the meditation of invisible God. Nam Dev says, (such people) have obtained that incomprehensible and wondrous Life of the world in their heart itself.”(4-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to bring true peace and bliss to our wandering and grieving mind, then we should realize that our God resides in our mind itself, whose command is equally pervading everywhere. When our mind is imbued with the love of Guru’s word the duality of our mind ends and it is attuned to God.
Parbhati

In the previous shabad, devotee Nam Dev Ji advised us that if we want to bring true peace and bliss to our wandering and grieving mind then we should realize that God resides in our mind itself and His command is equally pervading everywhere. When our mind is imbued with the love of Guru’s word, the duality of our mind ends and it is attuned to God. In this shabad, Nam Dev Ji confirms that when the Guru’s word plays in a person’s heart and one realizes the truth in the Guru’s word, one experiences the bliss of God’s presence in one’s body and acquires divine qualities.

First stating what he has understood from the study of all the scriptures, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends, I have realized that God) has been there before the beginnings of ages and He has been present from age after age; no one has known His end or limit. He is pervading in all; (and all scriptures) have described His form in a like-wise manner.”(1)

Stating how and when one is able to see or experience God, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when in the heart of a person) plays the word (of the Guru, and when one is singing Gurbani with such love and devotion that one’s heart is truly listening and enjoying it then one feels that it is not him or her, but) God, who is speaking (in one’s body, and one feels that God within has become manifest and one says to oneself): “My God is the embodiment of bliss.”(1-pause)

Next illustrating, what kinds of changes take place within one, when one realizes that he or she is in the company of the bliss giving God, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends), just as when a Sandal tree grows in a jungle, its fragrance gives joy to all, and all the wood trees (around it) become (fragrant like) Sandal, (similarly in the company of God, who is the) source of all fragrance, (one acquires virtues like God, and) becomes fragrant like Him.”(2)

Nam Dev Ji concludes the shabad by addressing God and saying: “(O’ God), You are (virtuous like) the philosopher’s stone and I am (unworthy like) iron, but in (Your) company I have become gold (pure like You). You are the embodiment of mercy and priceless like jewels and rubies, and (I) Nam Dev have merged in Your eternal (form).”(3-2)

The message of this shabad is that God has existed even before the beginning of ages, He is present now and would always be present in the future. If we get so attuned to the Guru’s word that we start singing God’s praises from the core of our heart then He becomes manifest in us, and just as in the company of a Sandal tree, other plants...
also become fragrant, similarly in the company of God we would also acquire His qualities.

In the previous shabad, Nam Dev Ji stated that God has existed even before the beginning of ages, He is present now and would always be present in the future. If we get so attuned to the Guru’s word that we start singing God’s praises from the core of our heart then He becomes manifest in us and just as in the company of a Sandal tree other plants also become fragrant, similarly in the company of God we would also acquire His qualities. In this shabad, he tells us about the nature of this world and the human beings living in it and how we can become one with our immortal Creator.

He says: “(O’ my friends, it is the supreme) Being, who doesn’t belong to any particular family (or lineage), has created a play (in the form of this world). That all pervading God has hidden Himself in each and every heart.”(1)

Revealing another interesting fact about God, he says: “(O’ my friends), no one knows about that (divine) light, which pervades in all the creatures, (but whatever) you and me do (or think) that is known (to that God).”(1-pause)

Now Nam Dev Ji explains with a metaphor, how all the creatures of different species have been created from that same divine light? He says: “(O’ my friends), just as a pitcher is formed from the clay, (similarly all creatures are made from that primal light), that immaculate God is Himself the Creator (of all).”(2)

Next explaining why the creatures remain bound in worldly bonds and the rounds of births and deaths, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends), any deed done by a mortal becomes his or her entanglement (and the mortal keeps suffering in the rounds of birth and death on account of that). But whatever (God) has done, (He has done) on His own.”(3)

But this doesn’t mean that one cannot escape from these worldly bonds and obtain salvation. Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friends), Nam Dev humbly submits that whatever one
focuses one’s mind on, one obtains that; but if one focuses one’s mind on the casteless God, one becomes immortal (like Him).” (4-3)

The message of this shabad is that our own deeds create bonds for us and whatever we truly long for in our mind we get that thing. Therefore we should always crave for God so that we may become one with Him.

It is the same light
Addressing such a hypocrite who poses as a vegetarian holy Brahmin or Vishnu, Beni Ji says: “(O’ hypocrite), you apply sandal on your body and basil leaves on your forehead, but in your heart (is so much evil as if you are holding) a knife in your hand. Your eyes are in the look out for cheating some one, but you are sitting like a crane in meditation. You are sitting so still like a (compassionate) Vishnu, as if life has gone out of your face.”(1)

Commenting further on the conduct of such a hypocrite, Beni Ji says “Apparently you worship the beauteous idol of god (Vishnu) for a long time, but you are always engaged in strife, and there is cruelty in your eyes.”(1-pause)

Continuing his comments, Beni Ji says: “(O’ pundit), you bathe your body every day. You always keep two loin-clothes, do ritualistic deeds, and drink milk (only, to show off your compassion for the animals). But in your heart, you have (made such evil plans, as if you have) kept your knife ready to stab (your victims), and whatever you utter is designed to cheat others of their wealth.”(2)

But that is not all. Continuing to condemn the false practices of such Brahmins, Nam Dev Ji says: “(O’ pundit), you worship the stone idol and make marks of Ganesh (the elephant god). You wake up in the nights to join ritual worship. Even though your feet are dancing (in devotion), your heart is in evil deeds. O’ cheat, such a dance is anti-faith.”(3)

Now commenting on the conduct of those false yogis and sages who sit outside some village to show off their devotion, Beni Ji says: “(O’ yogi), wearing a rosary of (sacred) Tulsi wood, you sit on deer-skin. With clean hands you anoint your forehead with a frontal mark. In your heart is false hood, but on your neck you are wearing a necklace of (holy) Rudraakash wood. O’ thief, in this way you are not worshipping God, (but doing the exactly opposite thing).”(4)

In conclusion, Beni Ji says: “(O’ my friends), one who hasn’t realized the essence of the soul, all the faith deeds of such a blind fool are vain. Beni says, seeking the Guru’s guidance one must meditate on God, (because) without (the guidance of) the Guru, one doesn’t find (the right) way (to attain God).”(5-1)

The message of this shabad is that if we want to follow the true path, leading to God then following the guidance of the Guru we should realize our self. Otherwise doing any kinds of ritual worship, and adoring holy garbs and symbols, are nothing but acts of hypocrisy, and attempts to cheat others.

SGGS P-1352
ik-o"kaar sat naam kartaa purakh nirbha-o nirvair akaal moorat ajoonee saibhaN gur Parsaad.
raag jaijaavantee mehlaa 9.
raam simar raam simar ihai tayrai kaaj hai.
maa-i-aa ko sang ti-aag parabh joo kee saran laag.
jagat sukh maan mithi-aa jhootho sabh saaj hai.
||1|| rahao.
supnay ji-o dhan pachhaan kahay par karaat maan.
This is the beginning of a new chapter titled *Rag Jaijaivanti*. The ninth Guru Teg Bahadur Ji has uttered all the *shabads* in this chapter. It was the tenth Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who included the words (*Baani*) of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, when he was compiling the (the present day version called) *Aad Guru Granth Sahib Ji*. Perhaps that is why, this *Rag* (melody) is not included in the *Rag Maala* (the last chapter of Guru Granth Sahib Ji). In this *shabad*, Guru Ji illustrates with a beautiful example how short lived are all our worldly riches and possessions and tells us what is the single most important thing, which we need to do in this human life.

He says: “(O’ my friend), meditate on God’s Name again and again, (because this meditation) alone would be of any use to you (in the end). Forsake the company (or love) of worldly wealth and seek the shelter of God. Deem all the worldly pleasures as false, because this entire ostentation (of the world) is false (and short lived).”(1-pause)

Regarding our worldly riches and possessions, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), deem your worldly wealth (as some thing given to you in) a dream, (which would disappear as soon as you wake up from your present dream like state. Then) for what you feel proud? (Even the) dominion over (the entire) earth is (flimsy and short-lived) like) a wall of sand.”(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), slave Nanak says this thing that this body of yours is (definitely) going to perish. Just as moment-by-moment, your yesterday (the past) has gone; similarly your today (or present) is also passing away. (Therefore meditate on God’s Name, before your human life ends completely).”(2-1)

The message of this *shabad* is that instead of wasting our time in the pursuits of short-lived worldly riches or power, we should seek the shelter of God and meditate on God’s Name, because that alone is the lasting deed, which is going to be of any avail to us. Further we should not postpone this meditation to a later date or even tomorrow, because with every moment our life is passing by.

*Personal Note: 2.11.2006* - Just when I finished writing the above message, I received a call from hospital that our closest friend’s wife (Mrs. Sachdeva), had a stroke, and she is on her last breaths. So on our way to the hospital, I shared the truth about our Guru Ji’s message to my wife. 2.7.2011- three days ago while completing my revision of this manuscript I learnt that the wife of my friend Hardyal Gupta has also passed away.

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**Rag Jaijaivanti Mehla-9**

**It is the same light**
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of wasting our time in the pursuits of short-lived worldly riches or power, we should seek the shelter of God and meditate on God's Name, because that alone is the lasting deed, which is going to be of any avail to us. Further we should not postpone this meditation to a later date or even tomorrow, because with every moment our life is passing by. In this shabad, Guru Ji once again stresses upon the urgent necessity of meditating on God's Name and illustrates with a very vivid example how our body can perish any moment and we should not depend upon it and postpone the task of meditating on God's Name for a later date or moment.

He says: "(O' my friend), meditate on God, meditate on God, your life is passing by. (I wonder), how many times may I say to you! O' fool, why don't you understand that this body of yours is (instantly) perishable like hail."(1-pause)

Some people doubt the advice of Guru Ji, thinking that other things in life (such as worldly riches and power) are more important than God's Name. Even if they realize the importance of worshipping God, they doubt the necessity of meditation upon God's Name and indulge in ritual worships. In order to remove all such doubts, he says: "(O' mortal), relinquish all your doubts and meditate on God's Name, because this (thing) alone would accompany you in the end."(1)

In conclusion, Guru Ji says: "(O' my friend), shed away (your attachment for) poison like Maya (worldly riches and power), and enshrine the praise of God in your mind. Slave Nanak is emphatically saying to you that your opportunity (to do the most important thing in life, the meditation on God's Name) is passing by."(2-2)

The message of this shabad is that if we don't want this human birth of ours to go waste, then laying aside all our doubts and pursuits of worldly riches and power we should meditate on God's Name. Because that thing alone is going to accompany us in the end.
In the previous two shabads, Guru Ji advised us that if we don’t want this human birth of ours to go waste then laying aside all our doubts and pursuits of worldly riches and power we should meditate on God’s Name. As noted earlier, there are three modes of conveying any advice, namely using the third, second, or first person mode of speech. In the previous two shabads, he used the second person mode and as if talking to us he asked us why don’t we make use of our perishing human life and meditate on God’s Name. In this shabad, he uses the first mode of speech and addressing his own mind asks it, why it doesn’t meditate on God’s Name. It doesn’t mean that Guru Ji himself was not doing the meditation. This is just a way of conveying the same advice in the most effective manner.

So addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “O’ my mind, (I wonder) what would be your state, because God’s Name, (which is the most useful thing) in this world, you have not cared to listen to that at all. You always remain extremely allured by sinful pursuits and have never turned your attention away (from such matters).”

Continuing his address to his own mind (and indirectly to all of us), he says: “(O’ my friend), you have taken the birth as human being, but you have not meditated upon God even for an instant. Instead you have become subservient to the comforts provided by your wife (as if) in your feet have been put the fetters (of worldly attachment).”

Therefore, once again, Guru Ji emphatically says: “(O’ my friend), slave Nanak is loudly proclaiming that the expanse of the world is like a dream. Why don’t you meditate on God, even Maya (the worldly wealth) is whose slave?”

The message of this shabad is that instead of wasting our time in the pursuits of worldly wealth, we should meditate on the Name of God, which can bring us everything including worldly riches and power.
In the previous shabad, Guru Ji advised us that instead of wasting our time in the pursuits of worldly wealth, we should meditate on the Name of God, which can bring us everything including worldly riches and power. In this shabad, Guru Ji once again warns us about our quickly passing human life and asks us to enshrine God’s Name in our hearts so that we may enjoy peace both in this life and the next.

He says: “(O’ my friend, I am telling you) again and again that this life of yours is passing away in vain (without achieving its real objective. Even after) listening to Puranas (the holy books) day and night, you the ignorant one haven’t understood (that the time of) death has arrived and there is no place to which you can run away (and save yourself).”(1-pause)

Warning us once again, he says: “(O’ my friend), this body which you deem as everlasting, that (body of) yours would (soon) be reduced to dust. Therefore, O’ foolish shameless person, why don’t you meditate on God’s Name?”(1)

Guru Ji concludes the shabad by saying: “(O’ my friend), shed away the arrogance of your mind, and enshrine the devotion of God in your heart. Nanak says, this way live honorably in the world.”(2-4)

The message of this shabad is that our body is very frail and it can become weak and die any time. Therefore, lest our human life passes away in vain without achieving its purpose of re-uniting with God, we should meditate on God’s Name. This is the most fruitful and honorable way of living in this world.
It is believed that the first Guru (Nanak Dev Ji) uttered these couplets when he visited Kashi (Benaras), the prime seat of Hindu faith, and a deputation of local pundits led by Gopal Datt came to see him and test his knowledge. At that time the language of the inhabitants was Hindi and of the learned pundits was Sanskrit. So Guru Ji addressed them in Sahaskriti a mixture of Sanskrit and Hindi.

In the first salok, Guru Ji advises them that instead of performing rituals they should seek the guidance of the true Guru and reflect on the essence of God. Therefore commenting on the conduct of an ordinary pundit, he says: "(O' my friends), after reading (holy) books (a pundit) performs ritual worship enters into useless arguments (with) others. He worships a stone idol, and like a crane he sits in meditation. (Outwardly, he appears to be focusing on God, but inwards, he is making designs to catch his victims). From his tongue he tells lies, but like (false) ornaments he so embellishes his words (as if he is telling pure truth). Three times a day, he utters Gyatri (the prime Hindu mantra). Around his neck, he puts a rosary and anoints his forehead with a frontal mark. He keeps two loin clothes and puts a cloth on his head. (But the one) who knows (the true worship) of the all-pervading God, firmly believes that all these (ritualistic) deeds are in vain. Nanak says: "One should meditate on God with full faith in Him. (This is the only right way, but) without the (guidance of) the true Guru one doesn’t know this way."(1)

Explaining further the importance of reflecting on God and the guidance of the Guru, he says: "(O’ my friends), so long one doesn’t realize God, one’s (human) life goes waste. The world is like an ocean, by Guru’s grace (they who remain attuned to God), swim across it. (After due) reflection, Nanak says, (O’ mortal), reflect on this thought that everything is under the control of (God). He is the cause and doer of all happenings, and it is He who has assumed all power.’(2)

Now Guru Ji comments upon the duties, expected to be discharged by different classes of people. He says: "(They who believe in caste system say that) the duty of a yogi is to obtain divine knowledge. The duty of a Brahm in is to study (holy books, such as) Vedas. (Similarly they assume that) the duty of a Kashatryia (the person belonging to warrior class) is to show bravery (during a war, and the duty of the one belonging to the servant class or) Shudra is to serve all. However, the most sublime duty of all is to meditate on the
word (the Name of God). If some one knows this mystery, Nanak is a slave of that person, because such a person becomes the embodiment of God.”(3)

Finally Guru Ji advises them to worship the one supreme God instead of worshipping so many different gods and goddesses. He says: “(O’ my friends), the one (supreme) God provides (divine illumination) to all gods. He is the (prime) soul of all gods and goddesses. If anyone knows the mystery that it is that God who by residing in all the souls provides them with divine light, Nanak is a slave of that person, because that person is the embodiment of immaculate God Himself.”(4)

The messages of the above shabads are that:

1. To meditate on God is the true way of life, which can only be learned from the true Guru.
2. They who meditate on God under the guidance of the Guru are saved from worldly sins.
3. For all classes and kinds of people the supreme duty is to meditate on God’s Name.
4. One supreme Being is the God of all gods, and it is He who provides divine light to all souls.
It is the same light
As stated above, the first Guru (Nanak Dev Ji) uttered some couplets in Sehskriti dialect when he visited Kashi (Banaras), the prime seat of Hindu faith, and a deputation of local pundits led by Gopal Datt came to see him and test his knowledge. At that time the language of the inhabitants was Hindi and of the learned pundits was Sanskrit. So Guru Ji addressed them in Sehskriti, a mixture of Sanskrit and Hindi. Listening to the divine wisdom of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Gopal Datt became his disciple. Later his two grand sons (Ram Lal and Hari Lal) came to see the fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji at Amritsar, and requested him that like Guru Nanak Dev Ji’s sermon to their grand father he should bless them with divine wisdom. Guru Arjan Dev Ji uttered the following saloks in response. and later included in Guru Granth Sahib.

In the first salok Guru Ji wants to remind us that neither any of our dear relatives, nor any of our possessions would accompany us after death. It is only God’s Name, which would go with us and will be our helper at all times.

He says: “(O’ man, tell me), where is your mother, where is your father, where is your wife, and where are your fond plays with your children? Where are your brothers, (sisters), friends, well-wishers, relatives, and family attachments? Where is the mercurial heart captivating worldly wealth, which deserts us right before our eyes? O’ Nanak, it is only the meditation of God which keeps our company and this thing is obtained from the children (the saints) of God.”(1)

The message of this salok is that all worldly relations and possessions ultimately desert us. Only God’s Name remains with us even after death, and that Name can be obtained by serving and following the saint (Guru).

In the previous salok Guru Ji told us that all worldly relations and possessions ultimately desert us. Only God’s Name remains with us even after death, and that Name can be obtained by serving and following the saint (Guru). Therefore, in this salok he says: “Accursed is (too much) fondness for one’s mother and father. Also accursed is (too much) fondness for brothers (sisters) or relatives.”

Guru Ji adds: “Accursed is the weakness for enjoyments with one’s wife (husband) or fond plays with one’s sons (or daughters). Also accursed is the attachment for one’s household possessions. But eternally useful is the love for the company of saints, and O’ Nanak, they live a peaceful life (who love saint’s company).”(2)

The message of this Salok is that true peace is only obtained in the loving company of saints and not in the company of one’s relatives or worldly possessions.

In the previous two saloks Guru Ji advised us that except God’s Name, none of our relatives or worldly possessions goes with us in the end, therefore we cannot obtain eternal peace by falling in love with these worldly things. We can find eternal peace only in the company of saints where they constantly meditate on God’s Name.

In this Salok, he points out that as one advances in age and one’s body becomes weaker and weaker, one’s love for the worldly things and possessions keeps multiplying, and in this way one keeps getting more and more in trouble with the divine law.
It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

He says: “(O’ my friends, this) body of ours is false (perishable); its energy is diminishing (every day. But with the) advance of age one’s attachment for worldly wealth (also increases. Even though one is living like a) guest in the house (of one’s body, one’s) desire for worldly things becomes extreme. The dreadful demon of death keeps counting one’s breaths. (In this way one’s) invaluable (human) body remains fallen in the well of (worldly) attachment. O’ Nanak, in such a situation only the mercy of God can provide any support. (Therefore, we should seek) the shelter of that God.”(3)

The message Of this salok is that as our age advances and our life span decreases, our worldly attachment keeps multiplying, and we let ourselves fall into deeper and deeper trouble. In such a situation only the support of God’s Name can save us.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that this body of ours is getting weaker day by day. In this salok, he explains its short-lived nature by comparing it to a very fragile short-lived fortress. He says: “(O’ my friend), this fortress (of the body) is like a weak fortress built with water (of father’s semen), has been plastered with blood (of the mother) and wrapped in skin. There are nine entrances (two eyes, two nostrils, two ears, one mouth and two outlets for passing urine, and excretion) without shutters, (and the body) is supported on pillars of air (the life breaths). The foolish ignorant (human beings) deem (this body) as permanent and don’t meditate on God’s Name. O’ Nanak, seeking the shelter of the saint (Guru), they who meditate on God’s Name ferry their invaluable body across (the worldly ocean).”(4)

The message of this salok is that our body is very flimsy and short-lived. If we want to save ourselves from future rounds of birth and death then we should seek the shelter of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name.

In salok (3), Guru Ji advised us that to save ourselves from falling a victim to worldly attachment we should seek God’s support. In this salok, he shows us how to seek that support. Addressing God in the most humble way, Guru Ji says: “O’ imperishable God, knower of merits, all-pervading God, You are very kind. You are pervading beautifully everywhere. You are fathomless, highest of the high, knower of all, and infinite. You are the beloved of Your devotees; they find peace in the shelter of Your feet. O’ the Support of the support less, Nanak (seeks Your) shelter.”(5)

The message of this salok is that we should most humbly seek the shelter of God, who is the support of the support less and is the Master of all merits.

Now Guru Ji explains with a metaphor, how God protects the one whom He wants to save. He says: “(O’ my friends), seeing a deer, a hunter takes aim and with great effort tries to hurt it with his weapon, but whom God wants to save, even one hair of its body is not hurt.”(6)

The message of the salok is that if we want that no one can ever hurt us, we should remember God with such devotion that He becomes our protector.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji illustrated how if God doesn’t want to kill it, even a little deer escapes absolutely unhurt from the deadly aim of a hunter on it. In this salok, he shows the opposite side of the picture and shows that whom God doesn’t want to survive, no matter how powerful that person may be and no matter how many precautions he or she may take, still God can get that person killed by the weakest person.
He says: “(Even if there is) a very powerful person who makes many efforts, and many brave servants are looking after him or her from all the four directions; that person may reside on a very difficult to reach high place where he or she may never think of death, but O’ Nanak, if God so commands (then even the weakest person like an) ant may take out such a person’s life breaths.”(7)

The message of this salok is that no matter how strong a person may be, or how many precautions he or she may take; when God so wills then even the slightest excuse can become the cause of that person’s death.

(Note: This reminds me about Indira Gandhi, who after attacking golden temple in 1984 took all kinds of precautions to save herself from the wrath of innocent victims, but was ultimately killed by her own body guards).

After advising us not to be misled by the false strength of our own body, the illusion of worldly riches and relatives, Guru Ji tells us what one should really do? He says: “(O’ my friends), the best deed to do in Kal Yug (the present age) is to love (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, to show compassion for others, and to sing (God’s) praise. In this way, the inner doubts and attachments in a person are erased, and one sees God pervading everywhere. Nanak says, O’ God, Your saints love to meditate on Your Name, You reside on the tongues of Your saints. By Your grace, I am able to see Your fruitful sight (through them).”(8)

The message of this salok is that falling in love with (Gurbani) the Guru’s word they who sing God’s praise and show compassion to God’s creatures they are able to realize God abiding every where.

In the previous saloks, pointing to our continuously decreasing life span Guru Ji advised us to make use of the invaluable opportunity to meditate on God’s Name. In this salok he tells us how except for God, everything in this universe is diminishing day by day. He says: “(O’ my friends, continuously) diminishing (and therefore perishable) is beauty and (all) the islands, the sun, moon, and the stars in the sky all diminish. The earth is perishing (every day) along with all the high mountains and the trees. Also perishable are one’s wife, son (daughter), and brother (sister) whom he loves. Similarly perishable are gold, pearls, and different forms of worldly wealth. Only un perishable is the immortal God of universe, and Nanak says that also everlasting are the saintly devotees (of God).”(9)

The message of this salok is that all what we see is perishable. Only the Creator is un perishable, and those devotees, who meditate on His Name, also become eternal by merging in God Himself.

(Note: - Science has only recently discovered the truth about the ever-perishing nature of the universes including the sun and moon etc. But Guru Ji had clearly stated this fact more than 500 years ago).

In the previous salok no. 8, Guru Ji told us that the best deed to do in the present age is to love (Gurbani) the Guru’s word, to show compassion for others, and to sing (God’s) praise. In this salok, he tells us about more things, which we should or shouldn’t do. He says: “(O’ man), don’t delay, doing righteous deeds, but delay doing sinful acts (and think carefully about the consequences). Steadfastly meditate on God’s Name, and renounce greed. (O’ my friend), the shelter of the saints destroys all one’s sins. Nanak says, on whom God is pleased acquires all the virtues of faith.”(10)
The message of this *salok* is that we should meditate on God’s Name so that He may show mercy on us and bless us with the sense that we may keep postponing committing any sins, and don’t delay in doing good deeds.

It is the same light
Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends), an ordinary man of low intelligence remains afflicted by the love of perishable things. (Some times he is involved in) the fond love plays of a woman. (At other times he is enamored by) youth, energy, gold earrings, astonishing mansions, beautiful dresses. In so many other ways, Maya (love for worldly pleasures) keeps afflicting him. Nanak says that (to liberate ourselves from this affliction, we should pray to God and say): "O' imperishable God, we bow before You, (please save us from the sway of Maya, the worldly attachment)."(11)

The message of this salok is that if we want to ensure that false worldly pleasures may not afflict us then we should pray to God to save us from the love of Maya or perishable worldly riches and possessions.
experiences of pleasure and pain are short-lived. He also tells us what experience is everlasting.

He says: “(O’ man), if there is birth (in this world), then there is also death; if there is pleasure, there is pain as well, if there are indulgences, there are diseases as well. (Persons who occupy) high (positions today, tomorrow) they may (be reduced to) low ranks, and they who are small (today, tomorrow) they may become great. From kingdom (or position of power) arises arrogance, and one who indulges in pride soon gets humiliated. (In short), the way of involvement in worldly affairs, that is pervading (in the world) is all destructive. The only thing, which is everlasting, is the worship of God in the company of saintly persons. Therefore O’ Nanak, provide the support of God’s worship (to your soul).”(12)

The message of this salok is that all pleasures or positions of power in this world are short lived. Only meditation on God’s Name in the company of saintly persons can provide us true and lasting peace and support.

(Note: -Today 2.10.11, while revising the interpretation of the above salok, there is the news that President Hasne Mubarik, who has been ruling Egypt for last 30 years with an iron fist is about to step down any moment).

Today 5.8.14-While revising this salok again, I don’t know, where president Mubarik is now. After stepping down, he was put in prison, and tried for murder, and now no body knows what happened after that).

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that all pleasures or positions of power in this world are short lived. Only meditation on God’s Name in the company of saintly persons can provide us true and lasting peace and support. In this salok, he tells us what happens when we meditate on God’s Name and God shows His mercy on us.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), when God shows mercy, true wisdom wells up in one’s mind. One’s intellect blossoms forth in joy and rests in state of bliss. (Because such a person) sheds self-conceit his or her sense organs come under control. One firmly enshrines the wisdom imparted by the saint (Guru), and one’s mind always remains cool (and calm). O’ Nanak, (in this state) the flute (music of the Guru’s) word keeps playing in one's within, and one remains absorbed in the sight of God, and one’s (rounds of) birth (and death) come to an end.”(13)

The message of this salok is that if we want to obtain true divine wisdom, enjoy a state of peace, and get rid of the rounds of birth and death then we should meditate on God’s Name, so that He may become gracious on us.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to obtain true divine wisdom, enjoy a state of peace, and get rid of the rounds of birth and death then we should meditate on God’s Name, so that He may become gracious on us. However some people may question, what about listening to Vedas or other holy books and reflecting on the wisdom contained there in. In this salok, Guru Ji answers all such questions.

He says: “Many learned scholars reflect in many ways on what the Vedas (or other holy books) say, and their students listen to them. But they on whom is the grace of God enshrine only the true knowledge of meditating on God’s Name. O’ Nanak, such people only beg for the charity of His Name from the giver Guru-God.”(14)
The message of the salok is that instead of worrying about what Vedas or other holy books say, we should beg God only for the gift of His Name.

In the previous salok Guru Ji advised us that instead of worrying about what Vedas or other holy books say, we should beg God only for the gift of His Name. In this salok, he tells us why we needn’t worry even about our family.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should neither worry about our mother, father, brother (or sister), nor we should worry what some people may say. We shouldn’t worry about our wife (husband), sons, or friends, who have become related to us as a result of our worldly involvements. Because O’ Nanak, God the one merciful Being sustains all the creatures.”(15)

The message of this salok is that we shouldn’t care for what other people say about us, or unnecessarily worry about the upkeep of our dependants, because the merciful God ensures the sustenance of all His creatures.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that we shouldn’t care about what other people say about us, or unnecessarily worry about the upkeep of our dependants, because the merciful God ensures the sustenance of all His creatures. It doesn’t mean that he forbids us from discharging our responsibility towards our dependants, what he wants to caution us is that under the excuse of providing for our family we shouldn’t become so greedy that we start committing all kinds of sins to amass as much wealth as we can. In this salok, he reminds us that all the worldly possessions and our hopes and desires for the same are short lived. Therefore we shouldn’t commit sins on their account.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the worldly wealth is not everlasting, and also transient is the mind (which always keeps thinking about this wealth). Also not permanent are the hopes and desires of many kinds. Similarly short-lived is the (worldly) attachment on account of which, one is bound to ego, and wanders in the filth of sins for the sake of worldly possessions. As a result, one passes through the fire of many wombs, but because of one’s evil intellect one doesn’t meditate (on God). Nanak says: “O’ God, on whom You show mercy You bless that person with the company of saints which emancipates even the worst sinners.”(16)

The message of this salok is that we should pray to God to bless us with the company of saints, so that we may be able to get rid of all our evil pursuits for fulfilling our hopes and desires for the short-lived worldly wealth.

In salok (15), Guru Ji advised us that we shouldn’t unnecessarily worry about the upkeep of our dependants, because the merciful God ensures the sustenance of all His creatures. In this salok, he gives us another very important reason for avoiding household worries, which are more painful than even the worst of tragedies.

He says: “(O’ my friends), even if a person falls from a mountain into the deepest of hell, may burn in the blazing fire, or is swept off by unfathomable water waves, (that pain is not as severe) as the household worry, which is the root cause of (rounds of) birth and death. O’ Nanak, in spite of trying innumerable ways one cannot get out (of these worries). The one and only way (to escape these pains is to seek) the support of the word of immaculate saints (Guru).”(17)
The message of this salok is that the house holds worries are more painful than even the worst accidents and are the root cause of one’s births and deaths. The only way to avoid this pain is to seek the support of Gurbani.

In the previous salok Guru Ji told us that the household worries are more painful than even the worst accidents. The only way to avoid this pain is to seek the support of Gurbani.

In this salok, he tells us the best way to get rid of all kinds of pains and wash off the worst of sins. He says: “O’ Nanak, the most dreadful sorrows, (sins of) countless murders, the penury of (many) births, and the worst of quarrels, all are destroyed by (meditating on) God’s Name, just as fire reduces (piles) of wood to ashes.”(18)

The message of this salok is that if we want to get rid of any kind of pain or suffering, and wash off our worst of sins, we should meditate on God’s Name.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that if we want to get rid of any kind of pain or suffering, and wash off our worst of sins, we should meditate on God’s Name. In this salok, he tells us how meditation on God’s Name destroys all one’s pains and even the fear of death. He says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating on God’s Name, one’s darkness (of ignorance is removed, (and mind) is illuminated with the light (of wisdom). When one remembers God’s merits, one’s own sins are destroyed. (When God) comes to reside in one’s heart, then even the demons of death are stricken with terror, and the person does supremely immaculate deeds. The one who listens to God’s praises, that one’s rounds of birth and death are ended, and seeing the never failing sight of God, one obtains all kinds of comforts. O’ Nanak, that God is the beloved of His saints and is powerful enough to help those who seek His shelter, He blesses them with pleasures.”(19)

The message of this salok is that when we meditate on God’s Name, all kinds of our pains and sorrows are removed, we learn the right way of life and God blesses us with all kinds of pleasures.

In the previous salok Guru Ji told us that when we meditate on God’s Name, all kinds of our pains and sorrows are removed, we learn the right way of life and God blesses us with all kinds of pleasures. In this salok, he lists some of the blessings, which God bestows on His devotees. He says: “(O’ my friends), they who are left behind, God make them leaders and He fulfills the hope of those who have become totally hopeless. (By His grace), the poor become rich, and the afflictions of the diseased are destroyed. He blesses the devotees with the charity of devotion, God’s Name and singing praises of God. Nanak says that all pervading God is the Giver and through Guru’s service one can obtain everything from God.”(20)

The message of this salok is that by seeking the shelter of the Guru we can get all our desires fulfilled by God.
It is the same light

**SGGS P-1356**

ghat ghat basant baasudjayveh paarbarahm parmysureh.
jaachant naanak kirpaal parsad[*]n* nah bisrant nah bisrant naaraa-ineh. ||21||

nah samratha[*]n* nah sayyka[*]n* nah pareet param parkotama[*]n*.
*tav parsad* simartay naama[*]n* naanak kirpaal har har gura[*]n*. ||22||

bharan pokhan karan jee-aa bisraam chaadaan dayvant gaana[*]n*.
sirja[*]t* ratan Janam chahtur chaytnah.
varanta sukha aanand parsadeh.
simrant naanak har har haray.
anirt-y rachnaa nirnaa taay. ||23||
daana[*]n* paraa poorbayn buh[*]chan*taay maheepatay.
bipreet buDh[*]ya[*]n* maarat lokah naanak chirankaal dukh bhohtagay. ||24||

baritha anugraha[*]n* gobindaah jas-y simran rigantaarh.
aarog[*]ya[*]n* mahaah roag[*]ya[*]n* bisimriyay karunaa ma-yeh. ||25||

ram[*]n* kayv[*]a*[*]n* keeraatana[*]n* suDharma[*]n* dayh Dhaarnah.
amr* naa* naaraa-in naanak peevta[*]n* sant na taariptaaytay. ||26||

sahaaN seel santaa[*]n* sam mitarsa-y gurajneh.
naanak bhojaa anik parkaarayn nindak aavoDh ho-ay uptistaatay. ||27||
tiraskaar nah bhavant nah bhavant maan bhangnah.
sobbaa heen nah bhavant nah pohanta sansaar dukhnah.
gobind naam japaant mil saaDh sangh naanak say paraanee sukh baasnah. ||28||
sainaa saaDh samooh soor ajita[*]n* saaNaaha[*]n* tan nimartaalh.
aavoDh gun gobind ram[*]n* ot gur sabad kar charmapheh.
aaroogh-tay asav rath naagah bujhantay parabhang maargah.
bigartaay nirab[*]ya[*]n* saatar sainaa Dhaar-yaantay goopaal keertaatneh.
jittay bisav sansaarah naanak vas[*]ya[*]n* karoat panch taskaraah. ||29||

[1356]
In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that by seeking the shelter of the Guru we could get all our desires fulfilled by God. In this salok, he tells us about many wonderful qualities of God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name provides support even to those who don’t have any support, and is the wealth of the poor. That God of the universe is the Master of the master less and that God of beauteous hair is the power of the powerless. The imperishable God is merciful to all creatures and is close relative of the meek. That perfect all knowing God is the lover of His devotees and is the embodiment of mercy. That all pervading and illuminating God resides in each and every heart. Nanak seeks this bounty of His grace that he may never forget that Master.”(21)

The message of this salok is that the all-pervading God is the knower of all hearts. He is the support of the support less and we should never forsake Him from our mind.

In the previous salok Guru Ji advised us that the all-pervading God is the knower of all hearts. He is the support of the support less and we should never forsake Him from our mind. However Guru Ji cautions us that we should never feel proud of our devotion or love for God because on our own we cannot meditate on God or love Him.

Therefore in this salok he shows us how to humbly pray to Him to bless us with His loving devotion.

He says: “O’ the most sublime God, I have neither the power, nor the true urge to serve, and nor true love for You. Nanak humbly says that O’ the most merciful Guru God, only by Your grace I can meditate on Your Name.”(22)

The message of this salok is that we should never feel arrogant about our love or devotion for God. Instead we should always remain humble and pray to Him to bless us with His loving devotion.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that we should never feel arrogant about our love or devotion for God. Instead we should always remain humble and always pray to Him to bless us with His loving devotion. In this salok, he gives us a very important reason to meditate on Him.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), God provides food and clothing to all His creatures. He also provides them with a place to rest, clothes to wear, and creates our jewel (like precious body) full of wisdom and consciousness. By His grace, peace and bliss pervades in our life. Therefore O’ Nanak, they who always meditate on God remain detached from the perishable creation and (worldly) things.”(23)

The message of this salok is that instead of remaining attached to the perishable worldly things we should always remember and thank God who has blessed us with the priceless human body and all the necessities of life.
In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that instead of remaining attached to the perishable worldly things we should always remember and thank God who has blessed us with the priceless human body and all the necessities of life.

In this salok, he tells us about the rewards those people obtain who being thankful to God share their fortunes with the others, and the punishment those persons suffer who hurt others for the sake of their own comforts. He says: “(O’ my friends, as a reward for the acts of charity in their past births (some people) enjoy the pleasures of being kings of earth (in this life). But O’ Nanak, they who because of their corrupted intellect hurt others, suffer in pain for a long time.”(24)

The message of this salok is that if in our future lives, we want to enjoy the pleasures of many kingdoms, and don’t want to suffer any pain then we should share our good fortunes with the needy, and should not hurt others.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that if in our future lives, we want to enjoy the pleasures of many kingdoms, and don’t want to suffer any pain then we should share our good fortunes with the needy, and should not hurt others. In salok (23), Guru Ji also advised us to remember God and meditate on His Name. Many people might think that they can understand the advice that we shouldn’t hurt others and share our good fortunes with others, but why it is necessary to meditate on God’s Name. In this salok, he answers this question.

He says: “They who are bereft of God’s grace, and do not sing His praise from the core of their heart, even if (apparently) healthy, are still afflicted with the worst disease (of ego) because they forsake the merciful God.”(25)

The message of this salok is that even when we are perfectly healthy and free of all ailments we should never forsake God, lest we may be afflicted by the worst malady of all, the ailment of ego.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that even when we are perfectly healthy and free of all ailments we should never forsake God, lest we may be afflicted by the worst malady of all, the ailment of ego.

Therefore, stressing upon the importance of meditating on God’s Name, he says: “(O’ my friends), the most righteous deed of assuming the (human) body is to meditate on God’s Name and sing His praise. Therefore the saints never get tired of (singing God’s praises and) drinking the nectar of God’s Name.”(26)

The message of this salok is that we should always try to enjoy the relish of meditating on God’s Name.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that the saints never get satiated drinking the nectar of God’s Name and never get tired of singing God’s praises. In this salok he tells us about one more unique quality of the saints.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), the saints are always patient and tolerant and for them both friends and foes are equal. O’ Nanak, while a friend may serve them with innumerable kinds of meals, a slanderer may come before them with drawn out arms (ready to kill them, yet the saints look at both friends and foes with same love and compassion).”(27)
The message of this *salok* is that the true saints who keep on meditating on God’s Name, look at both friends and foes with the same love and compassion without worrying who is trying to help, and who wants to harm them.

Note: - In this regard, it may be very relevant to narrate the story of Guru Amar Das Ji, how he didn’t lose his composure, even when the Mogul king Humayun started to draw out his sword, when he came to see Guru Ji for help.

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji told us that the true saints, who keep meditating on God’s Name, look at both friends and foes with the same love and compassion without worrying who is trying to help, and who wants to harm them. In this *salok*, he tells us about another quality acquired by those who meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), joining the company of saints they who meditate on God’s Name live a peaceful life. Because they (always remain so calm and composed in all circumstances, that they) are neither affected by insult, nor when some one hurts their ego. They are not bothered if they lose their honor, nor the worldly pains affect them.”(28)

The message of this *salok* is that when we meditate on God’s Name, we become immune to worldly honor or dishonor, pain or pleasure, and remain happy in all circumstances.

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji told us that the saints always remain so calm and composed in all circumstances, that they are neither affected by insult nor when some one hurts their ego. It doesn’t mean that the saints of God are cowardly persons and helpless creatures whom any one can mistreat anytime. On the contrary Guru Ji compares them to the bravest warriors who have won even those foes who have won the rest of the world.

He says: “(O’ my friends, the heart of) the saints is like an arena of invincible army. (Even when they hold unlimited power, they remain so calm, as if they are wearing the bullet proof) vest of humility on their body. They are armed with the weapons of singing God’s praises, and hold the impenetrable shield of (*Gurbani*) the Guru’s words. For them to realize the path to union with God is like enjoying the horse and elephant rides. They launch their attack with the singing of God’s praises and pierce fearlessly through the enemy ranks. In this way O’ Nanak, they bring under control all the five thieves (or impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) and conquer the entire world.”(29)

The message of this *salok* is that they who meditate on God’s Name acquire divine qualities of kindness, compassion, and humility, and control their evil impulses. Therefore they always remain happy and satisfied, as if they have conquered the entire world.

Guru Ji now reverts to the fate of the ordinary human beings who remain obsessed with family attachment. He says: “(O’ my friends, just as) by being lured away by false intellect people seeing a sandy place from distance assume it as a pool of water, phantom city in the sky, or passing shade of a tree as true or everlasting, similarly illusory is the family love. O’ Nanak, they who meditate on God’s Name (are not mislead by such false illusions).”(30)

The message of this *salok* is that if we don’t want to be misguided by false worldly illusions or family attachments then we should meditate on God’s Name.
It is the same light
In many previous saloks, Guru Ji has advised us to seek the company of saintly persons and meditate on God's Name in their company. Naturally a question may arise in one's mind, what is the benefit of the company of saintly persons. In this salok, he answers this question and illustrates the immense benefit of saint's company.

Guru Ji says: “Even if one has neither the treasure of knowledge of (holy books like) Vedas, nor may have the knowledge of the merits of God's Name, neither has the melodious voice suitable for singing God's praises, nor is clever or wise, but if one's destiny awakens then not only one finds (all kinds of) wealth, but O' Nanak, from an absolutely ignorant person, one becomes a pundit (a learned scholar of divine wisdom).”(31)

The message of this salok is that if some one's destiny awakens, then by joining the company of saintly people even a fool becomes (divinely) wise, and obtains all kinds of wealth and the merits of singing God's praises.

Many apparently holy looking persons, particularly Hindus are seen carrying a Gomukhi (special kind of rosary in a small bag looking like a cow's mouth), which they always keep counting while touching their chest. That is why it is called Hast ooch. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us about the best kind of rosary and what are the blessings of saying it.

He says: “(O' my friends, the person) who makes meditation of God's Name as the beautiful rosary around one's neck; makes the heart as the bag to hold that Hast Ooch (rosary) of God’s Name, and with one's tongue utters sublime hymns in God’s praise, is emancipated from the ill effects of worldly riches, which looks so captivating to the eyes.”(32)

The message of this salok is that instead of saying the ordinary wooden rosaries we should always keep uttering God's praises from the core of our heart and we would be saved from false worldly allurements.

In the previous so many shabads Guru Ji has mentioned innumerable blessings of following Guru’s instruction. In this salok he tells how bad and undesirable is that person who doesn’t listen to the Guru or follows his advice.
Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), accursed is the polluted life (of such a person) who is without the mantra (or instruction) of the Guru. Such a fool is like a dog, pig, donkey, crow, and a snake (or like any other despicable animal).”(33)

The message of this salok is that the person who doesn’t follow Guru’s advice is like a despicable animal.

In the previous saloks, Guru Ji mentioned separately the blessings obtained by a person who meditates on God’s Name, and the one who joins the holy congregation. In this salok, he combines these two deeds together and describes the virtues a person acquires who joins the company of saints and meditates on God’s Name in that company.

He says: “(One who) contemplates on the lotus feet (of God), enshrines God’s Name in one’s heart, and sings praises of God in the company of saints, O’ Nanak even the demon of death can’t look upon such a person with an evil eye.”(34)

The message of this salok is that if we want to be free from all fears including the fear of death then we should meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji mentioned separately the blessings obtained by a person who meditates on God’s Name, and the one who joins the holy congregation. However in this salok, he combines these two deeds together and describes the virtues a person acquires who joins the company of saints and meditates on God’s Name in that company.

He says: “(O’ my friends), it is not very difficult to obtain wealth or beauty, nor it is so difficult to rule over heavens. It is also not hard to be able to enjoy delicious dishes or clean clothes. It is not difficult to have good sons, friends, brothers, and relatives, nor is it impossible to enjoy the love and affection of the wife. It is also not impossible to become worldly wise and accomplished through education, nor it is difficult to become witty and clever. (But O’ my friends), the one thing which is very difficult to obtain is the God’s Name, which is only obtained in the company of saints and only by God’s grace.”(35)

The message of this salok is that nothing else in this world is so difficult to obtain as God’s Name, which is only obtained when God bestows His grace upon us and blesses us with the company of saintly persons.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that nothing else in this world is too much difficult to obtain except God’s Name. In this salok, he tells what that person experiences who is blessed with God’s Name.

He says: “(When as per God’s grace, one is blessed with God’s Name, then) whether it is heaven, mortal world, or the under-world, wherever one looks one sees only (the one God). Because O’ Nanak, that Master of the universe is pervading everywhere and He is not afflicted with any kind of blot or blemish (of Maya -the worldly attachment).”(36)

The message of this salok is that the person, who is blessed with God’s Name, sees God pervading everywhere.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that the person, who is blessed with God’s Name, sees God pervading everywhere. In this salok, he tells us what kind of blessings a person obtains on whom the Guru becomes gracious.
He says: “O’ Nanak, on whom the Guru God becomes kind, for that one even the poison becomes nectar, arch enemies become friends and mates, pains turn into pleasure, from being the most fearful, becomes fearless, and they who are without any place (of respite for their soul), find rest in God’s Name.”(37)

The message of this salok is that on whom the Guru becomes kind, all that person’s troubles and pains come to end and he or she finds peace and comfort in God’s Name.

Listening to the blessings obtained from the Guru, some people may question from whom the Guru himself obtains all these blessings and virtues of calmness, composure and serenity.

Answering the above question, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), he who gives the gift of modesty to all, makes me modest also. He, who purifies all, purifies me as well. He, who creates all, is my creator also. O’ Nanak, no ill will or hypocrisy pollutes Him (and that God is free from any kind of fault or sin).”(38)

The message of this salok is that God is the Creator and Benefactor of all and He has no ill will or enmity towards any one.

In many previous saloks and shabads, Guru Ji has been advising us to seek the company of saintly people. Because in their company we obtain the gift of Name and many other blessings including peace and comfort for our mind. In this salok, Guru Ji illustrates how the comfort provided by any other means is no match for that provided by the saints.

He says: “O’ Nanak, neither the god moon, nor the white sandal, nor even the winter season can provide as much cold (cool comfort and peace of mind), as the peace and calmness provided by the saintly devotees.”(39)

The message of this salok is that if we want true inner peace and comfort for our mind then instead of outward means we should seek the company of saintly devotees of God.

In many previous saloks and shabads, Guru Ji has advised us to join the company of saintly friends. Naturally the question may arise in one’s mind, what are the signs or qualities on the basis of which, we may determine that one is truly a saintly person whose company we should seek. In this salok, Guru Ji lists the six main traits of saintly persons.

He says: “The person (1) whose mantra is God’s Name, whose mind remains attuned to the all pervading (God). (2) Who has the wisdom to deem pain and pleasure alike, whose way (of dealing with others, is to deal with) purity of mind and without enmity. (3) Who is merciful to all creatures and remains free from the five sins (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego from the mind). (4) Whose (spiritual) food is singing of God’s praises, who remains detached from worldly affairs, as a lotus remains unaffected by the water in which it grows. (5) Who gives same good advice to friends and foes and inculcates in them the desire for devotion to God. (6) Who doesn’t want to hear any one’s slander with his ears and shedding his self (conceit considers himself so humble, as if) he is the dust of the feet of all. O’ Nanak, they who have these six qualities are the perfect persons and they can be named as the saintly friends.”(40)

The message of this salok is that alone is a truly saintly person, who has enmity towards none, is pure of heart, and is free from the five evil impulses of lust, anger,
greed, attachment, and ego, and who always inspires others to meditate on God’s Name.

It is the same light
In the previous salok, Guru Ji listed six basic qualities of a saintly person. One of which is to deem both pain and pleasure alike. In this salok, he describes the state of mind of an ordinary human being in the midst of the worldly enjoyments and dreadful fears.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), even though a goat might be enjoying its favorite forest roots and fruits, (yet it always remains in mortal fear because) it lives in the vicinity of a lion. Similar O’ Nanak, is the state (of mind of an ordinary human being) in the world because one remains afflicted with the pleasures and pains (of life).”(41)

The message of the salok is that if we want to be free from the fear of life’s ups and downs then we should seek the company of saintly friends and learn from them the art of living calmly both in pain and pleasure.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to be free from the fear of life’s ups and downs then we should seek the company of saintly friends and learn from them the
art of living calmly both in pain and pleasure. In this salok, he tells us how the company of saints and meditation on God’s Name can sanctify the life of even the worst sinners.

Guru Ji says: “(If one is afflicted with the) filth of sins and crimes of (committing) fraud, finding faults, and putting millions of obstructions (in the path of others), and also is afflicted with the (maladies of) doubt, attachment, honor, dishonor, and the intoxication of worldly wealth, one keeps wandering in the hell (like pains) of birth and death, and through one’s own innumerable efforts one cannot succeed in (getting out of these sufferings). But O’ Nanak, (such people become) immaculate (and free of all pains) by daily meditating on God’s Name in the company of saints.”(42)

The message of this salok is that if we want to get rid of all kinds of sins and evil tendencies in us then we should join the company of saintly people and meditate on God's Name in their company.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all kinds of sins and evil tendencies in us then we should join the company of saintly people and meditate on God’s Name in their company. In this salok, he summarizes, the reasons why we should meditate on God’s Name and sing His praises day after day.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the shelter of all pervading wondrous Master of the world is like a boat (to cross over the worldly ocean). He is capable of doing and getting done anything He wants. That perfect God gives charities (to all). He gives hope to the hopeless, and is the home of all riches. He is the treasure of all virtues. O’ Nanak, like beggars all creatures beg at His door and meditate on Him.”(43)

The message of this salok is that God can fulfill the needs of all creatures; therefore we should seek only His shelter and meditate on His Name alone.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that God could fulfill the needs of all creatures; therefore we should seek only His shelter and meditate on His Name alone. In this salok, he tells us what kinds of virtues and blessings those individuals, families, and communities obtain who meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints.

He says: “(When we meditate on God’s Name), the places which seem so difficult to reach look very easy, the worst of sorrows turn into pleasure. Those egoistic persons who always utter evil words and create differences between others become good-natured friends. Where there is always sorrow, there pleasure comes to stay. They, who have become weak (and timid) because of fear, become fear-free. (The deserted place which looks) dreadful like a forest, becomes inhabited like a great city. These are the attributes of righteous life, which are obtained by God's mercy. O’ Nanak, these blessings are obtained when seeking the support of God, we meditate on God’s Name in saints’ company.”(44)

The message of this salok is that when in the company of saints we meditate on God’s Name we get rid of all our problems, pains, and evil tendencies, and obtain all kinds of virtues, blessings, and pleasures.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that when in the company of saints we meditate on God’s Name we get rid of all our problems, pains, and evil tendencies, and obtain all kinds of virtues, blessings, and pleasures. One of the worst weaknesses of human beings is the attachment for their families, friends, and worldly possessions. In this salok, Guru Ji
It is the same light

depicts how powerful this feeling is and shows us how can we protect ourselves from this internal enemy of ours.

As if addressing the worldly attachment, Guru Ji says: “(O’ worldly attachment), you are (like an) invincible hero in a war. You are extremely powerful and you annihilate many brave warriors. You fully captivate heavenly musicians, gods, animals, and birds. O’ Nanak, seek the shelter of God and bow to God the Creator (to save yourself from it).”(45)

The message of this Salok is that worldly attachment is so powerful that what to speak of human beings, even gods are not immune from it. The only way to protect us from this evil is to seek the shelter of God.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji acknowledged that worldly attachment is so powerful that what to speak of human beings even gods are not immune from it. The only way to protect us from it is to seek the shelter of God. In this salok, he tells how evil and destructive is the impulse of lust and what is the only way to save us from this evil.

As if talking to lust, Guru Ji says: “O’ Lust, you land human beings into hell and make them wander around in many wombs. You captivate the hearts of all, you reach all the three worlds, (afflict the residents of all the three worlds), and you destroy their worship, penance, and immaculate character. For the sake of a very short lived pleasure you make people penniless; you are mercurial, you pervade (and afflict) both rich and poor. Nanak says, that only when one reaches the congregation of saintly persons and seeks the shelter of God that one becomes free from your fear.”(46)

The message of this salok is that the passion of lust is so powerful that even men of high character, great sages, and gods get lured and destroyed by it. The only way to save oneself from this malady is to join the company of saintly people and meditate on God’s Name.

In the previous two saloks, Guru Ji addressed the evil impulses of attachment and lust and told us the way to save ourselves from being their victims. In this salok, he addresses the third most dangerous internal enemy of human beings and tells us the way to protect ourselves from its evil influence as well.

Again as if talking to anger, Guru Ji says: “O’ Wrath, the root cause of catastrophic quarrels, you never show any compassion. You bring under your control the sinful persons and they dance like monkeys. In your company, human beings become evil like devils, and the demon of death disciplines them in many ways. O’ Nanak, (it is only) the merciful God, the destroyer of the pains of the meek, who protects all creatures (against this evil passion).”(47)

The message of this salok is that in order to save ourselves from falling victim to the evil passion of anger, which is the root cause of many ruinous quarrels and troubles in the world we should seek the shelter of God.

After commenting on the three evil human impulses of lust, anger, and attachment, now Guru Ji comments upon the evil of greed. So addressing greed, he says: “O’ (the evil of) Greed, you have wrapped yourself round even the highest of men, and in their minds waves (of greed) play innumerable antics. (Under your influence, the mortals) wander around in many different ways, and vacillate in many different directions. They neither have any
respect for their friends, nor Guru, nor relatives, nor any regard for their mother and father (and swayed by greed, they won’t hesitate to hurt any one including their friends, relatives, and the Guru).”

Guru Ji adds: “(Lured by greed, human beings) do, what should not be done, will eat the uneatable, and do things against the norms of the society. O’ Nanak, (the only way to save our selves from this evil is to run) to God, crying again and again for His help, and pray to Him and say, O’ (God) the Man-lion, save us, save us.”(48)

The message of the salok is that the only way to save ourselves from the evil of Greed, swayed by which one doesn’t hesitate to harm even one’s parents, is to seek the shelter of God and pray to Him to save us from it.

After addressing the four passions of lust, anger, greed, and attachment, Guru Ji addresses Ego, the fifth and the worst of the five human impulses, which are at the root of one’s sins and consequent innumerable sufferings.

So now as if talking to the malady of Ego, Guru Ji says: “(O’ Ego, you are) the root cause of our rounds of birth and death. By making the soul commit sins, and by spreading the net of worldly illusions in many different ways, you make one forsake one’s friends and turn them into one’s archenemies. (Falling in your trap), the creatures get exhausted coming and going (in and outside this world) and bear many pains and pleasures. Getting strayed by doubt they roam around as if they are wandering in dreadful jungle and are suffering from a very terrible and incurable disease. The only physician, (who can cure us of this ailment) is the all pervading God, therefore O’ Nanak, meditate on that God again and again.”(49)

The message of the shabad is that only God can save us from the terrifying incurable disease of Ego, which is the root cause of our rounds of births and deaths. Therefore we should meditate on His Name again and again.

After telling us, how to save ourselves from each of the five evil human passions of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, Guru Ji now shows us the way to get rid of all the above maladies and any other physical and mental ailments.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ God, the Master of life breaths, the treasure of mercy, the Guru of the world, O’ the destroyer of the woes of the world, the embodiment of mercy, please rid me of all my pains. O’ the storehouse of mercy, the provider of refuge to all those who seek Your shelter, the Master of the meek, please show Your mercy. O’ God, bless Nanak that whether his body is perfectly healthy or becomes weak, he may keep meditating on You.”(50)

The message of this salok is that only God can cure us of all our ailments. Therefore we should always seek His support and pray to Him to bless us that irrespective of our health we may keep meditating on His Name.
It is the same light

It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Page - 1359

sir mastak rakh-ya aapbrahmaa hast kaa-ya rakh-ya parmaysvareh.
aatam rakh-ya gopaal su-aamee Dhan charan rakh-ya jagdeesvareh.
sarab rakh-ya gur da-yaaleh bhai dookh binaasneh.

bhagat vachhal anath naathay saran naanak purakh achatheh. ||52||

jayn kalaa Dhaari-o aakaasaa baisa'taaraa kaasat baystaaa.
jayn kalaa sas soor rakh-yaat jo-ya saasa

sareer Dhaaranaa.

SGGS P-1359

jayn kalaa maat garab paritpaalaa nah chhaydant jathar rognah.

jayn kalaa asthambhaa sarovaraa naanak nah chhijant tarang toynah. ||53||

gusaaa'ee garist roopayn simarna sarbat gujeeyn.<
labhDya-yaa sant sangayn naanak savachh maaraag har bhagat-neh. ||54||

maskaa bhagnat sailaa kardamaa taraant papeelkeh.<
sagraa la'ghanta pi-anga tam pargaas anDhkah.
saDh sangayn simrant gobind saran naanak har har hayray. ||55||

tilak heenaa jathaa bipraa amar heenaa jathaa raajnah.
aavDh heenaa jathaa soorar naanak Dharam heenaa tathaa baisnveh. ||56||

na sa'kha na chakara na gapaa na si-aama.
ascharaj roopa rahan jannaa.

nayt nayt kathan bajdaa.
ooch mooch apaar gobingah.

basant saaDh rid-ya achat bujhant naanak badbhaagee-ah. ||57||

udg-aan basanaa sa'saaraa sanbanDhee saavaan si-aal kharah.
bikham sathaan man mooh madiraa mahaav saaDh panch taskarahii.

heet mooh bhai bharam bharmanaa ahaa faas teekh-yan kathineh.

paavak to-a saaDh ghora aagam teer nah langhnah.
bhaj saaDhsang gopaal naanak har charan saran uDhran kirpaa. ||58||

It is the same light

Page - 635 of 912
In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that only God could cure us of all our ailments. Therefore we should always seek His support. In this salok, he tells us how God’s support can help us cross over even the dreadful worldly ocean.

He says: “O’ Nanak, (the world is like) a dreadful ocean, which is very difficult to cross. But by seeking the shelter of God’s lotus feet (His Name) and singing God’s praises in the company of saints, we can cross it.”(51)

**The message of this salok is that if we want to cross over the dreadful worldly ocean and end our rounds of birth and death then joining the company of saints, we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name.**

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that if we want to cross over the dreadful worldly ocean and end our rounds of birth and death then joining the company of saints we should sing praises of God and meditate on His Name. In this salok, he tells us how God loves His devotees, protects them in every way, and destroys all their pains.

He says: “(O’ man), your head, brow, hands, and rest of your body are under the protection of God. That God and Master of the universe saves your soul; your wealth is also under the protection of the feet of that God. In short, the merciful Guru (God) provides protection to you in every way and destroys all your fears and pains. He provides support to the support less and loves His devotees. Therefore O’ Nanak seek the shelter of that imperishable God.”(52)

**The message of the salok is that in case we want to protect everything including our body, soul, or wealth, and want to be free from all kinds of fears and pains, then we should seek the shelter of merciful God.**

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that in case we want to protect everything of ours including our body, soul, or wealth, and want to be free from all kinds of fears and pains then we should seek the shelter of merciful God. In this salok, he tells us about the power of that God whose refuge he wants us to seek.

He says: “(O’ my friends, that God) who by His power has held in place the sky and has covered fire with the wood; (that God), who by His power has provided light to the sun, moon, and stars, and has provided the life breaths (to the soul when it) assumes the body; (that God), who by His power sustains a creature in the womb of its mother, and the pain of the fire in mother’s womb cannot harm it, O’ Nanak, it is that (God’s) power which has provided support to this (worldly) ocean, and the waves in its water cannot do any harm to it.”(53)
The message of this salok is that it is God’s power, which is supporting earth, sky, and the stars. It is His power, which saves us in the fire of our mother’s womb. It is God who has supported the oceans and has so arranged that the waves in its waters cannot harm the earth. Therefore, if we seek God’s support no evil could harm us.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that it is God’s power, which is supporting earth, sky, and the stars. It is His power, which saves us in the fire of mother’s womb. It is He who has supported the oceans and has so arranged that the waves in its waters cannot harm the earth. Therefore, if we seek God’s support no evil could harm us. In this salok, he tells us what is the best place to go to seek His shelter and worship Him.

He says: “That God of the universe has the greatest power. His meditation is the life of all (creatures). O’ Nanak, the meditation of God is the most immaculate way of life, which is obtained in the company of saintly people.”(54)

The message of this salok is that God’s worship is the best way of life and is learnt only in the company of saints.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that God’s worship is the best way of life and is learnt only in the company of saints. In this salok, by using many pictorial metaphors he explains how by meditating on God’s Name in the company of saints one can perform even the most difficult and seemingly impossible acts.

He says: “O’ Nanak, (even if one is a tiny creature like a) mosquito, but if one seeks the support of God and meditates on Him in the company of saints, one can break the mountain (of ego. Similarly in spite of being weak like an) ant, one can cross through the mire (of worldly attachment; in spite of being handicapped like) a cripple, one can cross the (worldly) ocean; (and in spite of being in the) darkness (of ignorance) becomes the illumination (of wisdom).”(55)

The message of this salok is that if we meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints then in spite of all our weaknesses and handicaps we can accomplish most difficult tasks and swim across the worldly ocean.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints then in spite of all our weaknesses and handicaps we could accomplish most difficult tasks and swim across the worldly ocean. In this salok, he tells us about the most essential quality without which one cannot be a true saint or devotee of God.

He says: “O’ Nanak, just as is a Brahmin without frontal mark, a king without the power to command, a warrior without a weapon (doesn’t look good), similar is that Vishnu (or God’s devotee) who is without (sense of) righteousness.”(56)

The message of this salok is that just as there are some basic requirements for every profession or status the basic requirement for a devotee of God is the sense of righteousness and justice.

Now Guru Ji reverts to the question of God Himself, because many people wonder about His form and features, particularly when some people make statues of legendary Hindu gods Rama and Krishna along with their usual weapons, and symbols, and worship them as God.
Guru Ji clarifies all those concepts and says: “(O’ my friends, that God) neither carries a conch, disc, or a bludgeon, nor He is of dark skin. Wondrous is His form and He is not born. (To whatever thing or entity we may compare Him to), *Vedas* say again and again that He is not like that. That God is the highest, greatest, and limitless. That unborn (God) resides in the hearts of the saints. O’ Nanak, only very fortunate persons understand (His mystery).”(57)

The message of this *salok* is that God has no form, feature, or color and He resides in the hearts of His saints.

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji told us that God has no form, feature, or color and He resides in the hearts of His saints. In this *salok*, he comments on the difficult situation in which an ordinary human being finds him or herself. He tells us how one is surrounded on all sides by the internal and external enemies and also tells us how we can save ourselves.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends, for a person to live in this world is like) living in a jungle, where dogs, jackals and donkeys have become one’s relatives (because one is surrounded by relatives and friends who are greedy, coward, and stupid). One’s mind is caught in a very difficult place and is intoxicated with the wine of (worldly) attachment. Therefore one finds oneself in such a difficult situation where one is surrounded by the five robbers (of lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego), who are impossible to tackle. One is caught in the unbreakable sharp noose of ego and wanders about afflicted by dread, doubt and attachment. (One is drowning in such a terrible ocean) where the fire of (worldly) desire is burning and the water (of indulgence is rising like a storm) and it is impossible to cross over to the other shore. O’ Nanak, (if you want to save yourself, then) meditate on God in the company of saints, because it is only by seeking the shelter of His feet and by His grace that one can save oneself (from drowning in this terrible worldly ocean).”(58)

The message of this *salok* is that the only way to save us in this world, which is like a terrible jungle or a dreadful ocean is to join the congregation of saints and seek the shelter of God by meditating on His Name.

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji told us that the only way to save us in this world, which is like a terrible jungle or a dreadful ocean, is to join the congregation of saints and seek the shelter of God by meditating on His Name. In this *salok*, he tells us what happens when in the company of saints we sing God’s praise and seek His shelter.

He says: “O’ Nanak, when in the company of saints we sing praises of God and seek the shelter of the perfect all pervading God, that Master of the universe shows mercy and destroys all our maladies (and protects us from all pains, fears, and dangers, and we easily cross the dreadful worldly ocean).”(59)

The message of this *salok* is that if we want that all our fears and afflictions are destroyed then joining the congregation of saintly persons we should sing praises of God and seek His mercy.

In the previous so many *saloks*, Guru Ji has been advising us to join the society of saintly persons and seek the shelter of God by singing His praises in their company. However he wants to caution us against those false saints who from their dress or features might look very handsome and saintly and also speak very sweetly but within their heart is evil.
He says: “One might be very charming to look at, and may be very sweet tongued, but if (one has evil designs in one’s mind, as if) within the farm of one’s heart is the seed of enmity, then one’s bowing (or show of humility) before others is false. The saintly virtuous persons remain beware of such possibility.”(60)

The message of this salok is that simply by show of piety, humility, and sweet words, a person doesn’t become a pious person, unless one is pure in one’s heart; we should be very aware of such possibility.
In the previous salok, Guru Ji cautioned us that simply by show of piety, humility, and sweet words, one doesn’t become a pious person, unless one is pure in one’s heart; we should be very cautious about this thing. In this salok, he wants us to be aware of our daily diminishing life and not to waste it in false worldly pleasures.

Guru Ji says: “The unaware foolish man doesn’t know that one’s life breaths are decreasing day by day, beauteous body is becoming frail, and the old age is tightening its grip. (But even in this situation, one) remains involved in the frolics of one’s family and keeps harboring the hopes of enjoying the pleasures of short-lived worldly wealth. (As a result), one gets exhausted wandering in innumerable existences. Therefore, Nanak says, (O’ man, if you want to save yourself from the perpetual and painful rounds of births and deaths, then) seek the shelter of the merciful (God).”(61)

The message of this salok is that we should be aware that death is hovering over our heads; therefore we shouldn’t let ourselves be lost in the family affairs or the hopes of enjoying more worldly riches. Instead we should seek the shelter of God to save us from continuous pains of births and deaths.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that we should be aware that death is hovering over our heads; therefore we shouldn’t let ourselves be lost in the family affairs or the hopes of enjoying more worldly riches. Instead we should seek the shelter of God to save us from continuous pains of births and deaths. In this salok, he shows us how we should talk to different body parts and ourselves and motivate ourselves to meditate on God’s Name.

So talking to his own tongue, Guru Ji says: “O’ (my) tongue, enjoyer of different relishes, you love sweet dishes, but when it comes to remembering the eternal (God, you behave as if) you are dead, (and you are always eager to enter in) great conflicts. (Why don’t you) utter again and again the pure words of Gobind, Damodor, and Maadhvery (and thus remember by His various sweet names).”(62)

The message of this salok is that instead of letting our tongue always remain engaged in enjoying dainty dishes or getting involved in worldly arguments we should utilize it to repeat God’s Name.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that instead of letting our tongue always remain engaged in enjoying dainty dishes or getting involved in worldly arguments, we should utilize it to repeat God’s Name. In this salok, he tells us how the meditation of Name makes even a weak person better than a rich and powerful person, who doesn’t remember God.

Guru Ji says: “The person who remains intoxicated with the lust of a woman, or being powerful commits rapes, but never worships the lotus feet of God, accursed is the life of such a straw like insignificant person. On the other hand I say O’ ant, if meditation of God is your wealth, (then in spite of being so tiny) you are greater (and more powerful than that ego-intoxicated person) and Nanak bows before you many times.”(63)

The message of this salok is that the most humble and poor person who meditates on God’s Name is greater than even the most powerful person who remains intoxicated with his might and wealth but doesn’t remember God.
In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that the most humble and poor person who meditates on God’s Name is greater than even the most powerful person who remains intoxicated with his might and wealth, but doesn’t remember God. In this salok, he explains the reason for making such a statement.

Guru Ji says: “(One who meditates on God’s Name, on that person God shows mercy, then even though one might be bereft of any merits, one becomes full of merits, as if) from a straw one has become a mountain, and from a dried (out twig) has become a blossoming green (tree). Such a person (so overcomes all troubles, as if) instead of drowning, one safely swims across (to the other shore). One who is empty (of any merits) becomes brimful (with virtues. From being enveloped by) pitch darkness (of ignorance), one’s mind gets so illuminated with divine wisdom, (as if there is) light of millions of suns (in his mind). Nanak submits, (these are the kinds of blessings a person receives) on whom the Guru (God) becomes gracious.”(64)

The message of this salok is that one on whom God shows mercy becomes so full of merits and blessings as if from a straw one has become a mountain, and from a dried out twig, one has become a green blossoming tree.

Now it appears that at this stage some one in the audience asked Guru Ji about the merits of seeking the company or guidance from the Brahmins for their salvation.

Guru Ji replied: “Yes, one can be emancipated in the company (and guidance of a Brahmin. But in his view the true Brahmin is the one) who is perfect in doing Godly deeds (like meditating on God’s Name). But O’ Nanak, fruitless is their (own) life, whose minds are imbued with the love of worldly riches and power.”(65)

The message of this salok is that even though one might be a Brahmin, yet if one doesn’t meditate on God’s Name, and doesn’t do good deeds, what to speak of saving others, one cannot save oneself.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that even though one might be a Brahmin, yet if one doesn’t meditate on God’s Name, and doesn’t do good deeds, what to speak of saving others, one cannot save oneself. In this salok, he comments on the conduct of those Brahmins who only for the sake of feeding themselves sermon others to live an honest life, but themselves are so greedy that they don’t hesitate to cheat or harm others for their selfish ends.

He says: “For the sake of feeding themselves (or their families), they who advise others to do good deeds, (but themselves) usurp the wealth of others, create many problems in their affairs, and in their own mind is always the (fire like) desire to acquire more and more wealth, which never gets satiated, are like pigs who keep doing filthy deeds.”(66)

The message of this salok is that to harm and cheat others for the sake of sustaining oneself or one’s family is similar to the conduct of a pig, which always keeps eating filth.

Guru Ji concludes this chapter by repeating his previous immaculate advice. He says: “(O’ my friends), they who remain intoxicated with the love of God’s feet (His Name); swim across the dreadful worldly ocean. O’ Nanak, there is not an iota of doubt in this that our innumerable sins are eradicated in the company of saintly persons.”(67)
The message of this salok is that in case we want to wash off millions of our sins we should seek the company of true saints and sing God’s praises in their company.

mehlā 5 gaathāa
ik-o"kaar satgur parsaaḍ.

carpoor puhip suganDhaa paras manukh-y
dayhaa° maleena°.
majaa ruDhir darugaDhaa naanak ath garbayn
agyaanano. ||1||
parmaano parjaNt aakaaseh deep lo-a
sikhndhna.
gachhayn nain bhaarayn naanak binaa saaDhoo
na siDh-yatai. ||2||

jaano sat hovanto marno daristayn mithi-aa.
keeraṭ saath chalantho bhanant naanak saaDh
sangayn. ||3||

maa-yaYa chit bharmayn isat mītrayyKh baa°Dhvah.
labDha-ya° saaDh sangayn naanak suKh
asthaana° gopaal bhaJa°. ||4||

mailaagar sangayn nimm birakh se chandnah.
nikat basanto baa°so naanak aha° buDh
na bohtay. ||5||

gaathāa gunf gopaal katha° matha° maan
maraadnej. hata° panch sātran naanak har baanay
par-haarnej. ||6||

bachen saaDh sukh panthaa lahantha bad
karamnej. rahantaa janam marnay ramna° naanak har
keeraṭnej. ||7||

pātār bhurijaaya iharhee-ya° nah jharhee-a° payd
sapantaa.
naam bihoon bhikmataa naanak bahan jōn
baasro rainee. ||8||

bhavaa钠e saaDh sangayn labhaṭa° bad
bhaagnah.
har naam guṇ ramna° naanak sansaar saagar
nah bi-aapnej. ||9||

gaathaa goorh apaara° samijhana° birlaa janih.
sansaar kaam tajga° naanak gobind ramna°
saaDh sangmah. ||10||
sumanṭar saaDh bachnnaa kot doBh binaasnajh.
The message of this salok is that it is foolish to be arrogant about one's body, which is full of so much filth that coming in contact with it, even fragrance turns into foul smell.

Next Guru Ji tells us how important is the guidance of the Guru, even when one has the power to perform miracles.

He says: “Even if one becomes (tiny like) an atom and courses through the skies, continents, worlds and its regions in the twinkling of an eye, O' Nanak even then, without (the guidance of the saint) Guru, one’s life is not successful.”(2)

The message of the salok is that we don’t achieve success by gaining the power to perform miraculous powers, but by seeking the guidance of the Guru and meditating on God’s Name.

Now Guru Ji tells us what is the only thing, which would accompany us even after death.

He says: “(O’ my friends), understand that death is inevitable. What you see is false (and short-lived). Nanak submits that only the praise of God done in the company of saints accompanies (a person after death).”(3)

The message of this salok is that death is inevitable and after death only God’s praise accompanies a person.
Many people think that *Maya* or worldly attachment is the best means of providing happiness to our mind, however in this *salok* Guru Ji educates us about the true effect of worldly attachment and tells us about the true source of happiness.

He says: “*Maya* (the worldly attachment with one’s loving friends, and relatives) makes one wander in false illusion (of happiness). O’ Nanak, (the real) place to find peace is the congregation of saints where there is meditation on God.”(4)

The message of this *salok* is that true happiness is not obtained in the company of friends and relatives; it is obtained by meditating on God in the company of saints.

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji told us that true happiness is not obtained in the company of friends and relatives; it is obtained by meditating on God in the company of saints. Now he wants to caution against ego.

Citing a beautiful example, he says: “(O’ my friends), in the company of sandal wood tree, even the (very bitter) *Neem* tree becomes fragrant like sandal, but O’ Nanak, a bamboo tree which grows right near that sandal tree, is not at all touched because of its self-conceit. (Similarly the worst sinner becomes sanctified in a saint’s company, if he or she sheds his self-conceit. But the one who remains arrogant doesn’t gain anything even in the company of a saint.”(5)

The message of this *salok* is that even the worst sinners become purified in the company of saintly persons, if they shed their self-conceit, but the person who remains self-conceited; doesn’t gain anything even in the company of holy people.

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji told us that they who are humble become purified in the company of saintly persons, but the person who remains self-conceited, doesn’t gain anything even in the company of holy people.

Naturally the question arises what one should do if ego is one’s main problem. In this *salok*, Guru Ji describes the way to get rid of not only ego, but also the other four major impulses of lust, anger, greed, and attachment.

He says: “Weaving tales of God’s praises crushes and destroys man’s ego. O’ Nanak, when we attack with the arrow of God’s (praise), all the five enemies (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) are killed.”(6)

The message of this *salok* is that if we want to get rid of any of our weaknesses including the evil of ego, we should talk and sing about God’s praises.

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of any of our weaknesses including the evil of ego, we should talk and sing about God’s praises. However he wants to inform us that it is only by good fortune that we obtain the opportunity to listen to God’s praises from the saint Guru, which ends our painful rounds of birth and death.

He says: “The words of God’s praise from the saint (Guru tell us about) the path to peace. But this opportunity is obtained only by good fortune. O’ Nanak, by singing God’s praises one’s round of birth and death is ended.”(7)
The message of this salok is that only by good fortune we get the opportunity to listen to God’s praises from the saint (Guru), which is the best way to obtain peace and end our rounds of birth and death.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that only by good fortune we get the opportunity to listen to God’s praises from the saint (Guru), which is the best way to obtain peace and end our rounds of birth and death. In this salok, he tells us about the consequences of not availing this opportunity of listening to the saints or meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), just as those leaves of a tree, which wither and fall down, cannot be attached again to the branches of that tree, (so they keep wandering around in different places, similarly) O’ Nanak, the persons without (God’s) Name suffer through many (pains and) difficulties day and night and keep wandering in existences.”(8)

The message of this salok is that without meditating on God’s Name one loses this precious opportunity to re-unite with God and keeps suffering and wandering through myrids of existences for a long time.

In salok (7), Guru Ji told us that only by good fortune we get the opportunity to listen to God’s praises from the saint (Guru), which is the best way to obtain peace and end our rounds of birth and death. In this salok, he tells us that what to speak of the opportunity even the desire for the company of saints wells up in a person only by God’s grace.

He says: “(O’ my friends), only by good fortune, the love for the company of saints wells up (in one’s mind). O’ Nanak, by uttering God’s Name and singing His praises one is not afflicted with the pain of (living in the) worldly ocean.”(9)

The message of this salok is that we should consider it as our good fortune if we are blessed with the love and opportunity of joining the congregation of saints and singing God’s praises in that company.

Guru Ji now cautions us against taking lightly the deep and profound discourse of God (Gaatha).

He says: “(O’ my friends), the discourse of limitless God is profound and deep, only a rare person understands (its real meaning. To understand it, one has to) renounce the worldly desires. O’ Nanak, the one who sings God’s praises in the company of saints (can understand this thing).”(10)

The message of this salok is that only a very rare person who is able to renounce his or her worldly desires and sings praises of God in the company of saints understands the true meaning behind the discourse of God.

In the previous many saloks and shabads, Guru Ji has been advising us to listen to the Guru and act on his advice. In this salok, he tells us how valuable and powerful are the words of the Guru.

He says: “(So beneficial) is the sublime Mantra of Guru’s words (the Gurbani) that it destroys millions of sins. O’ Nanak, by focusing on God’s lotus feet (His Name) one is able to save all one’s generations.”(11)
The message of this salok is that if we want to save not only ourselves but also all our generations then we should meditate on God and sing His praises through the words of our Gurus (as included in Guru Granth Sahib).

In the salok (9) Guru Ji told us that we should consider it as our good fortune if we are blessed with the love and opportunity of joining the congregation of saints and singing God’s praises in that company. In this salok, he tells us how beauteous he considers even those houses in which live saintly persons and sing God’s praises.

He says: “Beauteous and pleasant is to sleep (live) in those houses in which is sung God’s praise. Emancipated are those who meditate on God. But O’ Nanak, (the company of God’ lovers is) obtained only through great good fortune.”(12)

The message of this salok is that beauteous is that place where God’s praise is sung and very fortunate are they, who meditate on God’s Name in the company of such devotees of God.

Some people try to find peace or happiness in their friends and depend upon them. But many times the friends quarrel and utter all kinds of foul words and often desert during the time of real need. Thus instead of giving pleasure, they give pain to each other. In this salok Guru Ji tells us about the friend he has found who doesn’t have any of these faults.

He says: “I have found God as my good friend who never injures my heart. Beyond estimation is the worth of His place. (I), Nanak have made that friend as the companion of my soul.”(13)

The message of this salok is that if we are looking for a friend who would never injure our feelings and would never desert us in times of need, then we should make friendship with God.
In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we are looking for a friend who would never injure our feelings and would never desert us in times of need then we should make friendship with God. In this salok, he tells us about the merits of meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “Just as with the birth of a worthy son the ill repute of a family is erased, similarly O’ Nanak, enshrining of Guru’s mantra in one’s heart and meditation on the imperishable God ferries one across the worldly ocean.”(14)

**The message of this salok is that if we want to erase all our past sins and swim across the worldly ocean, then we should enshrine Guru’s mantra in our heart and meditate on God’s Name.**

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to erase all our past sins and swim across the worldly ocean, then we should enshrine Guru’s mantra in our heart and meditate on God’s Name. In this salok, he summarizes the importance of remembering God and says: “(O’ my friends), to forsake God is (spiritual) death and to meditate on God’s Name is (to live an eternal) life. (However meditation on God) is obtained (only) in the company of saint (Guru), if it is so pre-written in one’s destiny by God.”(15)
The message of this salok is that if we want to save ourselves from spiritual death and live an eternal life, then we should seek the company of saint Guru and keep meditating on God’s Name.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that if we want to save ourselves from spiritual death and live in eternal life, then we should seek the company of saint Guru and keep meditating on God’s Name. In this salok, he illustrates with a beautiful example how the saint (Guru) helps one in getting rid of all pains in one’s life.

He says: “(O’ my friends), just as by reciting (a special chant called) Garurr mantra, a snake-charmer charms a snake and makes it teeth less; similarly the saint Guru uproots the agony of one’s mind (with the mantra of God’s Name). But O’ Nanak, (a true saint) is found only through good destiny.”(16)

The message of this salok is that if we want to get rid of all our pains and sufferings, then we should seek the company and guidance of the saint (Guru Granth Sahib Ji) and meditate on God’s Name.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we want to get rid of all our pains and sufferings then we should seek the company and guidance of the saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name. The question arises, why the guidance of the saint (Guru) is essential for meditation on God’s Name. In this salok, Guru Ji answers this question.

He says: “(O’ my friends), even though that God is pervading every where and provides shelter to all the creatures, (yet since He is invisible and has no particular form or feature, it is almost impossible to meditate on Him unless some one can help us see Him. Therefore) O’ Nanak, only by the grace of (that person or the) Guru’s sight (or guidance), we are imbued with the love (of that God and are inspired to meditate on His Name).”(17)

The message of this salok is that only by the grace and guidance of the Guru we are imbued with the love of God and are motivated to meditate on His Name.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that only by the grace and guidance of the Guru we are imbued with the love of God. In this salok, he tells about the merits of being imbued with the love of God.

He says: “Whose mind is pierced by the lotus feet of God (imbued with God’s love, that person) is blessed with all kinds of joys. But O’ Nanak, only they sing discourses in praise of God who have been so blessed by pre-ordained destiny.”(18)

The message of this salok is that by good fortune, one who is blessed with God’s love, that person enjoys all kinds of peace and happiness.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that by good fortune, one who is blessed with God’s love, that person enjoys all kinds of peace and happiness. In this salok, he tells us what other blessings one obtains when in the company of saints, one sings God’s praises.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in the company of saintly people they who utter pleasing words (in praise of God, they) are emancipated. O’ Nanak, they don’t have to take birth again in this worldly ocean.”(19)
The message of this salok is that if we don’t want to suffer in the pains of birth and death again then we should join the congregation of saintly persons and sing God’s praises in their company.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that if we don’t want to suffer in the pains of birth and death again, then we should join the congregation of saintly persons and sing God’s praises in their company. However, some people might ask, is their no benefit of studying holy books such as Vedas and Shastras? In this salok, Guru Ji answers this question?

He says: “O’ Nanak, the fortunate person, who after reading (holy books like) Vedas, Puranas, and Shastras, reflects (on the core message and) enshrines the Name of the one Creator in the mind, that person saves him or her self, and all his or her generations.”(20)

The message of this salok is that true benefit of reading holy books is that one starts meditating on God’s Name.

In this salok, Guru Ji once again stresses upon the importance of meditating on God’s Name and tells us from where this merit can be acquired.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by meditating on the Name of God of the universe, all one’s generations are saved. O’ Nanak, (this Name) is found only in the company of saints and it is only by good fortune that one sees their sight.”(21)

The message of this salok is that we should consider ourselves very fortunate if we are blessed with the company of saintly persons and we meditate on God’s Name in their company.

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that we should consider ourselves very fortunate if we are blessed with the company of saintly persons and we meditate on God’s Name in their company. In this salok, he explains why one should consider oneself very fortunate if one is blessed with the company of saints.

He says: “O’ Nanak, only when one is blessed with good fortune on one’s brow that one obtains the company of saintly persons, where one fully renounces all one’s evils and firmly acquires all the righteous qualities.”(22)

The message of this salok is that one should consider oneself fortunate if one starts going to the congregation of saintly persons and starts acquiring divine qualities by meditating on God’s Name.

In salok (17), Guru Ji told us that only by the grace and guidance of the Guru we are imbued with the love of God and are motivated to meditate on His Name. In this salok, he once again stresses on this point.

He says: “(God) who was there (in the past), is present now and would be there (in the future), who is the destroyer and provider and is pervading in all. O’ Nanak, deem only the saints as the true means of falling in love with Him.”(23)

The message of this salok is that it is only through the saint (Guru) that one is imbued with God’s love.
Guru Ji now concludes this discourse on God by commenting on the fate of those who forsaking the jewel like precious words of the Guru, indulge in the false worldly pleasures and beauties.

He says: "(O’ my friends), bliss giving are the jewels of wisdom uttered by the saints, (but forsaking these jewels, they who) are absorbed in the false worldly pleasures, (which are short lived like the color of) Kusumbha, are afflicted with disease and sorrow; O’ Nanak they don’t find peace even in their dreams."(24)

The message of this salok is that there is no lasting peace and happiness in false worldly pleasures. Everlasting peace is only obtained by listening and acting on Guru’s advice.
This chapter is entitled Phunhaas, because in this style of poetry there is sometimes a word or phrase which is repeated again and again in each stanza of the couplet. In this composition the word Har Haan is being repeated again and again. Guru Ji begins this chapter by first of all glorifying God.
He says: “O’ inaccessible God, in Your hand is an invisible pen which keeps on writing the destiny of the creatures on their foreheads. O’ my most beauteous God of indescribable beauty, You are involved with every one. No one can sing (all) Your praise from one’s tongue. (I) Nanak have been enchanted seeing Your sight and I am a sacrifice to You.”(1)

**The message of this Phunha is that God is the writer of our destiny; He is all-powerful and no one can find the limit of His power or glory.**

Guru Ji now expresses the extent of his love and the depth of his cravings for God. He says: “I wish that sitting in the congregation of saints I may sing praises of my (Beloved) and offer to Him all my ornamentation, and surrender this entire life of mine. Thirsting in the hope of His sight, I have spread the couch (of my heart). But O’ my friend, only if we are blessed with good destiny on our forehead that we attain to our Beloved (God).”(2)

**The message of this Phunha is that we should always crave to sing God’s praise in the saintly congregation with true love, but should be aware that if we are fortunate only then we are blessed with the sight of our Beloved.**

Now using the metaphor of a bride, he tells us when our rituals and adorning of holy garbs is of any avail. He says: “O’ my mate, even if we have decorated ourselves with everything including eye shadow, necklace, and betel-leaf, and have adorned ourselves with all the sixteen kinds of ornaments and put antimony powder in the eyes. But only if the Groom comes to our house (the heart), that we obtain every thing. Otherwise without the Groom, every thing goes waste.’’(3)

**The message of this Phunha is that all our worships and other ostentations of God’s devotion are worthwhile, only if we are able to experience the presence of God in our heart, otherwise it is all a waste of time.**

In the previous Phunha, using the metaphor of a bride, Guru Ji stated that all our worships, and other ostentations of God’s devotion are worthwhile only if we are able to experience the presence of God in our heart. Continuing the same metaphor, Guru Ji describes how fortunate that person feels who experiences the presence of God in his/her heart.

He says: “Very fortunate is that bride in the house (of whose heart) abides her Groom (God). All decoration befits her and she is deemed a truly wedded and united bride. When my craving (for His union) got fulfilled, I too enjoyed a carefree sleep (and became free from all worries). Because O’ my mate, when (God) my Groom comes into the house (of my heart), I feel that I have obtained everything.’’(4)

**The message of this Phunha is that when we experience the presence of our Beloved God in our heart, we feel absolutely carefree and feel that all our desires have been fulfilled.**

In the previous Phunha, using the metaphor of a young bride, Guru Ji described how blessed he felt when his desire was fulfilled and his Groom came to reside in his heart. In this Phunha, he continues the same metaphor. As if talking to his friend, he describes the state of his mind before he was blessed with God’s union and when his craving was fulfilled.
He says: “(O’ my friend, before the union with my Groom I used to have) so much desire to meet Him (that many times I used to wonder), will my desire be ever fulfilled? (I used to remind myself that) if the true Guru becomes kind then we obtain that perfect (God. So even though I had) so many faults in my body (as if it was entirely) covered with faults, yet when the true Guru became merciful (all my faults were dispelled) and my mind became steady.”(5)

The message of this Phunha is that even if we are full of sins and faults we should seek the shelter and blessings of our true Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and follow his advice. One day we would be blessed with God’s union.

Guru Ji concluded the previous Phunha, by stating that when the true Guru became merciful all his faults were dispelled and his mind became steady. In this Phunha he describes what else happened.

He says: “O’ Nanak, say that this world is like a dreadful and difficult to cross ocean, but the one who has meditated on the limitless God, the true Guru has helped that one to cross over (this ocean,and) when that person attained to the Perfect (God), his or her cycle of birth and death was ended. O’ my friend, it was from the true Guru that I obtained the immortalizing Name of God.”(6)

The message of the Phunha is that if want to swim across the worldly ocean and end our cycle of births and deaths then following the advice of our true Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) we should meditate on God’s Name.

In the previous Phunha, Guru Ji stated that when his Guru united him with the Perfect (God), his cycle of birth and death was ended. In this Phunha, he shares with us what kind of bliss and the happiness he is now enjoying.

He says: “(O’ my friends, I now feel so happy and fortunate, as if) in my hand is Padam (the sign of lotus, predicting great fortune), and within the courtyard (of my heart) is the fragrance of bliss. O’ my dear mate, around my neck is the jewel of Name, seeing which all pain flees away. I am residing in the company of God in whose hand is the commodity of all pleasures, and in whose hand always reside all the miraculous powers and (all) the nine treasures (of wealth).”(7)

The message of this Phunha is that if the true Guru becomes merciful then beside the jewel of Name we enjoy so much peace and bliss as if we are the most fortunate person and we have obtained all kinds of pleasures.

In the previous Phunha, Guru Ji told us that if the true Guru becomes merciful then beside the jewel of Name we enjoy so much peace and bliss as if we are the most fortunate persons and we have obtained all kinds of pleasures. In this Phunha, he tells us how even the worst sinners who would otherwise be subjected to the severest punishment and shame can become immaculate and save not only themselves but also their generations.

He says: “(O’ my friends), they who enter into illegitimate sex with others’ women (or men), are subjected to utmost shame. They, who daily go to steal others’ wealth, cannot hide their sins (for long, and are ultimately punished). But if one meditates on God’s praises, one (not only saves oneself, but also) ferries across all one’s generations. Yes, O’ my friends, they who listen or reflect on the all pervading God, become sanctified.”(8)
The message of this Phunha is that if we want that all our sins may be washed off, then we should meditate on God’s Name and reflect on His virtues.

In this Phunha, to describe his search and craving for God Guru Ji uses the metaphor of a young bride, who on a dark night, when lightening is shining in all directions, is searching for her groom all by herself. He also tells us how and in what circumstances we are able to see the sight of our beloved God.

Putting himself in the situation of that lonely bride wandering in jungles in search of her beloved spoushe, Guru Ji says: “Above me is the sky, which looks graceful (with the moon and the stars), below me is the earth which appears beauteous (with green grass) and in all the ten directions is flashing the lightening, which is illuminating my face. But I am searching around in foreign lands, wondering when shall I be able to find (God) my Groom. (My inner voice says that) if we are so blessed in our destiny only then we (obtain and then) merge in the sight (of our beloved Groom).”(9)

The message of this Phunha is that even though this world is like a jungle, yet if such is our destiny then we can still unite with our beloved God by meditating on God’s Name.

According to many translators (including Faridkot Steek, and the one by Giani Harbans Singh Ji), fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji uttered this Phunha on the completion of the tank and the city of Amritsar and named the former as Ramdas Sar, and the city as Ramdas Pur in the loving memory of his beloved father and Guru Ram Das Ji. He was so touched by its beauty and the spirit of dedication with which people participated in its completion, that he felt, as if God Himself designed and built the entire structure and the complex. To enhance its spiritual atmosphere, he set up the tradition of round the clock singing of God’s praises in the building called Hari mandir. Perhaps that is why he uttered this Phunha to express his gratitude to God and also blessed it that who so ever would bathe in it (both physically and spiritually) all that person’s sins would be washed off. However since this explanation seems to go against the basic tenets of Sikhism which consider bathing at any holy place as useless, some translators (particularly Prof. Sahib Singh) interpret Ramdas Sar as the tank of the servants of God, and Ramdas Pur as the city of the servants of God. However to the humble understanding of the author, since we daily pray for ablution at Amritsar, the former explanation is more appealing.

Very lovingly addressing the city of Ramdas Pur (now called Amritsar), Guru Ji says: “(O’ Ramdas Pur), I have seen all (holy) places, but there is no other place like you. It is because the Creator-God has established you that you look so beauteous. O’ the city of Ram Das, of un paralleled beauty; your population is dense and limitless. O’ my friend, Nanak says, all our sins go away if we bathe in the pool of Ram Das (and sing God’s praises in the Hari mandir).”(10)

The message of this Phunha is that if we bathe with true faith and sing praises of God joining the congregation in the Hari mandir at Amritsar, then all our sins can be washed off. (However due to special historical and spiritual significance of the place this is an exception to the general tenet of Sikh faith regarding bathing at holy places).

In Phunha (9), Guru Ji told us that it is no use wandering in forests in search of God. We should simply keep meditating on God’s Name under the guidance of the Guru. In this
Phunha, he gives us this guidance and citing the metaphor of a Chaatrik (the pied cuckoo) tells us how like that bird we should crave for God’s Name.

He says: “Just as a Chaatrik consciously (searches for the rain drop, similarly) we should have in our mind a longing for that beloved (God) of ours. We should always long to see Him (with whom we are in intense love and) to whom are attached our life-breaths. Just as for the sake of (one rain) drop, a Chaatrik wanders from jungle to jungle, similarly O’ my mate, the devotee of God asks for the gift of (God’s) Name; Nanak is a sacrifice (to such a devotee).”(11)

The message of this Phunha is that like the Chaatrik we should be thirsty for the gift of God’s Name.

In the previous Phunha, Guru Ji told us that like the Chaatrik we should be thirsty for the gift of God’s Name. In this Phunha, he explains how really to be imbued with and enjoy God’s love and know that we have obtained God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), of unparalleled beauty is the heart of (God our) friend; its secret cannot be understood. (However the saints who are the seekers) of the merits of the limitless God, through them we can recognize the essence (of God’s virtues. That essence is that if one so intensely loves God, that one’s) heart is absorbed in God’s heart, (then one’s soul) is imbued with immense love (for God. In this way), O’ my mate, if you conquer the mercurial thieves (of your mind, such as greed and attachment), then you would obtain the true wealth (of God’s Name).”(12)

The message of this Phunha is that only when we truly love God from the core of our heart that we obtain and enjoy the wealth of God’s Name (and love).

In the previous Phunha, Guru Ji told us that only when we truly love God from the core of our heart that we obtain and enjoy the wealth of God’s Name (and love). However when we are truly imbued with the love of some one, many times when we see our beloved we become so mesmerized that we become speech less and don’t know what to do next. In this Phunha, Guru Ji describes one such incident of encounter with his Beloved God.

He says: “(O’ my friend, seeing my Beloved) in the dream, I suddenly stood up, (but I was so dazzled that I didn’t know what to do next. Now I regret) why didn’t I catch hold of His gown? (I think that perhaps) seeing that handsome Being sitting there, my mind was completely mesmerized. Now I am searching for His footprints. O’ my friends, tell me how could I find Him? Yes O’ my mate, tell me that way, by which I may obtain to my Beloved.”(13)

The message of this Phunha is that when we are imbued with the intense love for God, some times it so happens that even when He comes in front of us we are so wonderstruck that we lose our senses and forget to fully seize the moment. But when God disappears we regret missing the opportunity and again crave for His sight.
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| 1363 | harihaan 
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ghatee-ai. ||14||
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lay-ay saa'th. ||15||
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parabh kaarnay. 
panch saataaveh doot 
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teekhun baan chalaay-ay 
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Dha-ya-ee-ai. 
hariaan mahaan 
bikhaadee ghaat pooran 
gur paa-ee-ai. ||16||
| | satgur keenee daat 
mool na nikhuta-ee. 
kaavahu bhunchahu sabh 
gurmukh chhut-ee. 
amrit naam niDhaan 
dita'aa tus har. 
naanak saadaa araaDh 
kaday na jaa'hi mar. ||17||
| | jithai jaa-ay bhaqat 
so than suhaavaa-aa. 
saglay ho-ay sukh 
har naam Dhi-aavnaa. 
je-a karan jaikaar 
ningak mu-ay pach. 
saajan man aanaad 
naanak naam jap. ||18||
| | paavan paatit 
puneet kataj 
naheee sayvee-ai. 
jhoothai rang khu-aar 
kahaaDh lag khayvee-ai. 
harichand-ueree paykh 
kaahay sukh maani-aa. 
hariaan 
ha-o baliaharee 
tinn je 
gargahi jaani-aa. ||19||
| | keenay karam anayk 
gavaar bikaar ghan. 
mahaa darugaDhat 
vaas satth 
kaa chhaar tan. 
fit'a-o garab 
gubaar maran 
nah jaan-ee. 
hariaan 
harichand-ueree 
paykh 
kaahay sach 
maan-ee. ||20||
| | jis kee poojai a-oDh 
tsisa ka-un 
raakh-ee. 
baidak anik upaav 
kahaaDh la-o bhaakh-ee. 
ayko chaayt 
gavaar kaaj 
jaayrai aavee. 
hariaan 
bin naavai tan 
chhaar baritha sabh 
jaav-ee. ||21||
| | a-ukhaDh naam apaar 
amosak peej-ee. 
mil mil khaaveh 
sant sagal 
ka-o deej-ee. 
jisai paraapat 
ho-ay tisai 
hee paavnay. 
hariaan 
ha-o baliaharee 
tin' je 
har rang raavnaay. ||22||

It is the same light
In the previous *Phunha*, citing a beautiful example Guru Ji described how the one who is truly in love with God feels when one is unable to behold and listen about one’s Beloved.

In this *Phunha*, he takes the opposite side and describes how undesirable are even the body parts of that person who forsakes God and doesn’t care to go and see the saint Guru.

He says: “The eyes, which do not see the sight of the saint (the Guru), always remain in agony (seeing the undesirable worldly things). The ears, which do not hear the melody of the word (of the Guru, are deaf, as if they) have been sealed shut. The tongue that does not meditate on God’s Name ought to be cut bit by bit. (Because) O’ my mate, when we forsake God we are diminishing (in spiritual merit) day after day.”(14)

The message of this *Phunha* is that instead of wasting our life in false worldly pursuits and pleasures we should make use of every faculty and limb of our body in remembering and uttering the Name of our beloved God.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji advised us that instead of wasting our life in false worldly pursuits and pleasures we should make use of every faculty and limb of our body in remembering and uttering the Name of our beloved God. However in this *Phunha*, using the example a bumblebee Guru Ji describes how man is caught in worldly attachments.

He says: “(Just as) when a bumblebee is captivated by the intoxicating fragrance (of a lotus flower) its wings are caught in the petals of the flower and involved in those petals the bee forgets its joyful flights from one flower to the other. (Similar is the state of an ordinary human being who is lost in the intoxication of one or more false worldly pleasures or attachments. Rare is such a saintly friend who can break (open) one’s difficult knot (of worldly involvements). O’ Nanak, it is only the venerable Master of the earth, who can re-unite the separated ones (with Him)).”(15)

The message of this *Phunha* is that it is only God who can liberate us from our intricate worldly involvements and re-unite us back with Him.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji told us that it is only God, who can liberate us from our intricate worldly involvements and re-unite us back with Him. The natural response of Guru following persons to this advice would be to develop love for God. However there still remains a problem. Even though, we may try to break away from our outward worldly involvements yet our own internal enemies, the impulses for lust, greed, and attachment etc. would stand in our way. In this *Phunha*, Guru Ji puts himself in that situation and then comes up with a solution to that problem.

He says: “I run about in myriad directions to win God’s love. But the five demons (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) trouble me (so much that I don’t know); in what way I can subdue them. (I have realized that the only way is that) we should aim at them the sharp arrows of meditating on God’s Name. Yes O’ my mate, when we obtain (the guidance of the) perfect Guru (we learn the way) to kill these most trouble-some enemies.”(16)
The message of this *Phunha* is that our own internal passions are the biggest obstacles in the way of our spiritual attainment. The only way to overcome these is to meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji told us that the only way to overcome our internal enemies is to meditate on God’s Name under Guru’s guidance. In this *Phunha*, he tells us more about the virtues of God’s Name and how to use this gift.

He says: “(O’ my friends, the gift of God’s Name) bestowed by the true Guru never falls short. Even after enjoying and sharing with others the Guru following person is emancipated (from worldly evils). Nanak says (O’ my friend), if being pleased, God has given you the Immortalizing treasure of His Name then always meditate on God, (by doing so) you would never die (a spiritual death and would ultimately be united with God).”(17)

The message of this *Phunha* is that if we want, that we never die a spiritual death, and we maybe united with God then we should seek the shelter of the Guru, and pray for the gift of meditation on God’s Name.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji stated that the gift of God’s Name bestowed by the true Guru never falls short. Even after enjoying and sharing with others the Guru following person is emancipated. In this *Phunha*, he tells us how the devotee of God blesses the place wherever he or she goes and what glory and bliss such a person enjoys by meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “Wherever the devotee (of God) goes that place becomes beauteous (and blessed). Peace prevails all around there (because in the company of the devotee, many others start) meditating on God’s Name. All other beings hail the devotee but the slanderers are consumed (with jealousy). But still O’ Nanak by meditating on God’s Name happiness prevails in the minds of good people.”(18)

The message of this *Phunha* is that wherever the devotees of God go in spite of the jealousy of some, they make that place pleasant and peaceful by meditating themselves on God’s Name and inspiring others to do the same.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji told us that wherever the devotees of God go they make that place pleasant and peaceful by meditating themselves on God’s Name and inspiring others to do the same. However out of his humility, Guru Ji includes himself among those who never care to remember God and then wonders for how long this pursuit of false worldly pleasures is going to last?

He says: “We don’t ever serve (or worship that God) who can sanctify the worst sinners. I wonder, for how long we could keep rowing the boat (of our life, which is) being wasted in the false show (of worldly pleasures)? Why we have felt joy on seeing (those pleasures, which are short-lived like) castles in the sky. O’ my mate, I am a sacrifice to those who have been recognized in God’s court (for meditating on God’s Name).”(19)

The message of this *Phunha* is that we shouldn’t fall for false worldly pleasures. Instead, we should meditate on God’s Name so that we obtain honor in God’s court.

In *Phunha* (17), Guru Ji told us that wherever the devotees of God go they make that place pleasant and peaceful by meditating themselves on God’s Name and inspiring others to
do the same. In this *Phunha*, he shows the opposite side of the picture and describes the conduct and fate of some self-conceited fools who remain involved in evil deeds.

He says: “Some foolish and uncivilized persons do many sinful deeds. They live amidst the most sinful atmosphere, and their body (is so full of bad habits, as if it has) become a heap of ashes. But still such a person roams around puffed up in ego and never realizes that soon he or she may have to face death. O’ my friend, why seeing (false illusions which are like) castles in the air, you deem them as true?”(20)

The message of this *Phunha* is that we shouldn’t let our life be wasted in the sinful and false worldly pleasures. Instead, we should remember that any time death may overtake us, so we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the only thing that can save us from future suffering.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji advised us that we shouldn’t let our life be wasted in the sinful and false worldly pleasures. Instead we should remember that any time death may overtake us so we should meditate on God’s Name, which is the only thing which can save us from future suffering. In this *Phunha*, he reminds us of another basic truth.

He says: “(O’ my friend), no one can save the one whose end of life has come. A physician may try myriads of ways, but cannot utter words (of hope, indefinitely). O’ foolish person, meditate only on one (God) who could really help you. O’ my mate without (meditating on God’s) Name the body is (worthless like) dust and it would all go waste.”(21)

The message of this *Phunha* is that when our time of death arrives no one can save us; only God’s Name is of use to us in the end.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji told us that when our time of death arrives nothing could save us; only God’s Name is of use to us in the end. In this *Phunha*, he describes the virtues of the medicine of Name, and how it can be obtained.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the medicine of Name is of limitless benefit. This is a priceless elixir, which you should drink. Joining together, the saints take this (medicine themselves and) distribute to all (who are present there). However, only those persons are blessed with this (gift) who are destined to receive it. Therefore O’ my friend, I am a sacrifice to those who enjoy the love of God’s Name.”(22)

The message of this *Phunha* is that God’s Name is a priceless elixir, and we should consider ourselves very fortunate, if by joining the congregation of saints, we can avail ourselves of this opportunity.

In the previous *Phunha*, Guru Ji told us that the medicine of Name is of limitless benefit. This is a priceless elixir, which you should drink. Joining together the saints take this (medicine themselves and) distribute to all. In this *Phunha*, Guru Ji describes the spiritual miracles, which happen when the devotees of God get together.

He says: “(O’ my friends, when the saints get together, assume that) assembly of physicians has got together. Then the medicine (of Name being distributed) proves beneficial to all because God Himself stands amidst them. Whatever step they take that proves to be the right deed. O’ my friend, then every kind of sorrow, ailment and sin is removed from the body (of the devotees participating in that congregation).”(23)
The message of this Phunha is that when joining the congregation of saints, we meditate on God’s Name with full devotion and concentration; we are cured of all our ailments and agonies.

It is the same light
This new chapter is titled *Chaubolai*, because the stanzas are four phrases each. It is believed that this chapter is based on the sermon given by Guru Arjan Dev Ji to his devotee named *Samman*, resident of village *Shabazpur* in India and his three sons, *Moosan*, *Jamaal*, and *Patang*.

In the first two stanzas, Guru Ji explains what a priceless and unique thing is true love for God. He cites the example of king *Raavan*, who was blessed with ten heads because he had ten times offered his head in devotion to god *Shiva*.

Guru Ji says: “O’ *Samman*, if it was possible to trade true love for money then a king like *Raavan* (who ruled over golden Sri Lanka could have purchased love of god Shiva for any amount of money and he) wouldn’t have cut off and surrendered his head (ten times) for Shiva’s blessings.”(1)

Describing the state of the heart of a person who is truly imbued with the love of his or her Beloved, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), one whose heart is absorbed in God’s love, (becomes so totally absorbed and united with Him) that not even a mustard’s seed distance remains between that person and his or her Beloved (God). Such a person’s mind is pierced through with the lotus feet (the loving memory of God). But one realizes this thing only if one’s mind is truly attuned to his or her beloved (God).”(2)

Next addressing *Samman’s* son *Moosan*, Guru Ji describes how insignificant he considers even the biggest troubles as compared to true love for God. He says: “O’ *Moosan*, I consider (troubles like) roaming around sea (shores), mountains, forests, jungles, and all the nine regions of the earth as insignificant as only one step in the journey of God’s love.”(3)

Describing, how the true lovers of God always remain absorbed in the love of their beloved, Guru Ji says: “O’ *Moosan*, when the loving light of moon is spread over all the sky (and the world is enjoying the bliss of this cool comfort), the black bees pierced and bound by (the fragrance of) the lotus remain clinging to it (unmindful of the moon light. Similarly the lovers of God remain attuned to Him unmindful of any other worldly pleasures).”(4)

In the previous stanza (3), Guru Ji described how insignificant are the efforts of roaming around mountains and jungles as compared to true love for God. In this stanza, he similarly tells how insignificant are all kinds of worships and penances as compared to true love for God. He says: “O’ *Moosan*, I am ready to sacrifice all the happiness, comfort, honor, and pride of any worships, penances, or austerities, in exchange for an instant of love (for my beloved God).”(5)
However commenting on the general state of the world, Guru Ji says: “O’ Moosan, this world is dying and getting deceived, but it doesn’t understand this mystery. Therefore, it has not been pierced (by the love for God), and is entangled in false (worldly) affairs.”(6)

We generally feel very sad and depressed when our worldly possessions are lost or stolen, which we may recover or re-acquire after some time. Guru Ji wants to tell us about the real loss, which we can never recover. He says: “O’ Moosan, when we happen to burn (or some how lose) our house or riches, we feel utterly sad and depressed on being separated from these. But) we are truly deceived only when we forsake the merciful Being.”(7)

Now Guru Ji describes some of the traits and qualities of the true lovers of God. He says: “O’ Moosan, they whose object of life is the love of God, always cherish God’s feet (His Name) in their minds. O’ Nanak, lovers of God go nowhere else (except the congregation of saints, where God is being remembered).”(8)

However Guru Ji cautions us against the wavering of our mind and wants us to always remain humble. Citing a beautiful metaphor, he says: “O’ Jamaal, (man’s) mercurial mind wants to (accomplish many difficult tasks, as if it wants to) scale myriad of extremely high mountains (and feel proud. But ultimately) one feels very miserable in one’s heart. (But out of) the effort of lowly mud, which has immense humility, springs forth a beautiful lotus.”(9)

Now describing how much he himself loves God and doesn’t want anything to come in between him and his Beloved, Guru Ji once again addresses Moosan, and says: “O’ Moosan, (my Beloved) has lotus like eyes bedecked with black eye powder, a moon like (beauteous) face, and captivating mind; when I am absorbed in enjoying the love of my darling, I want to break into pieces even the (costliest) necklace, (which comes in between me and my Beloved).”(10)

Guru Ji concludes this discourse, by citing the world famous example of the self-sacrificing love of a moth for the light. He says: “(O’ my friends, the devotee) who gets so absorbed in the loving devotion of his or her beloved (God) that he or she loses even the consciousness of the body, O’ Nanak, such a person becomes famous in the world like the moth (who burns itself to death allured by the light of a lamp).”(11)

The message of this chapter is that if we want to obtain true glory and enjoy true bliss then we should have such deep, profound, and intense love for our beloved God that like a moth we should be willing and eager to sacrifice our body, and very existence for obtaining union with Him.
It is believed that devotee Kabir Ji was born in a Muslim family, but he became an orphan at a very early age and was raised by Hindu parents who were weavers by profession. So he was familiar with the ritualistic ways of both faiths.

Therefore, he openly exposed the futility of many rituals of both faiths. During one of his long journeys, Guru Nanak Dev Ji collected many of the hymns and couplets uttered by him, which Guru Arjan Dev Ji included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji. From a cursory interpretation of the individual saloks, it might some time appear that they don’t match with the philosophy of the rest of Guru Granth Sahib. But as urged by Prof. Sahib Singh, we shouldn’t draw any conclusion from the literal interpretation of individual saloks. We have to understand them together with others in their particular context and chain of thoughts and have to draw the conclusion or the message from the entire chain. Therefore
instead of each salok the message portion has been postponed till the end of a particular chain or division as given in Guru Granth Darpan, by Prof. Sahib Singh.

In those days (and to a great extent even now), many people used to have a rosary in their hands to show off that they are always meditating on God’s Name by counting beads on a rosary. Kabir Ji rejected this fashion and when asked about his rosary, he said: “O’ Kabir, the word of God on my tongue is my rosary. (This kind of rosary has been giving) peace and comfort to all the devotees from the beginning and before the start of all ages.”(1)

As noted earlier Kabir Ji was raised by a weaver family, which was considered very low as per Hindu caste system. Therefore people used to make fun of him. Responding to such ridicule, he says: “O’ Kabir, every body laughs at my caste. But I am a sacrifice to this caste, because of which I have meditated on my Creator. (Had I been born in a high caste, I might have probably remained arrogant about my high caste, and would not have cared to worship God).”(2)

Many times when we are in a difficult situation, we waver from one thought to another and wonder what we may do to obtain peace and comfort. Putting himself in such a state, Kabir Ji says to himself (actually us): “O’ Kabir, why do you waver and why do you let your mind vacillate? God is the Master of all comforts, so drink the essence of His Name.”(3)

Now describing the importance and the value of the God’s Name Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, even the golden earrings studded with jewels look like burnt straws in the ears of those in whose heart is not (enshrined God’s) Name.”(4)

Kabir Ji now comments on the general nature of human beings who keep wandering in one or the other form of self-conceit or ego whether it is one’s wealth, power, high caste, or even apparent righteousness. Therefore, he says: “O’ Kabir, there is only a rare person who (has so completely shed off his or her self- conceit, as if that person) is dead while alive. Becoming fear- free, such a person utters God’s praises and says; “wherever I see, I see that same God.”(5)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji noted that there is only a rare person who (has so completely shed of his or her self- conceit, as if he or she) is dead while alive. In this salok, he tells what happens when one is able to still one’s ego. Describing his personal experience, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, when my sense of “I am ness’ was so completely erased, (as if it had died), bliss prevailed (in my mind). After that I obtained my God and my companions (sense organs) also started worshipping God.”(6)

It is a common observation that people always think themselves as most virtuous and consider others as much worse than them. However teaching us humility, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, I am the worst of all; except me, all are good. Whosoever has realized like this, that one alone is my (true) friend.”(7)

As noted in salok (5), all human beings keep wandering in one or the other form of self-conceit or ego, whether it be of one’s wealth, power, high caste, or even apparent righteousness, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (this sense of ego) tried to tempt me also in different guises, but I was saved by my Guru. Therefore, I saluted (and thanked) him for that.”(8)
Many times we feel that if we don’t have such and such enemies and if we kill those temptations then there would be all peace and happiness. In this salok, Kabir Ji tells us what is the single most thing, which we need to kill or conquer, to which no body would object, and everybody would praise us. He says: “O’ Kabir, we should kill that (ego), stilling which would bring peace. (For doing this) every one would call you good, and no one would mind (your humility).” (9)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that every body praises them who kill their ego. In this salok, he comments upon the fate of those who instead of killing their ego, wake up in the night and taking ropes in their hands rob travelers.

Commenting on the conduct and fate of such people, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, when the nights become dark, the evil men rise up and holding nooses in their hands, they run about (in search of victims). You should assume that (such evil persons) are accursed (and marked for severe punishment) by God.” (10)

Kabir chandan kaa birvaa bhalaa bayrheha-o dhaak palaas.
o-ay bhee chandan ho-ay rahay basay jo chandan paas. ||11||

Kabir baa’s badaa-ee boodi-aa i-o maat doobahu ko-ay,
chandan kai niktay basai baa’s suganDh na ho-ay. ||12||

Kabir deen gavaa-i-aa gunee si-o gunee na chaalee saath.
paa-ay kuhaarhaa maari-aa gaafal apunai haath. ||13||

Kabir jah jah ha-o firi-o ka-utak thaa-o thaa-ay.
ik raam sanayhee baahraa oojar mayrai bhaan-ay.
||14||

Kabir santhan kee jhungee-aa bhalay bhaath kustee gaa-o.
aag laga-o th Dhulhar jih naahee har ko nna-o. ||15||

Kabir saakat aisaa hai jaisee lasan kee khaan.
kony balthay khaa-ee-ai pargat ho-ay nidaan.
||17||

Kabir maa-i-aa dolnee pavan jhakolanhaar.
santhahu maakhan khaa-i-aa chhaachh pee-ai sansaar. ||18||
In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji noted that those who roam about in the night looking for the opportunity to rob and harm innocent persons are accursed by God. In this *salok*, he illustrates with a metaphor who are the kind of people who are considered good and virtuous. He says: “O’ Kabir, blessed is the tiny plant of sandal, because even though surrounded by useless wild grass and plants, (yet in its company) those (plants) also become fragrant like (sandal), which remain in the vicinity of sandal. (In other words they also become virtuous who remain in the company of saintly persons).”(11)

In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji stated that those plants also become fragrant like sandal, which remain in the vicinity of sandal. However there is one exception, that of a Bamboo tree, which doesn’t acquire the fragrance no matter how close it may be to the sandal plant. Giving the reason for this state and advising us not to be like a bamboo, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, even though, (the Bamboo tree) resides near the sandal (plant, yet it) doesn’t acquire any fragrance because it is drowned in its ego; (similarly O’ my friends), none of you should let yourself be ruined (by your self-conceit, thinking that you have nothing to learn from the humble saintly persons).”(12)

The message of Kabir’s Saloks from 1 to 12 is that ego is our worst enemy and the cause of our ruin. It is ego, which makes us commit many sins and won’t let us acquire any virtues, even though we may be residing near a saintly person. The only way to conquer this enemy is to meditate on God’s Name.

In *Saloks* 1 to 12, Kabir Ji told us that ego is our worst enemy, and the only way to conquer this enemy is to meditate on God’s Name. Naturally the question arises, then why don’t people do that? If we ask them, people would generally reply that they have no time for it, they are busy in acquiring enough money to take care of their families, and are involved in so many worldly affairs. In other words, for the sake of the world, they have let go their basic divine duty or their faith. But in the end, people find out that none of their worldly friends, relatives, and wealth for which they had abandoned their faith accompany them, or prove of any use.

Commenting on this situation, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (one) has lost one’s faith for the sake of the world, but the world does not accompany one (in the end. One’s situation is like that of) a foolish unaware person who strikes his or her own foot with an axe (and harms him or her self).”(13)

Next describing the state of the world and how he feels about it, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, where ever I roam around, I see worldly shows and plays being staged. But for me, that place is a barren land which is without the presence of a (saint) lover of God. (Because there is only worldly entertainment, but no meditation on God’s Name).”(14)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that for him that place is a barren land which is without the presence of a God’s saint. Elaborating on his love for those places where saints reside and revulsion for those where there is no meditation on God, he says: “O: Kabir, (for me) pleasing is the little hut of a saint, and like an oven is the village where reside the evil doers. (I say), may that lofty white mansions be burnt in fire where there is no (meditation on) God’s Name.”(15)

Continuing to express his love and admiration for the saints, Kabir Ji goes to the extent of saying that we need not even cry at the death of a saint. Which apparently seems so unusual, but he gives a very logical reason.

He says: “O’ Kabir, why we need to cry at the death of a saint, who is going to his own home (the mansion of his Beloved God. Instead O’ my friends), cry at the death of the poor worshipper of Maya (who for the sake of worldly wealth), lets him or herself be sold from one shop to the other (keeps killing his or her conscience for one worldly reason or another and then suffers through many existences).”(16)

Therefore describing how undesirable is the company of a worshipper of Maya (worldly riches and power), Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir: a worshipper of Maya is like a room full of garlic. Even if we eat it sitting in a corner, its (foul odor) becomes manifest in the end. (Similar is the effect of association with a worshipper of Maya).”(17)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji compared the worshippers of Maya to foul smelling garlic. However he doesn’t mean that the world is all-evil. It has so much virtue in it that by properly living in it and making the right use of one’s life breaths, one can attain to God. He cites the example of old Indian custom of churning yogurt with a wooden spindle, which if properly done brings out the butter or the essence of all useful energy in the milk.

He says: “O’ Kabir, this world is like a churning pot and the air (in our breaths) is like the churning spindle. The saints (who have used their life breaths to churn the milk and meditate, they) have enjoyed the butter (of God’s Name), but the rest of the world has (wasted its life breaths in vain, as if) it got only the left-over butter-milk to drink.”(18)

In the previous couplet Kabir Ji used the metaphor of churning butter out of yogurt to obtain divine essence by meditating on God’s Name. However in this salok, Kabir Ji wants us to remember that just as while churning milk we have to keep adding cold water from time to time and have to churn it slowly, similarly while meditating on God’s Name we have to do it with a sense of peace and poise, and not to rush through it mechanically.

He says: “O’ Kabir, the world is like a churning pot, (while living in it we should ensure that our breaths flow like the stream of iced water. (In other words, while living in the world, we should keep meditating on God’s Name in a very cool and calm manner). They who have thus churned (the milk in a patient manner) have enjoyed the butter (of peace and divine bliss, while others have remained empty like the churning stick).”(19)

Now Kabir Ji comments on the nature of Maya itself. He says: “O’ Kabir, this Maya (the attachment worldly riches and power, is like a female) thief who steals from place to place to fill her own shop. But the one person, who doesn’t get robbed by her is Kabir (who has remained unaffected by it, as if) he has driven it twelve journeys (away from his abode).”(20)
It is the same light

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji remarked that except him most of the people are being deceived by Maya (the attachment for worldly riches and power). The question arises, why people let themselves be cheated by it. The answer most people would give is that by having lot of wealth, spending on their families and friends, or by having lot of political or...
social power, would ensure them more peace and happiness. In this salok, Kabir Ji tells us how this strategy is false and what is the right way of ensuring happiness.

He says: “O’ Kabir, you will not be able to obtain happiness in this world, even if you make many friends. However, if you keep your mind focused on the one God, then you would enjoy peace forever.”(21)

If there is one fear of which the entire world is afraid, that is the fear of death. But Kabir Ji tells us; why instead of being afraid of death he looks forward to it.

He says to himself: “O’ Kabir, the death from which the world is afraid gives peace to my mind, because it is only by dying, that we (meet God, the source of) perfect supreme bliss. (Therefore I look forward to that moment).”(22)

In the previous salok (21), Kabir Ji advised us that we should keep our mind focused on God and enjoy its peace forever. In this salok, he wants to cautions us against the temptation of going about advising others to copy us and enjoy the same kind of bliss, because there are not very many people in this world, who care for this true bliss. In a metaphoric sort of way, he says: “O’ Kabir, having obtained the commodity of Name, don’t open this bundle before others (or try to convince others about the bliss of God’s Name. Because this world) is not the place, (where you could find any) assayer, or customer, who would be willing to make any effort in this direction and) pay any price for it.”(23)

In salok (17), Kabir Ji advised us to stay away from worshippers of Maya (the worldly riches and power). In this salok, he tells us with whom we should form friendship and why.

He says: “O’ Kabir, have love for those who’s Master is God (and therefore worship Him themselves and would also inspire you to do the same. Don’t try to develop any friendship with great) scholars, kings, or landlords, who would be of no use to you, (because except displaying their self-conceit on account of their knowledge, power, or wealth, they won’t prove beneficial to you).”(24)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us with whom we should develop love or friendship. But in those days, many persons used to abandon their households and become yogis or Janis, put on holy garbs, artificially grow long matted hair, or would completely shave off their heads and worship different gods and goddesses to shed off their worldly attachments. In that context, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, by having love for one (God alone), all other duality (or love of other worldly things) goes away. (But without love for God, it doesn’t matter whether you artificially) lengthen your hair, or completely shave off your head (you wouldn’t find peace of mind or get rid of your duality).”(25)

In salok (17) Kabir Ji compared a worshipper of Maya (the one who forsakes God for worldly matters) to a room full of foul smelling garlic. In this salok, he comments on the nature of the world itself and tells about those blessed persons who extricate themselves from the grip of its attachment. He says: “O’ Kabir, this world is like a room full of black soot (of worldly attachment) and the blind human beings have fallen into this room. I am a sacrifice to those, who even after entering it, come out of it (unstained, because they remain detached and un-affected by its evil influences).”(26)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji referred to this world as a room full of black soot. The reason is that most of the people in this world, instead of remembering God’s Name spend
their entire lives in collecting more and more wealth, as if that wealth is going to provide permanent happiness and as if they are going to live eternally.

Kabir Ji warns such people and says: “‘O’ Kabir, this body will perish one day. If you can stop it from perishing, then do it. Even those who had millions and billions have departed bare footed (without being able to take any of their wealth along with them).”(27)

As stated above this body of ours is going to depart one day, the question is what is the best use, we can make of it while it lasts. Answering this question, Kabir Ji says: “‘O’ Kabir, this body would one day depart for sure, therefore yoke it to some good purpose. (I suggest that either you) join the company of the saint (Guru), or sing God’s praises.”(28)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that everybody would die one day and so one should make use of one’s stay in the life by either seeking the company of saint (Guru) or by singing praises of God.

In this salok, Kabir Ji tells the benefits of following this advice. He says: “‘O’ Kabir, the entire world keeps dying, but no one knows how to die (and make the right use of life). The one who dies in the way (described above, in association with saints, or meditating on God), doesn’t go through (the rounds of birth and) death again.”(29)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji commented that the entire world keeps dying but no one knows how to make the right use of life. In this salok, he uses a beautiful metaphor to caution us against taking the human birth lightly, because we don’t get this opportunity again. He says: “‘O’ Kabir, the birth as human being is very difficult to obtain. It doesn’t happen again and again. Just as the fruits growing in forest ripen and fall to the ground don’t get attached to (the tree again, and putrefy in the ground itself, similarly the human life if gone waste once doesn’t get a second chance (and is ruined forever).”(30)
Now Kabir Ji goes into another dimension in poetry. He makes a pun on his own name Kabir, which literally means the greatest and often refers to God. In this salok, he tells us how do we obtain to that (God), the greatest jewel.

Alluding to God residing in us, he says: “O’ Kabir, you yourself are (God) the greatest, even your name is Kabir (the great. But know that) we obtain the jewel of God’s (knowledge), when we first shed (the attachment of our) body.”(31)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that we realize God only when we shed attachment to our body. But our human nature is such that many times for the sake of our body or self-conceit we keep running to different astrologers, or some yogis, and pundits, who claim to have the power to perform miracles and change our destiny.

In this salok, advising himself and indirectly us, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, don’t keep complaining or making vain efforts (for the sake of fulfilling your worldly desires); what you say (or desire) won’t happen. Because whatever blessings the merciful God is bestowing on you no one can erase (or alter those).”(32)

In salok (31), Kabir Ji told us that we obtain the jewel of God only when we shed attachment to our body. But many times, after doing a little bit of God’s worship or a small good deed we start thinking that we have become very pious and would surely be honored by God. In this salok, Kabir Ji cautions us against becoming so confident. He says: “O’ Kabir, no false person can withstand the touch-stone (the test of acceptance in) God’s court. Only that person withstands the God’s touch-stone who (so completely sheds the self-conceit, as if he or she) is dead while alive.”(33)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that no false person could withstand the test of acceptance in the court of God. In this salok he comments on the fate of those who remain busy in decorating themselves, but don’t meditate on God.
He says: “O’ Kabir, they who (remain obsessed with) wearing shiny clothes and chewing betel leaves and nuts (to show themselves off), without meditating on the Name of one (God) they would be bound and driven to city of death.”(34)

After warning us against wasting our time in false worldly shows and committing many sins to satisfy our self-conceit, Kabir Ji advises us against committing more sins. Comparing our body to an old flimsy ship full of many holes and our soul to a passenger in it, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir (this body of ours is like a) very old and worn out boat with thousands of holes (which could sink it any time). The passenger (souls), who are light (or free from the load of sins on their heads) swim across, but they on whose head is the load (of sins) get drowned (in the worldly) ocean.”(35)

In salok (34), Kabir Ji advised us against remaining obsessed with wearing showy clothes and decorating our body. In this salok, he describes the end fate of this body and how he feels about it. He says: “O’ Kabir, (when one dies, and is burnt for cremation, one’s) bones burn like wood, and one’s hair burns like grass. Seeing this (entire world) burning like this, Kabir has become detached (from any kind of love or attachment for the body).”(36)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji described what happens to the different parts of our body when it is cremated but some people might think that this thing doesn’t apply to them because according to their faith the body is buried and is not burnt. Kabir Ji advises such persons also not to feel proud of their body. He says: “O’ Kabir, we shouldn’t be proud (of this body which is nothing but a package of) bones wrapped in flesh. (Because even those bodies), which ride (costly cars or) horses with canopies over their heads (like Muslim kings, even they are) ultimately buried under ground.”(37)

After warning us against indulging in any kind of self-conceit on account of our body, Kabir Ji advises us to avoid feeling proud of our lofty mansions or other worldly possessions. He says: “O’ Kabir, we should not feel proud seeing our lofty mansion. Because today or tomorrow we have to lie on the ground and grass would grow over us. (Because sooner or later when we die we would be buried under ground and over our tomb grass would grow).”(38)

Many times people who are rich make fun of the poor and blame them for their poverty, but they don’t realize that some day by a stroke of bad luck they themselves could become poor. Therefore, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, we should never feel proud and shouldn’t laugh at a poor person. (Because we still have to spend the rest of our life, as if) our boat is still in the ocean, how do we know what could happen (to us and we might become poor ourselves)?”(39)

Now Kabir Ji warns us against feeling proud of our own body. He says: “O’ Kabir, don’t pride yourself on seeing your handsome body. In a day or so, forsaking (this body, you would) depart from here like a snake shedding its skin.”(40)

The message of the saloks from 31 to 40 is that our attachment for our body makes us run after worldly wealth, and false worldly supports. But we have to remember that our body is like an old worn out boat, which would sink one day. Therefore instead of getting entrapped in the attachment of our body or our friends and relatives, we should meditate on God so that we may be accepted in His court and enjoy eternal peace.
It is the same light
don’t avail of this opportunity now, then) afterwards you would repent when your breaths come to an end.”(41)

In previous many saloks, Kabir Ji advised us to attune ourselves to meditation on God’s Name. However he notes that for this purpose we have to first completely control our mind, which is often swayed by the five impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego. It is only a rare person, who can do that. Therefore, he says: “O’ Kabir, no such person is born who can set fire to his own house (burn his ego), and after burning all his five sons (the impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) remains attuned to the meditation on God.”(42)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that there is only a rare person who burns his five sons (the impulses for lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego).

Now he challenges and wants to know if there is some rare one who can burn or sell off one’s daughters (hopes, desires, and ambitions) also. He says: “It is only a very rare one who for the sake (of God’s Name) sells off (discards one’s) son (the mind), and also disposes off one’s daughter (one’s intellect). Kabir says, “If some one partners with him, only then (he or she) can trade with God (for His Name).”(43)

Now Kabir Ji warns us against remaining involved in enjoying false worldly pleasures and assuming that all such undesirable deeds won’t have any effect on our future life. As if warning himself, he says: “O’ Kabir, lest there remains this doubt (in your mind), I remind you that whatever enjoyments, you have enjoyed so far, these would be of such little value to you, that you may be able to buy (obtain only) a little bit of sweet (or happiness from these) in the end.”(44)

In previous many saloks, Kabir Ji advised us to still our worldly desires and meditate on God’s Name. But in those days, there was a great propaganda about acquiring knowledge of Vedas, or becoming a yogi. Kabir Ji also first thought that these things were very good for one’s spiritual enlightenment, but after carefully looking at the conduct of those who did all such things he decided to continue worshipping God without caring what others said about him. So stating his position he says: “O’ Kabir, (first) I thought that it is a good thing to study (Vedas), and even better than studying is Yoga. (But I have concluded that) I am not going to abandon devotion to God, even if people slander (me for that).”(45)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that he is not going to abandon devotion to God even if people slander him. In this salok, he tells why he doesn’t care for the slander of the people. He says: “O’ Kabir, how can those poor people slander me, who have no knowledge (of the merits of God’s worship, their criticism has no value. Therefore, without caring about the prattle of such ignorant people), Kabir is meditating on God and has renounced all other deeds.”(46)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that unmindful of the criticism of ignorant people he is continuing to worship God. In this salok, using a metaphor he tells us what is the result of such a straightforward worship of God? He imagines his soul to be a stranger in this world, which is wearing the human body as a kind of gown and jacket around it. Then describing what happens when upon death, the body is put on fire, he says: “O’ Kabir, when the gown of the stranger catches fire, the jacket also gets burnt and is reduced to coal but the thread is not touched by heat at all. (Thus even though the entire body is reduced to ashes, the essence or the soul is not touched at all, because it is immortal).”(47)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji compared the soul to a stranger and the body as his outer dress. In this salok, he compares the soul to a yogi and the body as the patched coat and mind as the begging bowl. Then comparing the scene after death of a person to the departure of the yogi to a different place, letting his coat and begging bowl lie there in an abandoned state, he says: “O’ Kabir, (when upon death, one is put on fire), one’s patched coat (the body) is burnt down to coal, and one’s begging bowl (the mind) gets utterly shattered. The poor yogi (the soul) has played out (its game of life and now) at its seat remain its ashes only.”(48)

It is a common knowledge that forsaking God, many people start performing ritual worship of lesser gods, goddesses and statues, or seek the shelter of yogis and false saints for fulfilling their worldly desires, or emancipation of their soul. Apparently for some time, all these things do seem to provide little bit comfort and false short-lived hopes, but in the end without seeking the support of God Himself, one gets totally disappointed and disillusioned.

Therefore in this salok using the metaphor of a fish which tries to save itself from being caught by hiding in small and shallow ponds, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, the fish (which is living in the) shallow water (of a pond) is easily caught in the net of the fisherman.”

(Therefore, addressing the fish, Kabir Ji says: “O’ fish, by hiding) in such shallow waters, you would not escape (from the noose of death, therefore, I advise you to) once again seek the shelter of the sea. (Similarly O’ man, you wouldn’t obtain salvation by worshipping the lesser gods and goddesses, if you want salvation, then you better seek the support of God again).”(49)

Kabir Ji notes the tendencies of many people who even though in the beginning may be worshipping God alone, yet later on when they find that worship of God is difficult or is not giving them instant gratification, start consulting some astrologers, or seeking some charms or mantras from some false saints and then later repent grievously, when they are completely robbed of their savings and their difficulties multiply ten fold.

Therefore continuing the same metaphor, he says: “O’ Kabir, don’t forsake the sea, even if it becomes very brackish, because no one would call you wise, if you keep looking from one pond to another. (In other words don’t abandon your faith in God, even if it might become very difficult for you to keep that faith, because no one would call you wise if you start going from one astrologer or one false saint to the other in search of a solution to your problem).”(50)

कबीर निगुसाई रहिए रात्री रात्री देश ||

की लोकी अरुङ्गी बच्चे देश में देश ||5१II

कबीर राजहस ठिकपलक ठिकपलक जी मुखी माँ ||

हिंदू मछ मछ मछ मछ मछ जी मछ मछ मछ मछ मछ मछ ||5२||

कबीर हर्ना दोब्ला हिंदु हबीबन उपन ||

कबीर निगुसाई बाई गाय ठाकुर नाही नाही नाही ||

दीन गारीबी आपूनी कार्त्य होय होय होय ||5१||

In the previous two saloks, Kabir Ji compared God to an ocean or the best place of shelter for a fish. In this salok, he compares this world to an ocean and tells us who else we need beside the boat to successfully cross over this ocean.

He says: “O’ Kabir, just as those passengers, who don’t have any captain (to steer their boat, are) washed away in the ocean, (similarly they who are without the guidance of the Guru are drowned in the worldly ocean. Therefore shedding our own clever intellect we should) adopt humility and obedience (to our Guru) and have the faith that whatever God does, has to happen (and we should cheerfully accept His will).”(51)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that just as a captain of the boat is essential for ferrying the passengers across the ocean, similarly the Guru is essential for guiding us through the world. In this salok, he stresses upon the importance of having good passengers or good companions because our company can have lot of good or bad influence on our life. Therefore advising us what kind of company we ought to keep, he says: “O’ Kabir, the dog of a God’s devotee is virtuous but evil is the mother of the worshipper of power,
In salok (43), Kabir Ji indicated that to be able to meditate on God’s Name, one has to control both one’s mind and intellect from running after worldly pleasures and desires. However in this salok, he recognizes the difficult situation of the human being in which he is placed. He compares the human being to a deer who has become weak and lean because even though there is plenty of green grass, yet it cannot eat it because of the fear of many hunters who want to kill it.

He says: “O’ Kabir, this world (is like) the green shore of a river (full of many pleasing things to eat and enjoy. O’ my deer (like weak soul, remember that you are only one, but) there are thousands of hunters (or evil impulses, who want to harm you. If you are not careful to avoid the worldly pleasures, which like the hunters’ music are trying to allure you), you would not be able to avoid death for long.”(53)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji commented on the state of the human being by comparing him to a deer who sees the green grass on the shore of a river but is afraid to eat the grass lest it becomes the target of many hunters hiding there. In this salok, he comments on the state of those who build their houses near holy places or banks of rivers like Ganges but don’t meditate on God’s Name. He says: “O’ Kabir, even if you build a home on the bank of river Ganges, still you wouldn’t be emancipated without devotion to God, and saying like this Kabir keeps meditating (on God’s Name).”(54)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that simply by living on holy shores one doesn’t become pure. Therefore he just keeps meditating on God’s Name. In this salok, he shares with us the effect of doing that. He says: O’ Kabir, (by meditating on God’s Name, my) mind became pure like the Ganges water. (I feel God has become manifest in me and now instead of me searching for Him), God is running after me and calling me by my name again and again.”(55)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that when we meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion God Himself becomes manifest in us. In this salok, he tells us how it is essential to shed our self-conceit on any account before we can meet our beloved God. He says: “O’ Kabir, the turmeric is yellow and the wheat flour has the white glow. (But the beautiful red color is only obtained when the two are mixed and both shed their individual colors). Similarly one meets the beloved God only when one sheds considerations of both high and low caste.”(56)

Continuing the same metaphor of turmeric and wheat flour, Kabir Ji tells us what kind of beneficial effect is obtained, when one is imbued with the love of God. He says: “O’ Kabir, when both turmeric and flour are mixed, the turmeric loses its yellow color and flour doesn’t keep its white hue either. I am a sacrifice to such a love (of God in which the low caste person doesn’t feel ashamed of his or her humble status and the high caste person sheds his or her pride on account of high caste, and in this way all consideration about one’s) caste, race, or lineage goes away.”(57)

In the previous many saloks, Kabir Ji has stated that if one wants to obtain salvation, it is very important to shed one’s self-conceit. However in this salok, he notes that human mind is so full of ego that it becomes almost impossible for one to obtain salvation. He illustrates this point with a beautiful metaphor. He says: “(O’ Kabir), the door to salvation
is narrow like the tenth part of a sesame seed. But (in its ego, human) mind has become
(huge like an) elephant (so the question arises), how one can pass through this (narrow door
and obtain salvation)?”(58)

Now Kabir Ji himself provides an answer to the above question. He says: “O’ Kabir, if
one meets such a true Guru, who becoming gracious showers his grace then the door to
salvation becomes so wide that one can come and go through it very easily. (In other words
if the Guru guides a person to shed one’s self-conceit, one easily obtains salvation).”(59)

In the previous two saloks, Kabir Ji stressed on the point, that in order to pass through the
door to salvation and enter God’s court one has to completely shed one’s self-conceit on
account of one’s caste, color, or any other reason.

In this salok, Kabir Ji describes how he has renounced his self-conceit in every possible
way. He says: “O’ Kabir, (I have completely renounced my self-conceit and now) I neither
have any hut nor any shed. I neither have any home, nor any village, lest God may ask (who
is he, because I would say) I don’t belong to any caste, and nor I have any name.”(60)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated how completely he has shed his pride in every thing including his caste, home, village, and even his name. In other words, he wants to (spiritually) die, while still alive. In this salok, he describes the reason why he is so keen to die like this. He says: “O’ Kabir, I am keen to (spiritually) die, but I wish that I may die at the door of God. Perhaps (seeing me there) God might ask who is this (person) lying in front of my door.”(61)

In the previous three saloks, Kabir Ji described how completely he has erased his self-conceit in the hope that God may shower His blessings on him and grant him entry into His mansion.

It appears that his hope has been fulfilled and he has gained glory and fame. However he doesn’t want to take any credit for this and considers this fame also as a favor of God on him. So he says: “O’ Kabir, I haven’t done anything, nor (I would be able to) do in future. How do I know what God has done that my name is being acclaimed every where?”(62)

In many previous saloks, Kabir Ji has advised us to always keep meditating on God’s Name. In this salok, he states how much he loves and respects a person who even while asleep, involuntarily utters God’s Name. He says: “O’ Kabir, even if God’s Name is involuntarily uttered from the mouth of a person, (I would respect and love that person so much that I won’t mind if out of the) skin of my body is made (a pair of) shoes for his feet.”(63)

Now Kabir Ji advises us against trying to amass so many possessions and wealth, as if we have to live here eternally. So reminding us of our reality and our short stay in this world, he says: “O’ Kabir, we are mere puppets of clay and we call ourselves as humans. We are like guests here for a few days, but we trample over larger and larger grounds (and amass more and more wealth as if we are going to stay here forever).”(64)

In salok (63), Kabir Ji stated how much respect and admiration he has even for those who happen to utter God’s Name in their dream. But in this salok, he cautions those who instead of meditating on God’s Name resort to unnecessary and futile penances, such as observing continuous fasts, standing in cold water for many days, or remaining naked in
order to impress God with their devotion. But God doesn’t even look at such people and all their backbreaking effort goes waste. Kabir Ji compares their pitiable condition to leaves of henna, which let them be ground to a paste, but the person who was supposed to apply it to his or her feet doesn’t even look at it.

Now addressing God on behalf of such a yogi who has subjected himself to utmost torture for winning God’s love but whose effort has not been even acknowledged by God, he says: “(O’ God), like henna Kabir got himself ground again and again into a paste. But O’ my Master, You didn’t even ask about my welfare, and never applied me to your feet. (So all my penance was such a waste that what to speak of any award, it wasn’t even recognized in Your court).”(65)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji commented on the pitiable condition of a person who performs most torturous penances, but still doesn’t get any recognition from God. Therefore in this salok, he wonders where one should go for help or true spiritual guidance and then finds the answer to his own question. He says: “O’ Kabir, (for spiritual guidance), we should go to such a door (and such a place) where no one stops you from coming or going, and how could we abandon such a place which is like this. (That place is the congregation of saints, where God’s praises are sung).”(66)

Often we are caught in the attachment of our body and spend our entire life in trying to take care of it. But still with age and life’s ups and downs it becomes weak and ultimately dies. Because we have not meditated on God’s Name during our lifetime our soul has to suffer the pains of births and deaths all over again. Therefore, if we want to save ourselves from these pains we have to renounce the attachment of our body. Kabir Ji explains this concept with a beautiful metaphor. Comparing his body to an old ship, which has been further made flimsy by the holes of evil tendencies, Kabir Ji says: “Kabir was almost drowned in the (worldly ocean), but when he saw that the boat (of his body in which he was riding) was very weak he (detached himself from its love and) immediately jumped out of it.”(67)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji described how he saved himself from drowning in the (worldly) ocean by singing praises of God. So the question arises then why don’t all people save themselves by doing the same thing. In this salok explaining the reason he says: “O’ Kabir, (there are some who are such) sinners that to them God’s devotion doesn’t seem pleasing and the worship of God doesn’t seem to provide any comfort. (Their nature is like that of a) fly which discards the sandal and goes wherever there is foul smell.”(68)

Note—This situation seems somewhat similar to the state in Gurudwaras when we see that very few people are sitting in the main hall where Gurbani Kirtan is being done. But there is a big crowd of people in the Langar hall enjoying unhealthy snacks and talking about useless things including slandering the Gurdwara management or other sikhs.

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us why the sinners don’t save themselves from drowning (spiritually) in the worldly ocean. Now talking about the physical death, he says: “O’ Kabir, along with the patient, the physician also dies and in this way the entire world dies. The only one who doesn’t die is Kabir (the great God), for whom there is no body to weep (because He has no relatives).”(69)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji reminded us that except God every one in this world is going to die. The only way human beings can live forever is that they become one with God by meditating on God's Name.

However observing the lifestyle of ordinary human beings, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (man has been) afflicted with such a big defect that (till the end he) has not meditated on God. (He doesn’t realize that man’s) body is like a wooden pot which cannot be placed on fire again, (because once the human body dies it cannot be revived).”(70)

The message of the saloks from 41-70 is that only this human birth is the opportunity to meditate on God’s Name and re-unite with our beloved God. But we cannot meditate on God's Name if we remain attached to evil tendencies and false worldly pleasures. The best and easiest way to get rid of these tendencies is to join the saintly congregation where they sing God’s praises and meditate on God’s Name.
In olden days it was custom in Hindu society that on the death of a man, his wife would let herself be burnt along with her husband and thus become a Satti. Naturally sometime some woman would resist such a terrible sacrifice. In that case her relatives would pressure her so much that ultimately she would agree and as a final symbol of her consent she would hold in her hand (a coconut sprinkled with red lead powder called) a Sidhoura, which symbolizes that she was no longer afraid to die, because if she resisted she would be forcibly pushed into the fire. In this salok Kabir Ji uses this analogy to advise us that once our mind has been convinced that we need to still our worldly desires and thus die to the self then we shouldn’t be afraid of anything and should proceed fearlessly towards our goal. He says: “O’ Kabir, once such a thing has happened, which has convinced the mind (about the need to meditate on God, and once we have made this determination, as if) we have held the Sidhoura in our hand, then we shouldn’t fear death.”(71)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji explained that in order to be called (virtuous) woman or Satti, a woman had to burn herself to death along with her dead husband. In this salok, he cites another example to illustrate how one has to sacrifice oneself in order to be considered good or virtuous by the society. He says: “O’ Kabir, for the sake of juice the sugar cane has to let itself be pressed (in a sugar mill, similarly we have to) suffer pain in order to acquire virtues. (Otherwise without any pain or suffering one remains full of vices and) no one considers (such a) person virtuous.”(72)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that we have to undergo lot of pain and sacrifice in order to acquire virtues. However in this salok, he advises us against postponing our efforts to acquire merits including that of God’s Name. Because our body is so frail that it can die any time. Therefore comparing the human body to a pitcher of clay, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (this body of yours is like an earthen) pitcher full of water and today or tomorrow (very soon) it would break. They who have not remembered (or followed the advice of) their Guru (and haven’t meditated on God’s Name, their life would end before they have fulfilled the objective of their life, as if they have been) robbed midway in their spiritual journey.”(73)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that they, who don’t listen to their Guru and meditate on God’s Name, would be robbed midway in their spiritual journey. But the one basic requirement for truly meditating on God’s Name is that one has to become completely humble and obedient towards God’s will. Therefore in this salok, he shares with us how he has molded his mind and what kind of attitude he has adopted towards God.

He says: “(O’ my friends, I) Kabir (consider myself as a) small puppy of God and my name is Mutya. In my neck is a chain (of God’s command); in whatever direction I am pulled, I go (and do whatever my Master wants me to do).”(74)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji demonstrated to us how obediently we have to obey God’s will in order to truly meditate on His Name. In this salok, he tells us about another very important condition in this regard; this condition is that we have to meditate on God’s Name from the core of our heart and not just mechanically repeat His Name while counting the beads of a rosary to show others. He says: “O’ Kabir, why do you show off your wooden rosary to the world. If you don’t meditate on God in your heart then what is the use of this rosary?”(75)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji emphasized on the need of meditating on God’s Name with sincerity in one’s heart. To illustrate this point, he cites the example of a person who has been bitten by such a poisonous snake that he cannot be cured by any charm, as was the common practice in India during those times. So one would either die from the poison, or if by chance one survived, one lived like a crazy person. Using this analogy, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, if (one truly realizes and feels the pain of separation from God, as if) in one’s heart resides the snake of separation, then one doesn’t respond to any charm. Thus the one separated from God doesn’t survive and even if one survives, one lives like a crazy (person, because one gets so much detached from worldly affairs that to ordinary persons he or she seems crazy).”(76)

Now Kabir Ji advises us to join the company of the virtuous people or saints whom he compares to sandalwood and philosopher’s stones respectively. He says: “O’ Kabir, both the philosopher’s stone and sandal tree have one good quality. Whatever comes into their contact it becomes sublime. (By coming in contact with philosopher’s stone) iron is transmuted into gold, and (by getting close to sandal tree), the odorless wood becomes fragrant. (Similarly, when an ordinary person comes into contact with a saint or a Guru’s follower, that person also becomes pious like them).”(77)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us how beneficial is the company of saintly persons. In this salok, he describes whose company he has sought and who has accepted him into his shelter. He says: “(I know that if I remain in the company of evil persons or impulses, I would have to suffer the blows of the demon of death). But O’ Kabir, very painful is the blow of the demon of death; it cannot be endured. So when I met a saint he took me into his protection).”(78)

Next Kabir Ji brings to our attention the fact that it is God who has the control of our life or death and therefore not even a doctor should have any misgiving about that. He says: “O’ Kabir, the physician says, I alone am the best person, because in my hand is the medicine (for every ailment and I can save anyone’s life. But he or she should realize that) this life belongs to God, whenever it pleases Him, He snatches it back (from any one including the physician).”(79)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that it is entirely in the hands of God to decide how long we live in this world. In this salok, he illustrates with an example how after playing our individual roles we would depart from here and would never join the company of same friends and relatives. He says: “O’ Kabir, (we may enjoy our lives for a few days in the company of our friends and relatives and thus) we may beat our drums for a few days, (but ultimately we would have to depart from this world and) like the passengers on a river-boat we are not going to get together again.”(80)
In many previous saloks, Kabir Ji has been advising us to sing praises of God. At the same time, he wants to caution us that God’s praises are limitless. He says: “O’ Kabir, even if I were to turn all the seven oceans into ink, use all the vegetation as my pen, and make the entire earth as paper, still God’s praises cannot be (fully) described.” (81)
In the previous salok (75), Kabir Ji stressed upon the importance of meditating on God in one’s heart. But now he is reminded of the Hindu belief, according to which people born in low caste such as that of a weaver were forbidden to worship God. To ward off any such criticism, he says: “O’ Kabir, what can the low caste of a weaver do (and prevent him from worshipping, when already) God is residing in his heart. Therefore (go ahead) and embrace God to your bosom so that all such predicaments may end.”(82)

Even though in the previous many saloks, Kabir Ji has advised us that if we want to obtain salvation, and re-unite with God, we should attune our mind to meditation on God’s Name. However for true meditation, one has to shed attachment to one’s self and also get rid of the five impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego. But this kind of control is so difficult, as if one has to set fire to one’s own house and slay one’s own sons. That is why Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir there is no one like this, who may burn down one’s house (attachment to one’s body) and after slaying all one’s five sons (the five evil impulses), remains attuned to God’s love.”(83)

Kabir Ji once again laments that there is no body who can burn down one’s self-conceit in spite of his so loudly proclaiming its benefits. He says: “O’ Kabir, there is no one who may burn down the (love of) this body (and shed off one’s self-conceit), the ignorant world doesn’t realize (this thing, even though) Kabir is exhausted proclaiming it.”(84)

In the previous two saloks, Kabir Ji lamented that he doesn’t see any one who is ready to burn down his or her self-conceit and evil impulses. But without burning down these impulses we cannot obtain union with God. To illustrate this point, Kabir Ji cites the example of old Hindu custom called Satti, according to which when a man died, his wife also would lie on his pyre and let herself be burnt along with her husband. The belief was that in this way, the soul of the woman would get re-united with her husband. Referring to this example, Kabir Ji says: O’ Kabir, seated on the pyre, the Satti says, listen O’ brave fire of the cremation ground, now when all other people have left, it is ultimately you who is going to be of avail to me (in uniting me with my departed husband).”(85)

Next Kabir Ji warns us regarding the company we keep, because our mind is very mercurial, sometimes it is allured by company of saintly people, and at other times by the false and evil ones. When joining the saints it sings God’s praises it obtains salvation. But if one joins the company of evil people, one also starts committing evil deeds and ultimately ends in Jail and suffers pain. Therefore, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, this mind of ours is like a bird, it flies in all the ten directions, (and this is the law of nature) that the kind of company one joins, one eats the fruit accordingly.”(86)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that our mind is like a bird, which flies in all the ten directions, (and this is the law of nature) that the kind of company one joins, one eats the fruit accordingly. In this salok, he shares with us the end result of the search of his own mind. He says: “O’ Kabir, (by joining the company of saints and singing God’s praises in their company), you have attained to that place, which you had been searching for. (In fact), you have yourself turned into the one whom you used to consider someone other than you (because you have become one with God).”(87)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji described the blessings he received in the company of saints. In this salok, he illustrates the consequences of even living near bad society. Imagining himself to be living near evil people, just as a banana plant might be growing near a Beri (a thorny tree which yields fruit like tiny apples), he says: “O’
Kabir, I am suffering on account of bad company, like the banana plant (growing) near a *Ber* (tree. Therefore, I say that) we shouldn’t even look towards the company of the worshipper of *Maya* (the worldly riches and power)."(88)

In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji illustrated the consequences of even living near bad society. In this *salok*, he comments upon the state of those false saints, who don’t think about their own faults and sins, but assure others that by doing special worships for them they would get their devotees absolved of their sins. Kabir Ji compares such a false saint to a person who is going on a difficult and torturous path, carrying not only his own load but also the load of others on his head. He says: “O’ Kabir, (look at this foolish person), he is not afraid of the load of his (own sins on his head), but is carrying even the load of others’ (sins). He doesn’t realize that in front of him is a very torturous journey (of life).”(89)

Continuing to stress upon the importance of keeping away from bad company and not trying to fall in the hand of evil people, Kabir Ji gives the example of a log of wood in the jungle which had already been partially burnt by the jungle fire, and now it wishes that it shouldn’t fall into the hands of a blacksmith who may burn it again.

He says: “O’ Kabir, the standing wood, which has already been burnt (once), cries out in pain (and prays, O’ God), let me not fall into the hands of a blacksmith, who may burn me second time.”(90)
In previous many saloks, Kabir Ji told us that the first and foremost thing to do before starting on spiritual journey is to conquer one’s mind. In this salok, he explains how the conquering of mind sets up a chain reaction and produces a kind of domino effect to help us in overcoming our other faults and weaknesses. He says: O’ Kabir, (when my mind died along with it my self-conceit also died, in this way) the dying of one resulted in the death of two (faults. Then) the death of two turned into the death of four. (Because after the mind and personal ego was stilled, the attachment to the body and worldly desire was also overcome. The overcoming of four faults resulted in the overcoming of two more faults, the bad company and slander, as if) the death of four became the death of six (faults). Out of these six (faults) four (namely mind, self-conceit, bodily attachment, and bad company) are males and two (desire and slander) are females.”(91)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that when we are able to conquer our mind, we are also able to conquer many other evil tendencies as well. But he notes that instead of meditating on God’s Name, which is the only way to control one’s mind, people are lost in false practices, such as going to pilgrimage places and observing fasts. Therefore, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, I have searched hard throughout the world and no where I have found a place (where one can control one’s mind and live in peace). I wonder why instead of meditating on God’s Name (in the company of saints), these people are lost in other futile ways (for obtaining peace of mind)?”(92)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that the only way to obtain peace of mind is to meditate on God’s Name in the company of saints. He has also previously warned us to stay away from evil company. Now summarizing the above pieces of advice, he says: “O’ Kabir, we should keep company with the saint (Guru), who accompanies us till the end. We shouldn’t keep company with the worshippers of power, by doing which (one’s spiritual life) is ruined.”(93)

In the previous so many saloks Kabir Ji stated the benefits of meditating on the Name of God who is pervading the entire world. In this salok, he tells what he thinks about those who do not meditate on God’s Name. He says: “O’ Kabir, (fruitful is their advent in this) world who have remembered Him and realized that God is pervading in the (entire) world.
But they who haven’t meditated on God’s Name, (I consider that) they have come to this world in vain.”(94)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that fruitful is the advent in this world of those who remember God, but in vain is the advent of those who don’t meditate on His Name. In this salok, he advises us and says: “O’ Kabir, we should always pin our hopes in God alone because when we lean on anyone else’s support we get disappointed. They who remain detached from God’s Name (and don’t care to remember God suffer so much pain, as if) they have fallen in hell.”(95)

It so happens that many times some people start on their spiritual journey with good intentions and make sincere efforts to obtain salvation. For this purpose they even abandon their families and friends and become yogis or saints, but later while still on their spiritual journey, they gather many disciples and devotees who flatter and serve them. Then those people get so attached to these disciples and comforts that they forget their main objective of achieving salvation.

Putting himself in the situation of such people, Kabir Ji says to himself: “O’ Kabir, you made many disciples and followers, but you did not develop friendship with God. You had set out to meet God, but your mind got stuck in the way (because you let yourself completely lost in ruling over the disciples and getting pampered by your devotees).”(96)

In salok (93), Kabir Ji advised us that we should keep company with the saint who accompanies us till the end. However in salok (96), he also told us about those half-baked saints who get stuck in the love and attachment of their devotees and followers without obtaining divine enlightenment. So unless God doesn’t help us in seeking the guidance of a true saint we cannot attain spiritual enlightenment. Comparing this situation to a man’s efforts in reaching the top of a tree but finding out that the branches which were to serve as his foot holds are too weak, he says: “O’ Kabir, what can the poor creature do (to reach the top of the tree of spiritual enlightenment), if God helps him not. (What is happening is that to whosever saint I go for guidance, I find him lacking in spiritual attainment and full of many faults, as if to climb the tree of salvation) on whatever branch I put my foot that branch is bending again and again.”(97)

In salok (96), Kabir Ji commented on the state of those persons who even though start on the spiritual path with good intentions, yet get stuck in the middle due to attachment with their devotees and followers. They start preaching to others, but they themselves start falling prey to those very faults and evil impulses about which they warn others. Commenting on the state of such people, he says: “O’ Kabir, they who deliver sermons to others (are so falling victims to evil impulses) as if in their own mouths is falling sand. They claim to safeguard the (spiritual) capital of others, (while their own spiritual merit is lost, as if) their own farm has been eaten (by wild birds and stray animals).”(98)

In the previous salok Kabir Ji cautioned us against seeking the support of “half baked” or false saints. But he does want to remain in the refuge of a true saint (or Guru) and avoid the company of a worshipper of power even if it means that he has to live in very poor and difficult conditions. He says: “O’ Kabir, (I wish that I may always) live in the company of a (true) saint, (even if it means that I have to) survive on the bread made of barley (flour). Whatever happens (while living in poverty with the saint), let it happen, but I wouldn’t go (and join the) company of worshippers of power.”(99)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that he wishes to always remain in the company of saints and never wants to go near the worshippers of power. In this salok, he gives the reason for his above statement. He says: “O’ Kabir, in the company of the saint, one’s love (for God) multiplies every day. But a worshipper of power (is such an evil person that no matter how hard one may try one never becomes good and would spoil whosoever comes in contact with such a person. He) is like a black blanket which never becomes white no matter how much you may wash it.”(100)
Now Kabir Ji comments on the practice of those fake saints who used to adorn holy garbs and completely shave off their heads but didn’t shed off their evil impulses or did anything to control their minds. So referring to such saints, he says: “O’ Kabir, why (these people) have shaved off their head when they haven’t shaved off (controlled their) mind. (Because) whatever (bad deed) one does is done (on the direction of) the mind, so shaving off the head is in vain.” (101)

The message of the saloks from 71 to101 is that for the sake of acquiring virtues one has to completely erase one’s self-conceit and has to shed off one’s evil desires. By meditating on God’s Name one’s evil habits such as ego on account of one’s caste, bodily attachment, worldly desire, and slander go away. However it is only in the company of saints that we learn to sing praises of God and meditate on God’s Name.

Now Kabir Ji impresses upon us the importance of God’s Name and tells us how firmly we should stick to meditating on God’s Name even at the cost of our wealth and the body itself. He says: “O’ Kabir we should never forsake God even if our wealth and (the strength of our) body goes away, we should let it go. (But we should make sure that) our mind remains pierced with the love of the lotus feet of God and remains merged in God’s Name.”(102)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji suggested that we should not abandon God’s Name even if we lose our wealth and bodily health. In this salok, he shares with us how meditation on God’s Name has helped him to completely shed off his bodily attachment. He says: “O’ Kabir, by virtue of meditation on God’s Name, my bodily attachment has been so completely destroyed, as if) all the strings of the instrument (of bodily attachment), which I used to play have broken down, and now what can the poor instrument (of bodily attachment) do when (the mind who used) to play it has gone away.”(103)

In salok (101), Kabir Ji talked about those fake saints who used to adorn holy garbs and completely shave off their heads but didn’t shed their evil impulses or did anything to control their minds. In this salok, he states his strong feelings about such false saints and gurus who not only harm themselves but also completely destroy the spiritual life of their followers by asking them to get blindly absorbed in the rituals prescribed in Vedas and other such scriptures. He says: “O’ Kabir, (I feel like) shearing off (chastising) the mother of that (false) guru, following whom one’s doubt (of mind) doesn’t go away. (Such false saints not only) drown themselves in the (false rituals of) four Vedas but also get their followers washed away (and spiritually destroyed) in such false beliefs.”(104)

Commenting further on the state and fate of such false gurus in particular and the rest of human beings in general, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (one may) hide all the sins committed (by one from other people), but ultimately these become manifest when the judge of righteousness asks (one to render the account of one’s deeds in life).”(105)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji warned us that we may be able to hide our sins from the public but we cannot hide it from the judge of righteousness. Therefore whether for our
self or for the sake of our family we shouldn’t resort to dishonest and sinful ways to amass worldly wealth. In this *salok*, he takes us one step further and cautions us against letting our entire life pass away in performing worldly deeds for the sake of our relatives and not meditating on God’s Name. He says: “O’ Kabir, forsaking worship of God, one may rear a large family. One may die doing worldly deeds (for the sake of one’s family), but in the end neither one’s brother nor (any other) relative remains (to help one).”(106)

In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji commented on the state of those who forsaking God spend their entire life in taking care of their family and doing worldly deeds. In this *salok*, he tells about the fate of such women who forsaking God’s Name resort to such practices as secretly lighting lamps in cremation grounds for the sake of having children or fulfilling other such desires. He says: “O’ Kabir, (the woman) who forsaking meditation on God goes in the night to light lamps (in the cremation grounds), is born again as a (female) snake and eats her own off-springs.”(107)

Kabir Ji now condemns another practice of some Hindu ladies of worshipping and keeping a fast to please *Ahoee* (the goddess of small pox, who is believed to have a donkey as her ride. Regarding such a practice, he says: “O’ Kabir, forsaking the worship of God, the woman who observes a fast to please *Ahoee* (the goddess of small pox), is re-born as a donkey and has to daily bear very heavy load (on her back).”(108)

After condemning false ritual worships such as keeping fasts or lighting lamps in cremation grounds Kabir Ji tells us about the wisest thing to do in order to obtain true happiness, but at the same time tells how difficult that thing is. He says: “O’ Kabir, this is the utmost wisdom that you should meditate on God in your heart. (However it is not an easy thing. You have to gladly forsake your self-conceit, false beliefs, ritual worships, and worldly attachments. It is like) playing on the cross (because if you lose faith and) fall from it then there is no refuge.”(109)

In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji told us that to meditate on God’s Name is the wisest thing to do, but it is extremely difficult. In this *salok*, he tells us how beneficial it is to utter God’s Name.

He says: “O’ Kabir, blessed is that tongue, with which we utter God’s Name. (Because when one meditates on God’s Name, one inspires many others to do the same, therefore) what to speak of the poor body the entire village becomes immaculate.”(110)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that when a person (truly) meditates on God’s Name, what to speak of one’s own body, even one’s entire village gets purified. Therefore in this salok, he says: “O’ Kabir, blessed is that family in which is born a servant of God (who meditates on God’s Name). The family, in which no such devotee ever takes birth, that family is (useless like) weeds and bushes.”(111)

Continuing to describe the merits of meditating on God’s Name, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (one may have) the comforts of many horses, elephants, chariots, and millions of flags flying on one’s mansion, but still better than all these comforts is the (life) of begging in which one’s days pass meditating on God.”(112)

In salok (106), Kabir Ji stated that one may die doing worldly deeds (for the sake of one’s family but in the end none of one’s relative remains to help one. Verifying the above truth by his personal investigation, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, I have wandered through the entire world carrying a drum on my shoulder and asked with the beat of the drum (to determine if anyone can truly call someone as one’s own, but I have) concluded that no one belongs to anyone.”(113)

Now commenting on the state of the world and how it is not caring for the divine wisdom, which could make its present life peaceful and secure its future as well. He says: “O’ Kabir, (even if) on the path are scattered pearls still a blind person would step over these (without
In the above salok, Kabir Ji lamented the fact that like a blind person passing over valuable pearls scattered in his path, the entire world is ignoring the precious divine wisdom, which is so easily available to it. It appears that what to speak of others he finds that his own son Kamaal was interested more in material possessions than following the foot steps of his father and obtaining spiritual enlightenment. Perhaps that is why Kabir Ji says: “Drowned is the lineage of Kabir, in which is born the son (like) Kamaal who forsaking meditation on God has brought home worldly wealth.”(115)

In many previous saloks, Kabir Ji advised us that one’s most dependable companion after death is meditation on God’s Name and the best place to do this meditation is in the company of a true saint (Guru). However in this salok, Kabir Ji wants us to take some precaution when we go to meet a saint. He says: “O’ Kabir, when we go to meet the saint (Guru), we shouldn’t take along with us (our self-conceit, worldly problems or those who are not interested in spiritual matters, and once we proceed on this journey), we shouldn’t step back and let happen whatever happens next.”(116)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji advised us that when we go to meet the saint (Guru) we shouldn’t take along with us our self-conceit, worldly problems or those who are not interested in spiritual matters. In this salok, he tells us about the consequences of ignoring this advice and letting our involvements keep us bound to the world. He says: “O’ Kabir, the world is bound with the chain (of worldly attachment), but you shouldn’t allow yourself to be bound (similarly). Otherwise just as salt is so easily lost in flour similarly your gold like (precious) body would be lost (in vain).”(117)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji pointed out how very badly the world is entangled in the worldly attachments that even when death is hanging over head the human being is more concerned with his or her worldly wealth rather than meditating on God. He says: O’ Kabir, (even when one is on last breaths and knows that as soon as one’s) soul flies out one’s body would be buried (under ground, one’s) eyes are making gestures (trying to tell one’s relatives about one’s hidden wealth). Even now one’s mind doesn’t let go the bankruptcy of one’s intentions.”(118)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji commented upon the nature of an ordinary man who even at his or her last breath is craving for worldly things or trying to tell by gestures about his or her hidden wealth. In this salok, he shows how we should pray to God and what we should ask from Him so that we may not be so badly bound by worldly attachments.

He says: “(O’ God, Kabir prays that instead of thinking about worldly wealth, I may always) see You with my eyes, listen to Your Name with my ears, utter Your Name with my tongue, and place Your lotus feet in my heart.”(119)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that he prayed to God to bless him that instead of being obsessed with worldly wealth, His lotus feet may remain enshrined in his heart. In this salok, he shares with us the result of his above prayer. He says: “O’ Kabir, by the grace of true Guru, (I am free from the thoughts) of heaven and hell. (Now my only wish is that) from the beginning to end, I may keep enjoying the bliss of (God’s) lotus feet (His loving devotion).”(120)
Now regarding the extent of joy one experiences in God's lotus feet, Kabir Ji says: “O' Kabir, how can any one estimate the ecstasy one enjoys, when one is enjoying the touch of the Beloved's feet? This light is the same in everyone. It cannot be estimated. It is seen only by a select few. It is the light of inner bliss. "
of God’s lotus feet (the bliss of God’s love). It doesn’t look good for any one to describe it, only when one personally experiences it, one understands (that joy).”(121)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that the joy of God’s lotus feet is beyond words, one has to experience it personally only then one can understand it. But then some one may ask what about God Himself, how does He look like? Kabir Ji finds it impossible to answer this question also.

He says: “O’ Kabir, (even after) seeing Him what can I say (about Him)? No one would believe, what I say. (I cannot compare Him with any one in this world). Only God Himself is like Him. So I happily keep singing His praises.”(122)

In this salok, Kabir Ji explains why an ordinary human being is not able to experience the bliss of God’s worship. He says: “O’ Kabir, just as even while pecking at its feed a flamingo is thinking about its off-springs (which it has left behind, similarly even when one is worshipping God, one’s mind keeps absorbed in) the attachment of worldly wealth and relatives. (That is why one is not able to realize the presence of God within and enjoy the bliss of His love).”(123)

Kabir Ji now gives another example to illustrate why human beings remain bereft of the joy of God’s love. He says: “O’ Kabir, when the sky is overcast with clouds, all the pools and ponds get filled with rain water, but even then Chaatrik (the pied cuckoo) remains thirsty, (because it keeps craving for the special swaanti drop of water. Similarly even though God is pervading in the entire world, yet the ordinary human beings keep hankering after worldly wealth, so naturally) their condition remains pitiable.”(124)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji illustrated how the worshippers of worldly wealth remain deprived of the bliss of divine love even when it is so abundantly available all around them. In this salok, he cites another beautiful metaphor to illustrate the never-ending separation of such people from God. He says: “O’ Kabir, when a Chakwi (shel duck) is separated (from its male partner) in the night, it comes and meets it at dawn (again. However they who remain attached with worldly riches and) get separated from God, they meet (Him) neither in the day nor in the night.”(125)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji illustrated how a person once separated from God is not able to meet Him again. In this salok, he illustrates with another example the terrible state in which one has to remain if one is separated from God. He cites the example of a conch (a large sea-shell), which enjoys a nice comfortable existence as long as it remains in the sea, but when it is taken out of the sea, it is taken to many Hindu temples where it is blown and made to emit gloomy sounds every morning. Addressing such a conch, which has been taken out of the sea, he says: “O’ conch, who has got separated from (the sea, which is like) the mine of pearls, Kabir says to you to remain in the ocean. (Otherwise every day), with the sunrise you would be emitting gloomy sounds from one temple to the other. (Similarly those human being who get separated from God keep suffering in pain from one existence to the other).”(126)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji advised us to remain united with God; otherwise we would have to suffer the pain of going from one existence to the other. But the human nature is such that one keeps ignoring such advice and remains absorbed in worldly attachments as if one wants to keep sleeping and enjoying false dreams and doesn’t want to wake up and cry or worry about the looming problems and pains of one’s worldly responsibilities. So putting
himself in such a situation, he says: “O’ Kabir, what are you doing keeping asleep (in the false worldly dreams). Wake up, cry, (remember God), and worry about the impending pains and sufferings awaiting you. (I wonder), how could any person sleep so peacefully whose permanent abode is going to be in a grave (which is full of perpetual pains and sufferings)?”(127)

Now Kabir Ji chastises himself (and indirectly us) for sleeping too much and not meditating on God’s Name. He reminds us that soon a day would come when we would sleep forever but won’t be able to worship God. He says: “O’ Kabir, what are you doing sleeping (and remaining absorbed in worldly attachments)? Why don’t you wake up and meditate on God? One day stretching your legs you would have such a sleep (that you won’t wake up again).”(128)

Kabir Ji once again strongly advises us to remain awake and try to reconnect with that God from whom we have been separated. He says: “O’ Kabir, what are you doing remaining asleep (in worldly attachments)? Keep sitting and remain awake (meditating on that God), from whose company you have been separated, get attached to that (God).”(129)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji advised us to remain awake and meditate on that God from whose company we have been separated. In this salok, he tells us a way, by adopting which it becomes much easier for us to do meditation. He says: “O’ Kabir, we shouldn’t abandon the company of saints, we should (keep doing what the saint does, and thus) keep walking on the path that saint is treading upon. Because just by seeing them (and listening to their sermon) we get sanctified, and on meeting them (and by living in their company, we are inspired) to meditate on God’s Name.”(130)
After telling us, what kind of company we should keep, Kabir Ji also tells us what kind of company we should avoid, and why. He says: “O’ Kabir, we shouldn’t keep company with the worshipper of power (and worldly riches, and) run far away (from such a person. Because), just as upon coming in touch with a black pot one gets at least some stain, (similarly by remaining in the company of a bad person one acquires at least some of that person’s faults.”(131)

The message of the saloks from 102 to 131 is that when we forsake meditation on God’s Name we are misled by many kinds of superstitions and doubts. So to remain attuned to God’s lotus feet and win His love by meditating on His Name is like enjoying the most blissful heaven, while to get separated from Him is the worst Hell. But this meditation is only possible if we remain in the company of saintly people and avoid the worshippers of power.

Many people are seen thinking and even loudly proclaiming that childhood and youth are meant for playing and enjoying the pleasures of the world. They can do all the righteous deeds and God’s worship during their retirement and old age. First of all they don’t realize that they may never reach old age and even if they do, at that time they may not be able to do any true meditation on God because of their frail health, family worries, or addiction to some bad habits. Kabir Ji summarizes such a state with a beautiful metaphor. He says: “O’ Kabir, you haven’t (so far) remembered God, and old age has come upon you. (But, just as when) the fire has reached the door of one’s house, it is impossible to take out (and save too many household things, similarly in this old age, it is almost impossible to sanctify your life.”(132)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji stated that, just as when fire has reached one’s door, not much could be saved, similarly when old age has arrived it may not be possible to really meditate on God’s Name. But even in such a situation he advises that one shouldn’t spend much time in finding the reasons, how the fire started or the excuses for not worshipping God earlier. The thing to realize is that whatever was the reason it was as per the will of God. Therefore one should simply concentrate on saving whatever one can before, the fire destroys everything.
In other words, instead of repenting, why one did not meditate on God during youth, one should try to do whatever meditation one can do during the rest of one’s life. Who knows, like the story of Aja Mall, God may show mercy and accept the worship done even during one’s last breaths. Therefore, he says: “O’ Kabir, that cause became (the reason for your not doing any worship), which the Creator did. Because except for Him there is no other, He alone is the Creator (and the cause of all causes. Therefore even now, you should try to meditate on His Name).”(133)

Note: In this connection it might be mentioned that a few years ago, a story appeared in Canadian newspapers. It described how a lonely teen ager noticed that his house was on fire and there was no time for trying to save anything, he simply put up Guru Granth Sahib on his head and walked out of the house. When his father arrived home, he was extremely happy at the child and thankful to God for saving his dearest possession and didn’t care at all about the loss of his house and other possessions, even though he had no insurance. But still in a short time he recouped all his loss.

In salok (132) Kabir Ji advised us not to wait till old age to start meditating on God’s Name. However it doesn’t mean that those who start going on spiritual path early in the life are definitely going to achieve spiritual enlightenment and attain to God. Because there could be lot of distractions and temptations, which might allure them away from, the spiritual path and they may end up as faithless persons. Kabir Ji compares their state to the raw mangos on a tree which may or may not be able to survive all the strong winds, the attacking insects, birds, and fruit diseases before they fully ripen and become fit for presentation to the owner of the garden. He says: “O’ Kabir, (the human beings on the spiritual path are like those) mango fruits which have started ripening. These will only reach the Master if during the intervening period (between this stage and ripening), are not (spoiled by disease or) shaken off the tree by wind).”(134)

Now Kabir Ji wants to caution us against copying others in such things as worshipping stones, going to pilgrimage places, adorning holy garbs, and doing other similar ritualistic deeds. He says: “O’ Kabir, they who buy stone (statues) to worship the same, go to pilgrimage stations to satisfy the ego of their minds, or seeing others wear religious garbs, are simply lost (in superstitions) and are wandering in vain.”(135)

Commenting further on the futility of worshipping stones, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, establishing and deeming a stone (statue) as God, (Hindus) all over the world are worshipping it. (But they don’t know that) one who depends on this belief is (so completely ruined spiritually, as if one is) drowned in (deep) black water current of a stream.”(136)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji completely condemned all kinds of ritual worships. But when people are questioned, why they do these things, they answer that the pundits tell them that it is so written in Vedas, Shastras, and other such holy books. In the opinion of Kabir Ji, it is nothing but a way devised by the pundits to loot the innocent people, just as highway robbers loot the lonely travelers. He says: “O’ Kabir, (the Vedas and other such holy books) are like a paper prison (built by the pundits, and the rituals written in) ink are like the portals (of that prison). Some of the earth has been spiritually drowned by the stones (used for worship and) the pundits have waylaid the rest (of the world, because they are looting the innocent people by coercing them on the authority of the Vedas and Shastras to spend their hard earned money in performing different rituals and giving charity to the pundits).”(137)
In salok (132), Kabir Ji advised us not to postpone meditation on God till old age or later time because who knows, whether we would reach old age, or would die much sooner. Therefore advising himself (and indirectly us), he says: “O’ Kabir, (the meditation on God), which you are (thinking to) do tomorrow, do it today, and what you are going to do today, do it right now. Because nothing could be done later when death hovers over your head. (138)

Next Kabir Ji wants us to remain aware of the company of those people who seem to be very pious, intelligent or wise but when you really deal with them you find out that they are totally rotten inside. Kabir Ji compares such a person to a piece of red sealing wax, which shines a lot when washed, but is hollow from inside. He says; “O’ Kabir, I have seen such a person who looks (pious) like the washed red sealing wax (from outside) seems smart and very meritorious, (but from inside was) without intellect and of perverse (character).”(139)

It is believed that when one dies one’s soul is very much disgraced and mishandled by the demons of death. Kabir Ji says that he is not worried about this kind of dishonor or disrespect to his soul and he gives the reason. He says; “O’ Kabir, the demon of death is not going to dishonor or disrespect my intellect (my soul, because I) have worshipped that Sustainer of the universe who has created this (poor) demon (of death).” (140)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that since he had meditated on God, therefore even the
demon of death couldn’t disrespect or dishonor him. Now Kabir Ji takes his devotion for
God one step further and compares God to musk (a special part in a deer which is utmost
fragrant) and God’s devotees as bumble bees that are crazy about this fragrance.

He says: “O’ Kabir, God has become like the musk and all His devotees have become like
the bumble bees. More they progress in God’s devotion, more they become close to God
(and He) comes and resides (in their hearts).” (141)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji described how the devotees of God keep coming near Him and
ultimately come so near that God Himself comes to reside in their hearts. In this salok,
he comments upon the state of those human beings, who forsaking God remain totally
absorbed in their family affairs. In their case what happens is that one-day while still in the
midst of family hustle bustle, they are suddenly struck with the blow of death and then all
their plans are gutted.

Regarding such people, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (one) who gets (too much stuck) in the
mire of family (affairs, that) one’s devotion to God gets put aside. (Then one day) in the
middle of (family) hustle bustle (demons sent by) the judge of righteousness descend upon
(and one is hit by a fatal stroke or accident and all one’s future plans are ended).” (142)

Kabir Ji has a very low opinion about such a worshipper of power who wastes all his or her
life involved in family affairs or running after worldly wealth. Therefore he says: “O’ Kabir,
a swine is better than a worshipper of power (because by eating its trash, the swine) keeps
the village clean, but the wretched worshipper of power (is so filthy that he or she always
spreads evils wherever he or she lives, therefore) when a worshipper of power dies nobody
wants to even mention his or her Name.” (143)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji stated how the worshipper of power is worse than even a swine.
In this salok, he describes, how one is stripped of one’s riches, which one might have
amassed with great pains. He says: “O’ Kabir, one might amass millions by toiling hard for
each penny. But when one departs (from this world), one doesn’t get anything to take with
him or her, even one's loin cloth is torn down (to ensure that no valuable thing goes with him or her).”(144)

In the above three saloks Kabir Ji criticized the conduct of those who spend their entire lives remaining involved in family affairs or amassing worldly wealth. But it doesn’t mean that he thinks too high of those who apparently become religious by adopting some holy garbs and engaging in ritual worships but don’t try to purify themselves from inside. Regarding such people, he says: “O’ Kabir, how does it matter if one becomes a Vaishnu (devotee of God), and wears a beautiful rosary around one’s neck. (But if one has not purified oneself from within, one is like that ornament) which may appear like pure gold from outside, but from inside is filled with false material.”(145)

Kabir Ji now tells us the way to become a true devotee of God. First of all he stresses upon the need for shedding one’s ego and acquiring the virtue of humility. He says: “O’ Kabir, (if you want to become a true devotee of God, then) shedding your ego and pride become (humble like) a piece of gravel on the road. Because when some one becomes such a servant only then God meets that person.”(146)

In order to drill in us the absolute importance of humility, Kabir Ji says that even the humility like that of gravel is not sufficient for a true devotee of God. He says: “O’ Kabir, what does it matter if you become (humble like) gravel, which hurts the feet of the passers by. (O’ God), Your devotee should be as (humble as) dust on earth. (A devotee of God should be so humble that even if others speak harshly to him or her, the devotee doesn’t utter any harsh words.”(147)

Kabir Ji is not satisfied even with the humility of dust; he wants the devotee of God to be more humble than that. Therefore he says: “O’ Kabir, how does it matter if one becomes humble like dust, which blows up and sticks to the bodies of passers-by. (I say that) the devotee of God should be humble like water, which treats all equally (Instead of trying to find faults of others a true devotee of God should love all).”(148)

After reflecting on the characteristics of water, which sometimes become too cold and sometimes too hot, Kabir Ji gives up on his efforts to quote any more examples of humility and says: “O’ Kabir, how does it matter if one becomes humble like water, which easily becomes cold and hot. A true devotee of God should be such that he is like God (Himself and like water doesn’t become some time cool and composed and some times hot and abusive).”(149)

After stressing upon the importance of humility for becoming a devotee of God, Kabir Ji tells us about the next most important step on this path, the congregation of saints or the society of those holy people, where praises of God are being sung. He considers such a place more important than having all kinds of riches, or power. He says: “The place where one gets to eat only a small loaf of bread obtained by begging, but there one sings praises of God in the company of saints, that place is better than lofty mansions (where there are tons of) gold, beautiful women, and a flag flies on the top (of the palace, but there is no meditation of God’s Name).”(150)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that company of poor saints where God’s praises are sung is better than the lofty mansions where God is not remembered. Therefore, he says: “O, Kabir, better than the town is the wilderness where stay the devotees of God. For me that place is like the city of death, where there is no love for God.” (151)
In the above few *saloks*, Kabir Ji told himself and us that to become a true devotee of God, we need to become extremely humble, kind, and compassionate, and also join the company of saints and sing praises of God. In this *salok*, he shares with us the bliss he is enjoying by acting on the above advice. He says: “(O’ my friends, the mind of Kabir has come to rest in a place where there is a state of peace, and poise, like the junction of *Ganges* and *Yamuna*. (This is such a unique state of divine bliss) which many sages and devotees try to seek.”(152)

In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji mentioned that he has attained such a state of divine bliss, which is peaceful like the confluence of rivers *Ganges* and *Yamuna*.

Now he compares this state to the newly sprouted tree branch which even though very delicate, yet being easily bendable doesn’t get uprooted even during strong winds. Kabir Ji wishes to remain humble like that branch.

Therefore, he says: “O’ Kabir, if till the end I remain (nice and compassionate) like the newly sprouted tree branch, I say what to speak of a mere diamond, even millions of jewels won’t equal (my) worth.”(153)

Talking about a diamond, Kabir Ji notes that the human birth itself is very precious like a diamond in which one could re-unite with God by meditating on God’s Name. But the ordinary man doesn’t realize its worth and wastes away this golden opportunity in useless worldly pursuits. Therefore, he says: “O’ Kabir, I have seen one astonishing thing that a diamond is being sold at a shop. But without a customer it is being exchanged for a shell. (In other words this human birth is more precious than a jewel, but is being wasted for worthless worldly pleasures).”(154)

In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji stated that without the realization or knowledge about the worth of human birth, it is being wasted away in vain. In this *salok*, he gives us some examples of the virtues and blessings which one obtains, when one acquires such divine knowledge. He also tells what kind of evils result from human weaknesses or faults. He says: “O’ Kabir, where there is (divine) knowledge, there is righteousness, but where there is falsehood, there is sin. Similarly when one becomes greedy, one is inviting one’s own death (just as due to its greed for a worm, a fish gets caught in the hook). But where there is compassion, (deem that) God Himself (is pervading there).”(155)

In *salok* (150), Kabir Ji stated that he would prefer living in the company of poor saints to living in lofty mansions and amidst worldly riches, where there is no remembrance of God. However in this *salok*, he wants to make it clear that it is no use renouncing our worldly wealth if along with it we don’t renounce our worldly pride or ego. Because most of those who after renouncing their worldly possessions go and live in lonely places, instead of humbly devoting themselves to meditating on God, start living with the pride and ego of renouncing their worldly wealth. Referring to such people, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, what is the big deal if one renounces worldly wealth, but one cannot renounce the ego (of one’s mind)? Because ego ruins all and even great saints and sages have been ruined by their ego.”(156)

In the above *salok*, Kabir Ji stated that there is no use of renouncing one’s worldly wealth and going to lonely places if one cannot renounce one’s ego. In this *salok*, he tells us how he lost his ego and became true devotee of God. He says: O’ Kabir, when I met the true Guru, he (recited such an appealing divine word that I lost all my ego and realized how
empty has been my life so far, I felt as if he has) aimed such (a sharp) arrow of his holy word upon me that as soon as it struck me it made a hole in my heart and I fell to the ground (unconscious).”(157)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us how just one divine word of the true Guru obliterated his ego and changed his entire life. However in this salok, he wants to impress upon us that the true Guru cannot do anything for the one who is so full of self-conceit that even after hearing the Guru’s sermon, doesn’t care to remember it or act on the advice. He says: “O’ Kabir, what can the true Guru do, if there is defect in the disciples. The thing is that not even one advice (of the true Guru seems pleasing and) worth acting upon to a blind egoistic person. (Giving advice to such a worshipper of power is like) blowing air into a bamboo (which enters it at one end and passes through the other).”(158)

Now telling about the merits of true devotees of God, he says: O’ Kabir, even the wife of a sovereign king who might have many horses, elephants, and other rides, doesn’t equal the water carrier maid of a devotee of God.”(159)

Giving the reason why we should look down upon the queen of a sovereign king but praise the most menial maidservant of devotees of God, he says: “O’ Kabir, (the reason why we) disparage the wife of a king and why we show respect to the maid of the disciple of God is (that while a queen) fixes her hair (motivated by) lust, (the maid) meditates on God’s Name (in the company of devotees).”(160)
Kabir Ji now tells us about the blessings he himself has experienced and obtained by joining the congregation of the saints, which he calls Maansarovar (a lake in India where it is believed that the swans peck at pearls).

He says: “When Kabir obtained the support (of the word of the true Guru, his mind) became stable. In this way the true Guru gave solace (to his mind. This is how) Kabir purchased the diamond (of God’s Name in the congregation of saintly persons, which is like) Mansarovar (lake, where the swan like saints peck at pearls of God’s Name).”

Next Kabir Ji tells us about the way, the servants of God obtain and trade in the jewels of God’s Name. This is not a trade in the ordinary sense of the word. But when saintly people meet they exchange their thoughts and spiritual experiences with each other and try to learn more and better ways to love God and meditate on His Name. Describing this exchange in poetic terms, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, God’s Name is like a diamond. The devotee of God is like a jeweler who on obtaining the (jewel of God’s Name) displays it in the showcase of the shop (of his or her heart). When the assayers (devotees who know the value of the jewel of God’s Name assemble in holy congregation, they exchange their thoughts and spiritual experiences, and in this way), trade of diamonds (of God’s merits) takes place (there).”

It is a common observation that when we are in some kind of trouble, we run to God and worship Him in all sincerity. However, when our purpose has been fulfilled we start to slacken again and the sincerity of our worship keeps diminishing. Kabir Ji advises us that we should always worship God with the same intensity and sincerity with which we worship him during the time of our need. He says: “O’ Kabir, (the sincerity and intensity), with which you contemplate God in time of need, worship Him similarly every day, then you would find an abode in the city of immortality (a state of eternal bliss) and would recover the lost wealth (of spiritual merits).”

In the above salok, Kabir Ji advised us that we should worship God at all times with true love and devotion and not just during the time of need. However, some time we may wonder whom to serve or worship? Whether we should serve or worship God or His saints? Answering this question, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, both God and the saint (Guru) are
worthy of service (and worship). God is the giver of salvation, but the saint (Guru) makes us meditate on (God's) Name.”(164)

Now Kabir Ji tells us, what kind of worship he is doing. Because the true worship of God with a sincere heart is very arduous and difficult, it is very easy for the common man to follow the paths shown by the pundits or Brahmmins, who tell them much simpler ways but actually entangle them into all kinds of rituals to enrich their own pockets. Therefore stating what he himself is doing, he says: “O’ Kabir, the crowds are following the way (of rituals on which) the pundits are walking. (But meditation on) God is like a very difficult peak, which Kabir is trying to climb.”(165)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji noted how following the ways shown by pundits, the common people are doing ritual worships instead of meditating on God's Name. In this salok, he identifies another reason why people are still following these traditions even when they may disagree or don’t believe in these rituals. He says: “O’ Kabir, look at the world, in which one dies worrying about the honor of one’s family (or what would the world say if one doesn’t follow the traditions of one’s ancestors. But I wonder) whose lineage would be put to shame when (upon death), they would put one on the pyre for cremation (and one’s soul would depart without meditating on God's Name)?”(166)

Therefore, Kabir Ji warns us against continuing to do the wrong things and perform all those useless rituals just for this reason that whatever right or wrong things our ancestors have been doing we need to continue doing the same, otherwise our society would defame us. So as if addressing himself, Kabir Ji says: “O’ poor wretched Kabir, you would be drowned (and go to hell), if you (keep following wrong practices just for the) sake of the opinions of many people. (But remember that) what has happened in the neighbor’s family (that tragedy of death) could befall you also.”(167)

Therefore Kabir Ji asks us to meditate on God's Name instead of blindly following the old traditions, even if we have to sacrifice our wealth and have to beg for our food. He sees bliss even in begging and says: “O’ Kabir, blessed is the bread received in alms because it contains many kinds of grains. (In this way one doesn’t) have to make claim on any property (and for such a person the entire world becomes like one) big country, ruled by one great king (God).”(168)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that one advantage of begging is that the person stops making claims on any property or possessions. In this salok, he tells us about other virtues of such a state of mind. He says: “O’ Kabir, when one asserts any kinds of claims, one subjects oneself to (unnecessary) heart burning. But one who lives without making any claims, considers both (a king like) Indira and a pauper (equal, because then one doesn’t depend on either).”(169)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji noted that when one makes claims on any property or position, one invites unnecessary heart burning. In many other saloks, he has also noted that because of self-conceit, worldly desires, and evil tendencies, people keep suffering from unnecessary pains and sorrows. The irony is that instead of living in such agony, they could enjoy immense peace and bliss, if they would look around and join the congregation of saints and meditate on God’s Name. Kabir Ji compares the above situation to a pool full of fresh cool water in front of everybody, but people are not even looking at this pool
because they are obsessed with acquiring more and more worldly wealth. Kabir Ji has realized this truth and joining the congregation of saints he is already enjoying its bliss. Therefore, he says: "O’ Kabir, the pool (of the congregation of saintly persons) is full to the brim (with the water of God’s Name) but no one can drink this water (and obtain comfort). By good fortune you have found it (and realized its value, so go ahead and meditate on God’s Name and thus) drink it in cupfuls."(170)
In salok (169), Kabir Ji advised us against making claims on any kind of worldly possession or property. In other words, he advised us not to try to hold on to anything, because whatever we see or have including our own body is perishable. The only entity, which is imperishable or eternal, is God and His Name. Therefore, he says: “O' Kabir, just as stars disappear in the dawn, so disappears (and slowly perishes) our body. But these two words (God and His Name) do not perish and that is what Kabir is holding on to.”(171)

Continuing to comment on the consequences of making claims, and trying to hold on to one’s worldly possessions, Kabir Ji gives us another very beautiful example. He refers to those people who are running after worldly wealth and possessions and think themselves as very wise and smart but consider those who remain satisfied with their meager belongings as fools. They don’t realize that they are daily suffering the fear and worry of losing their wealth while those simple persons whom they consider fools are enjoying a sound peaceful sleep. In this salok, Kabir Ji compares this world to a wooden house on fire, and says: “O’ Kabir, (this world is like) a house of wood, which is burning in fire on all sides. (They who consider themselves as) smart and wise (keep holding onto their possessions and are therefore) burnt down to death, but the simple folks (who didn’t have many possessions) save themselves by fleeing from it.”(172)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji explained how worrying about their worldly wealth and possessions, while the simple folks who don’t have too much wealth or possessions are saved from all such worries and agonies ruins those who consider themselves wise. Therefore in this salok, he again says: “O’ Kabir, shed your doubt and sink all the papers (regarding the account of your worldly possessions in water). Instead, after absorbing the essence (of knowledge of the holy books written) in the fifty two letters (of Sanskrit alphabet) attune your mind to God’s lotus feet (His Name).”(173)

In salok (164), Kabir Ji stated that it is equally good to serve both the saint and God. One wonders, how Guru Ji could give such high honor to a saint that he equates the merit of serving a saint to that of serving God. In this salok, he cites a beautiful example to illustrate the greatness of a saint. He says: “O’ Kabir, even though girdled by (many) snakes, just as a sandal tree doesn’t give up its (inner) coolness, similarly a saint doesn’t abandon his saintly nature (of seeking welfare of all) even though he might have to deal with millions of anti saints (villains to execute his good deeds).”(174)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji described how a saint remains cool and calm even when he comes across millions of evil characters. In this salok, he tells how a saint remains unaffected even by the fire of worldly desire, which has ruined the rest of the world. He says: “O’ Kabir, one who has obtained divine wisdom (and has become a saint, that) one’s mind becomes so cool and calm that the fire (of worldly desire) which has burnt down (and ruined the rest of) the word, that fire (of desire) is cool like water for that devotee (because worldly wealth has no allurement for such a person).”(175)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji described how a saint remains unaffected from the desire of worldly wealth, which has destroyed the rest of the world. In this salok, he tells the secret of such a state of mind. He says: “O’ Kabir, (the desire for worldly wealth) is created by the Creator. But no one knows about this (secret). Either the Master Himself knows about it or
that servant (saint, who remains attuned to God’s Name and thus) abides in His presence, knows this.”(176)

In the above two saloks, Kabir Ji stated that Maya (the worldly wealth), which has ruined rest of the world, doesn’t afflict the saints at all because they know the secret that it is God who has created it. Therefore they always remain under the fear of God and keep meditating on His Name. In this salok, he tells us how this fear has put him also on the right path and has united him with God. He says: “O’ Kabir, it was for good that my mind was instilled with the fear (of God), which made me forget the direction (of worldly wealth, in which I was going). It was (as if the fear of God has acted like heat, due to which) the hail has melted into water and has gone and merged in the stream.”(177)

In salok (176), Kabir Ji told us about the secret of Maya (the worldly attachment), which has deceived human beings. In this salok, he educates us about the construction of the human body itself. He says: “O’ Kabir, collecting dust God has built up the township of the body. But this is a show for a few days, in the end the dust becomes dust again.”(178)

Now Kabir Ji states the objective of the human body, without achieving which it remains as useless as dust. He says: “O’ Kabir, this body has been created so that in (it may manifest the loving warmth of) the sun and (the coolness of) moon. But without meeting Guru God (the body doesn’t acquire these qualities) and it all turns into dust again.”(179)

In the above saloks Kabir Ji enlightened us about the reality of the world, the worldly wealth, the human body, and many other such things, about which very few people really know. In this salok, he tells us about the blessings those devotees enjoy who have this inner knowledge. He says: “O’ saints, after carefully deliberating Kabir is saying this thing, listen to it with (full attention of) your mind. Where there is inner realization (about the reality of things), there is no fear, but where there is fear (of any kind, such as fear of death, or evil forces), there is no God.”(180)
In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated that where there is inner realization there is no fear, but where there is fear, there is no God. However many times there is a strange kind of peace in ignorance and a new fear or agony in the realization of the impending dangers. In this salok, Kabir Ji comments on such a situation. He says: “O’ Kabir, they who don’t know any thing (about the consequences of remaining involved in worldly affairs and not meditating on God’s Name) sleep in peace. But for me, who has realized this thing it has become a great source of worry.”(181)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that the realization of the necessity of God’s Name has made him worry a lot. In this salok, he illustrates how this realization has stunned him. He says: “O’ Kabir, when one is hit, one cries a lot (in pain) and due to that pain one cries even more. But I have been hit in such a secret place (of my heart by the word of the Guru that I) have been left immobile (and unable to say anything except following Guru’s advice).”(182)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji stated how the word of the Guru has left him immobile (and unable to say anything). In this salok, he explains how the blow of the Guru’s word is much more unbearable for him than even the wound of a spear. He says: “O’ Kabir, it is much easier to bear the strike of a spear, because at the most it makes one’s breathing difficult. But one who can bear the strike of the (immaculate) word, for me he is the Guru and I am his servant.”(183)

The message of the saloks from 132 to 183 is that while we have requisite energy (and till our health allows) we should meditate on God. There are lot of false worldly pleasures and attachments, which make human life stressful. The best way to save us from these allurements is to remain attuned to God’s Name.
Now Kabir Ji advises us against showing off our worship or devotion to God by speaking out loudly. He particularly refers to the practice of *Baang* or call of prayer by the Muslims. According to which a specially appointed man called *mullah* climbs a minaret of the mosque at fixed times and repeatedly makes loud & shrill cries of *Allah hoo Akbar* (God is great), hearing which the Muslims in the vicinity rush to the mosque to say the prayer. However as is often the case with pundits and priests of holy places, the mullahs themselves don’t have true love for God in their own hearts.

So addressing such a *mullah*, Kabir Ji says: “O’ *Mullah*, why do you climb up the minaret (and make these loud calls. Because) He for whom, you are uttering this *bang* is not deaf, why don’t you look for Him in your heart itself?”(184)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji suggested to a *Mullah* to search for God in his own heart. In this salok, he questions the use of going on *Hajj* to *Kaabba* (pilgrimage to Mecca or any other holy place, if one has no patience in one's heart).

He says: “What is the use of going on *Hajj* of *Kaaba* by that *Sheikh* (Muslim holy man) if he has no patience. Because O’ Kabir, they (who have no faith in God and) whose heart is not whole, for them God is no where.”(185)

In the above two saloks, Kabir Ji indirectly told us that there is no use of performing the ritualistic worships, such as issuing calls of prayers or going on pilgrimages, if within our own hearts we don’t have faith in God. Therefore in this salok, he says: “O’ Kabir, perform (true) worship of *Allah* (God), meditating on whom all sorrow goes away. Then God becomes manifest in the heart itself and the burning fire (of worldly desire) is quenched.”(186)

Kabir Ji next comments upon the practice of Muslims to very slowly kill an animal, such as chicken, goat, sheep or cow, while reading verses from Quran (Muslim holy book). The Muslims consider only the meat obtained in this way as *Hallaal* (sacred and fit for eating). Kabir Ji doesn’t buy this logic. He says: “(O’ *Mullah*), Kabir says that to use force is tyranny but you call it *Hallaal* (a sanctified deed. But think about) what would be your condition, when in God’ s court you are asked to render account (and punished for all such acts of cruelty on the innocent creatures)?”(187)

In this salok, Kabir Ji comments further upon the undesirability of eating meat at all. (Many people think that eating meat is the only right and healthy way but the latest research is showing that that vegetarian diet is the most wholesome diet). He says: “O’ Kabir, very wholesome is the diet of rice pudding, which has been embellished with clarified butter and salt. (I wonder, who would like to) to get his throat slit to become food (for some body else)?”(188)

In the previous five saloks, Kabir Ji commented on the false beliefs and shallow ritualistic ways of Muslims. Now he comments upon similar false traditions and beliefs of Hindus. The first thing which he takes up is the practice among Hindus to ceremonially adopt some brahmin or a pundit as their Guru by going through some rituals, such as wearing a *Janaiyu* (a sacred thread, over which the Guru has chanted some mantras).

Kabir Ji says: “We should deem one attached to a Guru only when one’s worldly attachment and the agony of the body is removed. If no pleasure or pain burns (or tortures one’s mind), then deem that in one’s heart is God Himself.”(189)
It appears Kabir Ji uttered this salok, when some one asked him what is so special about him, when both he and Kabir repeat the name Ram for their meditation. He replied: “O’ Kabir, there is (lot of) difference between the ways of saying Ram. There is one thing, which requires careful consideration. One Ram (is that all pervading God), whom all worship. Another Ram is the one, whose name those actors use (who play the legend of Ramayana).”(190)

Note: Kabir Ji further clarifies between these two Rams in the next salok.

(Note: In a way from this salok, the sikhs should also take a lesson that simply by going through the Amrit ceremony, we don’t become true followers of the Guru, unless we improve our life conduct as per Gurbani).
In the above salok, Kabir Ji referred to the two Rams upon whom different people meditate. In this salok, he clarifies the difference between the two. He says: “O’ Kabir, always utter the Name of Ram. (But remember that there is difference in saying (and knowing, which Ram you are meditating upon). There is one Ram (or God) who is pervading in all, but the other one (is the son of king Dashrath of the legend of Ramayana who is) merged in his own body.”

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji advised us to meditate on the Name of Ram, (the all pervading God). In this salok, he tells us how important it is to serve that God and His saints. He says: “O’ Kabir, the houses in which there is no service of the saints and no service (or worship of God) are like cremation grounds, in which ghosts abide.”

In salok (182), Kabir Ji described how he was pierced in his heart and affected by the word of the Guru. In this salok, he goes even further to describe the effect of his Guru’s word. He says: “When the true Guru hit him with the arrow (of his word), Kabir (stopped speaking ill of others, caring for worldly wealth, hearing slander of others and going to any evil places, as if he had) become dumb, insane, deaf from the ears, and cripple from the feet.”

In the above salok, Kabir Ji described how the Guru’s word stopped him from uttering or listening to bad things about others, or following evil paths. In this salok, he describes how the Guru’s word shattered his ego. He says: “O’ Kabir, when the valiant true Guru aimed the arrow (of his word at me, it so intensely affected me that immediately all my ego was so completely gone, as if) I had fallen to the ground as soon as it struck me and a hole was made in my heart.”

In the previous two saloks, Kabir Ji shared with us how the immaculate word of the Guru had pierced his mind and changed his entire life. Now he illustrates the effect of bad company on a person. He says: “O’ Kabir, if an immaculate drop (of rain) from the sky falls on barren ground (it doesn’t help anybody) and without the company (of a fertile land it becomes a waste like) the ash of a furnace. (Similar is the fate of the divine soul of a human being who happens to fall in the company of worshippers of power or others such evil persons).”

In the above salok, Kabir Ji, illustrated the effect of joining bad company. In this salok, using the same metaphor of a drop of rain, he illustrates the result of joining a holy company. He says: “O’ Kabir, when the immaculate drop (of rain) from the sky (falls on fertile land), the ground absorbs it in itself. (Then even if) myriad of wise persons try, they cannot separate it (from the earth. Similarly when an innocent person joins the company of saintly people, they unite him with them and attune him to God and then no one can separate him from that union).”
In saloks 184 to 188 Kabir Ji commented on some of the Muslim ritualistic ways of worship. One of their most important rituals is going for Hajj to Kaabha (or pilgrimage to Mecca). They believe that this is the abode of God and is therefore one of the five most important requirements of their faith. In this salok, assuming him to be one such pilgrim Kabir Ji narrates in a dramatic way what happened when he reflected on this practice. He says: “(I) Kabir was going on a pilgrimage to Mecca when on the way I met God. (But instead of being pleased upon this visit), the Master became mad at me (and angrily asked), who told you that (I live only) in this (or any other holy) place.” (197)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji conveyed the point that God doesn’t live only in Mecca or any other particular holy place. In this salok, he stresses upon this point again by telling that what to speak of going there once, even if one goes many times, one won’t meet God (unless one truly meditates on Him with love and devotion). So addressing God, He says: “O’ God, Kabir has been on the pilgrimage to Mecca many times, but O’ my Master (please tell me), what is the fault in me that You don’t speak to me (and bless me with Your sight)?” (198)

In salok (187), Kabir Ji stated that they, who kill animals by force and then call it Halal or sanctified food, would have no answer when God would ask them to account for their acts of tyranny. In this salok, he once again warns against such killing or oppression against any body in the name of faith. He says: “O’ Kabir, they who kill the creatures by force and call it Halal (or sanctified food. I wonder what would) be their fate, when in the court of (God) who is merciful on all creatures, the account of their deeds are brought out?” (199)

In the previous salok, it might appear that Kabir Ji is condemning only the killing of creatures by force. In this salok, he makes it clear that any kind of oppression or the use of force to compel others to do things against their conscience, or to usurp the rights of others by force is an act of cruelty, and such a person would be punished severely in God’s court. He says: “O’ Kabir, to use force (against anyone) is an act of cruelty and God demands explanation (for any such acts). When in (God’s) court the account (of our deeds) is examined, (the oppressors) would have to suffer severe punishment.” (200)
In previous two saloks, Kabir Ji told us that in God’s court, we have to account for (and suffer punishment for) our deeds of cruelty and oppression. In this salok, he shows us the opposite side of the picture or what happens when instead of committing any kind of cruelties we have been living our life with a pure and clean heart, without knowingly hurting anybody or doing anything wrong. He says: “O’ Kabir, it is very easy to render account (of your deeds), if your heart is pure. Then in that true court (of God) no one holds you by your gown (and asks for your account).”(201)

Now Kabir Ji brings to our attention another very potent enemy of the human mind, the “Duality” or the love of worldly riches and power, instead of God. He says: “O’ Duality, Kabir says that between earth and the sky (the entire universe), you are the most difficult thing to destroy. What to speak of ordinary people even the six sects of yogis and all the eighty four adepts have been left in dread and doubt (on account of duality).”(202)

But Kabir Ji doesn’t leave us high and dry with the difficult problem of duality. He tells us a way to overcome this problem and suggests that we should abandon any thoughts of owning anything including our wealth, our family, and even our body and accept all these as belonging to God and then feel no hesitation in offering it back to God what we have accepted as belonging to Him. He says: “O’ God, there is nothing in me, which is (truly) mine, whatever is there that is Yours. So it doesn’t cost me anything in surrendering to You, what belongs to You (in the first place).”(203)
Now Kabir Ji describes what happened when he started thinking in this way and seeing everything including his soul and body belonging to God? Addressing God, he says: “O’ God, by saying “You, You” again and again, I have myself become “You”, and now (while meditating on Your Name), there is left no sense of “mine” in me. In this way, when all the difference between me and the others has been removed, then wherever I look I find only You.”(204)

In the previous two saloks, Kabir Ji told us how to get rid of our duality (or love of worldly things), and enjoy the bliss of becoming one with God. Now he comments on the fate of those who run after worldly things and even keep thinking of evil ways to fulfill their worldly desires. He says: “O’ Kabir, they who think of evil ways and entertain false hopes (of worldly possessions), none of their objectives gets fulfilled. They depart disappointed (from this world.”(205)

Therefore suggesting the best way to live a peaceful life, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, one who meditates on God is a happy person in this world. Such a person whom God saves doesn’t wander here or there (in this or the next world).”(206)

In addition to the worship of God Kabir Ji advises us to seek the protection of the true Guru. Describing the merits of Guru’s protection, he says: “O’ Kabir, even those who were suffering so much as if they were being pressed in the oil press, the true Guru has got them saved as if their holy deeds done in the past have now brought fruit.” (207)

In the previous two saloks Kabir Ji told us about the blessings of meditating on God’s Name under the protection of the true Guru. In this salok, he comments on the fate of those who keep postponing going to the Guru and meditating on God’s Name. He compares our life breaths to a loan from God, which we have to repay by meditating on God’s Name. But if we keep postponing this thing then one day suddenly our life would come to an end, and instead of our loan being settled and loan papers being torn off we would be burdened with additional interest.

To pay off this loan we would have to go through many more painful existences. Depicting this situation, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, evading and postponing the day (of your life) is passing away, and every moment the interest on the loan (owed to God) is multiplying. (One day you would find) that you have neither meditated on God, nor paid off your debt, but the time of your death has arrived, (so now you have to suffer in many more existences to pay off your debt).” (208)

Mehla-5

In the previous salok Kabir Ji told us about the consequences of continuing to postpone meditation on God’s Name and seeking Guru’s guidance. In this salok, Guru Arjan Dev Ji comments on the above situation and gives the underlying reason why a man keeps postponing God’s worship and keeps running after false worldly pleasures.

He says: “O’ Kabir, (without the guidance of the true Guru, man remains like a dog whose nature is to) bark and run after carcasses (evil desires. But) by good fortune, I have obtained (the guidance of the) true Guru who has got me liberated (from such worldly desires).”(209)
In the above salok, Guru Ji told us that guidance of the true Guru has saved him from the false worldly desires and allurements. A doubt may arise that this happens only when one is already a saint or at least basically a good person, but what about the one who has already sunk so deep into evil ways that he or she may be termed as a thief or robber? If such a person joins the company of saints, instead of becoming good in the saint’s company, isn’t he or she likely to mislead the saints themselves into evil ways? Putting at rest any such doubts Guru Ji says: “O’ Kabir, if on the land of the saints, some thieves come to stay, the land doesn’t feel their burden; rather it brings them some profit also. (In other words if some evil people come and join the congregation of saints, the congregation doesn’t get misled by them, but motivates the evil people also to mend their ways and sanctify their character).”(210)
In *salok* (210) Guru Ji told us that if some evil people come and join the congregation of saints, the congregation doesn’t get spoiled by them, but motivates the evil people to mend their ways and sanctify their character also. The reason is that saints or the virtuous people are in majority, metaphorically heavier in weight than that of the evil ones. Therefore in their company even the bad people acquire some virtues. But what if the situation is reverse and evil persons are in majority or metaphorically evil is heavier than the virtue just as the rice grain is heavier than the husk around it. In this *salok*, Guru Ji uses this example to illustrate the consequences of an ordinary man joining the company of vicious persons. He says: “O’ Kabir, for the sake of obtaining rice (grains) the owner beats upon the husk. Similarly when ordinary innocent persons sit in the company of evil persons, they are also interrogated by the judge of righteousness (and subjected to beating and hardships, because of for their association with evil people).”(211)

Kabir Ji now removes with a very beautiful and effective example the doubts of many sikhs. They wonder, that on one hand they are advised to always meditate and remain attached to God’s Name. On the other hand, they are strongly forbidden from becoming recluse or dependents upon society. So how can they do their jobs to earn money and take care of their families, if they are supposed to meditate on God’s Name at all times. Kabir Ji replies to these questions in the words of Nam Dev (a great devotee of God) when his friend Tirlochan (another saint of his time) asked him a question. Narrating the incident Kabir Ji says: “Tirlochan asks his friend, O’ dear Nam Dev, why are you entangled in *Maya* (the worldly affairs) and keep printing (cloth, instead of that) why don’t you attune your mind to God?” (212)

Kabir Ji replies on behalf of Nam Dev and says: “Nam Dev replies, O’ Tilochan, (my formula is that) with your tongue utter God’s Name, with your hands and feet do your (worldly) chores, but keep your mind attuned to God.” (213)

**Mehla-5**

In the previous *salok*, Kabir Ji stated on behalf of Nam Dev Ji that even though we may be doing our daily chores and discharging our worldly duties our mind should remain attuned to God. In this *salok*, Guru Ji gives the reason why we have to keep our mind attuned to God even when we are discharging our worldly duties. He says: “O’ Kabir, (we have to remember that in reality) no one belongs to us and we belong to none. (Therefore we
It is the same light

should always remain attuned to that God) who has created this creation and in whom we would ultimately merge.”(214)

Now Kabir Ji gives us an immaculate advice about meditating on God’s Name and singing His praises. He advises us to keep meditating on God even while we are working and not to postpone it to the time after our work is finished, or to think that after we have taken care of our family, then we would meditate on God’s Name with full vigor. He uses the metaphor of those days, when women used to grind corn and while grinding they used to keep munching on the corn.

A parable is often quoted in this connection. Once that once a lady kept grinding the corn, when after completing the grinding, she proceeded to go home, she slipped and all her flour fell in the mud and became unfit for eating and only the few grains of corn, which she had munched upon while grinding were of any use to her. Similarly whatever meditation we do while doing our daily work might prove to be the only meditation to our credit because we may suddenly die any time. So referring to this parable, Guru Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (A lady was returning home with some flour in her hand. On the way her foot slipped and all the) flour fell into mud and none of it could be recovered. Whatever she chewed while grinding, only that proved useful to her in the end. (Similar is the case of meditation on God’s Name, which you do even while at work, because death may overtake you anytime and whatever time you meditated on God, while doing your other duties, only that would be of use to you).”(215)

Now Kabir Ji comments upon the working of our mind and the irony that many times our mind knows what is right and what is wrong, but still it does the wrong things. Guru Ji uses a very common metaphor to illustrate this situation. He says: “O’ Kabir, in one’s mind, one knows everything, (what is right and what is wrong, but still one does all kinds of evil deeds. How could such a person hope for) any kind of peace and happiness (in life. Such a person’s condition is like the one who has) a lighted lamp in one’s hand but still falls into an (open) well.”(216)

Kabir Ji further comments upon the thought process or the working of the mind of the ordinary human beings. Not only they knowingly commit sin and do wrong deeds but even try to dissuade and discourage those who are trying to do the right thing, and want to remain attuned to the love of God. Kabir Ji finds himself in such a situation and tells why he doesn’t want to be dissuaded from his choice. Addressing himself, he says: “O’ Kabir, you are attuned in love with (God) the wisest Being, but ignorant people try to dissuade you from this path. (But don't give in to such pressure and break your love with God. Because) how it is possible to break with Him to whom belongs our life and breaths.”(217)

Next Kabir Ji comments upon the love of the ordinary people for worldly riches and possessions. They want to make bigger and better houses and acquire more and more land for them, as if they need all this vast area for themselves. Kabir Ji advises all such people not to be so obsessed with acquiring more and more possessions and luxuries because in the end they would need only a small piece of land for their graves. He says: “O’ Kabir, why do you kill yourself in lovingly building and decorating your homes and mansions? In the end, it would only be three and half, or at the most three and three quarter hands (a very small piece of land, which would suffice for your grave).”(218)

Many of us keep thinking and making grandiose plans for our future, such as having someday big mansions and owning most prestigious cars or vehicles and living a luxurious
life. Kabir Ji cautions us against such fantasies, because what we may plan or wish may not be included in the plans of God. He may have very different plans for our future. Therefore he says: “O’ Kabir, whatever I think or plan that God doesn’t do. Therefore, nothing is going to be achieved simply by my thinking or wishing. Whatever God thinks Himself, He does that, which may not be in my mind at all.”(219)

Mehla-3

Now the third Guru, Guru Amar Das Ji comments upon the above couplet attributed to Kabir Ji regarding thoughts or worries about one’s own future or that of his family. He says: “O’ man, it is God who makes us worry, and He Himself blesses us with a state free from all anxiety. O’ Nanak, we should praise Him who takes care of us all.”(220)
In salok (219), Kabir Ji stated that whatever a person may think or plan God might not do that. He does what He wishes to happen. Therefore referring to this salok, fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji cautions us against becoming a victim to greed and spending all our life in committing sins to satisfy our greed. Because one day suddenly death may over take us and our entire life may be consumed in committing crimes (for the sake of fulfilling our worldly desires). So Guru Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (many times, man) does not remember God and keeps wandering in pursuit of greed (for worldly riches. In this way it may happen that) while still committing sins, one dies and one’s life ends in a moment.”(221)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji cautioned us against becoming a victim to greed and spending all our life in committing sins to satisfy our greed, because death may over take us any moment. Now in this salok, Kabir Ji tells us how to make the right and fruitful use of this body. He compares this body to an easily breakable pot of clay or mud and tells us how to save it from breaking or dying without fulfilling its intended purpose.

He says: “O Kabir, this body of ours is (like) a breakable pot of clay. If you want to keep it whole (and save it from dying without fulfilling its purpose), then meditate on God’s Name. Otherwise you would lose (this precious opportunity to re-unite with God).”(222)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji advised us to make the best use of our perishable body by using it to fulfill the purpose of our life of reuniting with God. In this salok, he tells us the way to do that. He says: “O’ Kabir, keep on uttering the Name of God again and again and don’t sleep and become unaware (of the main object of re-uniting with God). If this way we keep on uttering His Name day and night, at least some time, He would listen to our prayer.”(223)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji advised us that day and night we should keep meditating on God’s Name. But the problem is that our mind often remains misguided by our impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego, which lead us into committing sin after sin and thus destroy our chances of salvation or union with God. In this salok, Kabir Ji compares our body to Kajli Bann (a dense forest full of banana trees) and our mind to a wild elephant in this jungle and tells us who can help us to control this elephant like misguided mind of ours. He says: “O’ Kabir, our body is like Kajli Ban, in which our mind is roaming like any intoxicated elephant. For this elephant the only true goad (or controlling tool) is the jewel of Guru’s wisdom and the only person who can truly drive the elephant on the right path is a rare saint. (In other words if we want to keep this mind of ours in control, so that it doesn’t lead us into evil ways, then we should listen to the Guru and whenever our mind tries to go astray, we should remember the advice of our Guru and not allow ourselves to be mislead into any wrongful pursuits).”(224)
Next Kabir Ji compares God’s Name to a precious jewel and our mouth to a tiny bag in which we keep this jewel. Just as a jeweler wouldn’t like to open the bag of his diamonds before such customers who are unable or unwilling to pay the high price of such diamonds, similarly Kabir Ji advises us to open our mouth for explaining the blessings of God’s Name only to such persons who really appreciate its worth and are eager to acquire this precious jewel. Therefore he says: “O’ Kabir, God’s Name is like a precious jewel and our mouth is like the small bag (in which it is kept). You should open this bag only before a customer who knows about (the diamonds of God’s Name). Ultimately some customer (who really knows the worth of this jewel) would come and buy it at a high price.”

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji advised us to talk about God’s Name with those who know its worth. In this salok, he tells us about the end state of those who don’t care about God’s Name but spend all their life in taking care of their families. He says: “O’ Kabir, one who has not cared to know about God’s Name and has raised a big family, ultimately one’s entire life is consumed in worldly affairs and never a sound of God’s Name comes out (of one’s mouth).”

Continuing to comment on the state of a person who only keeps busy in family affairs and doesn’t meditate on God’s Name, Kabir Ji says: “O’ Kabir, (the person) whose mind doesn’t get rid of the worldly entanglements, with every twinkling of eyes, moment by moment, his or her life gets spent, then (before one has any chance to meditate on God’s Name) the demon of death comes and announces his arrival with the beat of drum (and the man dies).”

The message of the saloks from 184 to 227 is that if we want to get rid of our selfishness, and discrimination, then instead of doing ritualistic worships, such as going on pilgrimages, observing fasts, worshipping idols, or practicing yoga, we should surrender ourselves to the guidance of the true Guru and meditate on God’s Name.

In many previous saloks, Kabir Ji has advised us to seek the guidance of a saint (Guru) and meditate on God’s Name. In this salok, he gives a very beautiful example to illustrate the unique virtues in the saint (Guru) and God’s Name. He says: “O’ Kabir, God’s is like a tree which yields the fruit of detachedness (from worldly allurements). The saint (of God) who has renounced all kind of (worldly) strife and arguments is like the shade (of a tree. Any person who takes the shelter of a saint enjoys the comfort of the saint’s divine words and the merits of meditating on God’s Name).”

In the above salok, Kabir Ji compared God’s Name to a cool shady tree. In this salok, continuing the same metaphor, he advises himself and says: “O’ Kabir, sow the seed of such a tree, which yields fruit in all the twelve months, has cool shade, with abundant fruit, and on which the birds play and have fun. (In other words meditate on God’s Name, so that it may not only benefit you, but also provide guidance to others to obtain peace and comfort).”

In this salok, Kabir Ji once again utilizes the beautiful metaphor of the evergreen and fruit-yielding tree to illustrate the merits of the saint Guru. He says: “O’ Kabir, (the Guru is like a) beneficent tree which yields the fruit of compassion, who lives doing good to others. When after enjoying the cool comfort and the sweet fruit of the tree, the birds fly away in all the ten directions they pray and say, O’ tree may you always keep growing like this with such fruits. (In other words after the devotees have benefited from the divine advice and
comfort of the Guru and proceed to their different destinations they pray and wish that the saint (Guru) may keep guiding and saving many others like them.”(230)

kabeer saaDhoo sang paraapatee likhi-aa ho-ay liaat.

SGGS P-1377

mukat pagaraath paa-ee-ai thaak na avghat ghaat. ||231||

kabeer ayk gharhee aaDhee gharree aaDhee hoo' tay aaDh.

bhagtan saytee gostay jo keenay so laabh. ||232||

kabeer bhaa'g maachhulee suraa paan jo jo paraanee khaa'hi.

tirath bara't naym kee-ay tay sabhai rasaatal jaa'hi. ||233||

neechay lo-in kar raha-o lay saajan ghat maahi.

sab bh ras khayla-o pee-a sa-o kisee lakaavaa-o naahi. ||234||

aath jaam cha-usath gharree tu-a nirkhat rahai jee-o.

neechay lo-in ki-o kara-o sabh ghat daykh-a-u pee-o. ||235||

sun sakhee pee-a meh jee-o basai jee-a meh basai ke pee-o.

jee-o pee-o boojha-o nahee ghat meh jee-o ke pee-o. ||236||

kabeer baaman guroo hai jagat kaa bhagtan kaa gur naahi.

arajh urajh kai pach moo-aa chaara-o baydahu maahi. ||237||

har hai khaa'ad rayt meh bikhree haatheee chunee na jaa-ay.

kahi kabeer gur bhalee bujhaa-ee keetee ho-ay kai khaa-ay. ||238||

kabeer ja-o tuhi saaDh piramm kee sees kaat kar go-ay.

khaylat khaylat haal kar jo kichh ho-ay ta ho-ay. ||239||

kabeer ja-o tuhi saaDh piramm kee paakay saytee khayl.

kaachee sarsa-u' payl kai naa khai bha-ee na tayl. ||240||
In many previous saloks, Kabir Ji has noted the blessings of joining the company of the true saint (Guru). However, he wants to make us aware that it is not easy to find such true company. He says: “O’ Kabir, the company of a saint is only obtained, if it has been so pre-written in our destiny. (But once we are blessed with such company), we obtain the commodity of salvation and face no obstruction in any difficult or treacherous path (of life).” (231)

Therefore Kabir Ji goes to the extent of saying that it is not necessary that we have to have the perpetual company of the saint (Guru). No matter how short a time we spend in a saint’s company or have a chance to hear him even that is very fruitful. Therefore talking in terms of gharris, (intervals of twenty-four minutes) he says: “O’ Kabir, whether it is just one gharri, half gharri, or even half of that, whatever time one converses with the (saints or) devotees, that is all profitable (because by conversing with the saints we learn something good and it is never a waste of time).” (232)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji advised us that whatever little time we spend in the company of true saints or devotees, that is beneficial for us. However it doesn’t mean that along with the company of saints we carry on our sinful habits also.

Warning us against indulging in the enjoyment of those foods and drinks, which promote lustful passions in us, he says: “O’ Kabir, all those who indulge in such things as eating hemp, fish, (drinking) alcohol (or other intoxicants); whatever pilgrimages, fasts, and daily worship they might have done, all go to hell (and are a total waste. In other words it is no use doing worships, observing fasts or performing other faith rituals, if at the same time we keep giving a boost to our evil passions by having parties and indulging in eating meat, drinking alcohol, or taking other intoxicants).” (233)

Kabir Ji now uses a very pictorial metaphor of a very bashful young bride of those days who although loves her spouse dearly in her heart, yet would not make a show of her love. In fact, she is in so much love with him that she doesn’t even look straight at another man and if necessary talks with him only with her eyes gazing downwards. Kabir Ji has similar loving feelings for his beloved (God) and as if sharing these with his saintly friend, he says: “(O’ my friend), enshrining the beloved (God) in my heart, I keep my eyes down (and don’t look towards other men at all). I enjoy all kinds of pleasing sports with my Spouse, but I don’t show off (this love) to any body.” (234)

Continuing the same metaphor and imagining that the other friend is even more deeply in love with God but has a little different perspective, so she says: “O’ my Beloved, for all the eight pehars, and sixty four gharries (all day and night) my soul keeps looking at You. Why should I cast down my eyes when in all hearts I see my Beloved?” (235)

Continuing to share her own state of mind, the friend says: “Listen O’ my mate, (my condition is such that I don’t know) whether my soul lives in my Beloved or my Beloved lives in my soul. I cannot discriminate between the Beloved and my soul. (In short, I don’t know) whether it is my soul in my heart, or my beloved (God)?” (236)

It appears that some one might have asked Kabir Ji what Brahmin was his Guru, who gave him such divine wisdom, and helped him achieve such an enlightened state of pure sublime love with God? In this salok, Kabir Ji responds to such questions and clarifies that like the rest of the Hindu society of those days, he didn’t go to any such pundit or Brahmin for his spiritual guidance. Giving the reasons for his stance, he says: “O’ Kabir, a Brahmin is
It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Page - 1377

(considered) the Guru of the (Hindu) world, but he is not the Guru of devotees. Because by remaining involved and entangled in (the intricate philosophies of) four Vedas, (he hasn’t achieved true enlightenment), and has been consumed (in spiritual) death.”(237)

In the above salok, Kabir Ji told us that he didn’t adopt a Brahmin as his Guru because he only remains entangled in the ritualistic ways of Vedas, and doesn’t have true enlightenment. In this salok, he shares with us the special or unique wisdom, which his Guru gave him and which changed his life. He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is like sugar, which is scattered in sand. (But if a person is egoistic like an) elephant it cannot be picked up by him. But Kabir says, the Guru has given him such a sublime understanding (that by becoming humble like an) ant, one could eat it.”(238)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that his Guru has advised him that to enjoy the relish of God’s Name, one has to become humble like an ant. But the question arises how to become humble like that? In this salok, he gives us an example to illustrate how to acquire such extreme humility. He says: “O’ Kabir, if you have a real craving to play the game of (divine) love, then chopping off your head make it into a ball and play so intensely (with it that you don’t worry about its condition) and let happen whatever happens. (In other words, shedding your self- conceit you should get so absorbed in meditating on God’s Name that you don’t care how others are pushing you around or hurting you).”(239)

In the above salok Kabir Ji explained how to play the game of love for God without caring about how the world treats us. However he wants to caution us that we have to play this game of love under the guidance of a true Guru and not under the guidance of an ordinary brahmin, yogi, or other fake saint, who himself hasn’t achieved perfection. Illustrating the result of seeking guidance from such fake or imperfect gurus he says: “O’ Kabir, if you have a craving to play the game of (divine) love, then play it (under the guidance) of a perfect (Guru. Because, if you seek the guidance of an imperfect guru, your condition would be like) pressing the unripe mustard (in an oil press), which yields neither oil, nor oil-cake (and you would neither become a saint, nor remain an ordinary person).”(240)

In the previous salok, Kabir Ji told us that if we truly wanted to be in love with God then we should seek a perfect Guru. Because under the guidance of an imperfect guru we would neither become a saint, nor remain a worldly person. In this salok, he quotes devotee Namdev Ji to confirm the same principle and tells us how those, who keep blindly following an imperfect saint keep wandering aimlessly. He says: “(O’ my friends, they who follow the imperfect gurus), keep wandering like blind persons and cannot recognize the (true) saints. Nam Dev says, how can we find God without (the guidance of His true) devotees?”(241)
In the above salok, Kabir Ji quoted devotee Nam Dev Ji, that without the guidance of a true devotee we cannot find God. In this salok, he quotes devotee Ravi Das Ji to tell what happens to those who forsaking God, start worshipping other lesser gods, goddesses, human beings, animals, or statues. He says: “(O’ my friends), Ravi Das utters this truth that forsaking the diamond like God, they who pin their hopes in any other (lesser gods or goddesses), those human beings (would suffer severely, like) going to hell.”(242)

Now Kabir Ji gives the essence of his philosophy. He says: O’ Kabir, if want to be a householder, then practice righteousness (by honestly discharging your family and worldly duties while keeping your mind attuned to God). Otherwise become a detached person. But if a renouner (entangles him or herself) in bonds (such as having many disciples, becoming head of a cult etc.), then that is a big misfortune.” (243)

The message of the saloks from 228 to 243 is that it is through meditation on God’s Name under the guidance of a perfect Guru that we can get rid of the worldly anxieties, dissensions, and quarrels etc.

The message of all Kabir Ji’s saloks is that the worst thing for man is separation from God. This is the root cause of all one’s personal, family, and worldly problems. The only way to find peace is that joining the congregation of saintly people; one should meditate on God’s Name, which is the main objective of human life.
It is the same light

Salok Sheikh Farid Kaiy

(The couplets of Sheikh Farid)

Devotee Farid Ji (1173-1266), son of Jamaal uddeen Suleiman belonged to a royal family of Gazni (Afghanistan). This family had migrated to Qasoor (Pakistan) in C. E 1125. His mother Maryam was the daughter of a Muslim priest. It was she who by giving the incentive of some brown sugar lured young Farid into reading Nimaaz (the daily Muslim prayer). But soon after he became so much interested in it that he remembered the entire Quran by heart. In the later life he became the disciple of Qutabul deen Bakhtyat Kaaki, Punjab, India, and upon his death, Farid Ji moved to Pakpatan (Pakistan), where he spent most of his life as a Sufi (Muslim saint). Guru Nanak Dev Ji collected his divine sayings from his eleventh descendant Sheikh Braham, which he passed onto his successor Guru Angad Dev Ji along with other such collections and his own compositions. The fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji included all the material passed onto him along with his own compositions in the Sikh scripture, Shri Guru Granth Sahib.

In the first salok, Farid Ji wants to remind us about our impending death. He advises us to worship God and meditate on His Name so that our journey beyond death may become easier. Farid Ji explains his point by citing a very pictorial metaphor from Indian custom of setting a date for a girl’s marriage on which the bridegroom comes to the house of the bride to wed her and take her away to his home.

Comparing the soul in man’s body to the bride and death to the groom, Farid Ji says: “The day on which the bride is to be married has already been written. (In other words before a person comes to the world his or her time of death has already been fixed. On that day) the angel of death about whom one has heard before makes his appearance. (Then giving
utmost pain to the body, as if) breaking the bones, he pulls out the poor soul out of it. (O’ man), make your soul understand that this prewritten command of death cannot be changed. Your soul is (like) the bride whom the groom (death) would wed and take away. (Then imagine, after) personally seeing (the soul off) on whose shoulder (the body) would cry (and to whom it would go for solace. O’ man) haven’t you heard with your own ears that *Purslaat* (the bridge over the sea of fire, which as per Muslim belief every soul has to cross after death) is narrower even than a hair? O’ Farid, (understand that you could also die any moment, as if) call of your death is already being made. Therefore, don’t just keep standing (and ignoring it) and let yourself be deceived, (and remain involved in worldly affairs. Instead use whatever little time is available to you in meditating on God’s Name).”(1)

In the above *salok*, Farid Ji advised us that we shouldn’t let ourselves be robbed by worldly attachments. Instead we should use whatever little time is available to us in meditating on God’s Name. In other words, even while living in the world we should be detached from its allurements and remain attuned to God. Farid Ji calls such a life style to be that of (recluse or) a *dervish* at God’s door. However, he recognizes that this life is not easy at all. Therefore he says: “O’ Farid, it is a very difficult job to be a *dervish* (beggar) at God’s door, because I am still living like (other) people of the world. Still I am carrying the load (of worldly involvements) and I’ don’t know, where could I go to throw it off (and walk away from my worldly responsibilities and follow the spiritual path)?”(2)

As if God listened to Farid Ji’s prayer and showed him the way to remain detached from the world even while living in it or keeping the mind attuned to God and also discharging the worldly duties. Therefore Farid Ji thanks God and says: “The world is (like a) smoldering fire and I cannot think or find a way (to save my self from it). But God did a great favor to me and He pulled me out of it. Otherwise I too would have been burnt. (In other words, God showed me the way to remain detached, even while living in the family, otherwise I too would have been spiritually ruined).”(3)

In this *salok*, Farid Ji once again reminds us about the limited life span allotted to us in this human birth. Therefore he advises us to use it with caution and restraints. He gives the example of an old custom in which a newly wedded bride exchanges handfuls of sesame seeds with her groom and his other relatives to become more familiar with them. If the girl knows that she has only limited quantity of these seeds, she has to be careful in doling out these. Similarly if she knows that her groom is of innocent nature then she doesn’t take too much pride in him. Comparing the life breaths to the seeds and God to be the groom of the soul to be wed, Farid Ji says: “O’ Farid, if I know that the sesame seeds (of my life breaths) are too few, I should be careful in my handfuls (and spending my life breaths). Also if I know that my Groom is young (and of innocent of nature) I should pride (on myself) little less.”(4)

Farid Ji now cites another metaphor to illustrate how intensely we should be imbued with the love of our spouse God. As per both Hindu and Sikhs customs, before the actual marriage ceremony starts, father of the girl ties down a knot, between pieces of cloth held by the bride and the groom, to symbolize that they now have become tied to each. Using this metaphor to express his feelings that he never wants his love for God to fade or break down, Farid Ji says: “(O God), if I knew that (the knot with your) robe could get loosed, I would have put a tighter knot. (O’ Master), I have roamed around the entire world (and have found no other companion more reliable) than You.”(5)
Next Farid Ji shows us how to lead a pious and a virtuous life. The very first thing, which he wants us to avoid, is assuming ourselves as too clever or too virtuous and trying to find faults in others. Therefore addressing himself he says: “O’ Farid, if you think yourself wise, then don’t write black essays (say disparaging words about others). Instead bend your head and look beneath your own collar (examine your own self to see your own faults).”(6)

After self-evaluation, the next thing, which Farid Ji teaches us, is to develop in us the spirit of compassion and forgiveness even for those who have hurt us. He says: “O’ Farid, they who beat you with fists, don’t turn around and hit them back. Instead personally go to their houses, and kiss their feet. (In other words become extremely humble and instead of taking revenge from those who harm you go and thank them for reminding you about your faults).”(7)

Farid Ji once again reminds us about the approaching death and advises us to amass the wealth of God’s Name, while we are young. Because with the passing of every day as we become old our body becomes weak every day. When we are near death it becomes very difficult or impossible to worship God. Therefore putting himself in this situation, Farid Ji says: “O’ Farid, when you have the time to earn the wealth (of God’s Name), you remain involved with the world. (Don’t you realize) that as you become older the foundation of your death becomes stronger (and your death becomes more and more certain). Your body is like a cart which when loaded is driven off.”(8)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji reminded us that with the passing of each day, our death is becoming closer. In this salok, he points to the signs of our approaching end. He says: “O’ Farid, look at your beard, which has grown grey. Your next stage (of death) is coming near, and your past (childhood) is now left far behind.”(9)

In this salok, Farid Ji once again advises us not to waste our life in the sweet pleasures of life while we are young, because when we become old those very pleasures and enjoyments of drugs and sweets would become like poison for us. Theses things would bring all kinds if diseases, what to speak of other things even eating too much sugar in youth may lead to the incurable disease of diabetes. At that time the sweet sugar becomes like poison for that person. So Farid Ji says: “O’ Farid, look what has happened to you. Even sugar (the alluring enchantments of the world) has become (like) poison for you. Now except for God, no body can share your pain (or listen to your cries for help).”(10)
In the previous salok, Farid Ji reminded us about our approaching death by pointing to the signs of old age and asked us to look what has happened to our body. When even sugar (and other sweet and alluring pleasures of the world) become (like) poison for us. In this salok, he points to other similar signs so that we may not waste any more time in worldly pleasures and start meditating on God’s Name. Therefore addressing himself, he says: “O’ Farid, seeing the (worldly plays), your eyes have become weak and listening (to slander of others, your) ears have become deaf. (Similarly the rest of your body is showing signs of weakness, just as) an old branch of a tree assumes a different (pale) hue.”(11)

Many people think that they need not remember God in their youth. They would do so in their old age. Farid Ji forewarns us about this procrastination. He says: “O’ Farid, they who haven’t meditated on God (when they were young and) had black hair, (because) it is a rare one, who meditates when he (or she is old and) has grey hair. (Therefore, O’ man, you) imbue yourself with the love of God (right now), so that your love remains ever fresh.”(12)

Mehla-3
Lest some one misinterpret the above salok, to mean that one can only love and worship God only in youth and if one has missed that opportunity then one absolutely cannot turn to devotion during old age, and lest any one think that one can imbue oneself with the love of God whenever one so desires, Guru Armadas Ji offers a clarification. Because he himself had remained lost in ritualistic ways, such as pilgrimages to holy places till he was in his sixties. But when by God's grace, he happened to listen to the divine words of Guru Nanak Dev Ji he fell in true love with God, and after serving Guru Angad Dev Ji for twelve years he was himself anointed the next Guru at the age of seventy-two.

Therefore, he says: “O’ Farid, whether one (is young or old, one’s) hair are black or grey, God can always be obtained if one (sincerely) remembers Him in one’s mind. (However) if everyone wishes, love (for God) cannot be acquired by one’s own efforts. This cup of (divine) love is in the hands of God, He give it to whomsoever He pleases.”(13)

Now Farid Ji cautions us against having too much pride in our beauty, or being too sensitive to worldly pain. A myth is attached to this salok to illustrate this point. It is said that Farid Ji once saw a rich woman who was very proud of her bewitching eyes. She was admonishing her maid for not being gentle in applying eye pigment in her eyes. Farid Ji later observed that when that woman died, some birds had laid eggs in those very eyes. Referring to this incident, Farid Ji says: “O’ Farid, I have seen (the reality of) those eyes, which could not tolerate the streak of eye pigment, in them were sitting baby birds.”(14)

In the above salok, Farid Ji advised us against having too much pride in us. However, he notes that they who are set in their egoistic ways, no amount of advice or counseling can do them any good. Farid Ji considers such persons to be spoiled by devil (the personification of evil as per Muslim belief). He says: “O’ Farid, they whom the devil has spoiled, (in spite of) loudly proclaiming and advising every day, they don’t turn their minds away (from their evil ways).”(15)

The message of saloks 1 to 15 is that instead of wasting our lives in false worldly pleasures or engaging in useless worldly conflicts, struggles, and slander of others, while still living in our household we should live like a humble beggar at God’s door and keep begging from Him the boon of His Love.

Farid Ji was himself a model of humility and compassion. He wants to teach us about this virtue with a very beautiful metaphor. In the olden days when there were no asphalt roads it was a common practice to spread straw on the paths. Before being laid this straw was thoroughly beaten to make it as smooth as possible so that it may not hurt the feet of the pedestrians walking bare feet. Using this metaphor, Farid Ji wants to advise us that even if we have to suffer so many insults we should still try to be humble and serve even our tormentors. Only then can we reach God. He says: “O’ Farid, if you want to see God every where, then become (humble like) that straw on the pathway, which is first cut and then crushed under the feet. It is only then that we would be allowed to enter God’s court.”(16)

Along with the above advice, Farid Ji cautions us against belittling the humble people. What to speak of other things we should not even disparage the ordinary dust. He says: “O’ Farid, we shouldn’t disparage the dust. Nothing equals dust. See, while one is alive, the dust is under one’s feet, but when one dies (and is buried, this dust) is over that person.”(17)
In *salok* (12), Farid Ji advised us to imbue ourselves with the love of God. However now he wants to caution us that this love should be without any ulterior motive and shouldn’t be motivated by our greed for some worldly objectives (as is the case most of the times). He says: “O’ Farid, if there is greed (in our heart for some worldly thing, then) it cannot be (true) love (for God. Any love) motivated by greed is false love. Just as during rains one cannot pass too much time under a broken thatched hut (similarly the love motivated by greed cannot last long).”(18)

Now regarding true love for God and where to find Him, Farid Ji wants to impress upon us that there is no need to go through all the difficult rituals or go to Jungles to find God. If one has true love for God, one can find Him in one’s own heart. He says: “O Farid, why do you wander around in jungles and trample the forest thorns (under your feet)? God is abiding in your heart itself; why are you looking for Him in the forests?”(19)

Now once again Farid Ji urges us to make our best efforts to meet God while we are still young, because when we get old we become so weak that even the easiest tasks become terribly difficult. He cites an example from his personal experience. He says: “O’ Farid, with these tiny legs of yours, you traversed many difficult mountainous paths (during your youth), but today (in old age) even your begging bowl seems too far. (Similarly, while young you can undergo all the difficulties in your search for God, but during old age it might become difficult to even sit in His meditation).”(20)

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It is the same light

In the previous salok, Farid Ji explained that during old age one feels so weak and listless that even picking a nearby cup of water seems a difficult task. In this salok, he describes the condition of our body during winter season and indirectly advises us that instead of pinning our hopes in others we should repose our faith in God. He says: “O’ Farid, during the long (winter) nights, while tossing and turning again and again, one’s body’s parts start to ache. (Similar is the state of those who depend upon some worldly person or possessions for providing them relief). Accursed is the life of those who have their hopes in others. (So we shouldn’t depend on any one except God).”(21)

In the above salok, Farid Ji advised us not to depend upon any one else except God for fulfilling our needs. However it doesn’t mean that we should also make ourselves so self-centered that we don’t help any friend in his or her time of need. Therefore, he says: “O’ Farid, if I hold back anything I have from a friend who has come to me (for help), may my body (suffer in pain, as if) my flesh is burning like madder on coal.”(22)

In the above salok, Farid Ji advised us that we shouldn’t hold back any thing from our friend who comes to us for help. In this salok, he tells us that if we don’t help others during their need then it is foolish to expect any help from others when we ourselves need some thing. We reap what we sow. Therefore it is foolish for us to expect that God would keep blessing us with peace and happiness even if we don’t care to remember Him at all. So he says: “(The person who doesn’t worship God is foolish like that) farmer who hopes to reap (high quality) Bijour grapes (from Afghanistan), while planting a (thorny) Kikkar tree. (Similarly it is foolish to expect that others would be treating us nicely in spite of our harsh treatment. It is like wandering around) getting our wool spun, but hoping to wear silken (robes).”(23)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji told us that it is foolish for us to hope for peace and happiness in life without meditating on God’s Name with true love. This love should be so strong that even if we have to suffer great hardship and big economic loss it shouldn’t stop us from going to see our Guru or join the holy congregation. In this salok, Farid Ji describes one such predicament. He says: “O’ Farid, (due to continuing heavy rains) the streets are muddy, and far is the house (of my beloved Guru and my saintly friends. But I) am in love with my Beloved. If I walk forward (towards his house, then my only) blanket would get soaked, but if I remain here (and don’t go) then I would fail in my love.”(24)
Now describing his firm resolution in spite of such heavy odds, Farid Ji says to himself: “(Even if the) rain sent from God keeps falling (and my only) blanket gets (completely) soaked and drenched, (I would proceed further and go and meet my (saintly) friends (and my Guru), so that my love for them may not break (and I may not fail in my love).”(25)

**Note: The above two saloks should be a lesson for us who skip going to Gurdwara or doing our daily Nit Nem at the slightest inconvenience or excuse.**

In the previous two *saloks*, Farid Ji stated how even heavy rains and the muddy roads couldn’t prevent him from going and meeting his beloved Guru. In this *salok*, he takes up another similar situation when strong wind is blowing dust, which may make his turban and other clothes soiled. Indirectly Farid Ji might be referring to lots of criticism of people, who don’t approve of his love for his Guru or prophet. But unmindful of all physical discomforts and mental worries, he still goes to meet him. He says: “O’ Farid, I am concerned about my turban (lest dust may make it dirty), but my ignorant soul doesn’t know that (after death), the (same) dust would consume even my head. (So I shouldn’t worry about the dust of criticisms by others and keep meditating on God under the guidance of my Guru.”(26)

In the previous three *saloks*, Farid Ji illustrated with beautiful examples how fast and strong is his love for his Beloved Guru (and God). In this *salok*, he describes how pleasant and sweet he finds this love for God and His Name. As mentioned before it is believed that in his childhood, Farid Ji’s mother used to reward him with brown sugar for saying his prayers.

But one day when after twelve years, Farid Ji returned home, on his own he remained busy in meditation. When he finished his prayers, and his mother presented brown sugar; he told her that he found God’s Name much sweeter and pleasing than sugar or any such sweet. So he said: “O’ Farid, brown sugar, sugar, rock candy, molasses, honey, buffalo’s milk, all these things are sweet, but O’ God, none of these equal You (in sweetness or reward).”(27)

In the previous *salok*, Farid Ji described how much more pleasant and sweeter for him is God’s Name than sugar or other such sweet things. Now he shares with us what kind of food he enjoys. He says: “O’ Farid, my bread is (dried and hard like) wood and hunger is my cooked vegetable. They who ate buttered (bread) would suffer immense pains. (In other words, he prefers to live a simple life and eat coarse meals earned by honest labor, rather than resort to dishonest means to enjoy dainty dishes and then later suffer the consequences of all the misdeeds and sins).”(28)

Next Farid Ji advises himself (actually us) to remain content with simple living rather than feeling jealous seeing others, who enjoy rich life style by employing dishonest means. He says: “O’ Farid, (remain happy) in eating your coarse dry bread and drinking cold water; when you see others eating buttered bread (enjoying other worldly pleasures), don’t let your mind crave (or feel jealous).”(29)

In the previous three *saloks*, Farid Ji illustrated how God’s Name is dearer to him than any other thing. He is contented with his simple life and honest living instead of feeling jealous of those who enjoy worldly pleasures by employing all sorts of dishonest and immoral means. In this *salok*, he describes how he feels, when even for one day, he is not able to meditate on God’s Name and enjoy the love and company of his Master. He uses the metaphor of a young faithful and loving bride who isn’t able to sleep with her groom for one night. Imagining him to be that bride, Farid Ji says: “I couldn’t sleep with my spouse
It is the same light

Farid Ji now comments on those people who are under the mistaken impression of their popularity, but in actuality no body likes them. Farid Ji compares such people to those

to-night and I feel as if every part of my body is in pain. (I say) go and ask the deserted brides how do they pass their nights? (In other words if I can feel so much pain due to separation from God for only a very short period, I wonder what would be the condition of those who are separated from God for ever)?’”(30)

Farid Ji now comments on those people who are under the mistaken impression of their popularity, but in actuality no body likes them. Farid Ji compares such people to those
brides, who call themselves as united married wives, but in actuality they neither have any respect in the house of their parents nor in their in-laws and even their groom doesn’t care about them. Therefore Farid Ji says: “(What an irony it is, if a woman) calls herself a united wedded bride, but doesn’t find any support in her in-laws house, has no place for her in her parents’ house, and even her husband doesn’t care a bit about her. (Similarly even though one may adorn holy clothes, yet if one doesn’t love God, one would have neither any respect in God’s court, nor in this world, and even one’s relatives won’t respect such a person.”(31)

Now Nanak Dev Ji the first Guru expounds upon the above salok and defines a truly wedded bride (of God). He says: “O’ Nanak, the spouse (God) is incomprehensible, unfathomable (and limitless in His patience. The woman who makes herself fit for (becoming His bride) both in her in-law’s house (the next world) and her parents’ house (this world) is a truly wedded and united bride, if she is pleasing to that care-free (Being).”(32)

Next Farid Ji comments on the conduct of those people who simply go and take bath at pilgrimage places or wear holy garbs but then don’t care to live a righteous and honest life and meditate on God’s Name. He compares such a person to a young girl who may bathe herself and apply all fragrant perfume on her entire body, but then carelessly goes to sleep. In the morning, when she wakes up she finds that all the scent of her perfumes has evaporated and she is left with foul body odors. He says: “O’ Farid, (the woman) who after bathing, washing, and decorating herself carelessly goes to sleep, in the morning she would find that the pleasant musk (like) fragrance (of her perfume) has gone and her (unpleasant body odor remains, as if) she has on her, a wrapped packet of foul smelling herb Hingg. (Similarly, one who performs ritual worships but doesn’t meditate on God’s Name is not considered worthy in God’s court).”(33)

In this next couplet Farid Ji talks about another aspect of the human life. During youth many people think that they should not let their youth go away without enjoying the pleasures of life while they have the beauty and energy to enjoy.

However putting himself in the situation of a young girl, Farid Ji says: “I do not worry about passing away of my youth, (or beauty), if my love for my beloved (God) is not broken. Because O’ Farid, without the love (of their Spouse), myriad of young beauties have dried up and withered away.”(34)

In the above salok, Farid Ji stated that he doesn’t care about the passing away of his youth and beauty if the love for his beloved (God) remains intact.

In this salok, he portrays the extent of the inner pain and agony he feels, if at any moment a feeling of separation from God comes in his mind. In one such moment of separation from his Beloved, Farid Ji cries out and says: “(O’ God, in Your separation I feel as if I am sleeping on) a cot of “Worry”, woven with the prickling hemp of “Pain”, and covered with the mattress of “Separation”. This is my life; see for Your self, O’ my true Master!”(35)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji described how painful it is for a devotee to be separated from his beloved God. However he recognizes the importance of separation in a person’s life and considers that life without separation is absolutely worthless. He says: “(Again and again we) say that Separation is bad, very bad. But O’ Separation, you are (worthy of respect
It is the same light because we should deem that body fit for burning in a cremation ground, which feels no (pain).”(36)

The message of saloks 16 to 36 is that one can be a true dervish (a holy Fakir) of God even while living in one’s household, if one has the qualities of tolerance, detachment from worldly allurements, a spirit of service, honest living, and love of God in the heart. One need not go to forests or mountains for that.

In the previous salok, Farid Ji told us that body is as if it is dead in which doesn’t well up the pangs of separation from God. In this salok, he comments on the conduct of the ordinary human beings who instead of falling in love with God fall in love with false worldly pleasures. He says: “O’ Farid, these (false worldly pleasures are like) poisonous weeds quoted with sugar. Some have died sowing theses and some have departed after reaping and destroying them.”(37)

Now Farid Ji warns us against wasting our time in the pursuit of false worldly pleasures or in sleep (or state of unawareness without meditating on God’s Name). He says: “O’ Farid, you have wasted the four parts (half of your life) in running (after worldly pursuits) and four parts you have wasted in sleeping. (I wonder, what would be your answer when God asks you for the account (of your life and asks you): “for what purpose did you come (to this world)?”(38)

Farid Ji next gives us a very beautiful example of a gong (a round flat brass disc which was used in olden days in the courts, government offices, and small private schools for keeping track of time by striking it every hour on the hour). He says: “O’ Farid, have you ever gone to the door (of a court) and seen a gong. I wonder if this (innocent gong) is beaten like this then what would be the condition of sinners like us (in God’s court)?”(39)

Continuing the above metaphor Farid Ji again asks us to think about our own situation. He says: “O’ man, see that the gong is beaten every hour on the hour and also after every Pehar (or quarter of the day). Similarly that body (gong which remains absorbed in false worldly pleasures) passes its night (of life) in pain.”(40)
In saloks 39 and 40, Farid Ji asked us to think about the punishment we may have to suffer when after death we are asked to account for our deeds. In this salok, he wants to remind us that if not sooner we would surely die after old age. He says: “Sheikh Farid has grown old and his body has started trembling. (He may pass some more time like this, but) even if he lives for hundred years still he would die and his body would be reduced to dust.”(41)

Next Farid Ji comments upon another worry of the human beings in their old age. Because in old age the body becomes to tremble and the limbs become so stiff and painful that it is hard for the old persons to take even one step and they become dependent on others for everything. This is a state of greatest humiliation for a person. So Farid Ji prays to God and says: “O’ God, please don’t make me dependent on others. If You are going to keep me live in this kind of state (of dependence on others then I would prefer death and request You to) please take out life from my body.”(42)

In the previous two saloks, Farid Ji reminded us about death and old age, which is again a sign of impending death. In this salok, he comments upon the state of a human being in the middle age, when one is relatively young and considers one self as a king of this world. It is up to one, whether one uses the energy of this age to do righteous deeds and meditate on God or exploit the worldly resources to enrich oneself and indulge in false pleasures. Farid Ji compares such a human being to a blacksmith who with an axe in his hand and a pitcher of drinking water on his head goes to a jungle to cut trees to make coal for his oven. At
this time, he feels like a king because he has the power to cut any tree he likes. Addressing such a human being, Farid Ji says: “O’ king of the jungle, with an axe in your hand and a pitcher on your head, (you are proceeding towards the jungle looking for suitable trees for your use. I am also looking for trees for my use. The only difference is that while I am looking for those trees sitting under which I may meditate on God) and look for my beloved Groom. But you want to look (for those trees) which you may turn into burning coal.”(43)

In the above salok, Farid Ji presented before us two types of human beings, those who exploit and destroy the worldly resources for their selfish purposes, and those who search for God in this worldly jungle. It is natural that in worldly sense the former would be rich and affluent and the later would be comparatively poor. However these worldly-wise people don’t realize what kind of punishments they would have to suffer in God’s court. Farid Ji brings home this point with a beautiful metaphor. He says: “O’ Farid, there are some who have (abundant wealth, much beyond their needs, as if they have) too much surplus flour, but (there are others who are so tight that their wealth is not even like) salt in that flour. However (only after death) upon going into the yond people would be identified (for their sins and only then they would) know who would suffer the blows (of the judge of righteousness).”(44)

In the above salok, Farid Ji stated that only after death it would be known who suffers punishment at the hands of the judge of righteousness. In this salok, he draws our attention to the state of all people after death. He says: “(Even those) for whom drums were beat, over whose heads canopies were waved, for whom trumpets were played, and bards sang songs of praise, (upon death they all) have gone to sleep in the grave yard and have joined the orphans.”(45)

Therefore, Farid Ji cautions us against wasting our life in acquiring worldly possessions, which wouldn’t last long and accompany us at all after death. Instead we should devote time to meditate on God’s Name, which would accompany us even after death. He reminds us and says: “O’ Farid, even the builders of houses, mansions, and lofty buildings, have also departed (from the world). They dealt in false business and ultimately went to sleep in graves.”(46)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji pointed out that even those rich persons who had built lofty mansions ultimately died and ended up in graves. But it doesn’t mean that only rich people die and not the poor people. In this salok looking at his tattered jacket, which has been repaired by many patches, Farid Ji reminds himself about the inevitability of death. He says: “O’ Farid, your patched jacket has many tacks, but your soul has no tacks on it. (Still it would get separated from your body, because) on their turns even the great sheikhs and highly spiritual people have departed (from here).”(47)

In this salok again, Farid Ji warns us about the inevitability of death. He compares the death to a daring thief who comes and enters our house even while our house is lit with lamps and then right in front of us, he robs us of all our possessions. He says: “O’ Farid, (even when one’s two eyes are open, as if while) two lamps (in the house) are lit the angel of death comes and sits beside one. He conquers the fort (of one’s body, takes control of the soul), loots the heart, and then departs after (taking the light out of the eyes and) extinguishing the lamps.”(48)
In the above four saloks, Farid Ji impressed upon us the inevitability of death. In this salok he warns us about the punishments, which we would suffer if we do evil deeds and commit sins. He says: “Look O’ Farid, what happens to cotton (which is crushed in a gin), the sesame seeds, which bear blows (of the mallet) on their heads, the sugar cane and the paper, (which are pressed in rollers), or the clay pot, which is put on (burning) coal. (After death), similar kind of punishment is awarded to those (who commit evil deeds).”(49)

In the above salok, Farid Ji told us about the severe punishments awaiting all the evildoers and sinners. Now Farid Ji apparently points to himself (and indirectly all those who from outside appear perfectly faithful and honest, but have all kinds of evil desires within. He takes the example of those days Muslim mystics called Sufis, who used to wear black woolen gowns, had a small prayer mat called Musalla on their shoulders, and appeared very holy from outside but were evil from inside like pitch dark night. Assuming himself to be such an apparently holy person, he says: “O’ Farid, on your shoulder is the prayer mat, around your neck is the woolen black gown of holy mystics. (You speak so sweetly, as if) there is sugar in your mouth, but in your heart is a pair of scissors (and a desire to pick others’ pockets. In short) from outside, you appear so bright (and holy) but inside you is pitch dark night (of evil).”(50)

In the above four saloks, Farid Ji impressed upon us the inevitability of death.
In the previous salok, Farid Ji described the inner state of those who look so holy and pure from outside, as if they are shining bright from outside, but whose inside is evil and dark like pitch-black night. In this salok, by using “pun’ (multiple meaning word) on the word Ratt (which means blood, or red color, or love), Farid Ji describes the state of those who are truly in love with their beloved God and His creation. He says: “O’ Farid, if some were to cut the body of those who are imbued with the love of God, then not even a drop of blood would come out, because the bodies which are imbued with the love of God don’t have blood in them.”

Mehla-3

Obviously the above couplet of Farid Ji could be very misleading to an ordinary person because how could a person live without any blood in it because it is the essential part of human body. Therefore in order to remove any possible misconception, third Guru (Amar Das Ji) clarifies what kind of blood Farid Ji is talking about and what it really means. He says: “(O’ my friends), this body is all blood, without blood the body cannot exist. (What Farid Ji is really talking about is that) they who are imbued with the love of their beloved (God) do not have the blood of greed in them. When we live under the fear (of God), this body becomes lean and the love of greed goes out of it. Just as a metal gets purified when put in fire, similarly God’ s fear removes the filth of evil intellect. (In short), O’ Nanak, beauteous are those humans who are imbued with God’ s love.”

Now Farid Ji tells us where to find the love of God and obtain the gift of God’s Name. He explains his point with a beautiful example. He says: “O’ my friends, search out that lake (the true saint of God) from where you can find the commodity (of God’s Name). What can you achieve by (seeking guidance from a fake saint or a quack, which is like) searching out a puddle, where we get nothing) except our hand getting sunk in mud.”

In this salok, Farid Ji once again warns us against postponing meditation on God, thinking that when we become old we would have all the time to do worship and meditation. But who knows that as soon as we reach old age or even earlier we may die and then our soul
would repent. Farid Ji explains this point by citing the metaphor of a young bride who in her youth does not enjoy the company of her beloved spouse, but she dies when she reaches old age. He says: “O’ Farid, a bride who did not enjoy the company of her Beloved spouse when she was young, may die when she becomes older. Then she cries loudly (and laments even in her grave), why she didn’t meet the beloved while she was alive.”(54)

In the above salok, Farid Ji told us about the fate of those who keep postponing meditation on God for their old age. But there are those who even after becoming old keep enjoying false worldly pleasures and don’t care to meditate on God.

Assuming himself to be one such person, he says: “O’ Farid, your head-hair has gone grey; beard and the moustache also have turned grey. O’ my thoughtless foolish mind, why are (you still) enjoying false worldly revelries.”(55)

Now, once again Farid Ji wants to wake us up from our state of sleep or unawareness about our beloved God but running after worldly pleasures. However just as a man running on a rooftop can run only within the boundaries of the roof, similarly we have limited quantities of breaths to enjoy worldly pleasures or meditate on God. If we keep running after worldly affairs, then one day when death knocks at our door we would regret why we didn’t meditate on God. Therefore he says: “O’ Farid, how far can you run on the roof of your house (and keep running after worldly pleasures, in this limited span of your life)? Abandon such harmful sleep (unawareness) towards the beloved (God). The limited number of days, which have been given to you are running out in quick succession.”(56)

Therefore advising us against getting attached to our worldly possessions, because none of these things would accompany us after death, he says: “O’ Farid, don’t let your mind be attached to your houses, mansions and lofty buildings, because when you die unlimited quantity of soil would be put over you, and none of these (things) would prove to be your friend (and help you in any way).”(57)

Next Farid Ji advises himself (actually us and says): “O’ Farid, don’t let your mind be absorbed in your mansions and worldly possessions. Instead keep in mind the powerful (and inevitable) death in your mind, and think about that place (the court of God, where ultimately) you have to go (and account for your deeds in life).”(58)

In the previous couplet, Farid Ji advised himself (and us) that instead of being preoccupied with our mansions and other possessions, we should think about inevitable death and the ultimate place or the court of God where our soul has to go and answer for our deeds in life. Therefore in this salok, he says: “O’ Farid, renounce those deeds, which are neither of any use (to you in the end), nor have any merit, lest you may be put to shame in the court of the Master.”(59)

In the above salok, Farid Ji advised us, not to do any such fruitless deeds, which make us hang our head in shame in the Master’s court. In this salok, he tells us, what kinds of deeds we should do and what kind of merits we should acquire, so that instead of being disgraced we might be recognized with honor in God’s court. He says: “O’ Farid, dispelling the doubts of your mind (about running after worldly wealth), perform the service of the Master, (unmindful of the remarks or criticisms of others). Because those who are known as dervish, need to have (the unlimited) patience like trees.”(60)
It is the same light
In the above *salok*, showing his humility, Farid Ji criticized himself for wearing the garbs of a holy saint though he was full of so many faults. In this *salok* he deems such a state more dangerous and incurable than the one who hasn’t treaded down the spiritual path at all. He cites a beautiful example to illustrate this point.

He says: “The crop once burnt by water (logging) doesn’t revive, even if it is (thoroughly) soaked in water. (Similarly), O’ Farid, the bride (soul who in spite of treading down the holy path) is separated from God, she always keeps repenting and grieving (and never obtains any spiritual bliss).”(62)

**Note: This message should be of particular concern to those Sikh priests and Amrit dhari Sikhs who, even after adorning the holy garbs, continue indulging in evil ways. Not only do they ruin their own lives, but they also become the main cause of driving many innocent youths away from God’s meditation and Amrit.**

In the previous *salok*, Farid Ji indirectly told us that the person who once travels down a holy path and becomes a saint or a yogi must be much more careful and diligent than an ordinary human being in remaining detached from worldly vices, and avoiding lapses in moral or spiritual conduct. Therefore, in this *salok* he puts himself in the situation of a person who, before entering the holy path such as becoming a “yogi, saint, sufi, or dervish,” looks forward to the occasion when a Guru or spiritual teacher accepts him into his “order.” However, once that happens and he is required to observe the strict discipline and code of conduct of that “order,” sometimes he repents the fact that he now cannot revert to his previous way of living. Farid Ji describes this situation using the metaphor of a young bride.

He says: “As long as she is a virgin, the girl has a keen longing (to be married), but after she is married, she has to deal with the responsibilities and problems of marriage. O’ Farid, then she has this main regrets that now she cannot become a virgin again.”(63)

**Note: The case with many sikhs is similar: they take Amrit with great zeal, but when they are required and expected to wear all five articles of their faith, do the minimum five daily prayers, and refrain from drinking and other such “fun” activities, they find it very difficult to uphold their vows.**

In the previous three *saloks*, Farid Ji commented on those persons who set out on the holy path, but when they find it difficult to observe the strict discipline and the moral conduct expected of them, they regret their decision to choose such a life path. Therefore he comments on the conduct and nature of those holy persons who happen to come across the company of undesirable people, and they try to get out of that company.

Comparing such saints to swans who happen to land on a pool of saline water, Farid Ji says: “(If by chance some) swans happen to land on a salty pool, they may dip their beak into the water, but they don’t drink it. Instead they remain anxious to fly away. (Similarly, if some saints happen to fall into the company of faithless people, they may visit them for a short while, but are always anxious to escape such society).”(64)

In the previous *salok*, using the metaphor of swans, Farid Ji told us that if by chance a saintly person happens to enter a society of faithless people, he is anxious to disassociate from them as soon as possible. In this *salok*, Farid Ji advises us that we shouldn’t be
It is the same light

immediately alarmed upon seeing a saint amidst faithless persons, or assume that he is about to lose his holiness, or further spoil their society.

Again using the metaphor of swans, Farid Ji says: “If a swan happens to land on a barley field, ignorant people go out to scare it away. They do not know that a swan doesn’t eat the barley plant (at all, and they have nothing to worry about. Similarly, if a saint happens to stay in the house of some unholy person, his neighbors need not fear that this saint has come to join that bad person’s company, and further pollute the entire neighborhood.”(65)

The message of saloks 37 to 65 is that throughout their life, many people keep pursuing worldly wealth, and suffering pain for its sake. Yet in the end they never get to enjoy it. They depart from this world leaving all their wealth for others. Furthermore, as long as one remains obsessed with worldly wealth, one’s spiritual side never receives the opportunity to grow to fruition. Therefore, one enjoys neither worldly wealth nor spiritual bliss.

In one of his famous saloks, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji says that ultimately everything would perish and it would be only God and His saints who would remain. Farid Ji expresses the same thought by comparing this world to a lake filled with lotus flowers, in which humans and other creatures live like birds. He says: “The birds which inhabit the lake would all go away, and O’ Farid, this full lake too would perish. The lone lotus plants too would wither away.”(66)

In the above salok, Farid Ji told us that ultimately this world (along with all its creatures) would come to end. In this salok he wants to draw our attention to our own condition after death. Apparently addressing himself, he says: “O’ Farid (after you die and are buried in the grave, instead of a pillow there) would be a brick under your head. (Instead of lying on a comfortable bed) you would sleep on bare ground, and worms would consume your flesh. (Who knows) how many ages would pass while you remain lying in this state without moving?”(67)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji wanted us to imagine what our state would be for millions of years after our death. In this salok, he wants to remind us that nobody knows whose death may come today.

Again using a metaphor, he says: “O’ Farid, (nobody knows) in whose house Israel the angel (of death) will arrive today as a guest, or when the beauteous pitcher (of the body) would break and the pretty rope of breaths would also snap (and who will die)? (68)

Farid Ji is not reminding us over and again about our impending death unnecessarily. He wants to impress upon us the point that if we indulge in too much sin, we will become a burden on this earth and will lose any second chance to return and atone for our sins.

He says: “O’ Farid, (upon death) when the beauteous pitcher (of the body) breaks, and the pretty rope of breath is snapped, those friends who were burdens on this earth (because of their sins) won’t come back (as human beings).”(69)

In the above salok, Farid Ji stressed the importance of staying away from a sinful life. At the same time, he very strongly reminds himself (and us) of the need to remember God. In Islam, it is mandatory for a Muslim to go to the local mosque and say five daily prayers.
Putting himself in the place of a Muslim who has never gone to the mosque to say these prayers, Farid Ji says: “O’ prayer-less dog Farid, this isn’t a good habit at all: you have never come to the mosque to say the five prayers.” (70)

*Note: The Sikhs who don’t do their Nit Nem or read the five prescribed baanis should pay close attention to this salok.*
In the previous salok, Farid Ji very harshly admonished himself for not visiting the Mosque and saying his daily prayers. In this salok, he uses even harsher language to describe his failure to rise early and perform Uzzu (the washing of hands and feet), and reciting the morning prayer or Nimaaz.

He says: “Get up O’ Farid, wash your hands and feet, and say your morning prayer. (I say), chop off that head (of yours) which doesn’t bow before the Master, (because a life in which one doesn’t remember God is useless).”(71)

Note: Sikhs are also strongly urged to rise early in the morning (or Amrit Vela) and meditate on God.

In the previous salok, Farid Ji stated that the head, which doesn’t bow before God, should be chopped off. He now utters even harsher punishment for the godless persons who do not remember God or say their prayers.

He says: “(If you ask me) what we should do with that head which doesn’t bow down before the Master (I say that the head of such a person is completely useless: we should) burn it in place of wood under the cooking pot.”(72)

Now Farid Ji once again reminds us of our impending death, and the need to remember God. The problem is that despite seeing people die before us, we still do not believe in death: it is as if such things happen only to strangers. Therefore, this time Farid Ji reminds us of our own parents, so that we might take a lesson from their life.

He says: “O’ Farid, where are your parents who gave birth to you? They departed from you a long time ago, but still you have not been convinced (that one day, just like them, you too will depart from this world).”(73)

In the previous several saloks, Farid Ji urged us to realize the inevitability of our own death, and the necessity of meditating on God so that we may not have to (suffer the pain of births and deaths or as per Muslim belief) burn in the fire of hell. In this salok, he tells us another way to save ourselves from this fire.

He says: “O’ Farid, (remove all thoughts of discrimination, do not call anybody bad, or hold grudges; thus) remove the hills and valleys of your mind to make it an even plain. Then the fire of hell won’t come near you at all.”(74)

In the above salok, Farid Ji advised us not to call anyone bad, or hold any grudges. In this salok, Guru (Arjan Dev Ji) tells us why we need to consider all human beings equal, and why we shouldn’t call anyone ‘bad.’

On behalf of Farid Ji, he says: “O’ Farid, the Creator lives in all the creation, and the creation is contained in the Creator. Therefore, we shouldn’t call anyone ‘bad,’ because there is no one without Him.”(75)

In the previous several saloks, Farid Ji urged us again and again to remember the inevitability of death, and the need to meditate on God to acquire such saintly qualities as humility and equal treatment of all. If we don’t do these things, our life can become such a hell that we might start wishing. That we shouldn’t have been born at all.
Farid Ji puts himself in the situation of such a suffering person, and says: “O’ Farid, the day (the nurse) cut my naval string, (I wish that) she had slit my throat (and killed me at my birth, so that) I wouldn’t have got entangled in (so many) problems, and had to bear so many pains.”(76)

Once again reminding us of our impending death, Farid Ji indirectly asks us to think about the moment when our own organs and senses stop functioning, and our friends and colleagues begin dying.

He says: “(I note that the teeth with which I used to) chew (and the legs with which I used) to walk, my jewel (like eyes with which I used to see), and the ears with which I used to listen, have all begun to cease functioning. Even my body has cried out in pain upon seeing the departure of (my friends and) acquaintances. (Therefore, I should realize that my own death is very near, and at least now I should meditate on God, and try to save myself from burning in hell).”(77)

In salok 76, Farid Ji described how depressed one feels if one doesn’t remember God or acquire such saintly qualities as humility, compassion, and the ability to see God in everyone. In this salok, he reveals more ways to live a life of peace and happiness in this world.

He says: “O’ Farid, do good even to the one who wrongs you, and don’t harbor any anger in your mind. (By doing this), no malady would afflict your body, and you would be rewarded with everything (you desire).”(78)

In salok 77, drawing attention to the fact that (when in old age one’s body and sense organs stop functioning, this) is an indication that one’s end is near. In this salok he uses another metaphor from the days when many people used to go in caravans to travel from one place to another. During the night, the caravan would stop at some safe place. Early next morning, a drum would beat so that the travelers in the caravan may wake up and make preparations to start on the next leg of their journey. Comparing this world to a garden, and the human beings to the birds who have landed in it for a short while, Farid Ji again reminds us to prepare for our departure.

He says: “O’ Farid, this flock of birds (all creation) is like a guest in the beauteous garden of the world. The drum announcing the break of dawn has been struck, so you should make preparations for your departure. (In other words, your old age has come, and now you should prepare for your death, and meditate on God’s Name).”(79)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji advised us to make preparations for our death by meditating on God’s Name. In this salok he suggests that the real delight and benefit of meditating on God’s Name is in the night itself, when it is perfectly silent and calm, and one’s mind is easily attuned to God. One enjoys His divine bliss, which is fragrant like musk. He says: “O’ Farid, it is in the night that the musk is distributed. (Because it is only in the quiet hours of the night that one can enjoy the ecstasy of meditation on God’s Name). They who remain asleep don’t get any share (of this fragrant musk). Those whose eyes are heavy with sleep receive nothing (and are unable to enjoy the bliss of God’s Name).”(80)
It is a common observation that whenever we are in any kind of sorrow we think we are the only ones who are suffering, and no one else is suffering like us. But the truth is that the entire world is suffering in one way or the other, and no one is entirely happy. Farid Ji describes this fact in a beautiful way.

He says: “O’ Farid, I thought that I alone am in pain, but (actually) the entire world is in agony. When (I rose above my own pain, as if) climbing onto a roof top, and looked around I saw that this fire (of pain) is raging in every house.”(81)
Mehla-5

In the previous salok, Farid Ji remarked that if we look around, we would find that the entire world is suffering in pain. Commenting on this, the fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji clarifies that even though it appears that all human beings are suffering in pain, there are some who are absolutely free from agony.

He says: “O’ Farid, this earth is beauteous (and full of bliss), but within it grows a garden with poisonous thorns (of pains and sorrows). However, the one who has been honored (with the proper guidance) by his prophet (or Guru), that one is not affected by the fire (of worldly woes).”(82)

Mehla-5

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that those whom their prophet or Guru has honored with the right guidance don’t suffer from any kind of worldly pain. In this salok, he explains what the guidance or gift of the Guru truly is.

He says: “O’ Farid, those who are in love with the beloved God, their body remains (perfectly healthy) and beauteous, and they pass their life in bliss. But only very rare persons are (so blessed by their Guru).”(83)

In salok (81), Farid Ji described how the entire world suffers in agony. In salok (82 and 83), Guru Ji observed that though most people suffer in pain, there are some rare ones who are blessed by the Guru’s guidance, and they enjoy perfect peace and health. In this salok, Farid Ji comments on the state of those who don’t meditate on God’s Name, but cry in pain when they are in any difficulty, and want their suffering to end right away.

As if talking to the pain in the metaphor of the flow of a river, eroding the bank of his body, Farid Ji says: “O’ flood (of worldly pains), please don’t destroy the bank (of my body. Remember that) you too would have to render an account (of your deeds. But then the mind realizes that) the river must flow in the direction, in which God wishes it to go.”(84)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji compared the state of a person who doesn’t meditate on God’s Name to the bank, which the river’s flood keeps destroying. But some people are so stubborn that even when they are about to be washed away by a flood of pain, still don’t listen to the Guru, or meditate on God’s Name. In this salok, Farid Ji again uses the metaphor of a river to advise such persons to remember God (at least now that both their youth and old age have passed away in pain, and they are about to be consumed by death).

He says: “(O’ human beings, your) day (of youth) has passed in pain, and your night (of old age is also passing in such agony, as if you have been sleeping on a bed of) thorns. Standing on the bank (of the river of life, Guru) the boatman is shouting, warning you that the boat (of your life) is about to be caught in the stormy waves (of death).”(85)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji described the state of those who do not listen to the Guru and then like passengers in a boat with no oarsman, are drowned in the whirlpool of the river (of life after suffering one misfortune after another). In this salok he describes how safe and peaceful the journey of life is for those who have the guidance and protection of their wise boatman-Guru, who keeps them safe in all difficulties and dangers.
Again using the same metaphor, Farid Ji says: “Even if the river is long, and its waters continuously try to destroy the banks, yet the whirlpool (of the river) cannot harm the boat (of the life of those whose) boatman remains alert.”(86)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji told us that if we have the protection and guidance of the Guru, like a wise boatman he would safely steer the boat of our life through the storms and whirlpools of worldly trouble and pain. Yet the problem is that although there is no dearth of cheap inexperienced boatmen (or fake gurus), it is very difficult to find a truly expert boatman (or perfect Guru) who can help us cross the river of life safely, without discomfort.

Using a metaphor from the past practice of burning cow-dung for fuel in Indian homes. If this cow dung was wet, it would not light properly, and would keep smoldering and emitting smoke. Using this metaphor Farid Ji says: “O’ Farid, I can find scores of such friends (and gurus) who perform lip-service only (and say they can help me), but I cannot find the one (true Guru) whom I am searching for. Because I have been unable to find such true beloveds (whom I could trust. Therefore, I am suffering in pain) like the smoldering moist cow-dung.”(87)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji described how a person suffers in pain without the guidance of a true Guru. In this salok he shares with us a strategy, which perhaps his Guru has taught him. The strategy is this: we should realize that the primary cause of our troubles and suffering is our pursuit of worldly pleasures, which our body demands. If we ignore these continuous demands, and stop wasting our time and energy trying to fulfill them, then automatically these demands would cease tormenting us and we would be in peace. Farid Ji explains this strategy by comparing our body to a barking dog that keeps bothering us, as long as we listen to it. However, if we put our hands over our ears and ignore its noise, the dog would soon stop barking.

He says: “O’ Farid, this body is like a barking dog (which asks daily for new things). I cannot keep suffering the pain (of listening and fulfilling these demands) day after day. (I think the best thing for me is) to plug my ears, and no matter how much noise persists (in my body, I should keep ignoring these demands).”(88)

In the above salok, Farid Ji advised us that (like the barking of a dog) we should ignore the demands of our body for worldly pleasures, and we shouldn’t let ourselves suffer by trying to fulfill these demands. However, he recognizes that these worldly pleasures are very tempting and alluring. Having spent most of his life in the district of Multan (Pakistan, which is hot like the desert), the sight of trees full of honey-sweet dates in the summer months is one such example.

With the above picture in mind, he says: “O’ Farid, (this world is full of so many tempting pleasures, as if) ripe dates from high in the heavens are hanging low, and streams of honey are flowing. However, whatever time is spent (in enjoying these pleasures), these moments are stolen away from your age (if they pass without meditating on God).”(89)

In many previous saloks, Farid Ji advised us to meditate on God’s Name, and love Him so much that we have a keen longing to see His sight. But God shows His sight only when He so pleases. Sometimes it may happen that a person meditates on Him for many years without even caring for proper food: one’s body may be reduced to a skeleton, but still God may not bless the person with His sight.
Touching the heights of poetic imagination, and putting himself in such a pitiable condition, Farid Ji says: “O’ Farid, your body has dried up and become a skeleton. (There is so much pain in your feet, as if) crows have been pecking at the soles. But still God has not come (and shown His sight): look at the fate of a human being!”(90)

||91||

kaagaa karang dhandholi-aa saglaa khaa-i-aa maas.
ay du-ay nainaa mat chhuha-o pir daykhan kee aas.

||92||

kaagaa choond na pinjraa basai ta udar jaahi.
jit pinjrai mayraa saho vasai maas na tidoo khaahi.

||93||

fareedaa gor nimaamee sad karay nighri-aa ghar aa-o.
sarp par maithai aavnaa manmahu na dari-aahu.

||94||

aap saveaareh mai mileh mai milii-aa sukh ho-ay.
fareedaa jay too mayraa ho-ay raheh sabh jag tayraa ho-ay.

||95||

kanDheer utai rukh-rraa kichrak bannai Dheer.
fareedaa kachai bhaa’dai rakhee-ai kichar taa-ee neer.

||96||

fareedaa mahal nisakhan reh ga-ay vaasaa aa-i-aa tal.

SGGS P-1383

goraaḥ sah nimaāne-aa bahsan roohaaḥ mal.
aakheer sahkhaa bandagee chalan aj ke kal.

fareedaa ma-utai ḍaa bannaa ayvai disai ji-o
daree-aavai dhaaahaa.
agai dojak taa peh hee sunee-ai hool pavai kaahaaahaa.

amal je keeti-aa ḍunees vich say dargheh ohaagaa.

fareedaa daree-aavai kanh’ai bagulaa baiṭhaa kayl
karay.

baaj pa-ay ṭis rab ḍay kaylaaḥ visree-aaḥ.
In the previous salok, Farid Ji described the pitiable condition of that true devotee of God whose body has been reduced to a skeleton, and whose feet ache with extreme pain (as if crows were pecking at their soles). But still that devotee hopes to see his or her beloved God.

On behalf of that devotee, Farid Ji addresses the crows (like pain) pecking at his body and says: “O’ crow, you have searched through my skeleton and have eaten away all the flesh in it. (But please) do not touch these two eyes (because within these eyes is a) hope to see my Beloved.”(91)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji had prayed to the crows pecking at his body to at least spare his eyes, because he still hoped to see his Beloved God. In this salok he makes another humble request to the crows (his body’s aches and pains).

He says: “O’ crow, please do not peck at the skeleton (of my body). If you are still residing on it, please fly away. Do not eat the flesh from the skeleton in which my Groom resides.”(92)

The message of the saloks from 66 to 92 is that we should not exert ourselves for the sake of false worldly wealth, lest we make our life a hell. We have been given this human opportunity to meditate on God, and love Him so deeply that even though it may take us many years (and we may have to lose everything, including our health), we shouldn’t give up. One day He would bless us with His blissful sight and union.

In salok (91), Farid Ji described how a true devotee, even when reduced to a skeleton still wishes that though his body may cease to function, at least his eyes should retain the ability to see the beloved God. In this salok, he advises us that we shouldn’t be afraid of death, because ultimately we all must die one day.

He says: “O’ Farid, the poor grave is always calling the mortal and saying, ‘O’ homeless one, come to your house. Don’t be afraid of dying: one day (you would certainly die) and come to me.”(93)

In the above salok, Farid Ji asked us to realize that ultimately we all must die. In this salok he points out how right in front of us many people have departed from this world, but still we don’t pay attention to this fact. Instead, we keep pursuing our selfish worldly desires. Farid Ji includes himself among the rest, and expresses his own cravings.
So he says: “Seeing with these eyes, (I have noticed) that much of the world has departed. O’ Farid, the people have their desires (which they wish to fulfill before dying), and I have my own (wish: to see my Beloved before I die).”(94)

Farid Ji firmly believed that ultimately God would listen to his prayers bless him with His union. However, he realized that before granting him this blessing, God would make sure that Farid Ji had embellished himself in every way.

Therefore, as if speaking on behalf of God, Farid Ji says: “O’ Farid, if you embellish yourself then I would meet you, and upon meeting me you would enjoy spiritual bliss. Further O’ Farid, if you (detach yourself from the love of the world and) become Mine, then the entire world would be yours (and you would enjoy all worldly pleasures).”(95)

However, Farid Ji once again cautions us not to postpone meditation on God’s Name, because at any time this frail body of ours may die, and we may never again receive the opportunity of human birth.

He says: “O’ Farid, (this body of yours is like) a tiny plant on a river bank (the question is: for how long can it remain assured (that it won’t be up-rooted? Similarly), for how long can we hold water in a pot of unbaked clay? (It would ultimately leak out. Similarly, we cannot prolong our life indefinitely: one day it must come to an end).”(96)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji noted that a tiny plant on a riverbank couldn’t survive for long before it is uprooted. Similarly he wants us to realize that one day we also will die, and either be cremated or buried in graves. All our houses and mansions will become empty.

He says: “O’ Farid, (upon the death of their occupants, all the houses and) mansions are rendered empty, and the souls must abide underground. Then the humble graves will be occupied by souls. O’ sheikh (Farid), say your prayer, because today or tomorrow, you have to depart (from this world).”(97)

In the above salok Farid Ji imagined the scene of his own death. In this salok, he notes that there are some who like him, have realized this fact and are trying to rectify their past sins. But there are many others who are absolutely careless about the fact of death, and don’t realize that they will have to answer for their deeds.

Therefore, he says: “O’ Farid, impending death is apparent like the bank of a river being eroded quickly. We hear that in the yond is a burning hell, (where sinners) cry and wail. There are some who have realized this, but there are others who move around carelessly. (They don’t realize that) whatever deeds a person does in this world, those (deeds) become evidence in the God’s court.”(98)

It is a common occurrence that one might be joyfully playing games with friends and relatives, or happily pursuing otherworldly pleasures, when suddenly one is struck with a serious accident or some terminal disease. Then all one’s worldly pursuits and pleasures are put aside, and along with the rest of the family, one has to deal with things about which they had never thought. Farid Ji describes this kind of real possibility through the metaphor of a crane, who is joyously playing games on a riverbank, but then a hawk unexpectedly catches it. Forgetting all the sports, it struggles for its life. Similarly, death may overtake us at any time, and we may not have time to meditate on God’s Name.
He says: “O’ Farid, sitting on the river-bank, a crane joyfully sports. But lo, while playing so joyously it is unexpectedly pounced upon by the hawks. Yes, when the hawks (sent by) God pounce upon, it forgets all about sports (and realizes that) God has brought about such things, which it had never considered even remotely.”(99)

Note: Just last month, the wife of the author’s friend (Mr. Sachdeva), who was in perfect health and enjoying a party, suddenly had a stroke, and died a few days later. A few years back (at the end of February 2000) we heard the news that our friend Shimpy and his wife had been shot to death by their son, who later burnt himself alive. Thus in a few moments the entire family was gone. What Farid Ji is saying is true, and we must pay attention to his advice.

In the previous salok, Farid Ji pointed out that like the crane, suddenly the hawks of death may pounce upon us also. Then we would forget what pleasures and sports we may be enjoying, and must deal with circumstances and situations about which we had never thought. In this salok, he paints before us a picture of what happens when we have been suddenly dealt a fatal blow.

He says: “The man who has a body weighing three and a half mounds (about 200 pounds), survives on food and water. A human being comes to this world with some hopes. But when, after breaking down all doors (overcoming all bodily safeguards), the angel of death comes (the person succumbs to death. Then) one’s own dear brothers bind one (on a pyre) and the deceased one be taken away. Behold how the man then departs (from this world), carried on the shoulders of four persons. O’ Farid, in God’s court only the (good) deeds which one had done in this world are of any use.”(100)
In previous several saloks, Farid Ji pointed out again and again that death could strike us at any time, without notice. Therefore, whatever meditation on God's Name and good deeds we wish to do, we should do right now. Otherwise we may never get a chance to do so, and may have to bear severe punishment in God's court. There only good deeds and meditation on God's Name are of any avail to us. Therefore, in this salok he praises even those birds who never forget to utter God's Name, in spite of living in jungles and surviving on roots and tiny rock pieces.

He says: “O’ Farid, I am a sacrifice to those birds whose abode is in the forests: they peck at gravel, live on ground, yet never forsake God's side.”(101)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji praised those birds that live in jungles and survive on gravel, still never forsake God. Now he looks at the jungle itself, and sees that even this jungle doesn’t remain the same. With the arrival of autumn, the trees in the jungle shed their leaves, the grass withers away and becomes brown, and the entire jungle looks so desolate and forlorn as if it had become old and bereft of life.

Realizing that there is no permanence even in the jungle, he says: “O’ Farid, with the changing of the season (the trees in the jungle start shaking) and shedding their leaves, (as if the entire) jungle was trembling. (Soon the trees become bare, and the birds fly away to look for new abodes and sustenance elsewhere. Similarly), I have searched throughout all the four corners of the world, (and concluded) that there is no place where anybody can stay (permanently).”(102)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji noted that with the arrival of the fall season, the trees start shaking and shedding their leaves, and soon look quite different than before. This makes him think that perhaps he also must tear off his costly clothes, and wear only those rags, which bring him closer to his Groom.
Therefore, he says to himself: “O’ Farid, tear off your silken robe, shred it into many pieces, and instead wear an ordinary blanket. I should adorn only the garb that unites me with my Spouse.”(103)

**Mehla-3**

Now the third Guru Amar Das Ji comments on the above salok and says: “(O’ bride soul), why do you tear off your silken dress, wear a blanket (and wander in jungles in search of your Groom? I tell you that) the Groom can be met even while sitting at home, if one cleanses her mind (of worldly desires and fills it with the pure love for God).”(104)

**Mehla-5**

In the previous salok, the third Guru Armadas Ji told us that one could meet God right in one’s home if one cleanses one’s mind. In this salok, fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji clarifies what cleansing one’s mind means.

He says: “O’ Farid, they who have any kind of ego on account of their glory, wealth, or beauty, depart from this world without (the grace of) God, just as mounds remain dry even in the rain.”(105)

In salok (103), Farid Ji expressed the thought that he should tear off his silken robes and in their place wear an ordinary blanket. In this salok, he further clarifies that point.

He says: “O’ Farid, those who have forsaken God’s Name, (in spite of wearing costly clothes), their faces look dreadful. They suffer immense pain here, and find no place of rest or peace in the yond.”(106)

In the previous salok, Farid Ji declared that they who forsake God suffer in pain both here and in the hereafter. Therefore addressing himself, he says: “O’ Farid, if you don’t awake in the closing hours of the night (and remember God, then deem that) you are (as good as) dead even while alive. Because even though you have forsaken God, God has not forsaken you (and He is watching your deeds).”(107)

**Mehla-5**

In the previous salok, Farid Ji told us that even if we forget God, He doesn’t forget us. In this salok, fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji advises us that we shouldn’t misinterpret this statement to mean that God is dependent upon us for anything.

He says: “O’ Farid, our Groom is wonderful, and the greatest independent Being. (He doesn’t need anything from us), when we become imbued with God, we are also adorned with this kind of beautiful (independent) form.”(108)

**Mehla-5**

In the previous salok, Guru Arjan Dev Ji stated the blessings of imbuing oneself with the love of God. Now he reveals the way to imbue oneself with such love, so that we may attain to God.
He says: “O’ Farid, deem pain and pleasure as the same. Shed all sin from your heart. If you accept as best what pleases Allah, then you will find His court.”(109)

**Mehla-5**

In salok (108), Guru Arjan Dev Ji stated that when we become imbued with the love of Allah, we too are adorned with the true decoration (of independence). In this salok, he explains what is meant by true independence.

He says: “O’ Farid, the world is playing (like an instrument, and is running after worldly affairs: the devil or Maya is manipulating it), and you too are playing along (and chasing the same things as the rest of the world). Only that person isn’t manipulated (by Maya, who meditates on God, and therefore) is protected by God.”(110)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji Arjan Dev Ji stated that the entire world is playing to the tune of Maya (the worldly riches and power). However, those saints who love God, and who are under the care of God, are free from this influence. In this salok, he tells us how useless it is to dance to the tune of Maya (or worldly riches) and advises us to follow the path of the saints. At the same time, he cautions us about the difficulties of following this path.

He says: “O’ Farid, our mind is imbued with the (attachments of the) world, but this world doesn’t help us at all in the end. (Therefore, in order to save ourselves from sufferings after death, we need to live like saints or holy beggars. But remember that) the life-style of a beggar is very difficult to follow and is obtained only by good fortune.”

In salok (107), Farid Ji stressed on the importance of meditating on God’s Name in the closing hours of the night (or the early morning hours). In this salok, he explains with a beautiful example why these hours are so special.

He says: “(Meditation on God) in the first quarter (of the night is like a) beautiful flower, but (to meditate) during the late hours of the night (or the early morning hours) is like enjoying also the fruit (of this meditation). However, only those who wake up (in these hours and meditate on God’s Name) obtain this gift from the Master.”

In the above salok, Farid Ji described the blessing we obtain when we wake up in the night and meditate on God’s Name. This salok is very close to the similar salok uttered by the first Guru Nanak Dev Ji in “Sri Rag Ki Vaar M: 4”. In this salok, Farid Ji cautions us against feeling egoistic, and assuming that our waking in the night automatically insures these divine gifts.

He says: “(O’ my friends), all divine gifts belong to God. No one can force Him to do anything. In spite of waking early, some may not receive (anything, because of their ego), while others He may Himself awaken (to the pitfalls of ego or worldly riches, and bless them with the gift of Name).”

In the above salok, Farid Ji told us that some people might not obtain divine blessings, in spite of waking up in the night and meditating on God’s Name. One obvious reason is that these blessings belong to God, and He bestows them on whomsoever He pleases. In this salok, Farid Ji reveals another possible reason. He explains this point using the metaphor of a young bride looking for her lost groom.

He says: “(O’ bride soul, even though you have woken in the night, yet) you are (still) looking for your Groom (God. I suspect that) there is some fault in yourself (such as worshipping other lesser gods and goddesses or humans). Those who are the true wedded brides (of their spouse) do not even gaze at any other (male).”
In the previous salok, Farid Ji told us that if we want to obtain our spouse (God), then we shouldn’t depend upon any other lesser god, goddess, a fake saint or prophet, etc. In this salok he tells us another strategy, which would ensure that our meditation wouldn’t go waste. He illustrates this point with the help of the metaphor of a bow and arrow.

He says: “If one has the bow of patience in one’s mind, on which the string is also of patience, and one aims with the arrow of patience, then the Creator doesn’t let it go to waste. (In other words, if one continues meditating on God patiently, and bears all pain and sorrow with patience, then God doesn’t let one’s worship go to waste.”(115)

In the above salok, Farid Ji told us that meditating on God with continued patience is the surest way to obtain the grace of God. In this salok, he describes how the patient devotees of God keep meditating, without boasting about it.

He says: “(O’ my friends, the true devotees of God) keep meditating on God with patience. They let their body suffer in patience (and bear patiently all the rigors of meditation). Even when they get close to God, they don’t reveal this secret to anybody (or boast about their success).”(116)

In the above salok, Farid Ji advised us that we need to always meditate on God with patience, and even if we become closer to God, we must not boast about it. It is often seen that whenever any person receives a little bit of divine grace or some slight super-natural power, that person stops obeying his or her Guru, and starts forming his or her own cult and following. In this salok, Farid Ji advises us that this kind of state shouldn’t be the object of our patient meditation.

He says: “O’ man, if you want to firmly embrace this thing, then let patience be the object of your (life. By doing so you) would prosper like (a wide river, and wouldn’t shrink to) a small flow. (In other words, if you keep meditating on God’s Name with patience you would be blessed with divine grace. Even then you should keep meditating on God, and follow the advice of your Guru; then you would grow into a highly respected saint with a large following. But if you lose your patience and stop following your Guru, you may soon be reduced to an ordinary recluse).”(117)

In the previous few saloks, Farid Ji advised us that we should meditate on God in the late hours of the night with patience and fortitude. However, he realizes that the life of a dervish (or a poor devotee of God) is very difficult to endure.

Therefore, he says: “O’ Farid, love (of God) apparently looks (as attractive) as buttered bread, but the life of a saintly devotee of God is very difficult. It is only a very few persons who are able to follow the way of dervishes.”(118)

In the above salok, Farid Ji stated that the life of saintly devotees is so arduous that it is only a rare person who is able to follow such a path. However, he says that no matter how many difficulties he has to bear, he is determined to continue on this path if it would unite him with his Beloved (God).

He says: “Even if my body is heated like an oven, my bones burn like firewood, and my feet grow so tired that I may have to walk on my head, (I wouldn’t give up) if I could meet my beloved Master (by enduring such difficulties).”(119)
In the above salok, Farid Ji stated that he is ready to let his body be heated like an oven, let his bones burn like fuel, and let his head and feet suffer in pain, if by going through these tortures he could meet his Beloved. The above remarks are a way of expressing the extent of his love and the limit to which he is ready to sacrifice himself for the sake of seeing his Beloved. However, he knows that there is no need to do any such thing.

Therefore, like a very similar salok by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, he says: “(O’ my friend), don’t heat your body like an oven, don’t burn the bones like fuel. What wrong your head and feet have done (that you want to put these through such ordeals), when you can see the Groom (right) within you?”(120)

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Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Page - 1384

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It is the same light
Sri Guru Granth Sahib

In the previous salok, both Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Farid Ji told us that there is no need to torture our body or search for God outside. We can find Him right within ourselves. In this salok, the fourth Guru Ram Das Ji expresses similar thoughts, and also reveals who can help us to perceive the otherwise incomprehensible God within us.

He says: “I am going around looking for my friend (God), but my Friend is within me. O’ Nanak, He is incomprehensible: we cannot see Him (on our own), but the Guru can help us see (Him).”(121)

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us there is no need to torture ourselves in search of God; the Guru can help us to see Him within us. This salok is very similar to the one uttered by the third Guru Armadas Ji in Wad Hans Ki Vaar. In this salok, he illustrates with a beautiful example the fate of those fake yogis and recluses, who try to imitate the true saints.

He says: “Seeing the swans swimming (so majestically in a lake), within the cranes also arose a craving (to swim like the swans. But soon the) poor cranes were drowned to death (and began floating on the water), with their feet above and heads below. (Similar is the fate of those fake gurus and saints who, upon seeing the true saints honored and worshipped, try to copy their ways. Their real nature is soon discovered, and they are very badly disgraced).”(122)

In the above salok Guru Ji stated that when fake saints try to copy the true ones, they are soon exposed and disgraced. In this salok he illustrates how a devotee feels when he discovers the truth about a false saint.

On behalf of such a devotee, he says: “I thought that he was (a true saint, a) royal swan, and I joined his company. Had I known that he was a wretched crane (a fake recluse) I would have never let my body touch him, during my life.”(123)

In the above two saloks, Guru Ji described the fate of false saints. However, in this salok the first Guru Nanak Dev Ji clarifies that God has unlimited powers: if He so wishes, He can transform even the worst sinners into true saints.

Again using the above analogy, he says: “(It doesn’t matter) whether one is a swan or a crane, when (God) casts His glance of grace. Because O’ Nanak, if it so pleases Him, He turns a crow into a swan (or a sinner into a saint).”(124)

Guru Ji uttered saloks 120 to 124 to remove any doubts in the readers’ minds regarding the need to endure such tortures as letting our bones burn in pain when God resides right within our heart. In this salok, Farid Ji himself states why he is ready to sacrifice himself to that extent for the sake of meeting God.

He says: “(O’ my friends, man is like) a lonely bird in the lake of this world. There are dozens of (evil desires in him, which) want to catch him in their nets like hunters. (O’ God), this body of mine is mired in these waves (of sinful worldly desires). O’ eternal (God, only You can pull me out of this mire, therefore) my only hope is in You.”(125)
In *salok* (119), Farid Ji stated that he is ready to let his body be heated like an oven, his bones burn like fuel, and he is ready to walk on his head instead of his feet to see his beloved (God). But he knows that all such tortures are unnecessary and unfruitful in obtaining union with God. Therefore, in this *salok*, Farid Ji uses the metaphor of a young wedded bride discussing with her more mature and experienced friend, the way to please her spouse (God).

On behalf of the young inexperienced bride, Farid Ji says: “(O’ my sister, please tell me) what words (I may utter), what merits I must acquire, what is that supreme mantra (which I may chant), and what kind of dress must I wear so that my spouse (God) comes under my control?”(126)

Now as if replying on behalf of that more mature and experienced friend, Farid Ji says: “O’ sister, (utter your every) word with humility, (acquire the) merit of forgiveness, and let sweetness of tongue be your supreme charm. If you dress yourself with these three merits, then your spouse (God) will come under your control.”(127)

In the above *salok*, Farid Ji listed the three main virtues one must acquire to deserve God’s grace and His union. In the following *saloks*, he elaborates on these qualities.

He says: “In spite of being wise, who behaves like an ignorant person, in spite of being powerful remains humble, and shares with others even when one has nothing oneself, only such a rare person may call him or herself a devotee.”(128)

In the above *salok*, Farid Ji advised us to acquire the virtues of humility, compassion, and sharing with others what little we have. In this *salok*, he lists some other virtues, which we should acquire.

He says: “(O’ my friend), don’t utter any insipid (or bitter) words, because the true Master resides in all. Don’t break anyone’s heart (because all hearts are like) priceless pearls (all humans are precious creatures of God).”(129)

In the above *salok*, Farid Ji advised us not to utter any insipid words, or break anyone’s heart. In this last *salok* he again stresses this point.

He says: “(O’ my friend), everyone’s heart is as precious as pearls, so to hurt anyone’s feelings is not good at all. Therefore, if you crave your spouse (God), then don’t break anyone’s heart.”(130)

The message of *saloks* from 93 to 130 is that in spite of seeing many die in front of us, we don’t realize that we are also going to die one day. Instead of remembering God, we keep pursuing worldly affairs. In this way, birds are much better than us: because in spite of living in jungles, they never forsake God. But there is no need for us to renounce our families, because we can attain to God even while living in our household. For this, we must acquire the virtues of humility, forgiveness, and meditate on God in the early morning hours.
This is the beginning of another Chapter, written in a particular poetic style called Sawayyaas. This style was mostly used by the folklore singers of those days, who used to sing praises of the rulers (or other rich persons of their day). In this case, these singers (who are called Bhatts) are supposed to have visited the Hindu holy place Banaras. There they learned about the greatness of the Sikh Gurus, and came to Goendwaal (Punjab, India) to see the fifth Guru (Arjan Dev Ji) shortly after the death of the fourth Guru (Ram Das Ji) and recited these Sawaayas in praise of the Gurus, which Guru Arjan Dev Ji later included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji. In addition, Guru Arjan Dev Ji himself recited some Sawaayas in praise of God and Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and included these in this chapter.

Addressing God, Guru Ji says: “O’ the primal Being, the Creator, You Yourself are the cause of all causes. You pervade everywhere and reside in all hearts. You are seen pervading throughout the world. Who knows Your state? O’ God the Master, You protect all. O’ God, You are imperishable and formless. You were born out of Yourself. You are the only one; there is none like You. O’ God, You have no end or limit. Who is there who can deliberate on Your end or limit? You are the Father of the entire world, and the support of the life-breaths of all. Servant Nanak (the devotee of God) has been approved in His court and is like God Himself. O’ God, how can my one tongue describe his glory? Yes, the one thing which I can do is to sacrifice myself for You again and again.” (1)

Continuing to utter praises of God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, streams of nectar flow from You. Your storehouses are brimming and immeasurable. You are infinite and farther than
The message of this these two Sawayyaas is that it is God who is the Creator, the Doer, and Cause of everything, including this entire universe. Devotee Nanak has been approved at His court, therefore he is like God Himself. We human beings cannot describe His praise. All we can do is sacrifice ourselves for Him.

“It is the same light You do whatever pleases You, and You do not depend upon anyone’s advice. In Your house (under Your command), can happen all creation and destruction (of the entire world) in the twinkling of an eye. There is none other like God. His light is immaculate. Meditating on His Name washes off millions of sins. Devotee Nanak, God’s slave has been approved in God’s court, and is like God. How can my one tongue describe His praise? But one thing which I can do is to sacrifice myself again and again for You.”(2)

The message of this these two Sawayyaas is that it is God who is the Creator, the Doer, and Cause of everything, including this entire universe. Devotee Nanak has been approved at His court, therefore he is like God Himself. We human beings cannot describe His praise. All we can do is sacrifice ourselves for Him.
It is the same light

Resuming praises of God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, You have installed all regions (of the universe). From (Yourself) alone You have made this entire expanse. You pervade in all (beings), but still remain detached from all. O’ God there is no end or limit to Your merits. All the creatures and beings are Yours. O’ incomprehensible (God), You alone are the destroyer of (demon) Mur, and benefactor of all. O’ God, You Yourself provide the support for the universe and display (Your) creation. You neither have any (particular) color or form, nor any face nor beard. O’ God, Your devotee Nanak has been approved in Your court, and is like (You) God. What can my one tongue say (about the merits of Guru Nanak? The only one thing I can say is that) I am a sacrifice to You again and again.”(3)

Continuing to praise God, Guru Ji says: “O’ God, You are the treasure of all virtues. Your divine wisdom and Your meditation are priceless. O’ God, Your seat is known to be the highest of the high. The mind, body, life-breath, and all the riches belong to You, and
the entire world runs under Your one law. O’ God, which of Your glories may I describe, when You are the greatest of the great? O’ limitless incomprehensible God, who knows Your secret? O’ the Supporter of all, the embodiment of life, Your power is continuously pervading equally everywhere. Devotee Nanak has been approved in Your court, and is like You. What can my one tongue say (about Your merits)? I am always a sacrifice to You again and again.”(4)

Guru Ji has still many things to say in praise of God. He says: “O’ God, You have no form, and yet are in every form. You are unperceivable, perfect, and imperishable. You are always in bliss, You have limitless forms, You are immaculate, and always in bloom. Countless creatures sing Your praises, yet they cannot find even a little bit of Your limit. On whomsoever You become merciful, O’ God, that devotee is united with You. Blessed again and again is that devotee on whom God has become kind. They who have met the divine Guru Nanak have been saved both from birth and death.”(5)

Above were the virtues of God, which Guru Ji himself noted and described. Now he narrates what other great sages and saints have said about God. He says: “All (the sages always say) that God is true and eternal. He is said to be the primal God (who has existed before the beginning of time). There is none other like Him. They who have meditated on the nectar of God’s Name have obtained all kinds of comforts of the mind. They who have tasted (the nectar of His Name) with their tongue have been satiated (from all worldly desires). They with whom the Master is pleased have been imbued with the love of the congregation of saintly persons. They who have touched (the feet of) Guru God Nanak, they have emancipated their entire lineage.”(6)

Now Guru Ji narrates some of the merits of God’s creations, and he says: “Eternal is God’s court and congregation, and He has entrusted the true (Guru) with His eternal Name. Sitting on His eternal throne, He administers true justice. It is the eternal God who has created this universe. He Himself is infallible, and has done no mistake (in creation). Priceless is the jewel of His Name. They on whom the Master of the universe has become kind have obtained all comforts. Those who have touched (the lotus feet of) Guru God Nanak never again fall into existences.”(7)

Even after narrating so many merits of God, Guru Ji acknowledges that neither he nor any other yogi or saint has been able to count all the virtues of God. Therefore, he says: “(I don’t know through) which kind of yoga, knowledge, meditation, or way we should utter God’s praise. The adepts, seekers, and the three hundred thirty million gods have not been able to find God’s worth. Even gods like Brahma, Sanak and other sons of Brahma, and Shesh Nag (the thousand headed cobra who is believed to utter the thousand names of God every minute) have not been able to find the limit of His virtues. (The reason for this is that God) is beyond the comprehension of human beings. His state cannot be understood. He pervades everywhere and is contained amongst all. They whose noose (of worldly attachment) the merciful God has cut off, those devotees are attuned to His meditation. They who have touched (the lotus feet of) God Guru Nanak have always been free from any bonds both in this and the next (world).”(8)

Guru Ji concludes by humbly saying: “O’ God, You are the Donor and Benefactor, and I a beggar have sought Your shelter. (I wish that I may be) given the gift of the dust (the humble service) of the saints, through which I may cross over the dreadful (worldly) ocean. O’ God, I make this submission: that if it so pleases You, bless me with Your sight. It is this (sight) that my mind craves. (Bless me) so that my mind may become steady (in Your
worship). O’ God, the lamp (of divine knowledge) has been lit in this darkness, and the entire Kal Yug (the present world) has been saved through the faith of Your Name. In all the worlds, devotee Nanak has manifested as all pervading Guru God.”(9)

The message of these Sawayyaas is that God is infinite, the one and only creator, doer and cause of everything. His praise is limitless. His devotee Nanak has been approved in His court, and is manifest as the Guru God.

sava-yaye mukhaak-y mehlaa 5
ik-o-kaar satgur parsaa.

kaaichee dayh moh fun baaDhee sath kathor kuchee kugi-aanee.
Dhaavat bharmaat rahan nahee paavat paarbaruham kee gaat nahee jaaneee.
joban roop maai-aa mad maataa bichraat bikal badou abhimaaneee.
par Dhan par apvaad naar nindaa yeh meethee jee-a maahi hitaaneee.
balbanch chhap karat upaavaa paykhaat sunaat parahh antjaraaamee.
see Dharam da-yaa such naasit aa-i-o saran jee-a kay daanee.
kaarang karan samrath sreeDhar raakh layho naanak kay su-aamee. ||1||

keerat karan saran manmohan johan paap bigaaran ka-o.
har taaran taran samrath sabhai biDh kulah samoooh uDhaaran sa-o.
chit chayt achayt jaan saatsangat bharat anDhaayr mohi-o kat Dha-p-u.
moorat gharee chasaa pal simran raam naas naas naas saang la-o.
hochha-o kaaj alap sukh banDhan kot jannam kahaa dukh bha-p-u.
sikh-yaa saant naam bhaj naanak raam rang aatam si-o ra-n-u. ||2||
ranchak rayt khayt tan nirmiit durlabh dayh savaar Dharee.
kaan paan soDhay sukh bhu’chaat sankat kaat bipat harem.
maat pitaa bhau-ee ar banDhap boojhan kee sabh soojh paree.

baraDhmanaan hovat din paraat nit avaat nikat bhikham jaree.
ray gun heen deen maai-aa kiram simar su-aamee aky gharee.
kar geh layho kirpaal kirpaa niDh naanak kaat bharamm bhaaree. ||3||
This begins another collection of poems uttered by the fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji, in a special format of poetry called Sawayyas. In this first stanza, Guru Ji puts himself in our place, and on our behalf confesses many weaknesses, faults, evils and sins, which we have accumulated in us.

Therefore, Guru Ji shows us a way to save ourselves from the terrible punishment awaiting us at the hands of the demon of death.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ God, this body of mine is very frail. Furthermore, it is bound by worldly attachments. I am stonehearted, of filthy mind, and unwise. (My mind) wanders about, never remains steady, and has not understood the state of the all-pervading God (or realized how merciful and broad-minded He is)? I am intoxicated with the wine of youth, beauty, and wealth, and forgetting myself I wander about as a most arrogant person. (To look with covetous eyes on) others’ wealth and women, enter into strife with others, and to slander others: all such things seem sweet and dear to my mind. I stealthily make plans...
It is the same light

In the above salok, Guru Ji showed us how we need to confess all our faults and seek the shelter of God. Now he shows us how to counsel our mind and motivate it to seek the shelter of the Guru, and meditate on God’s Name.

Addressing his own mind (and indirectly ours), he says: “(O’ my mind), to destroy our sins we should seek the shelter of the heart captivating God, and sing His praises. That God is like a ship to ferry us across (the worldly ocean), and is capable of emancipating all our generations. O’ my unaware mind, understand God through the company of saints and meditate on Him; deceived by the darkness of doubt, why do you wander like this? For a moment, half a moment, or for an instant, meditate on God and with your tongue utter (God’s) Name. (Remember that all) your work (for worldly riches) is in vain. This momentary pleasures (brought by worldly riches become) the cause of (worldly) bonds. Why do you want to wander through the pain of millions of births (for such a short-lived false pleasure)? O’ Nanak, (following the) instruction of the saints, meditate on God’s Name and get absorbed in the love of God. In this way, you can enjoy divine bliss within yourself.”(2)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji showed us how to motivate our mind by revealing how God can help us destroy our sins, and ferry us across the worldly ocean. In this salok he tells us that not just for future favors, but even now, we owe gratitude to God for so many blessings. In fact, we owe our very existence to Him.

He says: “(O’ man), from a tiny bit of sperm (from your father, God) sowed your seed in the field of (your mother’s womb), and He created your priceless body. Then He provided you with pure food, drink, and other comforts, and He saved you from trouble. (Then, by God’s grace), you were able to recognize your mother, father, brother, and other relatives. Now day after day you grow older, and dreadful old age is quickly approaching. O’ degraded, merit-less person, worm of worldly falsehood, at least for a moment meditate on Your Master (who has bestowed so many blessings on you. Like) Nanak, say (to Him): “O’ kind Master, the ocean of mercy, please hold me by Your hand and remove from my head the weight of doubts (and emancipate me).”(3)

In the previous stanza, Guru Ji warned us that day after day, the dreadful old-age is coming nearer and nearer. Still like worms we remain engrossed in enjoying false worldly pleasures. In this stanza, he once again puts himself in our shoes and addressing his mind, warns it against a false sense of security.

He says: “O’ my mind, in your utter stupidity you indulge in ego like a mouse residing in a hole. You (enjoy worldly pleasures) as if you were swinging on the swing of worldly possessions, and intoxicated with wealth you wander like an owl. Your attachment to your sons, wife, worldly pleasures, and relatives is multiplying (every day). You have sown the seed of ego. From this seed has sprouted the sense of ‘mine-ness,’ and your life passes in committing sins. (At any moment, death could seize you). The cat of death is looking at you with its mouth wide open, but you are still engaged in worldly pleasures like a hungry person enjoying his or her food. O’ Nanak, (if you want to save yourself, then) deem this
world to be a dream, and meditate on the merciful Master of the universe in the company of saints.”(4)

In the previous stanza, Guru Ji warned us that while we are daily multiplying our attachment to our sons, daughters, wife and other relatives (and sowing the seeds of mine ness and self-conceit), the demon of death watches over our head like a cat with an open mouth, ready to pounce upon its hunt. In this stanza, he tells us how the things and relatives for whom we have been toiling are short-lived, and won’t accompany us after death.

He says: “(O’ my friend), neither this body, this house, nor attachment (to these worldly things) is permanent. Intoxicated with worldly wealth, for how long will you keep taking pride in these objects? None of these canopies, commands, whisks, or any of your attendants will last. (In fact, your entire life is passing by like a) flowing river, but you don’t think about it in your mind. None of (your) chariots, horses, elephants, or thrones (will) accompany you. Abandoning (all these things) in an instant, you will depart naked (without any material possession) from here. None of (your) warriors, heroes, nobles and chiefs whom you are seeing with your eyes will accompany you (after death). Neither your fortresses, nor the treasures for which you vigorously commit so many sins will be able to emancipate you. Neither your friends, nor sons, wife, nor mates (will accompany you after death). Like the shade of a tree, they will change their attitude and abandon you. (Therefore O’ my mind), every moment meditate on the perfect, incomprehensible, limitless, all pervading, merciful Master of the meek, and say: “O’ the Groom of the goddess of wealth, the Master of all, devotee Nanak has sought Your shelter, please show mercy and save him.”(5)
It is the same light
In the previous stanza, Guru Ji commented that we keep wasting our life in collecting worldly riches and power, but neither any of our possessions, nor any relatives (for whom we amass these things) accompany us after death. Therefore, he advised us that instead of always running after worldly wealth, we should remember God at each and every instant, and ask Him to save us from the punishment awaiting us. In this stanza he shows us the mirror of our life, and how for the sake of Maya (worldly riches and power) we commit sins and subject ourselves to suffering through myriad existences.

He says: “Becoming so attached to amassing worldly wealth, one risks one’s life and honor, begs alms, commits highway robberies, and procures it from all sources. One conceals it even from one’s friends, acquaintances, mates, sons, and brothers. To obtain (Maya), one runs after it and practices deceit. Performing these acts, one burns away one’s entire life. In the company of mercurial wealth, one forgets about all good deeds, acts of righteousness, self-discipline, purity of mind, and daily duty. (Consequently), one wanders through many existences, like animals, birds, trees, and mountains. Even for an instant or a moment, one doesn’t remember the merciful Master of the meek, the giver of life, and owner of the entire (world). But in the end, all these sweet and sour eats and drinks (for the sake of which, one forgets God) taste bitter. O’ Nanak, those who seek the shelter of the saint (Guru) are emancipated, but others who remain absorbed in (amassing) worldly wealth, forsaking everything (go empty handed) from here.”(6)

In the previous stanza, Guru Ji stated that all those who do not remember God and remain absorbed in (amassing) worldly wealth must go empty handed from here. Earlier, he advised us that we should meditate on God’s Name and become absorbed in His love, and enjoy the bliss within us. In this stanza he tells us how even great gods keep wandering in search of God, but through loving devotion, human beings are able to be absorbed in His divine bliss.

He says: “Through Vedas, gods like Brahma and Shiva and great sages sing praises (of God) with delight. (Gods like) Indira, Vishnu, and Gorakh sometimes come to earth, sometimes run to the sky, (and thus keep) running in search of God. Neither adepts, nor humans, nor gods, nor demons, have been able to find even an iota of His secret. However, through their love and loving devotion, the devotees of God merge in the vision of God. Abandoning (that God), they who beg from any other, their mouths, teeth, and tongues get worn, (but still they don’t get anything). Therefore, O’ my foolish mind, slave Nanak counsels you to meditate on (God) the giver of peace.”(7)

In stanza 6, Guru Ji pointed out that becoming attached to worldly wealth, one risks one’s life and honor, begs alms, and commits highway robberies. Therefore, all those who remain absorbed in (amassing) worldly wealth go empty-handed from here. In this stanza he admonishes such ‘worldly wise’ people, and reveals what kinds of people are emancipated.

He says: “(O’ my friend), the illusion and attachment on whose account you have fallen into the dark well of Maya (the worldly riches and power) plays many kinds of enticing shows. But you indulge in so much arrogance, as if you cannot be contained even in the sky. However you don’t realize that your belly is full of nothing but ordure, bones, and worms. For the sake of the poison (of worldly riches), you run in (all the) ten directions, and snatch others’ wealth. (In reality) you have been deceived by ignorance. Your youth has passed, you have been seized by the malady of old age, and when you die you must bear the punishment of the demons of death. You will suffer the pains of hell and many existences, and would be consumed by the pain inflicted by the demons of death. O’ Nanak, through
loving devotion those persons have been emancipated, whom showing His mercy, God has made His saints.”(8)

In stanza 7, Guru Ji counseled his mind (and ours) to meditate on (God), the Giver of peace. In this stanza he describes what kind of bliss and virtues he is enjoying as a result of meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “(By meditating on God’s Name), all my desires have been fulfilled, and I have obtained the fruit of all virtues and objectives. (I have found that) the medicine of God’s Name is very useful in removing the effect of all evil spells, and destroying all ailments. By uttering God’s Name, (all such faults, as) lust, wrath, ego, jealousy, and worldly desire are eradicated. (Therefore, instead of) bathing at holy places, giving charities, penances, piety, and good deeds, I have enshrined God’s lotus feet in my heart. God is my friend, mate, well-wisher, relative, and the giver of life and support of my breath. I have sought the support of the omnipotent God, and slave Nanak is always a sacrifice to Him.”(9)

In the previous stanza, Guru Ji stated that God is his friend, well-wisher, relative, and the support of his life-breath. In this stanza he discusses the virtues and blessings that person obtains who is imbued with the love of God’s Name.

He says: “Becoming attached to the lotus feet (the immaculate Name of God), they who taste the delight of His love cannot be cut by any weapon (nor be scared by any threat). They whose mind is pierced with (the desire to walk on) the way of God’s sight cannot be tied by any rope (or stopped from proceeding down this path). They who have attached themselves to the dust of the saints’ feet cannot be burned by fire (misled by any evils or false accusations). They who tread down the divine path cannot be drowned by water. In short O’ Nanak, all kinds of maladies, blemishes, sins, and worldly attachments are pierced by the arrow of God’s Name.”(1-10)

In the previous stanza, Guru Ji stated that they who are imbued with the loving devotion of God are not afraid of any threats or tortures. Yet it doesn’t mean that for the loving devotion of God we must engage in any kinds of special faith rituals (such as observing fasts, going on pilgrimages, adopting certain holy garbs, or do special penances etc.).

He says: “There are several people who engage in many kinds of special efforts, reflecting on countless Shastras which prescribe six kinds of faith deeds. Smearing their bodies with ashes, they roam around holy places, make their body lean, and bind their hair into matted locks. Yet without worshipping God, they all suffer in pain, just as a silkworm spins a cocoon and then gets caught in it. (Similarly, there is no use of such practices, as) performing worship by making religious marks on (the body), cooking one’s own food, or making many other such ostentations.”(2-11-20)

The message of this collection of eleven Sawaayas of the fifth Guru Ji is that we must remember that the demon of death might come at any time, to hit us and take us away. We should be cautious, and instead of remaining engrossed in worldly pursuits, we should keep death in our mind, and meditate on God’s Name under the guidance of the saint (Guru). However, this does not mean that we must perform certain faith rituals (such as going on pilgrimage, observing fasts, or torturing our body in various ways). It means that we must always keep God in our mind, and live a pious and pure life without trying to hurt others or steal other’s property; we must love others as creatures of the same God who created us.
Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Detail of Sawaayas: Previous group by M: 5=9, This group by M: 5=11, Total=20

sava-ee-ay mahlay pahilay kay 1
ik-o^kaar sat^gur parsaad.

ik man purakh Dhi-aa-ay bargaataa.
sant sahaar sadaa bikhi-aataa.

jaas charan lay ridai basaava-o.

ja-o param gurroo naanak gun gaava-o. ||1||

gaava-o gun param gurroo sukh saagar duraat
nivaaran sabad saray.
gaavahi gambheer Dheer maat saagar jogeey
jangam Dhi-aan Dharay.
gaavahi indraad bhagat par-hilaadik aatam ras jin
jaani-o.

kab kal sujas gaav-o gur naanak raaj jag jin
maani-o. ||2||

gaavahi jankaad jagut jagaysur har ras pooran
sarab kalaa.
gaavahi sankaad saaDh siDhaadik mun jan gaavahi
achhal chhalaa.
gaavai gun Dhom atal mandlavai bhagat bhaa-aay
raas jaani-o.

kab kal sujas gaav-o gur naanak raaj jag jin
maani-o. ||3||

gaavahi kapilaad aad jagaysur aprampar avtaar
varo.
gaavai jamadgan parasraamaysur kar kuthaar
ragh taj hari-o.
uDhou akroor bidar gun gaavai sarbaatam jin
jaani-o.

kab kal sujas gaav-o gur naanak raaj jag jin
maani-o. ||4||

SGGS P-1390

gaavahi gun baran chaar khat darsan barahmaadik
simranth gunaa.
gaavai gun says sahas jihbaa ras aad ant liv laag
Dhunaa.
gaavai gun mahaaday-o bairaagee jin Dhi-aan
nirantar jaani-o.

kab kal sujas gaav-o gur naanak raaj jag jin
maani-o. ||5||

raaj jag maani-o basi-o nirvair rigantr.
sarisat saqal uDhree naam lay tari-o nirantar.

gun gaavahi sankaad aad jankaad jugah lag.
Dhan Dhan gun Dhan janam sakyath bhalou jag.
From here begins the collection of hymns composed and uttered by various bards, which is commonly known as the Bhattan Kaiy Saweeaiy (hymns uttered by the bards). There is a long tradition that early in the morning a parade starts from Akal Takhat towards the Golden Temple, with the Guru Granth Sahib Ji in a golden palanquin. When the head priest
It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

The bard Kall Sahar says: “With full concentration of mind, I contemplate on that (supreme) Being who bestows blessings, is the support of the saints, and is always manifest. I enshrine His feet in my heart and then sing praises of the prime Guru Nanak.”(1)

Next, the bard says: “I sing praises of that sublime Guru (Nanak) who is the ocean of comforts, destroyer of sins, and the fountain of the (divine) word. The yogis and Jangams (the wandering saints) sing his praises with full concentration, and also men of profound patience and limitless wisdom sing his praises. (Not only that, even gods like) Indira and devotees (like) Prehlaad who have known spiritual bliss (sing praises of Guru Nanak). The poet Kall also sings immaculate praises of Guru Nanak who, (even though is a householder, yet, has remained detached from worldly affairs and united with God, as if he) has enjoyed both the worldly kingdom and the bliss of union with God.”(2)

The poet Kall now refers to many devotees and the saints of Hindu mythology and says: “(O' my friends), kings like Janak, the great yogis who know the way (to union with God) sing praises (of Guru Nanak), who is filled with the relish of God's Name, and possesses all powers. Saints like Sanak (and other sons of god Brahma), the adepts and the sages sing praises (of Guru Nanak), who cannot be deceived (by worldly desires). Even seers like Dhom who have understood the relish of (God's) loving devotion (and devotees like Dhru) of the immovable galaxy (after whom Dharoo Tara, the North star is named), sing praises (of Guru Nanak). The poet Kall, also sings immaculate praises of Guru Nanak who has enjoyed both (the worldly) kingdom and union with God.”(3)

Listing more saints and devotees who sing praises of Guru Nanak, bard Kall says: “Sages like Kapil, primal yogis, and limitless incarnations of God sing (praises of Guru Nanak). Pars Ram, the son of Jam Dagan, who was divested of the axe in his hand and power by (god Rama), the hero of Raghu dynasty, sings (Guru Nanak's praises). The devotees Oodho, Akaroor and Bidar (who realized the supreme Being) sing praises (of Guru Nanak). Therefore, poet Kall also sings immaculate praises of Guru Nanak, who has enjoyed (both the) worldly kingdom and union (with God).”(4)

This is not all. Bard Kall adds: “All the four castes and all the six sects of yogis sing praises (of Guru Nanak), and gods like Brahma contemplate on his merits. Even the legendary snake Shesh Nag, with its thousand tongues and attuned mind, sings his praises with delight in a melody from beginning to the end. The detached god Mahadev (also called Shiva) sings praises (of Guru Nanak), who has realized the merit of keeping God in one’s meditation. Therefore poet Kall (also) sings praises of Guru Nanak, who has enjoyed both temporal and spiritual sovereignties.”(5)

Now poet Kall tells us why so many powers (including gods) sing praises of Guru Nanak. He says: “(O' my friends, Guru Nanak) has enjoyed both the worldly kingdom and union with God, (because God), who has no enmity towards anyone is enshrined in his heart. By continuously meditating on God's Name, Guru Nanak has saved himself, and has also saved the entire universe. For countless ages, Sanak (and the other sons of god Brahma), kings (and saints like) Janak have been singing praises of (Guru Nanak). Blessed again and again is Guru (Nanak), whose advent in this world is fruitful and sublime. The servant bard
Kall says that even the under-world resounds with the victory (of Guru Nanak). O’ Nanak, you relish God’s Name, and you have enjoyed both (worldly) kingdom and yoga (or union with God).”(6)

Now bard Kall goes into ecstasy, and sees the light of God not only in Guru Nanak’s recent appearance, but also as incarnations of God in all the previous ages.

He says: “(O’ Guru Nanak), even in Sat Yug (the golden age), it was you (who enjoyed the worldly kingdom and yoga). It was you who became Baavan (the pigmy incarnation of God) and deceived (king) Ball (by asking him for apparently small piece of land, but ended up covering the entire earth). In Treta (the silver age), you enjoyed (the worldly kingdom and yoga), and became known as Raam of the Raghu dynasty. In Duappar (the brass age), you appeared as Krishna, who killed the demon Mur, and obliged (the king) Kanss by (liberating him from his evil body). You then blessed Ugar Sain with his kingdom, and your devotees with fearlessness. O’ Guru Nanak, in Kal Yug (the present iron age) also, you are the approved one, and you got yourself called Angad, and Armas. (In short, God) the primal Being has commanded that the kingdom of the Guru (Nanak) is immoveable and eternal.”(7)

In the previous stanzas poet Kall listed many gods and sages who sing praises of Guru Nanak. Now he mentions some famous devotees from Hindu mythology who also sing his praises.

He says: “(O’ my friends), devotees Ravidas, Jaidev, and Tirlochan sing praises (of Guru Nanak). Devotees Nam Dev and Kabir sing praises (of Guru Nanak), who always views all beings with same respect. Even devotee Baini utters praises (of Guru Nanak, because he enjoys) spiritual bliss with equipoise, and by virtue of the Guru was given the wisdom to be attuned to God. Except God, he doesn’t recognize (or worship) anyone else. (Also the sage) Sukdev (son of sage Vyas the author of legend Ramayana), and Prikhat (king of Hastana Pur and grandson of Arjan the hero of Mahabharata) sing praises (of Guru Nanak), along with the sage Gautam (who had cursed god Indira with thousand vulva marks for stealthily raping the sage’s wife). Poet Kall says that the sublime praise of Guru Nanak is ever fresh and pervades throughout the entire world.”(8)

Bard Kall now states how not only in this world, but gods in heaven and the creatures from the nether world sing praises of Guru Nanak. He says: “(O’ my friends, even) in the nether world many devotees like (Shesh Nag) and other serpent devotees sing praises (of Guru Nanak). Shiva, yogis, celibates, and Jangams (the wandering yogis) always sing his praises. The silent sage Byaas who reflected on Vedas through grammar utters his praises. Even god Brahma, who according to (God’s) command fashioned the entire world, also sings (Guru Nanak’s) praises. (In short, bard) Kall meditates and sings the sublime praises of that Guru Nanak, who has realized the perfect God who pervades throughout the entire universe both in manifest and un-manifest forms, and who has enjoyed union with God in a state of equipoise.”(9)

Poet Kall concludes his songs in praise of Guru Nanak by listing many more saints and sages of ancient ages who are mentioned in Hindu mythology and the Vedas.

He says: “Even the nine masters of yogis sing his praises, because blessed is Guru (Nanak) who is merged in the eternal (God). Madhanta, who called himself Chakarvarti (the un challenged king), also sings his praises. The king Ball who resides in the seventh
under-world sings his praises, and so also does Bharthari (the king who abandoned his kingdom) and used to always accompany his Guru (Gorakh). Also Durvasha (the sage who had cursed the entire lineage of god Krishna), king Puru and sage Angarai sing praises of Guru Nanak. (In short), O’ poet Kall, the sublime praise of (Guru) Nanak imperceptibly fills all hearts.” (10)

The message of the above ten psalms sung in praise of Guru Nanak by the bard Kall Sahaar is that Guru Nanak is the embodiment of God in this world. Therefore, not only humans in this age but all the great saints, sages, and gods of previous ages sing his praises. Therefore, we should also sing praises of Guru Nanak (whose power and light now rests in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji).
It is the same light
In this chapter, poet Kall Sahaar sings the praises of second Guru Angad Dev Ji, who before being anointed as the Guru was called Lehna. He used to be an ordinary worldly man, regularly going on pilgrimages to worship a goddess. Then one day he met Guru Nanak (the first Guru) and was so touched by his divine personality that he became his true disciple. Leaving his household, he joined the Guru and began serving and obeying his orders, which were some times so difficult that even his own sons refused to obey. Ultimately, when Guru Nanak realized that his time of departure from this world had come, he ignored his own two sons and embraced Lehna to his body (joined him with his Angg), and anointed him as his successor, renaming him as Angad. Now poet Kall Sahaar utters hymns in his praise

He says: “Blessed is that Creator, the all-pervading Master, who is the root source of the universe and an all powerful Being. Blessed is the eternal Guru Nanak, who has placed his hand (of support) on your forehead. When he placed his hand on your forehead (and bestowed his grace upon you), imperceptibly the rain of the nectar of (God’s Name) began falling in torrents. Gods, men, heavenly angels, and sages were drenched (and sanctified by the fragrance of God’s Name). Showing your (spiritual) might, you destroyed the agonizing death: you stopped your mind from wandering (in worldly affairs, and as if) tying all the five demons (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego) into one bundle; you brought them under your control. By seeking the shelter of the Guru you have won over the world. Now (viewing all with the same glance of grace and with no discrimination) you play the game of equality. The chariot of your heart always remains attuned to the formless God in a state of ecstasy. (Therefore I say to myself), O’ bard Kall Sahaar utter the praise of Lehna (Guru Angad Dev Ji, whose glory has spread through) all the seven continents; by coming into contact with Guru (Nanak) the slayer of demons, he has become the Guru of the entire world.”(1)

Continuing his eulogy, Kall Sahaar says: “(Guru Angad’s) sight rains nectar and removes the filth (of sins from one’s mind). By seeing his door (and listening to his word, the darkness of one’s) ignorance disappears. They who do the hard and difficult task of contemplating the essence of the (Guru’s) word, by ferrying them across the dreadful (worldly) ocean, the (true Guru) has removed the load (of sins from their heads). By reflecting on the Guru’s word in the company of saintly persons, one is awakened, obtains poise, and lives in a state of humility and supreme love. O’ bard Kall Sahaar, utter the praise of Lehna, whose glory has spread through) all the seven continents. By coming into contact with Guru (Nanak) the slayer of demons, he has become the Guru of the entire world.”(2)
Now the bard addresses Guru Ji directly and says: “(O’ Guru Angad), you have resolutely contemplated on the limitless Name (of God). Your immaculate glory is spread (over the world). You are the support of seekers, adepts, and virtuous persons. You are (so detached from worldly affairs, as if) you were the incarnation of (famous saintly) king Janak. Your word is the most sublime in the world. You live (detached from the world) like a lotus plant in water. You are (the fulfiller of wishes, like the mythological) Kalap Tree, and the destroyer of ailments. While the soul (of ordinary human beings remains pierced by the three impulses (of vice, virtue, or power), your mind remains attuned to the love of the one (God) alone. O’ Kal Sahaar, say that by coming into contact with (Guru Nanak), the slayer of demon Mur, Lehna has become the Guru of (the entire) world and his glory has spread throughout the seven continents.”(3)

The poet Kal Sahaar next reflects on the source from which Guru Angad Dev Ji obtained such immaculate powers and virtues. Once again addressing the Guru, he says: “(O’ Guru Angad Dev Ji, it appears to me that) you have obtained honor from the venerable prophet (Guru Nanak), and have served that exemplary Guru (of the world). By disciplining the cobra (like mind), who has raised it into a state of sublime bliss. (Yes, you have served that Guru) whose sight is like the sight of God, who has the knowledge of the soul, who has been approved in God’s court, whose sight is fixed on the immovable place (of God), and whose immaculate intellect is attached to the sublime site, has adorned the armor of humility, and has destroyed (the influence of worldly) power. (I say to myself), O’ Kall Sahaar, utter the praise of (Guru) Lehna, who by coming into contact with (Guru Nanak), has become the Guru of the world and the slayer of demon Mur, and his glory has spread across all the seven continents.”(4)

Continuing to sing the praises of Guru Angad Dev Ji, bard Kall Sahaar says: “(O’ Guru Angad Dev Ji), on whom you cast (your) glance of grace, you dispel the darkness (of his or her ignorance). You are the destroyer of sins and annihilator of evils. You are a man of your word and destroyer of lust and anger. You have controlled greed and attachment, and you are the sustainer of the beggars (at your door). You have amassed spiritual love, and your beauteous words are like the fountains of nectar.”

In closing, the bard says: “O’ Kall, the true Guru (Angad Dev Ji) has been anointed by the true Guru (Nanak Dev Ji), and one who attaches oneself with true devotion at his feet (the Gurbani) is emancipated. (In short, Lehna), the tiger-like son of Pheru is the Guru of the world, and he enjoys both the spiritual and temporal kingdom as Guru Angad.”(5)

In the previous stanza, poet Kall listed some of the blessings one obtains by listening to Guru Angad dev Ji. In this stanza he describes some of the unique qualities of Guru Ji’s character. He says: “(O’ Guru Angad Dev), your mind always remains attuned to the immaculate God, and you do whatever you wish (without being swayed by any worldly allurements). Just as a tree fully-laden with fruit bends down and endures suffering, similarly your thoughts are so immaculate (that you always remain humble, and suffer for the sake of mortals). You have realized this essence (of wisdom): that the incomprehensible and wondrous God pervades everywhere. Through the ambrosial and beauteous rays of the (Guru’s) words, you are imperceptibly irrigating (and comforting the hearts of mortals). You have obtained the status of the approved Guru (Nanak), and have acquired (the qualities of) truth and contentment. Kal Sahaar loudly proclaims that (anyone) who has caught sight of Lehna has seen God Himself.”(6)
Now poet Kall describes how Lehna became the second Guru, and how he obtained access to God. In Arabic language, the Muslims call their prophet as Hazrat Therefore Kall says: “(O’ Guru Angad Dev Ji), you have enshrined true faith in your mind, and Hazrat (Guru Nanak) has provided you access to the profound God. The destructible poison (of worldly attachment) has hastened away from (your) body, and with your inner intellect you have quaffed the nectar (of God’s Name). The light of that incomprehensible God, who has kept His power throughout all the ages, has become visible in your heart. O’ true Guru, you are merged in the poised meditation (of that God) who pervades throughout all. You are the large hearted destroyer of poverty, upon seeing whom the sins are terrified (and one who follows your advice, is freed from sin). Therefore, in a state of equipoise and with eternal love, Kall utters praises of Lehna with his tongue.”(7)

The one thing upon which all the Gurus have laid emphasis is meditation on God’s Name, the ever-loving remembrance of God and His creation. Confirming the importance of this, and observing that Guru Angad Dev Ji brims with this priceless virtue, poet Kall says: “(God’s) Name is the panacea. His Name is the support (of all), and His Name (yields) the bliss of meditation. (O’ Guru Angad Dev Ji), the flag of (God’s) Name always looks beauteous (in your hands).”

“(O’ Kall), it is with the Name (of God that Guru Angad Dev Ji) is imbued, and it is that Name which brings the fragrance (of pleasing virtues) to men and gods. One who has obtained the touch of (God’s) Name, that one’s truth (and piety) shines like sun in the world. Therefore when we see the sight of the Guru (Angad Dev Ji and listen to his advice, we become so purified, as if we have) bathed in all the sixty-eight holy places.”(8)

Describing the importance Guru Angad Dev Ji attaches to God’s Name, poet Kall says: “The eternal Name (of God) is the place of pilgrimage (for Guru Angad Dev Ji).

The eternal Name is his ablution, and the eternal Name is the food he loves. By uttering the eternal Name (Guru Angad Dev Ji) obtains glory. He has obtained this eternal Name through the word of the Guru (Nanak), and it is God’s eternal Name, which gives the fragrance (of virtues) to his congregation. The devotee poet Kall says that whose austerity is the eternal Name, whose fasting is the eternal Name, and who by seeing the sight (and listening to) that Guru obtains the eternal Name, that person’s human life is approved.”(9)

In conclusion, poet Kall Sahaar (also known as Kall, or Tall), says: “(O’ my friends), on whom (Guru Angad Dev Ji) casts his blissful and ambrosial glance of grace that one washes off the dirt of all the sins and vices, and brings under control all one’s mighty passions of lust, anger, greed, and attachment. In the mind (of Guru Angad Dev Ji) resides peace, and he destroys the pain of the (entire) world. The Guru is like a river of all the nine treasures; this river washes the dirt (of the sins) of our lives. Therefore, poet Kall says that we should imperceptibly serve (and worship) Guru (Angad Dev Ji), day and night. By beholding the sight of the Guru, the pain of our birth and death goes away.”(10)

The message of the above ten psalms is that through his complete faith and unquestioning obedience of his Guru (Nanak Dev Ji), Lehna Ji was transformed from an ordinary person into the Guru of the world: whosoever has listened to him and followed his advice has been emancipated.

Note: This last sentence is most often uttered when we open the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. It means that if every day, and at all times, we serve and remember the Guru as a matter
of our normal habit (and see the sight of the true Guru by listening, and following his advice), then we are spared the pains of birth and death.

It is the same light

sava-ee-ay mahlay āteejāy kāy 3
ik-o’kaar satgur pārsaaad.
so-ee purakh sivar saacha jaa kaak i ia naam achhāl sansaaray.
jin bhagat bhavjal taaray simrahu so-ee naam parDhaan.
tī’t naam rāsik naanak lāhraa thāpi-o jayn sarab siDhee.
kav jān kāl-y sabuDhee keerāt jān amardāa bistree-ya.
keerāt rav kīrān pargat sansaaraah saakh tārovar mavalSaraa.
ūtār dākh-nahi pūb ar paschām jai jai kaar jāpanth naraa.

SGGS P-1393
har naam rasan gurmuKh baraad-ya-o ulat gang paschām Dhāree-aa.
so-ee naam achhāl bhagtaah bhav taaraṇ amardaas gur ka-o furī-aa. ||1||
simrahi so-ee naam jakh-yr ar kinnar saaDhik siDh samaaDh hāraa.
simrahi nakh-yātar avar Dhāroo mandal naardāad parahlaad vāraa.
sasee-ar ar soor naam ulāseh sail lo-o jin uDhri-aa.
so-ee naam achhāl bhagtaah bhav taaraṇ amardaas gur ka-o furī-aa. ||2||
so-ee naam sivār nav nath naanjan siv sankaad samuDhri-aa.
chavraaseeh siDh buDh jīt rāatay ambreek bhavjal tari-aa.
uDha-o akroor tīlochan naamaa kal kabeer kilvikh hari-aa.
so-ee naam achhāl bhagtaah bhav taaraṇ amardaas gur ka-o furī-aa. ||3||
tī’t naam laag tāytees Dhi-aavahi jātee tāpeesur man vasi-aa.
sōo-ee naam simar gangayv piṭāamēh chāran chīt amīt rasi-aa.
tī’t naam gurū gaminbheer gārō-o māt sat kar sangat uDhree-aa.
so-ee naam achhāl bhagtaah bhav taaraṇ amardaas gur ka-o furī-aa. ||4||
In this chapter, bard Kall Sahaar sings praises of the third Guru (Amardas Ji), who before coming into contact with the second Guru (Angad Dev Ji) used to be a devout worshiper of a goddess and often went on pilgrimages to visit her. Once, on his way back, he came in contact with a Brahmin who deeply insulted him for not having a Guru. This insult very much upset Amardas Ji, and he began craving for a true Guru. One day, he happened to listen to the sweet nectar-like hymns, which his daughter in law Amro was singing. He asked her about the composer of these hymns. She replied that Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who had been succeeded by her father Guru Angad Dev Ji, uttered these hymns. Hearing this he insisted that she immediately lead him to her father. Upon reaching his place, without caring for his higher social status as per the Indian custom, he fell at the feet of Guru Angad Dev Ji and became his disciple. (At that time he was in his mid-sixties, but) without caring about his old age he started serving the Guru with such devotion and humility that for more than twelve years he daily fetched water from the far away river for his master to bathe with. Guru Angad Dev Ji was so impressed with his service and devotion that when his time for departure from this world came, he anointed Amar Das Ji as the next Guru. The poet Kall Sahaar now utters hymns in praise of him.

He says: “(O’ my friend), contemplate on that eternal Being whose one Name is undeceivable in the world. Yes, meditate on that supreme Name which has ferried devotees across the dreadful (worldly) ocean. It is that Name which (Guru) Nanak relished, (and it is by virtue of that Name that he) established Lehna (as the next Guru, and because of which he) obtained supernatural powers. O’ poet Kall, now the glory of the supremely wise Amardas Ji is spreading among the people. Just as the branches of the Molsiri tree spread fragrance, similarly the sun-like glory (of Guru Amar Das Ji) has become manifest in the world. (All around) in north, south, east, and west men are proclaiming his victory. By distributing God’s Name, Guru (Nanak Dev Ji) turned the minds of people away from worldly attachments and towards God. As if he had reversed the flow of river Ganges (from east) to west, that same unperceivable Name that ferries the devotees across the dreadful worldly ocean became manifest in Guru

Amardas Ji’s mind. (In other words, Guru Amardas Ji used the same technique of emancipating the people through meditation on God’s Name that Guru Nanak Dev Ji had employed).”(1)

Now poet Kall emphasizes that this technique of mediation on God’s Name is not a new thing, but has successfully emancipated even the ancient saints, sages, stars and galaxies.
of the universe. He says: “(O’ my friends), gods, heavenly singers, seekers, adepts, and Shiva meditate on that same Name. Many stars, galaxies of Dharoo (the North pole), sages like Naarad, and exalted devotees like Prehlaad meditate (on that Name). The sun and the moon crave that Name, which has emancipated many mountain ranges. That same undeceivable Name which ferries devotees across the dreadful (worldly) ocean came into the mind of Guru Amardas Ji.”(2)

Listing more famous saints and devotees who have been emancipated through God’s Name, bard Kall says: “The nine yogi masters, (god) Shiva, and devotees like Sanak were emancipated by attuning their minds to that same immaculate Name.”

The bard adds: “The (famous) eighty-four adepts, other (divinely) wise persons and beings were imbued (with that Name, and the devotee) Ambrik was emancipated (by meditating on the Name. The same Name) in Kal Yug (the present age) eradicated the sins of (devotees) like Oodho, Akaroor, Tirlochan, Namdev, and Kabir. That same undeceivable Name, which ferries across the devotees, came into the mind of Guru Amardas Ji.”(3)

Now the poet goes one step further and states: “Attuning themselves to that Name, the three hundred and thirty million gods are mediating (on God). That same Name is abiding in the hearts of the celibates and great penitents. By meditating on that Name and contemplating God’s lotus feet, Bhisam Pitama (the son of Ganga of Mahabharata legend) enjoyed in his mind the (divine) nectar. By contemplating that Name and having full faith in the profound and sublime wisdom of the true Guru (Amardas Ji), his congregation was emancipated. Yes, that same undeceivable Name which ferries devotees across the dreadful (worldly) ocean came into the mind of Guru Amar Das Ji.”(4)

Continuing to describe the glories of God’s Name, poet Kall says: “Just as the rays of the sun, (or the fragrance of) the Elysian tree spreads, similarly the glory of His Name is dispersed. Yes, in north, south, east and west (in all directions, people utter) its glories. (In fact the) birth of a person is only fruitful if (God’s) Name abides in his or her heart. The gods, humans, heavenly singers, and the yogis of all six different sects crave that Name. O’, the famous son of Tej Bhaan in the lineage of Bhallas, with folded hands Kall meditates on you and says: “O’ Guru Amardas, you have obtained the Name which removes the fear of the dreadful (worldly) ocean come into the mind of (the minds of your) devotees.”(5)
Reflecting on the astonishing powers of God’s Name, poet Kall says: “(The same Name which) the three hundred thirty million gods, seekers, adepts, and human beings contemplate supports (all) the continents and the universes. Where God’s Name is contemplated, there weal and woe are borne with the same equanimity. God’s Name is considered the supreme (commodity) among all (things), and the devotees remain attuned to it with single-minded devotion. O’ Guru Amardas Ji, being pleased, God has blessed you with that same Name.”(6)

In the previous stanza, bard Kall stated that being pleased with Guru Amardas Ji, God blessed him with His Name, which supports all the worlds and the continents. In this stanza, he lists some of the powers and virtues of Guru Ji. He says: “(O’ my friends, Guru Amardas Ji is) truly a hero. He is powerful yet humble. He is truly even-tempered, holds large congregation, has profound intellect, feels enmity towards none, and remains attuned (to God). From the very beginning, he has been given the white flag of patience, which shows the way toward the bridge to heaven. (Following his example of fortitude, devotees become emancipated). The saints who are united with the Creator lovingly adore him. Serving the true Guru, they have enjoyed peace: Guru Amardas Ji has made them worthy (of this status).”(7)

Now the poet reveals the source of the miraculous qualities of Guru Amardas Ji. He says: “(For Guru Amar Das Ji, God’s) Name is his ablution; For him God’s Name is like partaking of dainty dishes. The delight of God’s Name is always his inspiration, and he always utters sweet words from his mouth. Blessed is the true Guru (Angad Dev Ji) who by serving God has come to know His incomprehensible state. (Guru Amardas Ji) has acquired the abode of God’s Name in his heart, (by virtue of which) he has emancipated all his lineages. (Therefore, the poet) Kall says, ‘fruitful is the advent of (that person) who has come into contact with the light (of the immaculate advice) of Guru Amardas Ji.’”(8)

The poet Kal Sahaar now reaches the heights of his poetic imagination in praising Guru Amardas Ji. He says: “In the right hand (of Guru Amardas Ji) is the sign of the lotus, and into his face gazes a supernatural power. In his left hand resides the worldly power that
enchants (all) three worlds. In his heart abides the indescribable (God); only (the Guru) has realized this delight. Being imbued with this love, Guru Amardas Ji utters words of devotion for God from his mouth. On his head is the sign of (God’s) true grace. Joining his hands, (poet) Kall has meditated on (Guru Amar Das) and says that the one who has come in contact with the supreme Guru has obtained all one’s wishes.”(9)

The message of the above nine stanzas by poet Kall Sahaar is that if want to fulfill all our wishes; we should listen and act on the advice of Guru Amardas Ji (as contained in the eternal Guru Granth Sahib Ji).

Now bard Jaalap begins his praise of the third Guru Amardas Ji. In his exquisite poetic style he examines one by one the main body parts, and states what these parts must do in order to be successful in achieving their divine mission.

He says: “(O’ my friends, one’s) feet are fruitful only when they walk on the way of Guru Amardas, and hands are blessed if they touch the feet of Guru Amardas. The tongue is successful if it speaks words in praise of Guru Amardas, and the eyes are blessed if they see the sight of Guru Amardas. The ears are sanctified when they hear the praise of Guru Amardas, and blessed is that heart in which the world father (Guru Amardas) himself resides. Jaalap says hallowed is that head which daily bows before Guru Amardas Ji.”(1-10)

In the previous hymn, poet Jaalap stated that every part and limb of the body is the most fruitful when that person is dedicated to the service of Guru Amardas Ji. In this stanza, he reveals the blessings and merits obtained by a person upon whom Guru Amardas Ji shows his pleasure.

He says: “Those men (with whom Guru Amardas Ji is pleased) suffer from no pain or poverty, and cannot be called paupers. They never face any sorrow, and their limit (of
In the previous stanza, Jaalap described the blessings obtained by those upon whom is the pleasure of Guru Amardas Ji. Now he describes how strong and unshakable is Guru Ji’s faith in the one God, from whom he has obtained all these powers.

So addressing Guru Amardas Ji, he says: "(O’ Guru Amardas Ji), you have read (and worshiped) only one (God), have enshrined only one (God) in your mind, have recognized the one (God) alone (worthy of worship, and forsaken any other gods and goddesses). With your eyes, (you have seen only the One), with words coming from your mouth (you have spoken) only about One, and except that One you have not known any other place (of refuge). Even in your dreams you have seen only One, (seen) the same One in front of you (while awake), and you have remained absorbed in the One alone. (At all times), in all the thirty (days), in the world of five elements (air, water, earth, fire, and sky), and all the thirty-five letters (of the alphabet), you have seen that one (God) alone who never perishes. The one (God) who cannot be described, though millions (have tried), you have described Him as One alone. Jalap says, O’ Guru Amardas, you seek the only one (God), and you believe only in the one (eternal Being)."(3-12)
He says: “(O’ Guru Amardas Ji), the wisdom that Jaidev grasped, the understanding which was enshrined in Nam Dev’s, mind, the wisdom which was in the heart of Tirlochan, the insight which Kabir obtained, (you obtained that same intellect). The daily deed (of meditation performed by the king Rukmangad (who asked others to worship God, you did also). The wisdom through which devotees like) Ambreek and Prehlad obtained salvation after seeking the shelter of God, Jaalap says: (‘O’ Guru Amardas Ji, you have) understood the way, (by virtue of which you) have renounced greed, anger, and desire. I say that Guru Amardas Ji is God’s own (dearest) devotee, and upon seeing him I obtain salvation.”(4-13)

In the previous stanza, poet Jaalap stated that Guru Amardas Ji is the dearest devotee of God, and seeing Him he obtains salvation. In this last hymn uttered in praise of the Guru, he lists what other blessings one obtains by meeting (and following the advice) of Guru Amardas Ji.

He says: “By touching the Guru Amardas’s feet (reverently following his advice), the sins of the entire world are destroyed. (We should therefore also) touch the feet of Guru Amardas Ji, which even the adepts and seekers crave. When we touch the feet of Guru Amardas, our mind is attuned to God, and our journey (of the rounds of birth and death) ends. By coming into contact with Guru Amardas, the fearless (God) is attained, and our round of birth and death is ended. The duality which makes one love (things) other than the one God ceases when one obtains the immaculate mantra (of the Guru). O’ Jaalap, so many are the invaluable blessings one obtains by seeing Guru Amardas Ji.”(5-14)

The message of the five hymns uttered by the bard Jaalap is that by coming into contact with the Guru Amardas Ji (and following his advice), we can destroy all our sins, obtain many blessings, and find salvation.
Now bard Keerat sings praises of Guru Amardas Ji. According to tradition, he first praises God then first two Gurus.

He says: “Eternal is the Name of the Creator, and this is what Nanak has firmly perceived. By remaining attached to his feet (by serving him obediently) Lehna manifested as the Guru Angad Dev Ji. In that lineage manifested Guru Amardas Ji, the abode of all hopes, (and I am not sure) which of his merits I may describe? I do not know the end or limit of his merits; they are indescribable and incomprehensible. (I can only say this: that in the form of Guru Amardas Ji), God has launched a boat to emancipate his entire congregation along with their families. Therefore O’ Guru Amardas Ji, Keerat has come to your shelter and says, ‘please save me, save me !” (1-15)

He says: “(O’ my friends, Guru Amardas Ji) is himself the supreme Being who, assuming His power, has entered the world. In the form of (Guru Amardas Ji), the Formless one has illuminated the world with His light (of divine knowledge. Through him, He) has lighted the lamp of His Shabad (the Name) which pervades everywhere. The disciples who have grasped (and contemplated His Name), the Guru has promptly united them with (God’ s) feet. (In short), by incarnating into the lineage of Nanak, he has joined the company of Lehna (the Guru) Angad. O’ Guru Amardas Ji, I wish that) birth after birth, I may remain in your shelter.”(2-16)

He says: “By perceiving Guru (Amardas Ji), the Guru’s disciples obtain (the merits of) worship, penance, truth, and contentment. Those who seek his shelter escape the writ of suffering in the city of death, and are ferried across (the worldly ocean. Guru Amardas Ji) is filled with (God’s) loving devotion, and he utters God’ s (Name) in his heart. That Guru is profound and large-hearted (like a river), and in an instant he ferries across those who
are drowning (in the worldly ocean. (Guru Amardas Ji) has incarnated in the immaculate lineage of Nanak, which utters merits of the Creator. Those who have served (and followed) Guru Amardas Ji have eradicated all their pain and poverty.”(3-17)

In the previous hymn bard Keerat mentioned the merits and blessings one obtains by seeing the sight of Guru Amardas Ji. In this hymn, with utmost devotion, fear, and love for the Guru, he makes a very humble submission. He says: “(O’ Guru Amardas Ji), in my mind I offer a prayer before you, but I cannot (summon the courage to) say it. (Because, you already know and you have) all my worry with you. (Therefore, shedding all my worries) I only look toward your saintly congregation (for moral support). If in your will I am stamped with the sign of approval, then I may serve the Master. When the Guru sees (one) with the glance of grace, one tastes the fruit of the Creator’ s Name. O’ the unfathomable, incomprehensible Being, the creator of the universe, I say only what you command. O’ Guru Amardas, the cause of all causes; I live, as you keep me.”(4-18)

The message of the above four Sawayaas, uttered by the bard Keerat Ji is that in the shelter of the Guru we can obtain the truth of God’s Name, and under his guidance we can also obtain the blissful sight of God Himself. Therefore, we should have the utmost respect love and devotion for the Guru, and follow his advice sincerely. By doing so we will relish the fruit of God’s Name.

bhikhay kay.
gur gi-aan ar Dhi-aan tat si-o tat milaavai.
sach sach jaangee-ai ik chiteh liv laavai.
kaam krodh vas karai pavan udant na Dhaavai.
nirankaar kai vasai days hukam bujh beechar paavai.
kali maahi roop kartaa purakh so jaanai jin kichh kee-a-o.
gur mili-ya-o so-ay bhikhaa kahai sahj rang darsan dee-a-o. ||[1]|19||

Bhikhaiy Kayt

(Psalms uttered by Bhikha)

The hymns above were uttered by poet Keerat in praise of Guru Amardas Ji. Now the bard Bhikha begins his compositions in praise of the Guru.
He says: “(The Guru is the embodiment of divine) knowledge and meditation. He has united the essence (of his soul) with the (prime) essence (of God). Through his true devotion he knows the eternal (God), and with single-minded concentration he remains attuned to the one (God). He keeps under his control (the impulses) of lust and anger, and doesn’t allow his mind to become like the air, and fly or wander (in any direction. He remains so absorbed in God as if he) resides in the abode of the Formless one and, understanding His will, obtains (divine) knowledge. In Kal Yug (the present age), he is the embodiment of the Creator, and he knows (Him) who has done everything. Bhikha says, “I have met that Guru (Amardas Ji), and he has blessed me with his loving and poised sight.”(1-19)

In the previous hymn, bard Bhikha stated that we should deem Guru Amardas Ji as the embodiment of the True (one). He didn’t make this observation spontaneously, or for the sake of unnecessarily praising the Guru and winning special favors from him. He made this observation after fully examining the actual character of many other saints, pundits, and yogis for one full year, and found that none of them were as pure and immaculate in actual life as they appeared from outside. When he came to the shelter of Guru Amardas Ji, he was so impressed by his divine knowledge, dedication, and real-life conduct that he couldn’t help but make a complete surrender before the Guru.

Addressing the Guru, he says: “(O’ Guru), I have become exhausted searching for the true saints, and I have seen many such pious persons (in this process. I have come across many) recluses, penitents, and pundits, who from their mouth uttered sweet words. For full one year I roamed and wandered, but no one could give me any satisfaction. I heard them delivering high sounding sermons (for others), but their own living didn’t please me (because they didn’t practice what they preached). What else may I say about their traits, (except that), forsaking God’s Name, they were attached to the love of the other (worldly riches and power. Now O’ Guru Amardas Ji), God has united (me) Bhikha with you. (So I completely surrender myself before you) and I would live as you please.”(2-20)

The message of the above two hymns uttered by the bard Bhikha Ji is that we need not search for more saints or false gurus for our spiritual guidance. Already we have the guidance of those true saints and Gurus who were so truly attuned to God that they had become one with Him. Their immaculate advice is contained in the eternal Guru Granth Sahib Ji, and all we need to do for our salvation is to listen, understand, and follow that advice.
Now the bard \textit{Sallh} utters his hymn in praise of Guru Amardas Ji. He uses the metaphor of ancient battles, in which the brave worriers, wearing armor of steel, used to mount horses and fight with spears and arrows in their hands.

Comparing Guru Amardas Ji to a brave warrior in a battle against the evil impulses of lust, and anger etc., he says: ‘(O’ Guru Amardas Ji), wearing the armor of meditation (the seedless trance), you have made your seat on the horse of (divine) knowledge. Holding the bow of righteousness in your hands, you are fighting (against the enemy impulses) with the arrows of devotees’ humility. In your mind is the fear of the fearless eternal God, and you have planted the spear of the Guru’ s word (in the battlefield). Thus you have destroyed the five demons of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and self-conceit. (O’ Guru Amardas Ji), son of Tej Bhan, you are supreme in the dynasty of Bhallas. By virtue of the blessings of the (Guru) Nanak Dev Ji, you have become king of kings. (O’ Guru Amardas Ji), Sallh says this truth: that by waging war you have won against the vast army (of internal enemies).’(1-21)

The message of the above hymn is that just as brave soldiers fight in the battle-field with bows and arrows or guns and ammunition, so too is it the brave warrior who fights his internal enemies. Following the example of Guru Amardas Ji, we should also wear the armor of meditation and divine wisdom, and kill our own internal enemies of lust, anger, attachment and ego with the arrows of \textit{Gurbani} (the Guru’s word).

Lastly, the bard \textit{Bhall} tries to utter a hymn in praise of Guru Amardas Ji. But he finds himself completely incapable of counting or narrating the Guru’s merits; therefore, he gives many beautiful examples to illustrate virtues of Guru Amardas Ji, which are so limitless it is not possible to count them even with super-human power.

He says: ‘(O’ Guru Amardas Ji), it is not possible to count the number of rain drops in the clouds, the vegetation on this earth, or the flowers in spring. Also, it is not possible to find the limit to the rays of the sun or the moon, the extent of the ocean, or the waves in the river \textit{Ganges}. By perfectly meditating like \textit{Shiva}, and by the grace of the true Guru’s knowledge,
O’ poet Bhall, someone may make an estimate (about these things), but O’ (Guru) Amardas Ji of Bhallas clan, your praise becomes only you.”(1-22-9-19-60)

The message of the above hymn is that so limitless are the praises of our Gurus, it is not humanly possible to find their end or limit. Therefore, it becomes our duty to pay full attention to the advice contained in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, and try to follow it without hesitation.

Note: Detail of the above hymns:

By Kall Sahaar=9, by Jaalap=5, by Keerat=4, by Bhikha=2, by Sallh=1, by=Bhall=1, Total=22.

Hymns uttered so far:

By M: 5=9, by M: 5=11, for M: 1=10, for M: 2=10, for M: 3=22, Total=62.

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Hymns uttered so far:

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Saweeaiy Mehlaiy Chouthaiy Kaiy

(Psalms in Praise of Guru Ram Das Ji)

Now bard Kall Sahaar begins singing hymns in praise of the fourth Guru Ram Das Ji who as a boy was a penniless orphan trying to make his living by selling boiled garbanzo. But
when Guru Amar Das Ji cast his glance of grace on him, he honored Ram Das by marrying his daughter to him. Later, judging Ram Das on the basis of his merits and unquestioning obedience, he anointed him as the fourth Guru rather than any of his own sons.

The poet, first expressing his wish to meditate on God, says: “O’ true Guru, please fulfill the wish of this devotee: that with single-minded concentration, I may meditate upon the immaculate God. By the Guru’s grace I may always sing praises of God, and by singing (His) praises my mind may blossom in delight. By serving the true Guru (Amar Das Ji), you have obtained the supreme status, and have meditated on the imperishable and formless God. Kall Sahaar is singing praises of that Guru, by seeing (and serving) whom no poverty afflicts a person. I utter the immaculate praises of that sublime person (Guru Ram Das Ji) in whose mind has welled up the ambrosial Name of (God). This (Guru, Ram Das Ji) has obtained the delight of (the divine) Word by serving the true Guru (Amar Das Ji), and has enshrined the Name of the immaculate God in his heart. (Guru Ram Das Ji) is the enjoyer (and lover) of God’s Name, appreciates divine virtues, loves God, (and views everybody with such equal regard, as if he were) the pool of equality. Therefore, poet Kall says, O’ Guru Ram Das, son of Thakur Har Das, you fill our empty (hearts) with the (nectar of God’s Name).”(1)

Continuing his poetic imagery, poet Kall says: “(Guru Ram Das Ji is like a) lake which is always brimming with His (divine) nectar, from which flows the spring of ambrosia, giving immortal status (to the devotees). However, only those saintly devotees who have served (and meditated on God) in their previous life drink this nectar and bathe their mind in it. Dispelling their fear, (Guru Ram Das Ji) has blessed them with the status of fearlessness, and by providing them with the support (of Gurbani, the divine word) he has emancipated them. (Therefore) poet Kall says: “O’ Guru Ram Das, son of Thakur Har Das, you fill the empty (hearts of mortals) with the (nectar of God’s Name).”(2)

Now reflecting on some of the divine qualities of Guru Ram Das Ji, poet Kall says: “(Guru Ram Das Ji) has a profound intellect. Being associated with the immaculate and holy company of (Guru Amar Das Ji), his soul has been imbued with a deep love (for God. As a result, his) mind is awakened, and the lotus of his heart has blossomed in a state of poise. He has attained the fearless immaculate God in his heart itself. The merciful true Guru (Amar Das Ji) has firmly enshrined God’s Name (in him) by virtue of which he has overpowered the five (evil impulses. Therefore), poet Kall says, O’ Guru Ram Das, son of Thakur Har Das, you fill our empty (hearts) with the (nectar of God’s Name).”(3)

Continuing to describe the blessings which Guru Ram Das Ji has obtained from Guru Amar Das Ji, poet Kall says: “(Guru Ram Das Ji) remains intoxicated in a state of inner divine ecstasy, and his mind remains attuned to the detached (God). In a very natural way he has come into contact with the philosopher’s stone (Guru Amar Das Ji). By the grace of the true Guru (Amar Das Ji) he has obtained supreme status, and he remains brimming with the treasure of (God’s) loving devotion. He has obliterated (future) births and deaths, and his fear of death has disappeared. Poet Kall says, that Guru Ram Das, son of Thakur Har Das, fills our empty (hearts) with the (nectar of God’s Name).”(4)

In the previous four hymns, poet Kall stated that Guru Ram Das fills our empty (hearts) with the (nectar of God’s Name). In this hymn, he tells us how he is able to do this, what is his source of power, and how he obtained it.
He says: "(Guru Ram Das Ji) has filled our empty hearts (with God’s Name), and has enshrined the limitless (God) in his heart. He has reflected in his mind on the essence of the Destroyer of pains, who gives divine knowledge to the soul. He always remains zealously attuned to God’s adoration, and only He Himself knows the delight of this love. By the grace of the true Guru (Amar Das Ji), he enjoys the bliss of (divine) love in a state of poise. Through the grace of (Guru Nanak Dev Ji), and the sublime intellect of Guru Angad Dev Ji, Guru Amar Das Ji has executed (God’s) command. Kall Sahaar says, O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, this is how you attained the eternal and immortal status (of the Guru).”(5)

Now poet Kall describes the qualities of Guru Ram Das Ji, and the blessings one obtains upon coming into contact with him. He says: "(Guru Ram Das Ji always remains so pleased, as if he) abides in a pool of contentment. (He speaks so sweetly, as if) from his tongue he is manifesting the relish of nectar. Upon meeting him, peace wells up (in the mind), and sin flees far away. He has obtained (God), and an ocean of peace has been given to him (by his Guru): he never feels tired of walking the path of God’s will. (He never loses his patience, as though) He wears the armor of self-discipline, truth, contentment, and civility, which cannot be penetrated. The Creator has created him as an exemplary Guru, and has sounded the bugle of his glory in the world. (In short, poet) Kall says, ‘O’ Guru Ram Das, you have obtained fearless immortal status.”(6)

In the previous hymn, poet Kall stated that in Guru Ram Das Ji, the Creator has created an exemplary Guru. In this stanza he tells how the Guru has achieved such a status, and who the person is who has instructed him in this way.

He says: ‘The Guru won the world by meditating on the exemplary true Guru (Amar Das Ji, deeming him) as the One (God Himself) in his mind. Blessed again and again is the true Guru Amar Das Ji who has firmly enshrined (God’s) Name in him. Now he has obtained God’s Name, which is the treasure of (all) the nine kinds of riches, and prosperity and the power to perform miracles, are his servants. He has been blessed with the ocean of divine knowledge, and he has met with the imperishable God. The Guru (Amar Das Ji) has firmly enshrined God’s Name in him, becoming attuned to which all past devotees have been ferried across. (Poet) Kall says, O’ Guru Ram Das, you have obtained the commodity of God’s Love (His Name).”(7)
Continuing his praise of Guru Ram Das Ji, poet Kall says: "(Guru Ram Das Ji) is the continuously flowing stream of loving adoration. His love (for God, which began ages ago) never ceases. (He so eagerly listens to his Guru’s instruction and enshrines it in his mind, as if) he wants to drink the relish of the nectar of the limitless word of Guru (Amar Das Ji) in great gulps. (He is so contented, and always in such peace, as if) wisdom were his mother and contentment his father, and he is merged in the ocean of poise. He is beyond existences, self-illuminated, and through the true Guru’s word, he has emancipated the world. In his mind, he has enshrined the word of the Guru, and he is the embodiment of the invisible, incomprehensible, and limitless God. (In short)

Kall says, O’ Guru Ram Das, you have obtained (the nectar of His Name, which) emancipates the world."(8)

Listing some of the divine treasures and precious jewels which Guru Ram Das Ji possesses, poet Kall says: "(Guru Ram Das Ji) possesses (God’s Name), the treasure of all the nine kinds of riches which can emancipate the entire world and ferry the devotees across the dreadful (worldly) ocean. Yes, the drop of the nectar of God’s Name can rid the world of its..."
poison (and evil). He is like a tree of poise, which has come to fruition, and is laden with the nectar-filled fruits of (divine) knowledge. It is only by the Guru’s grace that we obtain these fruits, and blessed are those who obtain it. They, who have developed love for the Guru in their mind, are emancipated by the grace of (Gurbani) the Guru’s word. Kall says, ‘O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, you have beaten the drum of the (divine) word.’(9)

Now the bard takes a flight of poetic imagination, and compares Guru Ram Das Ji to great kings of ancient days who sat on special thrones in decorated tents, surrounded by beautiful Kanaats or cloth walls, and canopies over their heads. He says: “(Guru Ram Das Ji) is sitting on a couch of faith (in God), in a tent of equipoise, surrounded by the Kanaats of contentment, and wearing the armor of civility which always looks beautiful on him. Through the word of the Guru he has amassed (the wealth of God’s) Name, whose support spreads its fragrance in the congregation. He is a virtuous soul free from existences. O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, Kall says that you abide in the pool of (peace) and poise.”(10)

In the previous hymn, poet Kall compared Guru Ram Das Ji to a great king sitting on a couch of faith (in God), in a tent of equipoise, surrounded by the walls of contentment and wearing the armor of civility. But his comparison doesn’t end there. He notes that the greatness of the kings is determined not only by the vastness of their empires or the strength of their armies, but also by the kinds of blessings and favors they bestow upon those with whom they are pleased. In this hymn he lists some of the blessings the Guru bestows upon those with whom he is pleased.

He says: “They with whom the Guru is fully pleased, in their hearts God’s Name comes to reside; they with whom the Guru is very pleased are freed from all kinds of sins. Those with whom the Guru is fully pleased are rid of any thought of honor or dishonor; they with whom the Guru is pleased, by attuning them to the (divine) word, he ferries them across the dreadful (worldly) ocean. They who have put their faith in the exemplary message of the Guru have made their advent in this world fruitful. O’ Kall, (you too) should also hasten to the shelter of that reverend Guru, because by attaching yourself to the Guru you obtain everything (including) salvation and worldly pleasures.”(11)

In the above hymn, the poet Kall listed some of the blessings the Guru bestows on those who seek his shelter. Naturally, when people hear of a great king who is also a large-hearted philanthropist, they flock to his shelter. Therefore, continuing his flight of poetic imagination the bard says: “The true Guru has pitched his tent, and under its shelter have come the creatures of all the ages (who have become absorbed in meditation on God’s Name). In his hand is the spear of (divine) wisdom, through which the devotees have been satiated. Through devotion to God, Guru Nanak, Guru Angad, and Guru Amar Das and other devotees have merged in His company. O’ Guru Ram Das, only you have enjoyed the relish of Raj Joag (the spiritual kingdom).”(12)

In Hindu mythology, there are many legends in praise of king Janak and his wisdom. But stating whom he considers truly a Janak (or a wise king), Kall says: “Janak is he who has known the supreme Being, and has stabilized the chariot (of his mind) in a state of divine bliss, has accumulated (the virtues of) piety and contentment, and has filled the un-fillable tank (satiated the insatiable mind). Indescribable is the description of the eternal city (this immortal state). He alone obtains this (state) to whom He gives (this). O’ Guru Ram Das, this kingdom, like that of Janak, becomes only you.”(13)
It is the same light

Now bard Nallh humbly presents his compositions in praise of Guru Ram Das Ji. First he lists the blessings, which one receives by meditating on the true Guru’s Name with full faith and concentration of one’s mind.
He says: “(O’ my friends), how can a person be afflicted by any sin or pain who with single-minded attention and full faith meditates on the true Guru’s Name? The true Guru is like a ship to ferry us across (this worldly ocean). On whom (the Guru) casts his merciful glance reflects on the (Guru’s) word in the mind, and is rid of lust and anger. (The true Guru) is the benefactor of all creatures; he manifests the (divine) wisdom of the incomprehensible (God). Day and night he attunes his mind to God’s meditation and doesn’t sleep (remaining unresponsive to worldly allurements) even for a moment. Seeing (the Guru and following his advice), one’s (spiritual) deficiency departs; one obtains the treasure of (God’s) Name and, following Guru’s (divine) knowledge, washes off the dirt of one’s evil intellect. How can those devotees who meditate on God’s Name with single minded attention be afflicted with any kind of pain or sin?” (1)

Continuing his praise of Guru Ram Das Ji, the bard says: “(O’ my friends), by meeting the true Guru we obtain (the merits) of all deeds of righteousness. He whose services all the adepts, saints, sages, heavenly and worldly beings crave, his word is sublime because he has attuned his mind to the one God. (O’ Guru Ram Das), who can know your (end or) limit? You are the (embodiment of the) fearless, formless (God). You alone have been blessed with the knowledge to describe the indescribable (God). O’ (those people of the) world who are lost in doubt, following the Guru-given instruction meditate (on God’s) Name. (By doing so), you will be saved from (the rounds of) birth and death, and the demon of death won’t punish you. O’ foolish mind, O’ foolish man, reflect upon this in your mind and meditate (on God) day and night. By following the perfect true Guru (Ram Das Ji), one obtains all (the merits of) righteousness.” (2)

Wondering what else he could utter in Guru Ram Das Ji’s praise, the bard says: “(O’ my friends), I sacrifice myself again and again on the Name of the true Guru (Ram Das Ji. I wonder), with what I may compare him, and what kind of service may I render? (I suppose I am only able to) fold both hands and, deeming him in front of me, utter (God’s Name) with my one mouth and tongue. Furthermore, in my mind, words, and deeds, I should recognize only the one (God), and not recognize (or worship) any other.”

Continuing his praise of the Guru, the poet says to himself: “(O’ Nallh), that limitless and sublime Name, Guru (Ram Das Ji) has been enshrined in your heart. Just as by coming into contact with the philosopher’s stone the raw (iron) becomes gold, and just as other trees obtain fragrance by being in the vicinity of the sandalwood tree, (similarly the touch of the Guru sanctifies a person). By perceiving His door (listening to His sermon, all one’s evil impulses of) lust and anger are eradicated. I am a sacrifice again and again to the eternal Name of such a true Guru.” (3)

Now poet Nallh describes the chronology of how Guru Ram Das Ji obtained this Guru ship. He says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, (God) has given you the throne of Raj Joag (worldly-kingdom, along with His union). First like the moon (appearing in the sky), Nanak became manifest. To emancipate human beings, he illuminated the world (with spiritual wisdom), and the entire world was in bliss. Then he gave the treasure of the knowledge of indescribable discourse of God to Guru Angad Dev Ji, with which he brought under control the five demons (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego), and he no longer had the fear of these demons (With the divine touch of Guru Angad Dev Ji), the true Guru Amar Das became manifest, and he saved the honor of Kal Yug (the present age. By listening to his immaculate words) and seeing his lotus feet, the sins of humanity hastened away. When in every way Guru Amar Das Ji’s mind was convinced, only then did he become pleased and give Raj Joag (the seat of Guru ship) to Guru Ram Das Ji.” (4)
In the previous hymn, bard Nallh stated that when in every way Guru Amar Das Ji’s mind was convinced, only then he became pleased and anointed Ram Das Ji as the next Guru. In this stanza, he switches to the musical measure Radd and tells what special boon Guru Ram Das Ji obtained from Guru Amar Das Ji before being anointed as the next Guru.
He says: “(The one God’s Name), which supports the earth and the sky, and has created the air, the water of the oceans, and also the fire and the food; by whose virtue the moon and the stars light the night, and the sun rises in the day, (that Name, which) has created the mountains and has laden the trees with flowers and fruits; who has created the angelic beings, the seven seas, and upholds all the three worlds, that same one Name is eternal, (Guru Ram Das Ji) has obtained the light of that same Name from Guru Amar Das Ji.”(1-5)

Now the poet tells us what kind of merits a person obtains who listens to the Guru’s advice and faithfully acts upon it. He explains these merits with so many metaphors. He says: “One who has listened to the Guru’s word with (the full attention of) one’s ears, has (obtained such virtues, as if) from glass one has become gold. One who has uttered the true Guru’s Name from one’s tongue, (that one’s speech becomes so sweet, as if) from poison it has turned to nectar. If the true Guru casts his glance of grace (one becomes so meritorious, as if from) iron, one is turned to ruby. When a person reflects upon the (divine) wisdom uttered by the Guru, (one’s intellect is so elevated, as if) from a stone, one has become a gem. (In short), they who have touched the feet of the true Guru (and humbly acted upon his advice have been so sanctified by the true Guru, as if from ordinary) wood, they have turned them into (fragrant) sandal, their pain and penury has disappeared, and from animals and ghosts (brute-like persons), they have become (such decent) human beings, as if they have become angels.”(2-6)

In the previous stanza, poet Nallh listed the divine virtues a person obtains when the true Guru casts his glance of grace on him. Now he specifically describes the virtues one acquires when one has the Guru on one’s side. He says: “When the Guru is on one’s side, one doesn’t feel proud of one’s wealth. When the Guru is on one’s side, then even millions of (armed) hands cannot do one any (harm). When the Guru is on one’s side, then one doesn’t depend on any other (except the true Guru) for (divine) wisdom or meditation. When the Guru helps a person, then the (divine) word becomes manifests in one’s heart and one abides in the true abode (of God. In short), the servant bard submits that the one who day and night utters the Guru’s Name and enshrines the Guru’s Name in one’s heart, is rid of both birth and death.”(3-7)

Now the poet takes the opposite side and states the consequences of being without the guidance of the Guru. He says: “Without the (guidance of the) Guru, there is pitch darkness (in one’s mind). Without the Guru, one cannot obtain true understanding (of life). Without the Guru, one doesn’t obtain success in contemplation, and without the Guru one doesn’t obtain salvation. Therefore O’ my mind, seek (the guidance) of the Guru: this is the right thought. Seek the guidance of the Guru who is brimming with (the divine) word, so that all your sins may be washed off. Poet Nallh says that the Guru is eternal; therefore, with your eyes (see) the Guru, and with your tongue utter the Guru’s Name. They who have neither seen the Guru nor have sought the shelter of the Guru, they have come (to this world) in vain.”(4-8)
After listing the merits of meditating upon the Guru and the consequences of not having the shelter of the Guru, the poet advises his own mind (and indirectly ours). He says: “O’ my mind, utter again and again the Guru’s (Name). Listening to whose word, we become absorbed in meditation. (That Guru) is like a ship in this Kal Yug (the present age), which can ferry us across (the dreadful worldly ocean). Moreover, (the Guru) is like a brave warrior who can destroy our pain and give us comfort. The Guru abides near (that person) who meditates upon him. (The Guru) is the perfect person who meditates on God in his heart. Seeing his face, all sins retreat (because after listening to his advice, one doesn’t allow any sinful thought to enter one’s mind. Therefore) O’ my mind, if you want to attain divine wisdom, wealth, and prosperity, then continuously meditate on the Guru’s (Name).”(5-9)

Now the bard tells us what kind of peace and blessings he has obtained after coming into contact with the Guru. He says: “Upon seeing the face of the Guru, I have obtained sublime peace. (Now I feel that God) has Himself arranged a way to quench my worldly thirst: through drinking the nectar (of His Name). The mind which used to wander in all
ten directions for tasting the delight of (false worldly) pleasures is now satiated, and has become steady (and still). The city of Gobindwal (which the Guru has) built on the bank of the river Beas is like (heaven) the city of God. Seeing the face of that Guru, I have obtained sublime bliss, and the pain of many years has gone away.”(6-10)

In the previous stanza the poet stated some of the blessings he obtained upon meeting the Guru Ram Das Ji. Now he conjectures how the Guru Ram Das Ji obtained such powers.

Addressing the Guru, he says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji), the all-powerful Guru (Amar Das Ji blessed you) by placing his hand (of support) on your head. Seeing his feet (and listening to his words), one’s sins are washed off, that Guru (Amar Das Ji) showed mercy and blessed you with God’s Name. (Now) day and night, your mind consistently remains merged (in His Name), listening to which even (the judge of righteousness), the son of the Sun becomes afraid. Servant Nallh says that you have the support of the world Guru (Amar Das Ji). By bringing you into contact with the philosopher’s stone (Guru Amar Das Ji, God) has made you (also) a philosopher’s stone. Yes, God made Guru Ram Das Ji eternal (because) Guru (Amar Das Ji) placed his capable hand of on (Ram Das’s) head.”(7-11)

Now bard Nallh concludes his hymns in praise of Guru Ram Das Ji by praying to him to save his honor. He quotes many legends from Hindu mythology in support of this request. First he quotes the story of the devotee Prahlad, who in spite of threats of torture refused to abandon his faith in God and worship his demon father and king Harnaakash. Ultimately when the king tried to kill the boy by tying him to a red-hot pillar, God came to his rescue in the form of a man-lion, and tore the king with his nails. The second story, which the poet quotes, relates to the Pandov queen Daropti, in the legend of Mahabharata, who was going to be stripped naked in the open court. When she prayed to god Krishna to save her honor, he sent down more and more clothes to keep her covered. Next, he quotes the story of Sudama, the poor Brahmin and childhood friend of god Krishna, whom the latter saved from abject poverty. Finally, there is the story of a prostitute named Ganika whom a saint saved from going to hell by instructing her to continuously recite God’s Name to a parrot (and thus indirectly meditate on God herself).

He says: “(O’ Guru Ji), now please save the honor of (your) slave, bard (Nallh), just as (God) saved the honor of devotee Prehlaad by tearing apart (the demon king) Harnaakash with His nails. Then God saved the honor of Daropti by covering her with many robes when her clothes were being forcibly removed (by villains). Similarly, God saved Sudaama from calamity. He also fulfilled the (task) of Ganika, who used to read (God’ s Name to the parrot). O’ true Guru, now in Kal Yug (the present age) show your pleasure and save the honor of Your slave-bard.”(8-12)
Now the poet gives the essence of his advice in this new musical measure called Jholna (literally meaning ‘a swing’). He says: “O’ human beings, repeat again and again the Guru’s Name. Take it as truth that the (Guru himself) repeats God’s Name, (because one who does this is blessed by God) with His Name, and with the storehouse of (all the) nine treasures (of wealth). Day and night he enjoys the delight (of God’s Name) with his tongue. If through the Guru’s instruction we meditate on God, then we are blessed with the bliss of God’s love. Therefore, O’ wise ones, forsake all other ways (of worship) and meditate only on the one true God. Enshrine God’s feet (His Name) in your heart, and thus control your mind and sanctify your birth and lineage. Then will you obtain honor in God’s court. (In short), if you wish to enjoy all the comforts of this world and the next, then O’ mortals, utter again and again the Guru’s Name.”(1-13)

Once again the poet urges us, and says: “(O’ my friends), repeat the Guru’s Name with full faith. Enshrining the Guru’s feet (his words) in your heart, realize that God is a treasure of limitless merits; enshrine Him in your heart, and day and night contemplate on Him. Then, O’ saintly Guru’s disciples, (attentively contemplate on his immaculate Gurbani, and enjoy the bliss of God’s Name as if you) were bathing in the immaculate and profound water of the true Guru, and swimming in the loving ocean of His true Name. (Guru Ram Das Ji) always contemplates on the formless and fearless (God) who is free from enmity, and with loving devotion for the Guru’s word he firmly meditates on God. O’ my foolish mind, shed your doubt through the Guru’s grace, meditate on God’s Name, and with full faith repeat the Guru’s Name again and again.”(2-14)
In the previous hymn, bard Nallh advised us to utter the Guru's Name again and again with full faith and concentration. In this hymn he repeats this advice, and lists the blessings which one obtains by doing so.

He says: "(O' my friends), utter the Guru's Name again and again, because it is through the Guru that we obtain God. The Guru is like a deep, profound, and limitless ocean. By attuning our mind to him, we obtain the jewels and diamonds (of God's Name). Moreover, the Guru is like a sandalwood tree (which spreads its fragrance all around. He is like a philosopher's stone, whose) touch transmutes iron into gold. If, through the word (of the Guru), we contemplate on the Guru, then our evil intellect is destroyed. He from whose gate continuously flows nectar (sweet words), in the pool of his (divine) wisdom bathe all his saintly disciples. (By attentively listening to his divine sermons, O’ my friends, you should also) enshrine in your mind the treasure of God’s detached Name, and utter that Guru’s Name again and again. Because it is through the Guru that we attain God.”(3-15)

In the previous hymn, the bard listed some of the blessings one obtains when one constantly repeats Guru’s Name, keeps reflecting on his divine advice, and lives in accordance with it. But before concluding his string of hymns in praise of Guru Ram Das Ji, he once again advises his own mind (and indirectly all of us) to meditate on our Guru, and cites many legendary examples of devotees who have been emancipated in the past by repeating their Guru’s Name.

He says: “O’ my mind, utter again and again the Guru’s Name. Listen (attentively) with your ears to the Guru’s words; by serving (and worshipping) Him, Shiva, adepts, seekers, angels, demons, servants of gods, and the three hundred thirty million gods have gained emancipation. Saints who with loving devotion repeat the Guru’s Name have been ferried across. By meeting the Guru, (devotee) Prehlad and many other sages and saints were saved. Through the Guru’s grace, and by becoming attuned to the one Name, sages like Naarad and devotees like Sanak were saved. (Therefore O’ my mind, except the one Name), renounce all other (worldly) relishes. Servant (Nallh) makes this submission: that it is through the Guru that one obtains God’s Name; therefore O’ my mind, again and again utter the Guru's Name.”(4-16-29)

The message of the above Sawayyaas (psalms) uttered in praise of Guru Ram Das Ji is that if we want to attain to God, and be emancipated from the painful rounds of birth and death, we should again and again repeat the Guru’s Name (thus continuously reminding ourselves of his advice), and always meditating on God’s Name.

Detail of Hymns= 3 kinds of hymns by Nallh =16, by Kall=13, Total=29.
It is the same light
Now bard Gayand begins his compositions in praise of Guru Ram Das Ji. As per the established tradition by his predecessors, he first pays homage to God by stating how, throughout all ages; He has been saving the honor of His devotees. After that he establishes Guru Ram Das Ji’s connection with God, whom he calls the eternal Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), that great Guru is higher than all who in Sat Yug (the golden age), showed mercy on (the devotee) Dhru and saved Prehlada by placing His lotus hand (of support) on his forehead. (That God) is of indescribable form: He cannot be comprehended. All the seekers and adepts seek His shelter. (O’ my friends), deeming true the Guru’s words, enshrine them in your heart, and in this way emancipate your human birth and body. (In this worldly ocean), the Guru is (like) the boat and the Guru is also the captain. Without the (guidance of the) Guru, no one has been able to swim across (this ocean). It is by the Guru’s grace, that we obtain God, and without (the guidance of) the Guru, salvation is impossible.”

Now describing the link between Guru Ram Das Ji and God, the bard says: “(O’ my friends), Guru Nanak abides near (God), the owner of this worldly garden. Establishing Lehna (as the Guru), he illuminated the world with (divine) light. Lehna propagated the path of righteousness, which he passed on to Amar Das Bhalla. He bestowed the inexhaustible Name of God on Sodhi Ram Das, and made him eternal. (Thus Guru Amar Das Ji) gave the inexhaustible treasure of his Name (to him). This treasure cannot be exhausted even through all the four ages; (Ram Das Ji) has obtained this fruit by serving the Guru. (Therefore), they who seek the shelter of his feet obtain peace, enjoy supreme bliss, and are called Guru’s followers. God, who is the Master of all, the source of all, and
It is the same light sustains all, is now visibly manifest in the person of (Guru Ram Das Ji. Therefore, O’ my friends, we should) serve that true Guru whose glory is indescribable, because the reverend (Guru) Ram Das is (like a) ship to ferry us across (this worldly ocean).”(1)

The bard concluded the previous hymn with the advice that we should serve that true Guru whose glory is indescribable, because the reverend (Guru) Ram Das is like a ship to ferry us across this worldly ocean. Continuing to utter the Guru's praises, he touches the heights of poetic imagery, and compares seeing the sight of Guru Ji to bathing in the river Ganges (a river that Hindus consider most sacred). He also compares Guru Ji to god Ram Chandra, the hero of the legend of Ramayana, whom the Hindus worship as an incarnation of God.

He says: “Fruitful is the sight of that Guru in the world whose ambrosial words and speech saintly persons recite with great eagerness in their mind, reveling in joy and bliss. (Yes, seeing) his sight is fruitful, like (bathing in the river) Ganges, and by touching his feet one obtains a sublime state (of salvation). Even those who are sinners become devotees of God if they are imbued with the divine knowledge of the Guru; (they no longer are afraid of the demons of death, and thus) win over the city of death. Just as the sages crave to seek the shelter of (Ram Chandra), the crown prince in the house of king Dashrath of the Raghu dynasty. (O’ man), serve that reverend true Guru Ram Das Ji, whose state is indescribable and who is (like a) ship to ferry us across (the worldly ocean).”(2)

Elaborating on this idea, he says: “The world is (like an) unfathomable sea, and God’s Name is (like a) raft to (swim across this ocean). The one who has obtained (this raft) from the Guru, and whose heart has been convinced, ends his birth and death in this world. The devotees whose heart has been convinced have been given a high status; they have shed worldly attachment, greed, and avarice, and their pain of lust and anger has gone. One who has seen (the Guru), who has divine insight and is the embodiment of the source of the universe, all that one's doubt has been dispelled. Therefore, serve that true Guru Ram Das Ji, whose state is indescribable and who is a ship to ferry us across.”(3)

In the previous hymn, bard Gayand stated that the one who has seen (the Guru), who has divine insight and is the embodiment of the source of the universe, all that one's doubt is dispelled. In this hymn, he elaborates on the glory of the Guru and says: “The glory of the true Guru is always in the heart of everyone, and that splendor is manifest in his devotees. There are many who, after bathing early in the morning, read, hear, and sing (praises of the Guru). Yes, many devotees bathe early in the morning, and with a pure heart and in an appropriate way worship the Guru. They attune their mind to the (Guru), the embodiment of (divine) Light. (In this way), by coming in contact with the philosopher's stone (the Guru), their body becomes (immaculate like) gold. (O’ my friends), serve that true Guru Ram Das Ji, whose state is incomprehensible and who is (like a) ship to ferry us across (this worldly ocean. He is the embodiment of) the life of the world and the Master of the universe, who pervades in water as well as land in myriad ways.”(4)

The poet now tells us about the merits obtained by those who have full faith in the Guru’s instructions. He says: “They who like devotee Dhru, have firmly believed in the Guru’s word are saved from (the fear of) death. They have crossed over the dreadful (worldly) ocean in an instant, and have deemed the world created like the (short-lived) shadow of clouds. By participating in the company of saintly persons, the Kundalini (the entanglement of their mind with worldly problems) is disentangled; then they enjoy supreme bliss, and
by the Guru’s grace their glory shines. Therefore, we should (also worship and) serve the venerable Guru (who is higher than all) with our mind, words, and deeds.”(5)

vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahi jee-o.

kaval nain maDhur bain kot sain sang sobh kahat maa jasod jisahi dahee bhaaat khaaii jee-o.

daykh roop at anoop moh mahaag maag bha-ee kinknee sabaq jhanatkaar khayl paahi jee-o.

kaal kalam hukam haath kahhu ka-un mayt sakai ees bamm-yu ga-yaana Dhayaan Dharaat hee-ai chaahi jee-o.

sat saach sarea nivaas aag purakh sadaa tuhee vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahi jee-o. ||1||6||

raam naam param Dhaam suDh buDh nireekar baysumaar sarbar ka-o kaahi jee-o.

suthar chit bhagat hit bhaykh Dhari-o harnaakhas hari-o nakh bighaar jee-o.

sankh chakar gaajaa padam aap aap kee-o chhadam aprampar paarbarahm lakhai ka-un taahi jee-o.

sat saach sarea nivaas aag purakh sadaa tuhee vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahi jee-o. ||2||7||

peet basan kund dasan pari-a sahiit kanth maal mukat sees mor pankh chaahi jee-o.

SGGS P-1403

bavvjeev baday Dheer Dharam ang alakh agam khayl kee-aa aapnai

akath katha na jaa-ay teen lok rahi-aa samaa-ay sutha siDh roop Dhaari-o saahan kai saahi jee-o.

sat saach sarea nivaas aag purakh sadaa tuhee vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahiguroo vaahi jee-o. ||3||8||

satguroo satguroo satgur gubind jee-o.

cbhalii cbhalan sabal malan bhagat falan kaan" ku-ar nihklank bajee dank charhhoo dal ravind jee-o.

raam ravan durat davan sakal bhavan kusal karan sarab bhooat aap hee dayvaaDh dayv sahas mukh fanning jee-o.

jaram karam mahh kachh hu-a barah jamunaa kai kool khayl khayli-o jin binn jee-o.

naam saar hee-ay Dhaar taj bikaar man ga-yand satguroo satguroo satgur gubind jee-o. ||4||9||

siree guroo siree guroo siree guroo sat jee-o.
It is the same light
This hymn begins with the word Wahe Guru, which means wonderful or astonishing enlightener. Instead of using any other word for God based upon one of His qualities, such as Niranjan (the immaculate one), or Allah (the inaccessible God), Sikhs believe that God's glories and virtues are so many that one is simply astonished or wonderstruck while reflecting on Him, and only able to say Waheguru (O' God, You are truly wonderful).

So, seeing that wonderful God in Guru Ram Das Ji, the poet exclaims again and again: “O’ Guru, you are wonderful, astonishing and amazing. (For me, you are that god Krishna), who had lotus-like (beauteous) eyes, melodious speech, and was embellished with millions of companions (or soldiers). You are the one whose mother Jasodha used to lovingly call and ask to eat rice and yogurt. (Yes, for me you are that god Krishna who), in his play, used to make the noise of tiny bells tied to his belly; upon seeing that most beauteous form, his mother would become lost in rapture. (O’ Guru, you) hold the pen and command of death in your hand, and who is there who can erase your writ? (Even gods like) Shiva and Brahma wish to enshrine your meditation and wisdom in their hearts. O’ Guru, you are the embodiment of truth, you are eternal, you are the abode of Lakshami (goddess of wealth), and you are the Primal Being. (In summary), you are that wonderful, astonishing, and amazing Guru.”(1-6)

The bard continues his poetic flight and loving adoration of Guru Ram Das Ji, and sees in him the formless God and His famous incarnations.

He says: “(O' true Guru), your name is Ram. Sublime is your abode, pure is your intellect, and you are the limitless and the formless one; how could anyone equal You? (For me, you are the one) who, for the sake of the pure hearted devotee Prehlad, assumed the form (of a man-lion) and tore apart (the demon) Harnaakash with his finger nails. (For me, you are god Vishnu) who holds a conch, the iron disc, and the bludgeon, and you are the one who turned himself (into a pigmy to) deceive (king Ball). O’ limitless all pervading God, who can (fully) understand you? You are the embodiment of truth, the abode of Laxmi (the goddess of wealth). You are the primal Being, and you have always been there; O’ Guru, you are wonderful, astonishing, and awesome.”(2-7)

Seeing in the Guru the image of god Krishna, the poet says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, for me you are) the yellow robed (god) Krishna, whose teeth sparkle like the jasmine flower. Who is always in the company of his beloved (god) Krishna, whose teeth sparkle like the jasmine flower. Who is always in the company of his beloved (Radha), wears a rosary on his neck, and embellishes his head with the crown of peacock feathers. You don’t need any minister to counsel you. You have immense patience. You are the upholder of rights, incomprehensible, and unfathomable. You have staged this play (of the world) for your pleasure. Your indescribable discourse cannot be described, and you pervade in all the three worlds. (In your own will), in a very natural manner, you assumed this form (as Guru Ram Das); you are the king of kings. You are the embodiment of truth, the abode of Laxmi (the goddess of wealth). You are the primal Being, you have always been there; O’ Guru, you are wonderful, astonishing, and awesome.”(3-8)

Continuing to sing the praises of Guru (Ram Das Ji), the poet sees in him many other incarnations of God, including Kaalki (about whom there is a strong belief that when he manifests in the world, all would be peace and bliss). So the poet lovingly addresses the Guru and says: “O’ my true Guru, (for me you are the embodiment of the) Master of the universe; you are the one who incarnated as (pigmy god) Baavan to deceive king Ball. You destroy the arrogance of the mighty, and give reward to the devotees. You are the (embodiment of) the crown prince Krishna, and you are that (future incarnation of)
Nehklank, with whom would march the powerful armies of the sun and the moon, and whose drum of (victory) would beat all over. You are the one who contemplates upon the all pervading God, destroys sins, ensures the well-being of all places, and is present in all creatures. You are God of all gods, (for me you are) the thousand tongued cobra. (For me) you are the Guru-God who, by taking birth as Fish, Tortoise, and Boar did many deeds, (and as god Krishna) played ball game on the banks of river Yamuna. Therefore O’ the mind of Gayand, enshrine the sublime (God’s) Name in your heart, shed evil thoughts of your mind, (and remember that) the true Guru Ram Das Ji is (himself the embodiment) of the Master of the universe.”(4-9)

In the previous hymn poet Gayand advised himself (and indirectly us) to shed the evil thoughts of our mind, enshrine the sublime God’s Name in our heart, and remember that the true Guru Ram Das Ji is himself the embodiment of God. In this hymn, he elaborates on this advice and says: “(O’ my friend), the true Guru Ram Das Ji is eternal. (Therefore), believe in the Guru’s word. This alone is your personal treasure (which would accompany you after death); believe this as the true mantra, (by repeating which you) obtain bliss day and night, and also obtain the supreme state (of salvation from worldly bonds). Renounce your lust, anger, greed, worldly attachment, (and the habit of) deception. Cut off the noose of ego, and imbue yourself with the love of the congregation of saintly persons. This body, house, the love of a wife, and the entire world is merely just a play of the mind. Always serve the lotus feet (of God by meditating on His Name). Firmly implant this instruction (in your mind. In short) O’ Gayand’s mind, enshrine the true Guru’s Name (in your heart), and shed all evil. The true Guru is himself the eternal (God).”(5-10)

Bard Gayand concluded the last hymn by advising us to enshrine the true Guru’s Name (in our heart), shed all evil, and firmly believe that the true Guru is himself the eternal (God). In this hymn he again sees in Guru Ram Das Ji the primal God who created all creatures, including the primary gods like Shiva and Vishnu. Addressing Guru Ji, he says: “O’ Guru, you are amazing. It is by your grace that you remain fully abiding (in the hearts of your) devotees, age after age. O’ formless God, you have been in existence forever; no one can say how long You have been (there). You have created innumerable number of (gods like) Brahma and Vishnu, but they were afflicted with intoxication and attached to the arrogance of their minds. (It is You who) created millions of species, and since then You have provided all of them with their sustenance. O’ wonderful Guru, it is all by your grace (that you are) pervading fully (in the hearts of your) devotees, age after age.”(1-11)

The poet now sees in Guru Ram Das Ji the wonderful God who is the doer, and the effect (both the creator and the creation).

So he says: “(This world is the) grand play of the astonishing and wonderful (Guru Ram Das Ji, the embodiment of God). He Himself laughs, Himself thinks, and Himself illuminates the sun and the moon. He Himself is the water, Himself provides support to the earth, and He Himself has made His abode in each and every heart. He Himself is the man, Himself the woman; Himself is the chessboard, and Himself the chess figures. O’ all the Guru ward persons, sitting in the saintly congregation, reflect on the grand play of the amazing and wonderful (Guru).”(2-12)

Finally addressing the Guru, the poet says: “O’ the wonderful Guru, all (this universe) is your creation. It is you who has set up this great show and play (of the world). You are pervading in the waters, the land, the skies, and the underworlds, whose words are sweeter than nectar. (O’ Guru), gods like Brahma and Shiva have faith in You; You are the death
of death (itself), You are immaculate, and all beg from You. Through the Guru’s grace, we obtain the supreme object (of life (union with God), through the society of the saints, one’s mind becomes absorbed (in God’s meditation). O’ wonderful Guru, all is your creation. It is you who has set up this great show and play (of the world).”(3-13-42)

The message of the above hymns is that we should reflect and look towards the present Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) with the same love and devotion of the bards who looked at Ram Das Ji, the reigning Guru at the time. By doing so we might obtain the supreme object of life, which is reunion with our Beloved God.

Detail of the above 42 hymns: Kalsahar=13, Nallh=16, Gayand=13, Total=42
Now it is the turn of bard Mathura to sing the praises of Guru Ram Das Ji. He says: “That unfathomable, infinite, and eternal God, whose beginning no one knows, on whom meditate gods Shiva and Brahma, and whose virtues Vedas describe daily, that formless God is without enmity, and there is no other like Him. He is powerful enough to create and destroy, and is (like a) ship to ferry creatures across (the worldly) ocean. He who has created this universe in myriad ways, whom devotee Mathura praises with his tongue, that true Creator resides in the heart of Guru Ram Das.”

The poet concluded the previous hymn with the remark that in the heart of Guru Ram Das Ji resides the true Name of the Creator, who has created this universe in myriad ways. Now he tells why he has sought the Guru’s shelter. He says: “In order to obtain steady and sublime intellect, and to rid myself of the waves of sin (in my mind), I have grasped the support of the all-powerful Guru, whose flag of righteousness is always flying high. After due deliberation, devotee Mathura has said that there is nothing else to think about; in Kal Yug (the present age), God’s Name is the mighty ship to ferry us across the dreadful (worldly) ocean, (and His Name only Guru Ram Das Ji can provide).”

In the previous hymn, bard Mathura stated that that in the present age, God’s Name is the mighty ship to ferry us across the dreadful worldly ocean, and only Guru Ram Das Ji can provide that gift. In this hymn, he tells how the Guru obtained this commodity, how he is able to distribute it so freely, and what kinds of blessings those persons enjoy who obtain this gift. He says: “Meeting with the saints in the holy congregation, imbued with love, (Guru Ram Das Ji) sings God’s praises. God is the support of the earth, and has Himself

It is the same light

Page - 817 of 912
established this way of (divine) faith (through amassing the wealth of God’s Name). Therefore, the minds of those who remain attuned (to the praise of God) don’t wander in any other direction. Mathura says, fortunate are they who attune their mind to the feet of Guru Ram Das Ji (and meditate on God’s Name). They obtain the fruits of their heart’s desire. There is no question of their having any dread of the son of god Sun (the judge of righteousness).”(3)

Now comparing Guru Ram Das Ji to a mighty ocean, poet Mathura says: “(Guru Ram Das Ji is like an) immaculate pool, brimming with the immaculate nectar of God’s Name, in which the waves of devotion surge every dawn. (This tank) is very deep, fathomless, and is always brimming (with nectar), like a mine of priceless jewels. Like swans, the saints enjoy and revel in it, because for them the writ of pains and the dread of demons (of death) have been erased. Yes, the true Guru is like an ocean of peace, to rid the mortals of pain in Kal Yug (the present age).”(4)

Now describing how Guru Ram Das Ji obtained the above merits, the poet says: For (seeing whose sight), the sages contemplate and continue wandering age after age, but only a rare one gains self–illumination. He whose praise god Brahma sings, along with the Vedic hymns, and for whose sake god Shiva doesn’t abandon the Kailash mountain, for whose sake the yogis, celibates, adepts, and seekers do unaccountable number of penances and wander about in a detached manner wearing religious garbs and matted hair, that (embodiment of God), the true Guru (Amar Das Ji), in His pleasure has shown mercy on the mortals. He has blessed Guru Ram Das Ji with the glory of His Name.”(5)

Bard Mathura Ji concluded the previous Sawaeeya with the statement that in His pleasure God has shown mercy on Guru Ram Das Ji, and blessed him with the glory of His Name. In this stanza, he describes the blessings, which Guru Ram Das Ji bestows on his devotees, along with the gift of His Name. He says: “(Guru Ramdas Ji) is the treasure of (God’s) Name. From inside he remains attuned (to God) and the treasure of his divine light (and wisdom) is manifest in all three worlds. Seeing his sight, all one’s doubts and pains flee, and pleasures imperceptibly manifest (in their place). Just as swarms of black bees continue gathering around the fragrance of flowers, the (Guru’s) devotees and disciples always remain attracted to him. Right in his own presence, Guru (Amar Das Ji) himself has established (Guru Ram Das Ji) on the true and eternal throne (of Guru-ship).”(6)

In closing, bard Mathura Ji says: “(Guru Ram Das Ji) has ferried us across the world, which was intoxicated by the wine of Maya (worldly riches and power). The capable (Guru) has given (the gift) of the nectar of God’s Name (to the world). In addition, he is always the giver of (divine) glory, eternal peace, and wealth. Prosperity and miraculous powers never forsake his company. His servant and slave (bard Mathura) has said this truth: that (Guru Ram Das Ji) is a great Giver. Upon whose head the Guru has placed his hand of support, that person has no need to care for anyone else.”(7-49)

The message of the above hymns by poet Mathura, in praise of Guru Ram Das Ji, is that if we want to be rid of all our doubts, dreads, sins and cycles of birth and deaths, then we should seek the shelter of the Guru. Reflecting on the nectar of His words (included in Guru Granth Sahib Ji), we should meditate on God’s Name.

Detail of the above 49 hymns: Kalsahar=13, Nallh=16, Gayand=13, Mathura=7, Total=49
It is the same light

Now it is the turn of poet Ballh to offer his appreciation and praise for Guru Ram Das Ji. First of all, he wants to tell us why the glory of Guru Ram Das Ji is resounding in all the
three worlds, and explain the source of his merits. He says: “In all the three worlds that same God is pervading. He has created no one else in the world like Him.

He has created Himself. None of the angels, humans, or demons has found His limit. Angels, demons, heavenly musicians, and their servants are searching, but no one has found the end of His limit. (That God) is imperishable, immovable, unborn, and has manifested out of Himself; the supreme Being is beyond the limit of limitlessness. That God is the doer and the cause. He is all-powerful, all creatures have meditated on that (God) in their mind.”

(Therefore, bard Ballh says): “O’ Sri Guru Ramdas Ji, your glory resounds in the world, because you have obtained sublime status from that God.”(1)

Now the poet offers a chronology of how this glory passed from Guru Nanak Dev Ji to Guru Ram Das Ji. He says: “(First), the true Guru Nanak (Dev Ji) worshipped (God) with single minded devotion. He surrendered his mind, body and wealth before God. Then (Guru) Angad (Dev Ji) enshrined the infinite form of God in his mind, and enjoyed the unfathomable delight of divine wisdom. By repeatedly saying, ‘(O’ God, You are) wonderful, You are wonderful,’ Guru Amar Das Ji brought God under his (loving) control. (Now) O’ Sri Guru Ram Das Ji, your victory resounds in the world because you have obtained the supreme status (from God).”(2)

In the previous hymn, bard Ballh described how Guru Ram Das Ji obtained his supreme status. In this stanza he tells how, like the ancient and famed devotees of God, Guru Ram Das Ji’s glory is spreading throughout the world.

He says: “Just as Narad, Dhru, Prahlad, and Sudama are counted as the devotees of the past (ages), and Ambrik, Jaidev, Tirlochan, Nam Dev, and Kabir Ji (who were born in the present Kal YUG, and whose glory has spread all over the world), similarly O’ Sri Guru Ram Das, your glory is resounding throughout the world because you have obtained prime status from God.”(3)

In the previous Sawayeas, poet Ballh Ji stated that the glory of Guru Ram Das Ji has spread throughout the world. Now he tells us about the blessings people are obtaining from Guru Ram Das Ji.

He says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji), the men who contemplate upon you with true faith in their mind remove their lust and anger. They who worship you with their words (by uttering your Name with their tongue), in an instant their pain and penury are erased. They who by their deeds see your sight, and come in your contact, become like a philosopher’s stone (and purify those who come in contact with them). Therefore bard Ballh sings your praise and says: “O’ Sri Guru Ram Das Ji, “You have obtained the supreme status from God.”(4)

In conclusion, poet Ballh advises himself (and us), and says: “(O’ my friends), by worshipping that true Guru, we dispel the darkness (of ignorance of our inner) eyes, by contemplating that true Guru, day after day, more and more God’s Name (is enshrined in the mind). By worshipping that true Guru, one removes the agony of one’s soul, and by meditating upon that true Guru, one obtains prosperity, miraculous powers, and all the nine treasures (of wealth). Ballh says: “Joining the saintly congregation, all of you should hail the victory of that Guru Ram Das Ji. Attuning to whom, we obtain God, O’ human beings, meditate on that true Guru.”(5-54)
The message of the hymns uttered by poet Ballh Ji is that we should meditate on that Guru Ram Das Ji (and now Guru Granth Sahib Ji), who has obtained the supreme status from God Himself, and sing his glory. By worshipping the Guru (and devotedly following his advice), all our pains are dispelled, and we obtain peace.

Detail of the above 54 hymns: Kalsahar=13, Nallh=16, Gayand=13, Mathura=7, Ballh=5, Total=54

Now bard Keerat offers his appreciation for Guru Ram Das Ji. First, referring to Guru Ram Das Ji’s spirit of service for Guru Amar Das Ji (in spite of being his son-in-law), the poet says: “The one who by obeying the word (of Guru Amar Das Ji) obtained supreme (spiritual) status, and while serving (the Guru) never left his company (or disobeyed him), from that (Guru) became manifest the illumination of (divine) wisdom, like the light from a jewel, and the darkness of pain and poverty was destroyed. Therefore poet Keerat says that they who turn away from the world and yoke themselves to the feet of the saint (Guru Ram
Das Ji, and obediently follow his advice) do not dread the demons of lust and anger. Just as Guru Angad Dev Ji always remained in the company (and presence) of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, similarly Guru Ram Das Ji remained in the presence of Guru Amar Das Ji (and obtained the sublime status of Guru).”(1)

In the previous stanza bard Keerat stated how Guru Ram Das Ji served Guru Amar Das Ji. In this stanza the poet tells us how all the congregation respects and worships him. He says: “Who obtained the commodity (of God’s Name) by serving the true Guru (Amar Das Ji) day and night, (he keeps remembering God, and) abides at the God’s feet all times. Therefore, the entire congregation respects him with immense love and says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji), your divine fragrance manifests like the pleasant odor of a sandalwood tree growing on Malyagar mountain. The kind of (divine) illumination, which manifested in (devotees) Dhru, Prahlad, Kabir, and Tirlochan through their meditation on God’s Name, sends the mind into extreme ecstasy; Guru Ram Das Ji offers the same support of the saints.”(2)

Now the poet traces back the chronology of the attainment of this sublime status and glory by Guru Ram Das Ji. He says: “(First of all), it was Nanak who realized the immaculate Name (of God), and worshipped Him with true love and devotion. Then, by remaining in (Guru Nanak Dev Ji’s) company, Guru Angad Dev Ji (meditated on God’s Name) and himself became the ocean (of divine wisdom. He so propagated the concept of attuning one’s mind to the word of the Guru, and the immaculate Name of God all around, as if) he poured the rain of (divine) word onto the people’s consciousness.”

Continuing to trace the history, bard Keerat says: “(Guru Angad Dev Ji was followed by) Guru Amar das Ji whose discourse is so indescribable, that it cannot be uttered with one tongue (alone. Because) now to emancipate the entire world, this honor has been bestowed upon Guru Ram Das of the Sodhi caste.”(3)

Now the bard makes a most sincere and humble prayer before Guru Ji and says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji), we are full of faults, and do not have even a single merit (in us. Instead of meditating on God’s Name, we have committed sins for the sake of worldly riches and power. As if) abandoning the nectar, we have eaten more and more poison. We have been deluded by the doubt and attachments for Maya (the worldly riches and power), and have imbued ourselves with the love of our sons and wife. We have heard about a sublime path of the congregation of the Guru, by joining which we have rid ourselves of the fear of death. Now there is one supplication of bard Keerat: O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, please keep us in your shelter.”(4-58)

The message of the hymns uttered by bard Keerat Ji is that Guru Ram Das Ji (now the eternal Guru Granth Sahib Ji) is like an ocean of divine virtues and wisdom. If we want all our pains and problems to end forever, and if we wish to obtain salvation from the continuous cycle of births and deaths, then we should approach Guru Sahib, and say: “O’ Guru Ji, we are all full of sins and do not have a single virtue. Please show mercy, and accept us in your refuge.” If we pray like this daily, the Guru would surely bless us with the gift of God’s Name, and eternal bliss.

Detail of the above 58 hymns: Kalsahar=13, Nallh=16, Gayand=13, Mathura=7, Ballh=5, Keerat=4, Total=58
Lastly, poet Sallh takes his turn to praise Guru Ram Das Ji. He says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji), crushing ‘Attachment,’ you have brought it (fully) under your control. (You have so overpowered the impulse of) ‘Lust,’ (as if) grasping it by its forelocks, you have hurled it to the ground. (You have so controlled the impulse of) ‘Anger,’ (as if) you have smashed it into pieces with the clout of your divine power. As for ‘Greed,’ (you have so banished it out of your life, as if) you have chastised it with great disrespect. Now even ‘Birth’ and ‘Death’ (are so under your control, as though) with folded hands they remain ready to obey your orders. You have (devised such a spiritual method of avoiding the pains of births and deaths, as if) you have built a bridge across the dreadful worldly ocean, and you have ferried across (those) disciples with whom you were very pleased. (Over your) head is the canopy (of divine grace), you are sitting on the eternal throne (of spiritual power), and you are enjoying both spiritual and worldly power. Poet Sallh says this truth: that O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, you are enjoying eternal kingdom, and unconquerable is your army (of spiritual power).”(1)

Now poet Sallh goes into heights of his poetic imagination, and sees in Guru Ram Das Ji the manifestation of God. He says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji), you are the true Guru; throughout all the four ages, You Yourself are the all-pervading God. All the angels, humans, seekers, adepts, and devotees have been serving (and meditating upon) You from the very beginning. You were there from the beginning, even before the beginning of the ages.”

Continuing his praise poet Sallh says: “(O’ Guru Ram Das Ji), you have no beginning or end, and You have manifested Your power in all the three worlds. You are the one who saved even Vedas and Shastras (by incarnating as god araa’), and you have gained control over old age and death. Guru Amar Das Ji has established you as the eternal (Guru). You yourself are emancipated, and are (like) a ship to ferry others across (the worldly ocean). Poet Sallh says, “O’ Guru Ram Das Ji, any one who seeks your shelter is no longer afraid of sins or the demon of death.”(2-60)
The message of these two hymns by poet Sallh is that, like him, we should have full confidence in our Guru for all our problems and worries. We should always seek our Guru’s shelter, both in pain and in pleasure.

Detail of the above 60 hymns: Kalsahar=13, Nallh=16, Gayand=13, Mathura=7, Ballh=5, Keerat=4, Sallh=2, Total=60
Like the first four Gurus, now bard Kallh utters hymns in praise of the fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji. But, as per the usual practice of poets and bards of those days, he first pays homage to God Almighty. He says: “I meditate on that eternal and imperishable God, whom upon contemplating, one’s evil intellect flees away. Then I enshrine the lotus feet of the true Guru in my mind, and with loving devotion, in a state of poise I reflect upon the merits of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. He manifested in the house of Guru Ram Das Ji, and fulfilled all his objectives and desires.”

Next addressing the Guru himself, the poet says: “O’ Guru, with folded hands I describe your praise, and say that through the Guru’s intellect you have realized the all pervading God from your very birth. In you (God has created) the incarnation of (the divinely wise king) Janak, the conqueror of Bhatti yoga, (who realized God through devotion). You have manifested the word Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and God abides on your tongue. By attuning yourself to the feet of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Guru Angad Dev Ji, and Guru Amar Das Ji, you have obtained sublime status. (In short, I say): O’ Guru Arjan Dev Ji, you have come as the incarnation of devotion in the house of Guru Ram Das Ji.”

The poet concluded the previous hymn with the remark that Guru Arjan Dev Ji has come as the incarnation of devotion in the house of Guru Ram Das Ji. In this stanza, the poet describes some of the spiritual attainments of the Guru. He says: “(Guru Arjan Dev Ji) is very fortunate: he has attained a state of ecstasy, and has enshrined (the Guru’s) word in his heart. Guru (Ram Das Ji) has firmly implanted God’s Name in him, which has brought contentment to his jewel-like mind. The true Guru has shown him the unfathomable and incomprehensible all-pervading God. (In this way), in the house of Guru Ram Das Ji, (God) has established Guru Arjan Dev Ji as the embodiment of inner divine wisdom.”

Now the poet describes the glories of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. He says: “(Guru Arjan Dev Ji) has brought about the kingdom (of divine wisdom, like that of Janak, (as if instead of falsehood or Kal yug, the rule of truth or) Sat Yug have merged. Through the word of the Guru, the mind has been convinced, and this insatiable mind has been satiated. Just as after laying the foundation of truth, Guru Nanak Dev Ji merged and became one with (God) the eternal Guru; similarly in the house of Guru Ram Das Ji, Guru Arjan Dev Ji is seen as (the embodiment of) the Limitless (God).”
In the previous hymns, bard Kallh described how Guru Arjan Dev Ji brought about the rule of truth and justice (or Sat Yug) in the present age of falsehood and injustice (or Kal Yug). In this hymn, he describes how all this happened.

He says: “God the King staged this mysterious play. (Guru Arjan Dev Ji) conducts himself in a contented manner, and his immaculate intellect is absorbed in the true Guru (Nanak Dev Ji). Poet Kallh says that (Guru Arjan Dev Ji is the embodiment of the) unborn and self-created (God), whose praise the poets have described. (Just as) Guru Nanak Dev Ji blessed Guru Angad Dev Ji, and then Guru Angad Dev Ji (passed on the) treasure (of divine wisdom) to Guru Amar Das Ji, similarly Guru Ram Das Ji has blessed Guru Arjan Dev Ji. Just as there is the example of (iron becoming gold) through coming into contact with a Philosopher’s stone (in a similar manner, through coming into contact with Guru Ram Das Ji, Arjan Dev Ji has also become a true Guru (like him)).”(4)

Poet Kallh concluded the previous stanza with the remark that just as iron becomes gold by coming into contact with the philosopher’s stone, in a similar way Arjan Dev Ji has also become a true Guru by coming into contact with Guru Ram Das Ji. In this hymn, he elaborates on this statement and lists some unique merits and powers of Guru Arjan Dev Ji.

He says: “(Guru) Arjan Dev Ji has eternal life; he is invaluable, un-born, and self existent. He is the destroyer of fear, and dispeller of pain. He is infinite, and the embodiment of divine wisdom. He has attained the Unattainable (God). He is the dispeller of doubt and dread, and the giver of cool comforts; it is (as if) the self-born God, the perfect Creator Himself has become manifest. (By the grace of) the primal (Guru) Nanak Dev Ji, (Guru) Angad Dev Ji, and (Guru) Amar Das Ji, (Guru Arjan Dev Ji) is absorbed in the word of the true Guru. (Also) blessed is Guru Ram Das Ji who has made (Guru Arjan Dev Ji like the philosopher’s stone, by blessing him with his (divine) touch.”(5)
Continuing to sing praises of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, poet Kallh Sahaar says: “That (Guru Arjan Dev Ji’s), victory is resounding in the world, in his heart the destiny has awakened, because his mind remains united with God. By good fortune he has obtained the perfect Guru, and his mind remains attuned (to God), and who bears the load (of responsibility) of the entire world. (O’ Guru Arjan Dev Ji), Kallh Sahaar is uttering your praise, that you are the destroyer of fear, and the dispeller of the pain of others. (O’ my friends), in the Sodhi lineage, Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the son of Guru Ram Das Ji, is holding the flag of faith and is a (true) devotee of God.”(6)

Continuing his praise of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, bard Kallh says: “(Guru Arjan Dev Ji) is the support of righteousness, profound in the Guru’s wisdom, and the dispeller of pain of others. His word is sublime, he is benevolent like God Himself, and is the dispeller of self-conceit. He is a generous donor, possesses the true Guru’s wisdom, and from his mind the craving for (God) never lessens. He is the embodiment of truth, and has the mantra of (God’s) Name, the treasure of (all the) nine kinds of riches, which never falls short. (Guru Arjan Dev Ji), the son of Guru Ram Das Ji, is pervading in all, and he has spread the canopy of poise. Bard Kallh says, ‘O’ Guru Arjan Dev Ji, you have truly realized the delight of the spiritual kingdom.”(7)

Poet Kallh concluded his hymn (6) with the remark that Guru Arjan Dev Ji is holding the flag of faith, and is a (true) devotee of God. Explaining his above remark, he says: “Abiding in His fear, (Guru Arjan Dev Ji) has realized the fearless (God), and he has helped millions to comprehend the incomprehensible (God). The true Guru (Ram Das Ji) has made (Guru Arjan Dev Ji) familiar with the unfathomable, unperceivable, and profound the eternal Guru (God).”

Next, addressing the Guru himself, the bard says: “(O’ Guru Arjan Dev Ji), because of Guru (Ram Das Ji’s) instruction you have been approved (in God’s court), and you have attained yoga (union with God) while enjoying the kingdom (of worldly pleasures). Blessed again and again are you, O’ Guru, who have filled to the brim the empty pools (of the hearts of your devotees with the nectar of God’s Name). By attaining the status of the Guru, you have endured the unendurable, and you have merged in the pool of contentment. (In short, poet) Kallh says, O’ Guru Arjan Dev Ji, by remaining in a state of poise, you have yourself realized yoga (union with God).”(8)
Now listing some of the blessings which Guru Arjan Dev Ji bestows on his devotees, the bard says: “O’ the incomprehensible and limitlessly brave Guru, from your tongue you rain nectar, with your mouth you shower blessings, and with your word you have destroyed ego. You have utterly smothered the five demons (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego), and you have imperceptibly enshrined the absolute (God) in your heart. Becoming attuned to God’s Name, you have emancipated the world, and have enshrined the true Guru in your heart. In short, Kallh says, O’ Guru Arjan Dev Ji, you have illuminated the pinnacle of (divine) wisdom.”(9)
It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Page - 1409

jot roop har aap guroo naanak kahaa-ya-o.
taa tay angad bha-ya-o tat si-o tat milaa-ya-o.
angad kipaa Dhaaar amar satgur thir kee-a-o.
amarjaas amrat chhaatar gur raameh dee-a-o.
gur raamdaas darpan kah par mathuraa amrit
ba-yan.
moorat panch parmaan paurakh gur arjuna pikhau
ya-yan. ||1||
sat roop sat naam sat santokh Dhari-o ur.
aad purakh partakh likh-ya-o achhar mastak
Dhur.
pargat jot jagmagai tay bhoo-a mandal
chhaa-ya-o.
paras paras paras gur gurro kahaa-ya-o.
bhan mathuraa moorat saagaa thir laa-ay chit
sanmukh rahu.
kaju jahaaj arjuna gurro sagal sarisat lag
bhirua. ||2||

thic jaan jaachahu jagta par jaanee-at baasur
ra-yan baas jaak ko hit naam si-o.
param ateet parmysur kai rang rang-y-ou
baasnaa tay baahar pai daykhee-at Dhaam si-o.
apar parampar purakh si-o paraym laa-ay-ou bin
bhagvant ras nahee a-urai kaam si-o.
mathuraa ko paarb sarab ma-y arjuna gur bhagat
kai haat paa-ay rahi-o mil raam si-o. ||3||

SGGS P-1409

anet na paavat gay sabai mun ingar mahaa siv
jog karee.
fun bayd birach bichaar rahi-o har jaap na
chaadiya-ya-o aky gheree.
mathuraa jan ko paarb deen da-yaal hai sangat
sarisat nihaal karee.
raamdaas gurro jag taaran ka-o gur jot arjuna
maahi Dheree. ||4||
jag a-or na yaahi mahaa tam mai avtaar ujaagar
aane ke-o.
tin kay dukh kotik door gaa-ay mathuraa jin" amrit
naam pee-o.
ih pahat tay mat chookeh ray man bhayd
bhihayd na jaan bee-o.
partalh ridai guru arjuna kai har pooran barahm
nivaas lee-o. ||5||

jab la-o nahee bhag lilaar udai tae la-o
bharamay firtee baho Dhaa-ya-o.
Now it is the poet Mathura who sings the praises of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. According to the tradition of the bards, he first chronologically praises Guru Arjan Dev Ji's predecessors. Touching the heights of his poetic imagination, he says: "(Firstly God), the embodiment of light, let Himself be called Guru Nanak. From him (Guru) Angad became manifest, whose soul he united with (God) the prime soul. Showing his mercy, (Guru) Angad Dev Ji eternally established Amar Das Ji as the true Guru. Guru Amar Das Ji gave the imperishable canopy (of Guru ship) to Ram Das Ji. Mathura says these immortal words: that by seeing the sight of Guru Ram Das Ji, fifth Guru (Arjan Dev Ji) has become manifest as the perfect Being. (O' my friends, all of you should) see Guru Arjan Dev Ji with your eyes (and obtain divine bliss)."(1)

Bard Mathura Ji concluded the previous stanza with the advice that all of us should see Guru Arjan Dev Ji with our own eyes. In this stanza, he describes the virtues and excellences he himself sees in the fifth Guru. He says: "By meditating on the true Name of (God), who is the embodiment of truth, (Guru Arjan Dev Ji) has enshrined truth and contentment in his heart. From the very beginning, the primal Being has written this (sublime status of the Guru) in his destiny. His divine light manifestly glitters, and his grandeur spreads all over the world. By meeting and coming into contact with the philosopher's stone (Guru Ram Das Ji), he himself is known as the Guru. Mathura says, 'O' the people of the world, keeping your mind fixed on the Guru, always remain in his presence. In Kal Yug (the present age), Guru Arjan is like a ship: riding it you can safely cross over (this dreadful worldly ocean)."(2)

In the previous hymn, poet Mathura Ji told us that Guru Arjan Dev Ji is like a ship to ferry us across the worldly ocean, and riding it we should also swim across. Now he tells us that even for other needs, whether worldly pleasures or spiritual wisdom, we need not go anywhere else.

He says: "O' people, beg only from (that Guru) who is known all over the world (as the one) who day and night remains imbued and absorbed in (God's) Name. Beg only from Him who is completely detached, imbued with God's love, without any worldly desire, (but otherwise) lives in the household. He is imbued with the love of the infinite and limitless
God, and he has no dealing with anyone except God. For Mathura, (that Guru) Arjan Dev Ji is his all-pervading God, who for the sake of devotion remains attuned to God’s feet." (3)

Now the poet Mathura tells us what kind of special enlightenment Guru Arjan Dev possesses. He says: “All gods and sages, including Indira and Shiva who practiced yoga, and (god) Brahma who didn’t forsake contemplating (on God for a moment), became exhausted reflecting on Vedas, (yet still) were unable to find (God’s) limit. (O’ my friends, Guru Arjan Dev Ji), the God of devotee Mathura, is merciful to the meek; he has blessed the entire congregation and the world. To emancipate the world, Guru Ram Das Ji has embedded the (divine) light in (Guru) Arjan Dev Ji.” (4)

In the previous stanza, bard Mathura Ji stated that to emancipate the world, Guru Ram Das Ji embedded the (divine) light in (Guru) Arjan Dev Ji. In this stanza, the poet re-states his above statement in still more clear terms, and explains why God performed this act. He says: “When in the pitch darkness (of ignorance), there was no other person to provide (spiritual guidance) in the world, (then God) brought about (Guru Arjan Dev Ji), and manifested him as His incarnation. O’ Mathura, they who came and drank the nectar of his Name (from the Guru), their millions of pains went away. O’ my mind, don’t let yourself slip from this (divine) path, and don’t deem any difference or distinction (between God and the Guru), because quite visibly the all-pervading God has come to reside in the heart of Guru Arjan Dev Ji.” (5)

Now the bard states how fortunate he considers himself for coming into contact with Guru Arjan Dev Ji. He says: “As long as my destiny remained unawakened, I wandered through many places. We were being drowned in the deep dark (worldly) ocean of Kal Yug, and our remorse would never cease. O’ Mathura, the essence of deliberation is this: that in order to emancipate the world (God) incarnated Himself (as the Guru). Therefore they, who have meditated on Guru Arjan Dev Ji, haven’t suffered again the calamity of falling into the womb.” (6)

Poet Mathura Ji concluded the previous hymn with the remark that they who have meditated on Guru Arjan Dev Ji haven’t suffered the calamity of falling into the womb again. In this hymn he explains his above statement. He says: “To ferry (humanity) across the ocean of (the dark age of) Kal Yug, (Guru Arjan Dev Ji) manifested as God’s Name. He in whose heart the saint (Guru) resides is rid of all his pain and penury. (Guru Arjan Dev Ji) is the immaculate form of the limitless (God). Except him, there is no one else. Whosoever by his thought and word has realized (God) has become like Him. (It is the Guru) who is pervading all over land, skies and the nine continents as the light of God. (In short) Mathura says, there is no difference between (God and the Guru, because Guru Arjan Dev Ji is the visible manifestation of God Himself.” (7-19)

The message of the above Sawaeeya by bard Mathura is that Guru Arjan Dev Ji is the manifestation of God Himself. Therefore, if we wish to wash off all our past sins, and end forever our rounds of pains of birth and death, we need not go anywhere. All we must do is have full faith in Guru Arjan Dev Ji, and follow his advice (contained in Guru Granth Sahib Ji). In this way, we will surely be ferried across the dreadful worldly ocean.

It is the same light
Now bard Harbans takes his turn in singing the praises of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. It appears that poet Harbans uttered this and the next stanza after the death of Guru Ram Das Ji. Like many other poets of his day, he uses metaphors from Hindu mythology to express his appreciation for the greatness of the Guru. He compares the holy congregation of the Guru to the ever-flowing pure waters of the river Ganges (considered very sacred by Hindus). In his poetic flight, he imagines the sage Vyas (the author of Puranas) and god Brahma (author of the Vedas) singing in the Guru's court.

He says: “(In the court of Guru Arjan Dev Ji) flows the inexhaustible and unconquerable water of the Ganges (in the form of God’s Name), in which all the sikh congregation bathes. Every day Puranas are recited there, and god Brahma utters Vedas from his tongue. On the head (of the Guru) waves the unconquerable (divine) royal brush, and with his mouth he has partaken the nectar of His Name. It is God Himself who has provided the canopy (of this spiritual kingdom). Meeting with Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Angad Dev Ji, and Amar Das Ji, Guru Ram Das Ji has merged with God. O’ Harbans, his glory is spreading in the world; therefore, who says that Guru (Ram Das Ji) has died?” (1)

Now poet Harbans paints a very beautiful scene depicting Guru Ram Das Ji’s departure to the abode of God, and his welcome and honor there. He says: “When it so pleased God, (Guru Ram Das Ji) repaired to the city of angels (the court of God). There God (honored him) by offering him His throne, and seated the Guru on it. The angels and gods in heaven expressed their happiness and said: “(O’ Guru) we proclaim your victory and sing your praise, and every demon has fled. Because of their sins, they were trembling within. They who have obtained (the guidance of) Guru Ram Das Ji have washed away all their sins. (But now Guru Ram Das Ji has proceeded to his heavenly abode, and) he has passed on the canopy and throne (of the spiritual kingdom) of earth to Guru Arjan Dev Ji.” (2-21-9-11-10-22-60-143)

The message of these two Sawayeeas uttered by poet Harbans is that the Guru’s light has been passing on from Guru Nanak to Guru Angad, to Guru Amar Das, to Guru Ram Das, to Guru Arjan Dev Ji (and finally to the eternal Guru Granth Sahib Ji). Whosoever serves the Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) with full faith and devotion washes away all his or her sins.
Detail of all the Sawayees: Kallh Sahaar=12, Mathura=7, Harbans=2, Total=21

Detail of figures at the end: Sawayees uttered by Guru Arjan Dev Ji (part 1) = 9, part 2 = 11, Sawayees uttered by the bards in praise of first Guru = 10, second Guru = 10, third Guru = 22, fourth Guru = 60, fifth Guru = 21, Total = 143. The figure 122 doesn’t include the 21 Sawayees uttered in praise of Guru Arjan Dev Ji.

Detail of Sawayees uttered by the bards: Kall Sahaar=12, Mathura=7, Harbans=2, Total=21

It is the same light
There are a total of 22 Vaars (epics) in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The Vaars, which were composed by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Guru Amar Das Ji, and Guru Ram Das Ji, originally consisted of only Paurrees (or steps). Later, when Guru Arjan Dev Ji compiled the Guru Granth Sahib Ji and arranged Gurbani (divine compositions) in accordance with the Ragas (or musical measures), then before each Pauree of a Vaar he added suitable matching saloks. The saloks, which were not thus included, have been entered here at the end of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji as Salok Vaaraan Taiy Vadheek. In this first salok, Guru Ji teaches us the value of humility and cautions us against becoming self-conceited. He uses the metaphor of a conversation between two girlfriends, one of whom is mature and has learnt the lessons of life. The other is a tall, handsome, full-breasted newly wed bride, who is proud of her youth and beauty and doesn’t understand the values of being civil and respectful to her in-laws. Therefore, her mature friend advises her and says: “O’ tall woman with elevated full breasts, adopt an attitude of sobriety and deep respect (for your in-laws).”

The young bride, intoxicated by her own beauty, replies: “(O’ my friend), how can I bow before my mother-in-law? My stiff erect breasts don’t let me bend down.”

Then her mature friend responds: “(O’ my friend, don’t be proud of your youth and stiff high breasts), I have seen even mountain like high mansions plastered with lime come, crumbling down.”

In this salok Guru Ji gives us a few simple rules to enjoy a peaceful and fruitful life. Continuing the metaphor of a conversation between two girlfriends, the mature woman says: “O’ young bride, of deer-like beautiful eyes, listen to the words of infinite wisdom. Buy (acquire) anything only after fully examining it. Proclaim your refusal to associate with evil persons (or impulses), but welcome (virtuous) friends, and hail their victory. The proclamations, which bring you close with virtuous friends, have those thoughts in your mind. Surrender your body and mind to such virtuous friends, and discover how sublime is such laughing (enjoyment of life with such friends). Don’t fall in love with that (expanse), which appears transitory. Nanak says, I am a sacrifice to them who have thus understood (the way of life).”

In the above two saloks, Guru Ji gave us a few simple but very precious practical rules to enjoy a peaceful and happy life in this world. However, the real object of human life is to
It is the same light

It is the same light

cross over this worldly ocean so that we do not have to endure the pain of birth and death again. In this salok, he tells us what we should do to obtain this objective.

He says: “(O’ man, if you wish to obtain salvation, and thus want to) become a swimmer of the waters (of the world), ask those (saints) who know the art (of swimming across the worldly ocean). Even those who were considered truly wise were wasted by the waves (of worldly evils) if they did not consult the experts first.” (3)

In the above salok Guru Ji advised us that if we want to cross over this worldly ocean, we should acquire the necessary art from those saintly persons who have experience in this regard. Otherwise, even those who consider themselves as worldly and wise are drowned in the worldly ocean. In this salok, he explains why it is so difficult to swim across the worldly ocean, and what we should do to save ourselves from being drowned in it.

He says: “(O’ man), amidst torrential rains, storms and floods, millions of waves (of sins) surge (in this worldly ocean). If you want to save the boat of your life from drowning, then call upon the true Guru. Only then will you no longer have any fear of drowning (in the worldly ocean, or suffering the pain of birth and death again).” (4)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us metaphorically that amidst torrential rains, storms and floods, millions of waves (of sins) are surging (in this worldly ocean). In this salok, he explains why he says so.

He says: “O’ Nanak, see how (evil and deceitful) this world has become. There is no true friend or well-wisher left in this world. Even brothers and relatives have forsaken their love. For the sake of (riches and power, the people) have forsaken (even) their faith (and sense of righteousness).” (5)

Now Guru Ji makes another very important observation, about the nature of human beings when they suffer a great tragedy (such as the death of their near and dear relatives). He says: “(When a person dies), the (women) relatives utter loud cries, slap their cheeks and pull their hair. (However, even at such sad times, they who are truly wise) meditate on God’s Name and contentedly accept (God’s will). Nanak is a sacrifice to such (persons).” (6)

In salok (4), Guru Ji compared our life to a boat, which is in the midst of a vast deep ocean in which millions of high tidal waves are surging. In order to save the boat of our life from drowning, he advised us to call upon the true Guru. In this salok, he compares our life in this world to that of a traveler who, if he looks behind him, sees the wolf of death ready to pounce upon him. If he looks in front of him, he sees the ocean of fire (or hell). Guru Ji tells us how to save ourselves even in such a precarious condition.

Assuming himself to be that traveler, Guru Ji says: “O’ (my) mind, we should not worry or waiver, but keep walking on the straight path (of righteousness. Even though) behind us is the fearful wolf (of death), and in front the pool of fire (or hell, and even though we are in the midst of troubles and dangers, we shouldn’t lose faith in our Guru). I cannot see any other way (to escape these predicaments). O’ Nanak, it is only by the Guru’s grace that we can be emancipated, and enjoy the company of our beloved (God).” (7)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that it is by the Guru's grace that we are rid of the 'wolf' (the fear) of death, and we obtain the company of our beloved God. In this salok, he further explains the merits of the Guru's instruction.

He says: "(O' my friends), one who is blessed with the instruction of the true Guru is able to control the mind, and as a result one's wolf (fear of death) also dies. One realizes oneself, and doesn't suffer (the cycle of birth and) death again. With just one glance of His grace (God) blesses that person, and then one's hand doesn't sink in the mud (of worldly problems). O' Nanak, the Guru's followers are saved because the Guru acts like a wall around the pool (of worldly problems, and saves them from drowning in it)."(8)

Guru Ji concluded the previous stanza with the remark that the Guru’s followers are saved because the Guru acts like a wall around the pool (of worldly problems, and saves them from drowning in it). One of the gravest worldly problems is man's desire for riches, possessions, and power. Because of this desire and jealousy one feels when one sees that others have what one does not, and then one suffers in agony as if one is burning in fire. In this stanza, Guru Ji tells us how this fire can be extinguished.

He says: "(O' my friends), if you wish to extinguish this fire (of jealousy), then find the water (of God's Name, which can extinguish such a fire. However, remember that) except for the Guru, no one else has the treasure (like pool) of the water (of God's Name). Even if one performs millions of (ritualistic) deeds, one continues to be lost in the cycle of birth and death. (On the other hand), if one lives in accordance with the will of the true Guru, one is not taxed (or bothered) by the demon of death. O' Nanak, only that person obtains the supreme immaculate status, whom the Guru unites with God, by first uniting that person with himself.”(9)

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok with the remark that person alone obtains the immaculate supreme status whom the Guru (after) uniting with himself, unites with God.
But sometimes even good people fall into bad or wrong company, and instead of going to the true Guru they end up following the fake and hypocritical saints (who misguide and ruin them). Therefore, in this salok, Guru Ji advises us to remain away from bad company and instead of following false gurus or making pilgrimages to holy places, go only to the true Guru.

Comparing a power hungry person to a crow, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), a crow may rub and wash itself in a muddy puddle, but because its mind and body are filled with (the filth of) evil, its beak remains full of foul odor. (It may happen that a) swan is not aware of the pool of clean water, and falls into the company of filthy birds like the crows (who cause it to become dirty like them). O’ (divinely) wise persons who are imbued with the love (of God) understand this thing: that similar (to the crows) is the love of power-hungry people (just as a crow may lead a swan into a dirty pool, similarly a worshipper of evil worldly riches and power may lead you into the world of sins. Therefore), hailing victory to the society of saints, do the deeds like the Guru’s followers O’ Nanak, the Guru is the (true) pilgrimage place, and the holy river. To bathe in that (river and to follow the Guru’s advice) is the real immaculate ablution.”(10)
In the previous stanza, Guru Ji advised us to avoid the company of the worshippers of power. In this stanza, he explains the object of human life, and what happens when we pursue worldly pleasures to satisfy our ego.

He says: “(O’ man), what can be counted as the fruit of one’s life, if one hasn’t (developed any) love or devotion for God (in one’s heart)? As long as there is love for things other than God in one’s mind, all one’s life is in vain. All that one sees or hears is false (and useless), and also false is what one utters from one’s mouth. Therefore, Nanak says, (O’ my friend) praise only God’s Name, (because all else is only the pursuit of) ego, which keeps you engaged in the process of coming and going (or cycles of birth and death).”(11)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that we should only praise God’s Name (because all else is only the pursuit of) ego. In this salok, he observes how many are those who follow this advice, and truly praise God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), there are only a few rare persons (who meditate on God’s Name). Otherwise, most of the world is full of those people who are evil and indecent talkers.”(12)
In the previous stanza, Guru Ji told us that there are only very rare persons who are truly in love with God, and who meditate on God’s Name. The rest of the world is living in vanity and indecent talks. In this stanza he tells us how to recognize the signs of true love for God’s Name, and also tells how a person becomes imbued with such a love.

He says: “O’ Nanak, (one who is) imbued with (the true love of God’s Name, immediately that one’s self-conceit dies and has no (willpower) to live (a purposeless life). The one who dies (to the self) through the strike (of God’s love) is approved in God’s court. But only that person is struck (imbued with the strike of divine love whom the Guru God) strikes (with this love), and when one is struck, one is approved (in God’s court). Finally whom the all-wise (Guru God) has struck with the arrow of love, that arrow of the beloved is never removed (and one always remains imbued with divine love).”(13)

In the previous stanza Guru Ji stated that only the person whom God Himself strikes with the arrow of His love is imbued with the love for God’s Name. In this stanza, he uses the metaphor of washing clean a pot made with unbaked clay to explain the inability of anyone except (God or the Guru) to purify a human being.

He says: “(O’ my friends), no one can wash the (body) pot clean, which (God) has made of mud (of evil tendencies). Mixing together five elements (air, fire, water, earth, and sky, He) has fashioned this false (and perishable toy). When it pleases Him, He will set this vessel right (and make it pure and everlasting). By illuminating the sublime light (of divine wisdom), He would play this (human) instrument (and make him or her sing the song of the Guru’s word).”(14)

Guru Ji began the previous salok with the remark that no one can wash the body pot clean, which has been made out of mud (of evil tendencies). But there are many persons in this world who, even though they have no merits in them, yet they keep boasting about their virtues or qualities. In this salok, Guru Ji expresses his opinion about such people.

He says: “(O’ my friends), they who are completely blind (ignorant) in their minds, by their very nature they do not understand what (the Guru) tells them. Being blind in their minds’ (eyes), the lotus of their heart remains inverted (gloomy) and they appear ugly (and of bad character). But there are some who know what to say, and understand what is said to them; such persons look wise and are of beauteous form. There are some who have no understanding of the tune played by yogis, nor any desire to listen to the Vedas (or any holy books), nor do they relish (divine) songs, or know the difference between sweet and sour (or good and bad). Then there are some who haven’t achieved any perfection, or insight, or the essence of wisdom, and they don’t understand the mystery of the (Guru’s) word. But O’ Nanak, real fools are those persons, who feel proud (of themselves) without any merit.”(15)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji described the different categories of foolish and ignorant people in this world. He concluded with the remark that the real fools are those who feel proud of themselves without any merits. In this salok, he explains who is a truly wise or virtuous Brahmin, worthy of worship in Hindu society.

Guru Ji says: “(That person) alone is a (true) Brahmin who knows Braham (the all pervading God. Such a person) practices austerity, contemplation, and self-control, and performs the righteous deeds. That person observes the faith of contentment and culture, breaks the bonds (of worldly attachments), and becomes detached. Only such a Brahmin is worthy of worship.”(16)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated whom he considered as a true Brahmin. Now he gives the definition of a true Khattri (or a person belonging to the warrior class, considered next in status in the hierarchy of Hindu caste system).

Guru Ji says: “That person alone is Khatri who is brave in (performing virtuous) deeds, and who dedicates his or her body to compassion and charity. Recognizing the right field, such a person sows in it the seed of charity. (In other words, before giving charity, such a person ensures that the person (asking for charity) truly deserves and would make good use of the help). Such a Khattri is approved in God’s court. However, if one practices greed, avarice, and falsehood, then one reaps the fruit of one’s own deeds.”(17)

In the previous two saloks, Guru Ji told us who should be considered as true Brahmins or true Khatris. Now he takes up the case of those who renounce their households and become yogis or sages: those who begin heating their body in front of a continuous smoldering fire, practice difficult yoga postures, and subject their heads and feet to great torture in the hope of attaining God by such penances.

Addressing such a person, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), don’t heat your body like an oven, and don’t burn your bones like firewood. What wrong have your head and feet done (that you subject them to such tortures, or walk for miles in order to find God)? Realize your beloved (God) within yourself.”(18)

In the previous stanza Guru Ji advised us that there is no need to torture our body, or roam around in different holy places in search of our beloved God. Instead, we should try to realize Him within our own self. In this salok, he again emphasizes this point, and says: “(O’ man), God resides in all hearts. There is no heart in which God does not reside. O’ Nanak, truly wedded and united are those bride (souls) in whose heart (He) becomes manifest by the Guru’s grace.”(19)

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok with the remark that truly wedded and united are those bride (souls) in whose heart (God) becomes manifest by the Guru’s grace. In this salok, he lays down the fundamental principle of true love, and that principle is that when you truly love another, then you long for your beloved so much that even if you had to sacrifice your life, you want to be with him or her. It was on this touchstone of love that Guru Gobind Singh Ji tested his sikhs before initiating them with Amrit (the divine nectar), and bestowing upon them the title of Panj Pyaraas (the five beloveds).

Stating this principle, Guru Nanak Dev Ji says: “(O’ my friend), if you have a craving to play the game of Love (then follow me with no care for your life and without any ego. In this way) come to my street, placing your head on your hand. Once you step onto this path, then you shouldn’t hesitate to surrender even your head (or sacrifice your life).”(20)
It is the same light

raam jhurai dal maylai anhtar bal aDhikaar.
bantar kee sainaa sayvree-ai man tan juh aparar.
seetaa lai ga-i-a dehismo lachhman moo-o saraaap.
aanak kartaa karanhaar kar vaykhai thaaap uthaap. ||25||

man meh jhoorai raamchand seetaa lachhman jog.
yavanjaar aaraaDhi-aa aa-i-aa kar sanjog.
bhoolaa daa't na samjha-ee tin parabh kee-ay kaam.
aanak vayparvaahu so kiraat na mit-ee raam. ||26||

laahour sahar jahar kahar savaa pahar. ||27||

meehaa 3.
laahour sahar amrit sar siftee dhaa ghar. ||28||

meehaa 1.
ugosaahai ki-aa neesaaneet tot na aavai annee.
ugosee-a gharay hee vuthee kurhi-eeN rannee Dhammee.
satee rannne gharay si-aapaa rovan koorhee kammee.
jo layvai so dayvai naahee khataay damm sahamee. ||29||
pabar tooN haree-aavlaa kavlaa kanchan vann.
kai dokh-thai sarhi-ohi kaalee ho-ee-aa dayhuree naanak mai tan bhang.
jaanaa paangee naa laahaaN jai sayvtee mayrro sang.
jit dithai tan parfurhai charbai chavgan vann. ||30||

raj na ko-ee jeevi-aa pahuch na chali-aa ko-ay.
gi-annee jeeval saaaj saaaj surtee hee paat ho-ay.
sarfi sarfai saaaj saaaj ayvai ga-ee vihaa-ay.
aanak kis no aakah-ee-ai viN puchhi-aa hee lai jaa-ay. ||31||
dos na day-ahu raa-ay no mat chalai jaaN budhha hovai.
galaaN karay ghanayree-aa taaN annay pavNaa khaatee tovai. ||32||
pooray kaa kee-aa sabh kichh pooraah ghat vaDh kichh naahee.
It is believed that Guru Nanak Dev Ji uttered this stanza when one of his businessman friends, named Moola (who was overly infatuated with money), heard that Guru Nanak Dev Ji was coming to his house as a mendicant. He thought that Guru Nanak Dev Ji might ask him for some money, which he did not want to give, so he hid himself in a dark corner of his house. When Guru Nanak Dev Ji went, his wife answered that her husband (Moola) was not there. Guru Ji asked her to check around one more time, but she still insisted that he was not there. Then Guru Ji said, “if he is not there, then he is not there” (in the world) and went along his way. It so happened that right then a snake bit Moola, and he died on the spot. Guru Ji, who knew everything, then uttered this salok as general advice.

He says: “Friendship with money minded people is false (and unreliable, because it is) built on false foundations. (O’ my friend) Moola, no one knows (when and) where death can overtake you. (Do not try to unnecessarily hoard false wealth, or hide yourself from friends for the sake of this wealth. Who knows (when and) where death may overtake you and you may have to depart from this world, leaving all this wealth behind).”(21)

In the above salok, Guru Ji advised us to avoid friendships with money-minded persons, who are so infatuated with worldly wealth that they would try to hide themselves from you (lest you may ask them for monetary help). Now he tells us why some people are like this, and why they love worldly riches so much.

He says: “They who are without (divine) wisdom, always adore (spiritual) ignorance. Therefore their (life) conduct (is misguided by) ignorance, because in them is the love of the ‘other’ (worldly wealth, instead of love for God).”(22)

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us that because of the absence of divine wisdom, the conduct of life of many persons is blinded by the love of money. In this salok, he offers some basic truths about life.

He says: “Without (the guidance of) the Guru, (divine) wisdom cannot be obtained. Without faith, there can be no meditation. Without truth, the evidence is of no meaning (just as) without the principle, there can be no balance.”(23)

Now Guru Ji comments on the life of ordinary human beings and how they depart from this world fruitlessly.

He says: “(God) sends a human being (into this world to achieve the spiritual objective of union with God, but if one) departs from here (without achieving this objective, then) there is no joy in such a life.”(24)

Next Guru Ji explains the omnipotence of God, and how even mighty kings (whom people worshipped as incarnations of God) feel helpless before His will. In this salok, he refers to the legend of Ramayana: (in which it is told that in spite of all his power and an army of monkeys to serve King Rama, when king Raavan kidnapped his wife Sita and his brother Laxman (almost) died (as the result of a) curse, king Rama became sad and depressed.

Guru Ji says: “(Ram Chandra) agonized and gathered armies (to attack Raavan). He had (both) the strength and authority to do that. An army of monkeys was already in his service,
and in their mind was a limitless craving for war. (But still he was feeling very sad, when) the ten-headed (demon Ravan) kidnapped (his wife) Sita, and Laxman (nearly) died of a curse. O’ Nanak, the Creator is the Doer (of everything); On His own He creates and destroys, and then watches what He does.’”(25)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that even though Ram Chandra had so many powers, still he agonized in pain when demon king Ravan kidnapped his wife. Continuing to comment on this event, Guru Ji once again stresses upon the fact that all powers are in the hand of God, and whatever He writes in anyone’s destiny cannot be erased.

He says: “Ram Chandra agonized a lot for the sake of his wife (whom Ravan had kidnapped, and for his brother) Laxman (who had been seriously injured). Then he remembered Hanuman, and according to his prewritten destiny, (the monkey god) came to Rama’s help. The misguided demon (Ravan) did not understand that God Himself pre-arranged all these things. O’ Nanak, God is carefree, and whatever He has written (in anyone’s destiny) cannot be erased.”(26)

It is believed that Guru Nanak Dev Ji uttered this remark regarding the city of Lahore (Pakistan) when he observed that the city remained engaged in sin (drinking and dancing and slaughtering animals from evening till late morning).

He said: “Until mid-day, the city of Lahore is the (embodiment) of poison and oppression (from late night to late morning, the inhabitants remain engaged in erotic dancing, drinking, and the slaughtering of animals).”(27)

Mehla-3

It is believed that after some time, several sikhs asked Guru Amar Das Ji about the above remarks of Guru Nanak Dev Ji regarding the city of Lahore. By that time, Guru Ram Das Ji had been born in the city. Knowing that he was destined to be the future Guru, Guru Amar Das Ji said: “(Now) the city of Lahore has become a pool of nectar (because in it has been born the sacred soul of Ram Das Ji, who will bless millions with the nectar of his sweet words).”

Another possible explanation of this salok might be that someone asked Guru Amar Das Ji about the need for planning the new city of Amritsar, next to Lahore. He may have responded by saying: Lahore is just a city (like any other city, but Amritsar (will be) a house of praise (where God’s praises will be sung all the twenty-four hours of the day).”(28)

Mehla-1

Now Guru Ji explains how to recognize those who are infatuated with earning and hoarding money: for whom money is everything, and nothing else matters.

He says: “(If you ask me) what the sign is of one obsessed with making money, my (answer is that though) there is no shortage of food (or other goods in the house, there still) pervades an atmosphere of pursuing wealth, and an uproar of women and wives in the houses of those money minded (people). The presence of so many wives and women (who keep crying for false things or short lived pleasures) causes a constant uproar in his home.
Whatever one borrows one does not return, and continues to earn (wealth) even at the cost of immense pain.”(29)

It appears that Guru Nanak Dev Ji saw a person who always used to be full of life and laughter, but now was miserably sad and withered. He asks him the reason for this condition. After hearing his reply, Guru Ji compared his situation to a beautiful pool that used to be full of golden lotus flowers, but now was only filled with dirty black water.

Addressing this person using the metaphor of such a pool, he asks: “O’ pool, you used to be surrounded by green grass, and filled with golden-hued lotus flowers. What pain has caused you to become burnt, and your body blackened?”

To this the man (on behalf of the pool) replies: “O’ Nanak, a defect has occurred in my body (a disconnection of my soul from God, who used to provide me with nourishment. It is as if) I am no longer receiving the water with which I was connected, due to which my body used to blossom and my beauty was enhanced.”(30)

Now Guru Ji comments on our desire to live a long life for various reasons (such as enjoying the pleasures of life, completing family or business tasks, or amassing wealth). Guru Ji also tells who lives a true life, and is honored in God’s court.

He says: “No one has ever lived to one’s full satisfaction (in this world), nor has anyone reached (God’s court after settling all one’s worldly affairs). But the (divinely) wise person lives forever, and that one alone obtains honor (in God’s court) whose consciousness remains focused (on God). Those who pinch pennies pass their lives in vain. O’ Nanak, to whom can we say (or complain, because) without asking (anyone, death) takes us all away.”(31)

In this salok Guru Ji advises us not to blame a king or a rich money-minded person when one becomes old. He says: “Don’t blame the king (or the money minded person, because) when one becomes old one’s (spiritual) wisdom retreats. One talks too much, but the blind (fool) must fall into many pits and ditches (and make many mistakes).”(32)

Finally, Guru Nanak Dev Ji advises us to have complete faith in our perfect God, and not to try to find fault with His deeds.

He says: “Everything done by God is perfect, and there is no deficiency or excess in it. O’ Nanak, this is how a Guru following person fully believes (in God), and merges in the perfect One.”(33)

Although every salok in this chapter is a message in itself, the essence of the above saloks is that the creation of God is perfect, and we should accept His creation and deeds without criticism.
Now begin the saloks uttered by the third Guru (Amar Das Ji), which the fifth Guru (Arjan Dev Ji) did not include in the Vaars (epics) while compiling the Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

In those days and to a large extent even now, many people think it an act of great benevolent charity to serve those saints or yogis who wander about begging for food and clothes. Guru Ji wants us to realize that there is very little merit in feeding or clothing such yogis and saints who are merely wandering around for food and clothing and are not truly...
united with God, but may have run away from their families merely to escape their worldly problems.

He says: “(O my friends), they are not called (true) saints in whose mind there is doubt (and who merely beg for food). O’ Nanak, the merit of giving food (to such persons) is equally doubtful.”(1)

Now Guru Ji tells us whose service is truly fruitful. He says: “(O my friends), to obtain union with the fearless and immaculate God is to achieve the most sublime (spiritual) status. The person who begs (for this sublime status is a true saint). O’ Nanak, it is only a rare person (who obtains the opportunity) to serve food to such (a saint).”(2)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji gave the definition of a true saint. In this salok, he explains that it is not what we read or to what extent we propagate, but how we conduct our lives, which determines our real character.

He says: “Even if I become a pundit, an astrologer, and from my tongue I utter all the four Vedas, still in all the nine regions of the world I would be known according to my deeds and thoughts (and not what I profess).”(3)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that we would be known according to our deeds and thoughts, and not what we may profess to be. In this salok, he explains the most sinful deed of all.

He says: “(One who) kills a Brahmin, cow, or a virgin, or accepts charity from a person of immoral character, and always remains proud and arrogant, is cursed (by the society) as though afflicted by myriad evils. O’ Nanak, they who forsake the one (God’s) Name are afflicted (with countless sins). All other clever tricks are burnt down (and considered useless): only God’s Name lasts (forever), which is the essence of all wisdom.”(4)

In the above salok, Guru Ji warned us of the consequences of not meditating on God’s Name. In this salok, he describes how powerful God’s Name is.

He says: “Whatever (God has) written in anyone’s destiny, no one can erase that. O’ Nanak, whatever is written (in one’s destiny), that comes to pass. (But) only the one, upon whom (God) casts His glance of grace, understands this.”(5)

In the previous salok, (4) Guru Ji described the seriousness of the offense of forsaking God’s Name. In this salok, he reveals the fate of those who forsake God’s Name, and continue pursuing false worldly wealth.

He says: “Lured by the greed for what is false (short-lived, or worldly), they who have forsaken God’s Name, but remain entangled in the affairs of captivating worldly wealth; within them is the fire of (worldly) desire. They are like those creepers, which don’t bear any fruit, because they have been cheated by (Maya). Just as dogs cannot mix with a herd of cows (similarly self-conceited persons cannot join the company of saintly people.) Such persons are therefore bound and driven like cattle (to hell. Yet mortals are helpless, because it is only) when (God Himself) causes us to go astray that we become lost, and He Himself then brings about our union (with the company of saintly persons). O’ Nanak, we are saved by the Guru’s grace if we live in accordance with the will (and advice) of the true Guru.”(6)
It is a common observation that often in order to attain our objectives or to fulfill our desires, we begin to praise high powered political persons, worship different gods and goddesses, visit different holy places, or offer prayers at each and every door. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us whom should we praise and seek favors from.

He says: “(O’ my friends), praise only the one praiseworthy eternal (God). O’ Nanak, there is only one eternal Door (from which all desires are fulfilled, therefore beg only from Him), and forsake any other door.” (7)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us to praise only one God, and beg only from Him. In this salok, he reveals another unique quality of that eternal God, which makes it very easy to beg from Him at any place.

Guru Ji says: “O’ Nanak, wherever I roam, there that eternal God is (present). Wherever I look, I see that there is the (same) one (God. However, it is only) by the Guru’s grace that He becomes manifest (or visible).” (8)

In salok (7), Guru Ji told us that there is only one eternal Door (of God), from which all our desires can be fulfilled; therefore, we should forsake any other door. In this salok, he tells us how we can end all our pain.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the word of the Guru is capable of removing all pain if one (truly) enshrines it in one’s heart (and acts upon it with full faith and devotion). However, it is only by the Guru’s grace that (his word) abides in (our) heart, and it is only by good fortune that (the Guru’s advice) is obtained.” (9)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that the word of the Guru is capable of removing all pain. In this salok, he explains how many people have been destroyed by indulging in ego, and have not cared for the Guru’s word.

He says: “O’ Nanak, ego and arrogance have wasted millions of people. They who have met the true Guru have been saved (from indulging in ego, by meditating on) the true word of the incomprehensible (God).” (10)
It is the same light
In salok (9), Guru Ji stated that word of the Guru is capable of removing all pain if it is acted upon with full faith and devotion. In this salok, he tells us how much he loves and respects those who follow the Guru’s advice.

He says: “I bow to the feet of those who have served the true Guru (followed his) advice with single-minded attention. Through the Guru’s word, God comes to reside in one’s heart and the hunger for worldly riches disappears. Those devotees are immaculate and of shining conduct who have merged in (God’s) Name through the Guru’s word. O’ Nanak, all other kingdoms are perishable, they are (true) kings who are imbued with the love of (God’s) Names.” (11)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us how much he respects those who serve the Guru with true devotion and single-minded attention and love. In this salok, he explains the devotion and love of the devotees through the beautiful metaphor of a loving bride who tries to serve and please her spouse in every way.

He says: “Just as a devoted wife who is truly dedicated to her spouse (and who craves to serve him with the utmost love and devotion) cooks many tasty dishes in her house and
adds sweet and sour ingredients, similarly by attuning their minds to God’s Name, the devotees praise God through (Gurbani) the Guru’s word. They (are so devoted to God, as if they have) placed their mind, body and wealth before God, and sold their head before the Guru. They crave devotion to God with respect and fear, and God fulfills their desires by uniting them with Himself. (They know) that God is carefree (and without needs, so they wonder) what food satiates (God). (They realize that) one who lives in accordance with the will of the true Guru and sings God’s praises (with that one God) is pleased. Therefore, O’ Nanak, in Kal Yug (the present age), blessed again and again are those who live according to the true Guru’s wishes.”(12)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that the devotees (of God) praise Him through the (Guru’s) word, while keeping their mind attuned to God’s Name. They always crave devotion to God with respect and fear, and God fulfills their desires by uniting them with Himself. In this salok, he tells us how useless and cursed is the life of those who do not serve (follow) the true Guru, and do not enshrine the Guru’s advice in their hearts.

He says: “They who haven’t served the true Guru, or kept the (Guru’s) word enshrined in their mind, accursed are their lives, and in vain is their coming into the world. Only when following the Guru’s teachings does love (for God) arise in the mind: that one is imbued with love and enjoys the relish of the elixir of God’s (Name). But this Name is only obtained if it is so written in one’s destiny. O’ Nanak, this Name ferries the devotees across (the worldly ocean).”(13)

Now Guru Ji comments on the general state of the world, and describes how the attraction of worldly riches is robbing the world of its spiritual wealth. He also reveals how one can save oneself from these worldly temptations.

He says: “The world has been deluded by attachment and greed for worldly riches and power. (One’s mind, which is like the house for one’s soul) is being robbed (of its spiritual wealth), but one is not aware of this. The mind of the self-conceited person has been strayed by lust and anger, and such a person is like a blind man in the world. However, the person who follows the Guru’s instruction remains awake (and alert to worldly temptations, as if) with the sword of (spiritual) wisdom one is able to slay (overpower) the five demons (of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego). In such a person manifests the jewel of God’s Name, and his or her body and mind become immaculate. (But they who are) without His Name roam aimlessly (as if their) noses have been cut off; without (God’s) Name, they repent and cry. O’ Nanak, (such is the will of God): whatever the Creator has written (in one’s destiny) cannot be erased.”(14)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that they who are without His Name repent and cry. In this salok, he describes the blessings obtained by those who act on the Guru’s advice.

He says: “By reflecting on the Guru’s word (and following it), the Guru’s followers have earned the wealth of God’s Name. They have obtained the commodity of God’s Name, and their inexhaustible storehouses remain filled. Through the Guru’s word they utter praises of God, who has no end or limit. But O’ Nanak, it is the Creator who creates all causes, and He the Maker beholds all (these happenings).”(15)

Now Guru Ji describes the state of mind of a Guru following person who has been blessed with the gift of God’s Name.
He says: “Within the mind of a Guru following person is equipoise, and his or her mind remains (in a state of complete peace and bliss in communion with God, as if) it were elevated to the tenth sky. In that state there is no sleep (of ignorance) or hunger (for worldly riches; in that state) the immortal (God’s) Name abides (in one’s heart). O’ Nanak, (the heart), where the all-pervading God becomes manifest, no pain or pleasure afflicts (that heart).”(16)

Now Guru Ji tells the reason why (with rare exceptions) human beings continue suffering cycles of birth and death.

He says: “(All human beings come in this world, as if) they were wearing a robe dyed in lust and greed. (At any time), there are some who are born and some who die (and in this way, people) continue coming and going (in and out of this world) according to God’s will. (This process of) birth and death doesn’t come to an end, (because the mind) is imbued with the love of the ‘other’ (worldly riches and power, rather than God). By binding (the world) in the bonds (of worldly riches, God keeps it) cycling (through existences. But) nothing can be done (to change this state).”(17)

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us why (most of the) human beings continue going through the cycle of birth and death. The reason is that generally all human beings are so predisposed to evil impulses; it is as if they come into this world wearing the gown of lust, anger, etc. In this salok, he explains those rare exceptions who escape such a fate.

He says: “(O’ my friends), those upon whom God has shown mercy are met by the true Guru. Upon meeting the true Guru (and following his advice), their mind turns away (from the pursuit of worldly riches, as if) in a natural sort of way (their mind) has died (to worldly attractions, and become alive (to the pursuit of spiritual happiness). Nanak says (in this way), becoming imbued with devotion, they merge in God’s Name (and don’t suffer the rounds of birth and death).”(18)

In the above salok, Guru Ji described the state of peace and bliss enjoyed by a Guru following person who follows the Guru’s advice. In this salok, he describes the opposite experience, and describes the state and fate of those self-conceited persons who instead of following the Guru’s advice follow the dictates of their own minds.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), self-conceited persons have a mercurial intellect, and within them is an immense (pride in their) cleverness. But whatever (ritualistic deeds they perform), all their effort is wasted, and not even a single iota is approved (in God’s court). Whatever charity or alms they give, all this is referred to the judge of righteousness (for whatever little credit this may be counted. Fundamentally), without the guidance of the true Guru, the demon of death does not spare them. Because of their duality (the love for material things instead of God), they are ruined. Such a self-conceited person remains unaware of his or her youth passing away, and when one’s old age comes one dies (without any wealth of God’s Name to his or her credit. He does not understand that neither the) attachment to one’s son (daughter) nor one’s wife (husband) is of any avail, because none of them can help in the end. They alone enjoy peace in whose mind God’s Name comes to abide. O’ Nanak, very fortunate are they who by the Guru’s grace, merge in (God’s) Name.”(19)

Now Guru Ji pronounces judgment upon the state and fate of self-conceited persons.
He says: “The self-conceited persons do not remember God’s Name, and without meditating on (God’s) Name they continue crying in pain. They don’t remember the all-pervading God, so how could they find any peace (through love of) worldly things? Within them is the filth of ego, and they do not try to remove or wash it off with the (soap of the Guru’s) word. O’ Nanak, without (meditating on God’s) Name, they die soiled (as sinners), thus wasting in vain (the precious) commodity of human birth.”(20)

Sri Guru Granth Sahib
Page - 1415

manmukh bolay anDhulay tis meh agnee kaa vaas. 
bagee surat na buJhnee sabad na karahi pargaa. 
onaa aapnee andar suDh nahee gur bachan na karahi visaas. 
gi-aanee-aa andar gur sabad hai nit har liv sadaa vigaas.
har gi-aanee-aa kee rakh-daa ha-o sad balihaaee taas.
gurmukho jor har sayvday jan naanak taa kaa daas. ||21||

maa-i-aa bhu-i-angam sarap hai jag ghayri-aa bikh maa-y. 
bikh kaa maaran har naam hai gur garurh sabad mukh paa-ay. 
jin ka-o poorab likhi-aa tin satgur mili-aa aa-ay.
mil satgur nirmal ho-i-aa bikh ha-umai ga-i-aa bilaa-ay. 
gurmukhaa kay mukh ujlay har dargeh sobhaa paa-ay. 
jan naanak sadaa kurbaan tin jo chaaleh satgur bhaa-ay. ||22||
satgur purakh nirvair hai nit hirdai har liv laa-ay.
nirvairai naal vair rachaa-idga apnae ghar lookee laa-ay. 
antar kroDh ahaikkar hai an-din jalai sadaa dukh paa-ay. 
koorh bol bol nit bha-ukday bikh khaaDhay doojai bhaa-ay. 
bikh maa-i-aa kaaran bharamday fir ghar ghar pat gavaa-ay. 
baysu-aa kayray poot ji-o pitaa naam tis jaa-ay. 
har har naam na chaytnee kartai aap khu-aa-ay. 
har gurmukh kirpaa Daaree-an jaa an vichhurhay aap milaa-ay. 
jan naanak tis balihaarnai jo satgur laagay paa-ay. ||23||
nama lagay say oobray bin naavai jam pur jaa’hi. 
aanak bin naavai sukh nahee aa-ay ga-ay pachhutaahi. ||24||
chintaa Dhaavat reh ga-ay taaṅ man bha-i-aa anand.
gur parsaddee bujhee-ai saa Dhan suṭee nichind.
jin ka-o poorab likhi-aa ṭīn’aa bhayti-aa gur govin.
aanak sehjay mil rahay har paa-i-aa parmaanand. ||25||
satgur sayvan aapṇaa gur sabdee veechaar.
satgur kaā bhaanāa man lain har naam rakheh ur Dhaar.
aithai othai mannee-an har naam lagay vaapaar.
gurmuṅk sabad sinjaapagai tit saachai darbaar.
sachaa sa-ugāa kharach sach anṭar piram pi-aar.
jamkaal navṛṇ na aavee aap bakhṣay kartāar.
SGGS P-1416
naanak naam rātay say Dhanvant hain nirDhan hor sansaar. ||26||
jan kee tayk har naam har bin naavai thavār na thaa-o.
gurmatēe naa-o man vasai sehjay sahj sama-o.
vadbhaagee naam Dhi-aa-i-aa ahinis laagaa bhaa-o.
jan naanak mangai Dhoorh ṭīn ha-o sad kuraanai jaa-o.||27||
lakh cha-oraasē hī tiṣṇaa jālṭee karay pukaar.
ih moh maa-i-aa sabh pasri-aa naal chalai na anṭee vaar.
bin har saaṅā na aavee kis aagai karee pukaar.
vadbhaagee satgur paa-i-aa boojhi-aa barahm bichār.
tiṣṇaa agan sabh bujī ga-ee jān naanak har ur Dhaar. ||28||
asee khaṭay bahut kamaavgay ant na paaraavaar.
hir kirpaa kar kai bakhās laihu ṭa-o paapee vād gunahgaar.
hir jee-o laykhāi vaar na aavee tooṅ bakhās milaavanhāar.
gur tūthai har parabh mayli-aa sabh kilvīk kat vikār.
jīnā har har nam Dhi-aa-i-aa jān naanak ṭīnī jaikaar. ||29||
In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that self-conceited persons do not remember God’s Name, and without meditating on (God’s) Name they continue crying in pain. In this salok, he comments further on the traits of the self-conceited person, and contrasts these with the qualities of the Guru following persons (and the blessings they enjoy).

He says: “The self-conceited persons (ignore divine wisdom, as if they) are deaf and blind, and are (filled with anger, because) within them resides the fire (of desire). They don’t know how to fix their attention on the (Guru’s) word, and don’t illuminate their minds through the (Guru’s) word. They neither have any spiritual awareness of their own, nor they trust the Guru’s word. On the other hand, the word of the Guru resides in the minds of the Guru’s followers, and by daily attuning their minds to God; they always remain in a state of bliss. God saves the honor of the (divinely) wise, and I am always a sacrifice to them. The Guru’s followers who serve God, slave Nanak is their servant.”(21)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that God saves the honor of divinely wise people, and he is always a sacrifice to them. In this salok, he reveals why he respects those Guru following persons, and what merits they possess. He says: “(O’ my friends), Maya (the attachment to worldly riches) is like a poisonous cobra that has clutched the world in its grip. The only antidote to this poison is God’s Name, (therefore, you should keep uttering) the Guru’s most effective (Gaarru) mantra of God’s Name from your mouth. However, the true Guru comes and meets only those in whose destiny it has been prewritten. Upon meeting the Guru (and following his advice) their mind becomes immaculate and the poison of ego disappears. Therefore, Guru’s followers obtain honor in God’s court, and their faces shine with glory. Slave Nanak is always a sacrifice to those who live in accordance with the wishes of the true Guru.”(22)

In salok (21), Guru Ji told us that self-conceited persons do not listen to the Guru’s word, and within them burns the fire (of desire). Sometimes this fire so consumes a person that one begins to harbor ill will and enmity, even towards the true Guru. In this salok, Guru Ji comments on the state of such a fallen person.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the true Guru has no enmity with anyone. Everyday he keeps his mind attuned to God. One who fosters enmity with an un inimical person, (burns one’s own heart with jealousy, as if) one was setting one’s own house ablaze. Within such a person (are the fires of) anger and ego, in which he or she burns daily and always suffers pain. Such people bark (like dogs), telling lie upon lie, as if their own duality (the love of worldly things) has led them to eat poison. For the sake of the poison of Maya (worldly riches and power), they continue wandering shamelessly from house to house. They are like the sons of a prostitute, whose father’s name is unknown. They don’t remember God’s Name, because they have been strayed (from the right path by the) Creator Himself. But God Himself has shown mercy on the Guru’s followers, and He Himself has united those devotees separated from Him. Therefore, slave Nanak is a sacrifice to them who bow at the feet of the true Guru (and obediently follows the Guru’s advice).”(23)
In Salok (22), Guru Ji stated that Maya has gripped the entire world like a poisonous snake, and the only antidote for this poison is God’s Name. In this salok, he once again emphasizes the necessity of meditating on God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), they who attune themselves to (God’s) Name are saved (from drowning in the worldly ocean, but they) who are without the Name go to the city of death (for severe punishment). O’ Nanak, without His Name they cannot obtain peace, so they repent (every time, they) come and go (from the world).”(24)

If we look around we will find that all people are suffering from some kind of worry or agony. Some are worried about their jobs, some about their families, and some about their health, or similar problems. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us who is able to get rid of worry and always live in peace.

He says: “Only when (people) stop wandering around in worry is the mind able to rest (in peace and) bliss. By the Guru’s grace, the soul bride who understands this enjoys a worry-free sleep. But only they meet the Guru-God in whose destiny it has been pre-written. O’ Nanak, such persons are easily united with God, and attain sublime bliss.”(25)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that they in whose destiny it has been pre-written meet the Guru God; they easily are united with God and attain His sublime bliss. In this salok, he describes the qualities and conduct of such persons, and the blessings they enjoy.

He says: “(They who are blessed with the Guru’s guidance), serve their true Guru by reflecting upon the Guru’s word, obey the true Guru’s will and keep God’s Name enshrined in their hearts. They are respected both here and in the world beyond, because they remain engaged in the business of God’s Name. Because of their (intimacy with) Guru’s word, such Guru’s followers are recognized in the true court (of God). Within them is (true) love for their (beloved) God; therefore, they invest only in the true merchandise (of God’s Name), and (survive on the true food of God’s Name). The demon (fear) of death doesn’t come near them, because the Creator Himself has become gracious on them. O’ Nanak, (truly) rich are they who are imbued with the love of (God’s) Name. The rest of the world is (spiritually) poor.”(26)

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok with the remark that the truly rich are those who are imbued with the love of (God’s) Name; the rest of the world is (spiritually) poor. In this salok he tells how deeply such devotees depend upon God’s Name.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is the only support of the devotees. Except for God’s Name, they have no other refuge. By the Guru’s grace, (God’s) Name abides in their heart and they imperceptibly merge into a state of equipoise. By good fortune they have meditated on His Name, and day and night they remain imbued with love (for God). Devotee Nanak begs for the dust of their feet, (and says), “I am always a sacrifice to them.”(27)

In salok (22), Guru Ji stated that Maya (the attachment to worldly riches) has gripped the world like a poisonous snake, and the only antidote is God’s Name. In this salok, he tells us how the Guru can help us in this regard.
He says: “(O’ my friends), the world (which is believed to) have 8.4 millions species is burning in (the fire of worldly desire, and is crying (for help). This attachment to Maya (or worldly riches and power) is pervasive, but in the end (at the time of departure from the world), it doesn’t accompany anyone. Without God’s (Name) peace cannot be obtained, so before whom may I cry (for help)? By good fortune, they who have obtained (the guidance of) the true Guru have realized divine wisdom. Devotee Nanak says that by enshrining God’s (Name) in their heart, all the fire of their desire has been quenched.”(28)

In the previous salok Guru Ji stated that by good fortune, they who have obtained the true Guru’s (guidance) have understood His divine wisdom. By enshrining God’s Name in their heart, their fire of desire has been quenched. In this salok, he shows us what kind of divine wisdom such people obtain, and how they pray to God and beg for His mercy.

Speaking on our behalf, he addresses God and says: “O’ God, we commit so many blunders that there is no end or limit (to our mistakes): showing mercy please forgive me, for I am a very great sinner. O’ revered God, by taking account of our deeds, our turn (for forgiveness) would never come. By forgiving us, You Yourself can unite us with You. (Whom) the Guru graciously washes of all his or her sins and wrongdoings is united (by the Guru) with God. O’ Nanak, they who have meditated on God’s Name, their victory resounds (both in this world and the next).”(29)

In a previous salok, Guru Ji stated that when the Guru is pleased with anyone, he removes all that one’s sins and evil thoughts and unites him or her with God. In this salok, he tells us about the blessings obtained by these persons, and the merits obtained in the company of the Guru and his congregation.

He says: “After being separated (from God birth after birth) those who have met (Him again) by embracing the fear and love of the true Guru, by meditating on (God’s) Name through the Guru, they have become free from (cycles of) birth and death. They, who are blessed with the company of the saint Guru, obtain the rubies and diamonds (of God’s Name). O’ Nanak, by the Guru’s grace they discover the invaluable jewels (of God’s Name in the society of saints).”(30)
It is the same light

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

naanak bin satgur naa-o na paa-ee-ai jay sa-o lochai ko-ee. ||32||

har kaa naa-o at vad oochaa oochee hoo oochaa ho-ee.
aparh ko-ay na sak-ee jay sa-o lochai ko-ee.
mukh sanjam hachhia na hova-ee kar bhaykh bhavai sahb ko-ee.
gur kee pa-orhee jaa-ay charhai karam paraapat ho-ee.
anjtar aa-ay vasai gur sabaq veechoarai ko-ay.

SGGS P-1417

naanak sabaq marai man maanee-ai saachay saachee so-ay. ||33||

maa-i-aa moh dukh saagar hai bikh duṭar tari-aa na jaa-ay.
mayraa mayraa kargay pach mu-ay ha-umai karaṛ vihaaay.
manmukhaa urvaar na paar hai aDh vich rahay laptaa-ay.
jo Dhur likhi-aa so kamaavaaṇaa karna kachhoo na jaa-ay.
gurmatēe gi-aa rātan man vasai sahb daykhi-aa bahram subhāa-ay.
naanak satgur bohithai vadbh aagee charhai tay bha-ojal paar langhāa-ay. ||34||

bin satgur daatāa ko naheee jo har naam day-ay aa Dhaar.
gur kirpaa tay naa-o man vasai saagaa rahi ur Dhaar.
tīnnāa bujhī tīpaṭ ho-ay har kai naa-ay pi-aaar.
naanak gumukh paa-ee-ai har apnee kirpaa Dhaar. ||35||

bin sabaqī jagaṭ barli-aa kahīna kachhoo na jaa-ay.
har rakhaay say ubray sabaq rahay liv laa-ay.
naanak kartaa sahb kichh jaandas jin rakhe banaṭ baṇaa-ay. ||36||

hom jag sahb teerthāa parhī patti ṭhakay puraan.
bikh maa-i-aa moh na mit-ee vich ha-umai aavan jaan.
satgur mili-al mal utree har japi-aa purakh sujaan.

jinaa har har parabh sayvi-aa jan naanak sad kurbān. ||37||
Now Guru Ji compares the life of self-conceited persons with the Guru following persons.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the self-conceited (persons) haven’t cherished (God’s) Name. Accursed is their life, and accursed is their abode (in this world). He whose gifts they eat and wear, that Treasure of virtues has not come to reside in their hearts. Their mind is not attuned to the (Guru’s) word, so how can they reside in the mansion (of God)? Therefore the self-conceited bride (souls) remain separated (from God), and continue dying (being ruined) in the painful cycle of coming and going (in and out of this world. But) the Guru following (bride souls) enjoy union (with God their groom, as if) on their foreheads are the red marks (of united wedded brides). They have enshrined God’s Name in their hearts (and therefore they always remain delighted, as if) by God’s grace the lotus of their heart remains (blossoming in) delight. I am always a sacrifice (to such Guru following bride souls, who) serve their true Guru. O’ Nanak, the faces of those shine (with honor), within whom has manifested (God’s) Name.”(31)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji described the pains, which a self-conceited person suffers, and the blessings, which a Guru following person enjoys. In this salok, he again emphasizes the importance of following the Guru’s advice.

He says: “(O’ my friends), following the Guru’s advice, one who effaces one’s self-conceit, (as if that one had died to evils), only that devotee succeeds (in obtaining salvation). Without following the (Guru’s) word, salvation (from evil) is not obtained. They who adorn (false holy) garbs are ruined by performing ritualistic deeds. (In fact), the world has been wasted by the love of the ‘other’ (worldly things). O’ Nanak, even if everyone craves it desparately, without (the guidance of the) true Guru we cannot obtain (God’s) Name (and without His Name, we cannot obtain salvation).”(32)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji concluded that without the guidance of the true Guru, God’s Name cannot be obtained, and without His Name we cannot obtain salvation. In this salok, he elaborates on these two points.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God’s Name is very lofty; it is highest of the high. Even if one desires it immensely, no one can understand the limit (of its value. But) one doesn’t become immaculate by merely exercising self-control, uttering a few words from one’s mouth, or wandering about in holy garbs. Anyone who reflects on the Guru’s word, (God) comes to reside within that person. (The Guru’s word acts like a ladder for that person, and) with the help of this ladder one mounts (to the castle of God. But this ladder) is only obtained) by God’s grace. (In short), the one who reflects on the (Guru’s) word, within that person (God) comes to reside. O’ Nanak, (through the Guru’s) word, one who dies (to evil), that one’s mind is pleased (attuned to God. By being absorbed in the) eternal God, one obtains eternal glory.”(33)

In salok (22), Guru Ji stated that Maya (the allurement for worldly riches and power) has gripped the entire world like a poisonous snake, and its only antidote is God’s Name. In this salok, he compares attachment for Maya to a gigantic ocean of pain, and tells us the way to cross it.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the attachment to Maya is (like) an ocean of pain, and this dreadful poisonous ocean cannot be crossed over. Many have been consumed, saying, “this is mine, this is mine,” and their (entire) life passes away indulging in ego. The self-conceited persons can find neither this nor the yonder shore, and they remain caught in the middle. (But) they have to endure whatever is written in their destiny, and nothing can be done about it. However, through the Guru’s instruction, they who enshrine the jewel of (divine) wisdom in their mind easily see the all-pervading God everywhere. O’ Nanak, it is only very fortunate persons who ride the true Guru’s ship (follow the path shown by the Guru, them the Guru) ferries across the dreadful worldly ocean.”(34)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that the true Guru is like a ship, and the fortunate person who rides this ship is ferried across the worldly ocean of Maya. In this salok, he tells us why it is only the Guru, who can save us from drowning in this ocean, and how he does this.

He says: “(O’ my friends), except the true Guru there is no other giver who can provide the support of (God’s) Name. (When) by the Guru’s grace, God’s Name comes to reside in one’s mind; one always keeps it enshrined in one’s heart. Then through love for God’s Name, one’s (fire of) desire is quenched and the mind is satiated. (In sort), O’ Nanak, when God shows His mercy, we obtain His Name through the Guru (and are ferried across the worldly ocean).”(35)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that except the true Guru, no one else could bless us with God’s Name (which alone can bring us true peace). But the world has become so lost in the pursuit of worldly wealth that it doesn’t care about the Guru’s advice.

Commenting on this situation, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), without following (Gurbani) the word of the true Guru, the world has gone so crazy that nothing can be said. Only those whom God has protected have been saved (from drowning in the worldly ocean), and they keep their minds attuned to the word (of the Guru). O’ Nanak, the Creator who has established (this entire system), knows everything.”(36)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that it is only through the true Guru that one obtains the gift of God’s Name, and true bliss. Naturally the question arises: what about other ways, such as going on pilgrimages, performing austerities, or reading holy books? In this salok, Guru Ji provides an answer to such questions.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the pundits have grown tired, performing sacrificial ceremonies, wandering through all pilgrimage places, and reading (Hindu holy books, like) Puranas, but the poison of the attachment for Maya is not removed. By remaining engrossed in ego, (their) cycle of coming and going (or birth and death) continues. By meeting the true Guru (and following his advice, those whose) dirt (of ego) has been removed, they have meditated on the all-wise supreme Being. Devotee Nanak is always a sacrifice to those who have served and meditated on God.”(37)

Guru Ji now tells us why self-conceited persons continue suffering, and who enjoys true peace.

He says: “(The self-conceited persons) always think of their attachment to worldly riches, and within them is always immense desire, greed, and evil. Therefore, a self-conceited person never becomes stable, and is wasted again and again in (rounds of birth and) death. One who has good fortune meets the true Guru, (and following his advice) renounces ego and evil pursuits. Devotee Nanak says that by reflecting on the Guru’s word and meditating on God’s Name, (such fortunate persons) have obtained peace.”(38)

In this salok, Guru Ji again emphasizes the importance of the Guru’s guidance, and what he himself does in this regard.

He says: “Without the (guidance of the) true Guru, one cannot be imbued with either devotion to God or with the love of God’s Name. Therefore, slave Nanak has meditated on God’s Name through the love and affection of the Guru.”(39)

Now Guru Ji gives us practical advice about our worldly conduct, and explains whom we shouldn’t trust and whom we should avoid.

He says: “(O’ my friends), do not trust a greedy person. At the last moment, he drags one to such a state where no one can come to one’s help. One who associates with a self-conceited person (brings dishonor and shame to oneself, as if) one’s face was stained with soot. Those greedy persons will lose their honor, and depart from this world having lost (the purpose of) life. (Pray to God and say), O’ God, unite us with the society of the saints, so that Your Name may come to abide in our mind. Nanak sings praises of God so that the filth (of evils), which makes one go through the rounds of births and deaths may be washed off.”(40)
It is the same light

naanak ke parabh bayntee har bhaavai bakhau milaa-ay. ||41||

man aavan jaan na sujh-ee naa sujhau darbaar.  
maa-i-aa mohi palyti-aa antar agi-aan gubaar.  
tab nar suuta jaagi-aa sir dand lagaag bho bhaar.  
gurmukhaa^ karaa^ upar har chayti-aa say paa-in  
mohk du-aaar.  
aanak aap ohi uDhray sabh kutamb taray parvaar. ||42||

saabdu marai so mu-aa jaapai.  
gur parsaadee har ras Dharmaa.  
har dargahi gur sabad sinjaapai.  in sabgai mu-aa hai sabh ko-ay.  
manmukh mu-aa apunaa janam kho-ay.  
har naam na cheetee ant dukh ro-ay.  
aanak karhaa karay so ho-ay. ||43||

gurmukh budhay kaay naahsee jin''aa antar  
surat gi-aaan.  
saagaa saagaa har gun raveh antar sajh Dhi-aan.  
o-ay saagaa anand bibayk raheh dukh sukh aay samaan.  
tinaa nagree iko aa-i-aa sabh aatam raam  
pachhaan. ||44||

manmukh baalak biraD saamaan hai jin''aa antar  
har surat naahsee.  
wich ha-umai karam kamaavday sabh Dhamam  
raa-ay kai jaa^hee.  
gurmukh hachhay nimalay gur kai sabad  
subhaa-aay.  
onaa mail paatang na lag-e-ee je chalan satgur  
Dhau-aay.  
manmukh joth na utrai jay sa-o Dhovnaa paa-aay.  
aanak gurmukh maayli-an gur kai ank samaa-aay. ||45||

buraa karay so kayhaa sijhai.  
aapna rohi aapay hee dajhai.  
manmukh kamlaa raaghai lujhai.  
gurmukh ho-aay tis sabh kichh suhjhai.  
aanak gurmukh man si-o lujhai. ||46||

jinaa satgur purakh na sayvi-o sabad na keeto  
veechaar.  
o-ay maanjas joon na aakhee-an pasoo dhor  
gaavaar.
It is the same light

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us not to associate with greedy and self-conceited persons, and told us how they deceive us at the critical moment, bringing us disgrace and shame. In this salok, he comments on the fate of such self-conceited persons who speak ill of others, or indulge in hypocritical rituals to impress others.

He says: “(O’ my friends), whatever God has ordained in one’s destiny (based on one’s past deeds) cannot be erased. This body and soul belong to God, and it is God the king who sustains all. The slanderers who (forsaking God) speak ill of others die rolling in dust, unable to find a helping hand anywhere. Outwardly they perform pious deeds, but they practice deceit in their minds and heart. This body (of ours is like a) farm in which whatever we sow ultimately comes to stand before us (and we must reap what we sow). Therefore, Nanak prays before God and says, “O’ God, howsoever You please, forgive us and unite us with Yourself.”(41)
Guru Ji continues his commentary and tells us which rare persons obtain salvation. He says: “(O’ my friends, generally) in one’s mind the thought of coming and going (or the cycles of) birth and death doesn’t arise, nor does one become aware of the court of God (where one must render an account of one’s deeds. So one) remains entangled in attachment to Maya (worldly riches and power) because within is the darkness of ignorance. The human being only awakens from this (spiritual) slumber when he or she is struck on the head by the club (of death). But the Guru’s followers who have remembered God like saying the rosary at all times, they obtain the door to salvation. O’ Nanak, they themselves are emancipated (along with) all their lineages and families.”(42)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that ordinarily one remains entangled in attachment to Maya (or worldly riches and power) because within one is the darkness of ignorance. In this salok, he describes the blessings obtained by those who, following the Guru’s word, still their worldly desires and attachments as if they were dead to such things. He also tells about the state of the rest of the world, which doesn’t listen to or follow the word (of the Guru’s advice).

He says: “Following (Guru’s) word, one who dies (to worldly desires) appears dead (to people). By the Guru’s grace, that one is satiated with the delight of God’s (Name, and doesn’t care for worldly relishes). By virtue of the Guru’s word one is honored in God’s court. But without the (guidance of the Guru’s) word, everyone else is (spiritually) dead. The self-conceited person dies wasting (the human) life in vain. Such a person doesn’t cherish God’s Name; therefore suffers pain in the end. But O’ Nanak, (one is helpless, because only) that happens, which the Creator does.”(43)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that following the Guru’s advice, one who stills one’s worldly desires becomes known, and obtains honor in God’s court. In this salok, he describes what other blessings the Guru’s followers obtain.

He says: “The Guru’s followers, within whose consciousness is (divine) knowledge, never become (spiritually weak or) old. Ever and forever they cherish God’s praises, and within them always remains a state of poise and meditation. They always remain in a state of blissful discrimination (between good and bad), and they remain in the same (steady state of mind) both in pain and pleasure. To them, the one (God) who knows all souls seems visible everywhere.”(44)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji described the blessings enjoyed by Guru’s followers, and told us how they never become spiritually old or weak and always maintain their steady state of mind both in pleasure and pain. In this salok, he compares the state and fate of both the self-conceited and the Guru following persons.

He says: “(Even when physically young like a) boy, the self-conceited person is like a (spiritually weak or) old person. They who have no awareness of God perform (even their religious) deeds are motivated by ego, and they all go before the judge of righteousness (for punishment. On the other hand), by imperceptibly remaining attuned to the word of the Guru, the Guru’s followers remain virtuous and immaculate. They who tread the path shown by the true Guru are not soiled even a bit (by evil deeds. However), the impurity (of sins) isn’t washed off (the souls) of self-conceited ones, even if they attempt to cleanse themselves hundreds of times (through ritualistic ablutions). O’ Nanak, (God has) united the Guru’s followers (with Him) by merging them in the Guru’s bosom (the Gurbani).”(45)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji compared the state of the self-conceited and the Guru following persons. In this salok, he comments further on the conduct and fate of self-conceited persons who always think ill of others, and the Guru’s followers who (instead of fighting with others) struggle with the undesirable impulses of their own minds.

He says: “(O’ my friends), how can that one who indulges in evil (deeds) succeed (in life)? Such a person burns in the fire of his or her own wrath. The foolish self-conceited person continuously fights (with others). But the one, who is a Guru’s follower, understands everything (and knows what is good and what is bad. Therefore, instead of battling with others) O’ Nanak, the Guru’s follower struggles with (the evil tendencies of) the mind (itself).”(46)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji explained how self-conceited persons burn in their own wrath and fight with others, while the Guru’s followers fight with the evil tendencies of their own mind. In this salok, he compares further the state and fate of the self-conceited and the Guru following persons.

He says: “They who have not served the true Guru (the sublime being) and have not reflected on the (Guru’s) word, are not considered as born into the human species; they are (like) foolish beasts and dead animals. Within them is neither (divine) knowledge nor meditation, and they have no love or affection for God. Such self-conceited ones die in their evil deeds, and continue dying only to be born again and again. (On the other hand), they who meet the (spiritually) awakened, become (spiritually) alive by enshrining God, the life of this world, in their hearts. O’ Nanak, such Guru following persons look beauteous (and worthy of honor) in the eternal court of God.”(47)

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok, with the remark that the Guru’s followers are honored in the eternal court of God. Naturally, the question arises where this eternal court of God is. In this salok, he answers this question.

He says: “(O’ my friends), God has built (this human body as a) temple in which God Himself resides. Some have found Him by following the Guru’s instruction and burning the attachment for worldly riches. In this temple of God is the commodity (of God’s Name), which has innumerable (merits); secure this Name, which is (precious like all) the nine treasures of wealth. O’ Nanak, blessed are those fortunate persons who by the Guru’s grace have found God. The fortunate persons who have searched the temple of this body have found God abiding with them in their heart.”(48)

In the previous several saloks, Guru Ji compared the state and conduct of the self-conceited and the Guru following persons. In this salok, he summarizes the end fate of both these types of people.

He says: “(Swayed by) their extreme (worldly) desire, greed, and evil pursuits, the self-conceited persons wander aimlessly in all the ten directions. Their worldly attachment never ends, and they must die only to be born again and again. But by serving the true Guru and renouncing their extreme worldly desires and evil tendencies, (the Guru’s followers) have obtained peace. O’ Nanak, by reflecting on the (Guru’s) word, they escape the pain of birth and death.”(49)
Guru Ji concluded the previous salok with the remark that by reflecting on the word of the Guru, the Guru’s followers have got rid of the pain of birth and death. In this salok, he tells us about the most important part of the word of the Guru.

He says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name again and again, (so that) you may obtain honor in God’s court. (By meditating on God), we wash off all our evils and sins, and our ego and arrogance are removed. By the Guru’s grace, (our heart feels delighted, as if) the lotus of our heart has blossomed and we recognize the all-pervading God everywhere. Nanak says, O’ God, please show mercy upon me, so that Your devotee may meditate on Your Name.” (50)

*Dhanasrae Dhanvantee jaanee-ai bhaa-ee jaa*<sup>n</sup>  
*satgur kee kaar kamaa- ay.*

*tan man sa-upay jee-a sa-o bhaa-ee la-ay hukam fira-a-o.*

*jah baisaaveh baisah bhaa-ee jah bhayjeh tah jaa-o.*

*ayvad Dhan hor ko nahee bhaa-ee jayvad sachaa naa-o.*

*sadaa sachay kay gun gaavaa*<sup>n</sup>  
*bhaa-ee sadaa sachay kai sang raha-o.*

*painan gun chang-aa-ee-aa bhaa-ee aapjee paat kay saaq aapay khaa-ay.*

*tis kaa ki-aa salaaheehai bhaa-ee darsan ka-o bal jaa-ay.*

*satgur vich vadee-aa vadi-aa-ee-aa bhaa-ee karam milai taa*<sup>n</sup>  
*paay-ay.*

*ik hukam man na jaanne bhaa-ee doojai bhaa-ay fira-ay.*

*sangat doo-o milai bhaa-ee baisan milai na thaa-o.*

*naanak hukam tinaa manaa-isee bhaa-ee jinaa Dhref kamaa-i-aa naa-o.*

*tin*<sup>n</sup>  
*vitahu ha-o vaari-aa bhaa-ee jin ka-o sad balihaarai jaa-ay.  ||51||

*say gaarhee-aa*<sup>n</sup>  
*sachee-aa je gur charnee laga*<sup>n</sup>  
*ni-ee.*

*an-din sayvan gur aapgaan an-din anad raha*<sup>n</sup>  
*ni-ee.*

*naanak say muh sohnay sachai dar diba-na*<sup>n</sup>  
*ni-ee.  ||52||

*mukh sachay sach gaarhee-aa sach boleh sach kamaahi.*

*sachaa sabaaq man vasi-aa satgur maa*<sup>n</sup>  
*hi samaa*<sup>n</sup>  
*hi.*

*sachee raasee sach Dhan utam padvee paa*<sup>n</sup>  
*hi.*

*sach suneh sach man lain sachee kaar kamaahi.*

*sachee gargeh baisgaa sachay maahi samaahi.*

*naanak vin satgur sach na paa-ee-aa manmukh*  
*bhooley jaa*<sup>n</sup>  
*hi.  ||53||

**It is the same light**
It is the same light
In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji stated that it is by the Guru's grace that our heart feels delighted, and we recognize God pervading everywhere. In this *salok*, he describes how truly wealthy and fortunate are those who follow the Guru's advice, and meditate on God's Name. He also reveals what happens to those self-conceited persons who follow the dictates of their own mind.

He says: “O’ brothers, we should consider (a bride-soul) blessed and (spiritually) rich if she (does what the Guru says, and) performs the service of the true Guru. O’ brother, she surrenders her body and mind along with her soul (to the Guru), and lives her life as the Guru commands. (She seems to be saying, ‘O’ God), wherever You make me sit, I sit there, and wherever You send me, I go.’ (She seems to be saying to us), ‘O’ my brothers, no wealth is as great as (God’s) eternal Name. Therefore, I always sing praises of the eternal (God and keep remembering Him, and thus) I always remain in the company of the eternal (God). O’ brothers, one (who enshrines God’s merits within one’s heart appears as if) one were wearing the merits and praises of God. That person (receives such honor in God’s court) that he or she alone knows the delight of that honor. O’ brothers, what can we say in praise of such a person? I am simply a sacrifice to such a person’s sight. O’ brothers, many are the merits of the true Guru, (but only by God’s) grace; one meets him and obtains (these merits). O’ brothers, there are some who don’t know how to obey the (Guru’s) command; therefore they endlessly wander, (as if) in love with the ‘other’ (worldly pleasures). They neither obtain support in the company of saintly people, nor a place to sit in that company. O’ Nanak, (God) makes only those obey His command, who have been pre-ordained to meditate on (God’s) Name. O’ brothers, I am a sacrifice to them, and I always am devoted to them.”(51)

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji stated that we should consider a bride-soul as blessed and spiritually rich if she performs the service of the true Guru. In this *salok*, he repeats that message using a different poetic form.

He says: “Truly worthy of honor are those beards, which touch the feet of the Guru. (Truly honorable are they who bow to the Guru, and obediently carry out his wishes). Day and night they serve the Guru (by following his advice), and day and night they remain in a state of bliss. O’ Nanak, their faces look bright (are honored) at the door of the eternal (God).”(52)

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji stated that truly honorable are they who bow to the Guru, and obediently carry out his wishes. Truly worthy of honor are those beards, which touch the feet of the Guru. In this *salok*, he elaborates on this concept, and reveals the blessings such persons obtain who meditate on God’s true Name.
He says: "(O’ my friends), truly (worthy of honor are) those faces and those beards who always speak truth and earn an honest living. The true word (of the Guru) resides in their mind, and they merge in the true Guru. They earn the true capital and wealth (of God’s Name), and obtain sublime status. They listen only to Truth, believe in Truth, and practice True deeds. Therefore, they sit in the true court and merge in the eternal (God). But O’ Nanak, without (the guidance of) the true Guru, we don’t obtain to the eternal (One), and self-conceited persons remain lost (on the wrong path).”(53)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that Guru’s followers earn the true wealth (of God’s Name) and obtain sublime status. In this salok, he compares a Guru’s followers to a bird, called Babiha, which keeps crying out for a special raindrop called the swanti boond. Only when rain falls from a certain cloud is this bird able to quench its thirst.

Guru Ji says: “Like a Babiha, (a Guru’s follower) continues to call out the name of his Beloved (God), and cries with love and affection for the treasure of water (of God’s Name). On meeting the Guru, obtains this cool (comforting) water, which dispels all pain. Then his or her thirst (for worldly pleasures) is quenched, poise wells up (in the mind), and all his or her crying and wailing ends. Nanak says (O’ my friends, by meditating on God’s Name) under the guidance of the Guru, one obtains peace. Therefore, keep (God’s) Name enshrined in your heart.”(54)

In the previous salok, using the metaphor of a Babiha, Guru Ji told us that by meditating on God’s Name we obtain peace, and all our thirst for worldly pleasures is quenched. In this salok, he re-emphasizes his advice regarding the importance of meditating on God’s Name, and assures us that ultimately our meditation will be accepted in God’s court.

He says: “O’ Babiha (like Guru’s follower), continue uttering His true (Name) with your mind attuned to the eternal (God). When becoming Guru’s follower, you utter God’s Name, your utterance will be approved (in God’s court). Accept this as God’s will, that by reflecting on the (Guru’s) word, your thirst (for worldly things) is removed. In all the four corners (of the world, Gurbani the Guru’s word) is raining (like a) a low cloud, and quite naturally the drop (of God’s Name) falls (into the open mouth of the Guru’s follower). It is from water that everything grows, and without water one’s thirst doesn’t go away. O’ Nanak, they who have partaken of the water of God’s (Name), are no longer afflicted by the (thirst or) hunger (for worldly things).”(55)

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok, with the remark that they who have partaken of the water of God’s Name are no longer afflicted by the thirst for worldly things. In this salok, he elaborates on the above statement, and explains how upon listening to the Guru’s sermon one feels satiated and contented regarding all one’s worldly desires.

Continuing to call a Guru’s follower a Babiha, he says: “O’ Babiha, imbued with the love of the true word (of the Guru), and in a state of poise, utter (God’s Name). The true Guru has shown that everything is within you: (you have no need to search for this divine peace-giving water anywhere outside yourself). Those who realize this are met by the beloved (God), and (they enjoy such a state of divine bliss, as if within them the cloud of God’s Name) is raining in torrents. Then slowly and steadily the nectar (of God’s) Name rains down, and all their (worldly) thirst and hunger disappears. After that, there is no more crying or screaming (and God unites their) soul with His (Prime) soul. (In this way, O’) Nanak, remaining merged in the eternal Name the united bride (souls) sleep in peace.”(56)
In the previous salok, addressing the seeker of God as a Babiha, Guru Ji said: “O’ Babiha, imbued with the love of the true word (of the Guru), and in a state of poise, utter God’s Name. You are assured that slowly and steadily the nectar of God’s Name will rain in your mind, and all thirst and hunger (for worldly things) will disappear.” One may wonder who sends this divine cloud (or Guru) to rain such a bliss bestowing water of divine peace. In this salok, continuing the same metaphor, Guru Ji answers this question and explains the kind of bliss those bride-souls enjoy who, with love and devotion, meditate on God’s Name and allow these drops of divine nectar to fall into their mouths.

He says: “(O’ my friends), issuing a command from His court the eternal Master has sent (this cloud in the form of the Guru), so that showing his mercy the cloud (Guru) may rain (the nectar of His Name) in an intense torrent. The body and mind of the (seeker Babiha) obtains comfort, when the essence (of the drop of God’s Name) is put into his mouth. When (rain falls), the earth is embellished (with greenery) and then lots of wealth grows in the form of grain. (Similarly, when the Guru delivers his sermon), people become absorbed in the Guru’s word and worship (God) day and night. Then the eternal (God) Himself forgives and showing His mercy: He makes people walk according to His will. Therefore O’ bride (souls), becoming absorbed in the true (Guru’s) word sing praises of God. Embellish yourself with the decoration of (God’s) fear, and remain attuned to the eternal (God). O’ Nanak, they within whose mind resides (God’s) Name, it saves them (from the demon of death) in God’s court.”(57)

In the previous several saloks, using the metaphor of the bird Babiha, Guru Ji explained, how like a cloud, the true Guru brings the torrential rains of the waters of God’s Name, and satisfies the thirsts of all the seekers. In this salok, he elaborates on this concept and explains how the Guru knows all. Continuing to compare a seeker of divine bliss to a Babiha, Guru Ji says: O’ Babiha, even if you wander the entire earth, or by flying reach the sky (still you won’t obtain peace of mind). It is only when we meet the true Guru that we obtain that water (of God’s Name) and our hunger and thirst (for worldly things) is quenched. Our life and body all belong to Him, and all (blessings) are with Him. Without our telling He knows everything. (Therefore) we should not pray before anybody (or beg from anyone) other than Him. O’ Nanak, in each and every heart the same one (God) pervades, and with the word (of the Guru) He illuminates (us with divine wisdom).”(58)

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok, with the statement that God pervades in each and every heart, but it is through the word of the Guru that He illuminates us with divine wisdom. In this salok, he explains what kind of pleasure and delight resides in the heart of that person who serves the true Guru.

He says: “O’ Nanak, there is always the (season of) Spring for the one, who by serving the true Guru (and reflecting on his word) merges (in God). When God comes to reside within someone, all one’s body and mind blossom (in spiritual bliss, as if) for that person there is greenery (or happiness and prosperity) across the entire world.”(59)

In this salok, Guru Ji once again emphasizes this point, and says: “(O’ my friends, by reflecting on the Guru’s) word, one always remains in such (a state of) bliss, as if it were eternally spring, and one’s mind and body remain blooming in delight. O’ Nanak, (we should pray that) we may never forsake the Name (of that God) who has created us all.”(60)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that we should pray that we may never forsake the Name of that God who has created us all. In this salok, he explains what kind of pleasures is enjoyed by those who never forsake God’s Name.

He says: “O’ Nanak, in whose mind by the Guru’s grace (God) has come to reside, for them it is always spring. When God rains His nectar, one’s mind and body feel so delighted, as if the entire world has become green (with joy).” (61)

Early in the morning, people of different faiths worship different gods, idols, persons, or believed incarnations of God. Naturally, an ordinary person is likely to become confused, and may wonder whom one should worship and pray before.

Answering the above question, Guru Ji says: “Rising early in the morning, whose Name we should meditate upon? (O’ my friends, we should) utter the Name (of that) God who is capable of making and breaking (everything).” (62)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji asked himself whose Name one should remember when one rises early in the morning and takes a bath? It is commonly seen that many times in temples and Gurudwaras, some priests, singers, and other saintly looking people utter God’s Name, or repeatedly say “You, You, You,” as loudly as possible. Observing them, one may believe that these people are truly meditating on God’s Name and will surely obtain salvation. But
in this salok, Guru Ji makes it clear that God cannot be obtained simply by loudly uttering His Name with melodious voices. He cites the example of a Persian wheel (called Harhat in Punjab, India), which in olden days was used by many farmers to draw water from an open well, and irrigate the crops. In this mechanism, a couple of bullocks or other animals are yoked to a large iron wheel, to which is attached a system of small buckets. When the iron wheel rotates on the ground, the buckets keep rotating up and down to bring water from the open well and empty it into the irrigation shoot. When this mechanism is working, a sound emerges, as though the wheel is repeatedly saying, “You, You.”

As if addressing a person who might be loudly repeating God’s Name, or saying, “You, You,” but without true love and devotion, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend, the Persian wheel called) Harhat (also seems to be) saying, “You, You,” and uttering sweet words (but simply by doing so it cannot obtain God). Why do you shout so loudly, when you know that the Master is always in front of you? (Instead), sacrifice yourself to Him who after creating the world has established His play. This thought is true: if you forsake your ego, only then you can meet your Groom. (On the other hand), it is insipid to speak egotistically. (By doing so, I) cannot understand the way (to reach Him).”

Then addressing God, Guru Ji says: “(O’ God), each and every blade of grass in the forests of all the three worlds is meditating upon You, and day and night passes in Your contemplation. (People) are exhausted reading (holy books), but without (the guidance of) the true Guru, no one has ever obtained God. (If He) shows His grace (on any one, then He) Himself embellishes one with His (divine wisdom. In short) O’ Nanak, approved are they who, under the guidance of the Guru, have meditated (on God).”(63)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that we couldn’t obtain God by loudly reciting His Name, singing His praises in melodious tunes, or reading holy books. In this salok, he further explains that God cannot be obtained by adopting the garbs of a yogi, or the dirty clothes (of a beggar), and wandering through foreign lands. God can be obtained even while sitting in one’s home by following the instruction of the true Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), union with God cannot be obtained by wearing ochre clothes (like a yogi), or by wearing soiled clothes (like a beggar). O’ Nanak, we can obtain union with God even while sitting in our home if we only (act in accordance with) the instruction of the true Guru.”(64)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that union with God cannot be obtained by merely wearing ochre clothes like a yogi, or soiled clothes like a beggar. We can obtain union with God even while sitting in our home, by living in accordance with the instructions of the true Guru. In this salok, he once again tells us the right way to obtain salvation.

He says: “(O’ my friend), even if you roam the four corners (of the world), and read (holy books like the) Vedas for all the four ages (still you cannot find God). O’ Nanak, only when you meet the true (Guru, and follow his advice), then God would come to reside in your heart, and you would find the door to salvation.”(65)

All of us in this world, rich and poor alike, crave peace and happiness. But still we suffer everyday in pain and anguish, and ask ourselves how can we be rid of our pain and obtain peace. Like a competent physician, Guru Ji first diagnoses the disease, then prescribes the most effective remedy.

He says: “O’ Nanak, it is God’s command that pervades in the world, but your intellect is working in opposition (to His command), and with a fickle mind you aimlessly roam. O’ my friend, (after) developing friendship with self-conceited (persons and living against God’s will, how can you expect to) obtain any peace? Develop friendships with Guru’s followers, and attune your mind to the true Guru. O’ my friend, it is only when we rid ourselves of the root cause (of pain, that the cycle of) birth and death ends and we obtain peace.”(66)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that we should develop friendships with Guru’s followers, and attune our mind to the Guru; only then will we obtain peace. In this salok, he explains what happens when God casts His glance of grace, and what happens to those unfortunate persons who remain without His grace.

He says: “(O’ my friends, when God) casts His glance of grace, He Himself guides even the strayed ones to the right path. But O’ Nanak, they who remain bereft of His grace continue lamenting in pain.”(67)

Although each of the above 67 saloks have a unique meaning, the underlying message of every salok is that we should follow the advice of the true Guru (Granth Sahib Ji), and meditate on God’s Name with true love and devotion; only then will we obtain true peace and enjoy eternal union with God.
vaahu vaahu satgur sujaan hai jis antar barahm veecaar.
vaahu vaahu satgur nirankaar hai jis ant na paaraavaar.
vaahu vaahu satgur oo hai je sach drirh-aa-ay so-ay.
naanak satgur vaahu vaahu jis ty naam paraapat ho-ay. ||2||

har parabh sachaa sohilaa gurmukh naam go vind.
an-din naam salahnaa har japi-aa man aanand,
vadbhaagee har paa-i-aa pooran parmaanand.
jan naanak naam sahaali-aa bahurh na man tan bhang. ||3||

moo5 piree-aa sa-o nayhu ki o sajan mileh pi-aari-aa.
ha-o dhoodhaydee tin sajan sach savaari-aa.
satgur maidaa mit hai jay milai ta ih man vaari-aa.

day"dhaa moo5 pir das har sajan sirjaarh-aa-aa.
naanak ha-o pir bhaalee aapnaa satgur naal dikhaali-aa. ||4||

ha-o kharhe nihaalee panDh mat moo5 sajan aav-ay.
ko aan milaavai aj mai pir mayl milaava-ay.

SGGS P-1422

ha-o jee-o karee tis vita-oo cha-oo khannee-ai jo mai piree dikhaava-ay.
naanak har ho-ay da-i-aa taaN gur pooraa maylaava-ay. ||5||

antar jor ha-umai tan maa-i-aa koorhe aavai jaa-ay.
satgur kaa furmaa-i-aa man na sakee dujar tari-aa na jaa-ay.

nagar karay jis aapnee so chalai satgur bhaa-ay.
satgur kaa darsan safal hai jo ichh-ai so fal paa-ay.
jinee satgur manni-aaN ha-o tih kay laaga-o paa-ay.
naanak taa kaa daas hai je an-din rahai liv laa-ay. ||6||

jinaa piree pi-aar bin darsan ki-oo taripaat-ee-ai.
naanak milay subhaa-ay gurmukh ih man rehsee-ai. ||7||
Salok Mehla 4

Now begins another chapter of the saloks, or couplets, uttered by the fourth Guru Ram Das Ji. These are in addition to those included in the Vaars (epics). In the first salok, Guru Ji describes how fortunate are those soul-brides who by the Guru’s grace have met their beloved groom (God).

He says: “Very fortunate are those wedded (soul) brides who by the Guru’s grace, have obtained union with God the King. O’ Nanak, by remaining absorbed in God’s Name, a divine light has been illuminated in them.”(1)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated how fortunate are those wedded soul-brides, who have obtained union with God the King (by the Guru’s grace). In this stanza, he praises and hails the victory of that true Guru who has so many qualities and merits in him, and who unites us with God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), blessed again and again is the true Guru who has realized the eternal God, upon meeting whom, one’s thirst (for worldly things) is removed, and the mind and body become contented. Blessed again and again is that true Guru the eternal being, in whose eyes all are alike. Wonderful is the true Guru who is without enmity, and for whom both praise and slander are the same. Praiseworthy is the sagacious true Guru within whom is divine understanding. Blessed is the true Guru who is the manifestation of the formless God, and who has no end or limit. Wonderful is that true Guru who makes us firmly believe in the eternal God. (In short O’ Nanak, wonderful and astonishing is that true Guru from whom God’s Name is obtained.”(2)

In many previous saloks, Guru Ji advised us to follow the Guru’s advice and meditate on God’s Name. In this salok, he describes the conduct of Guru following persons, and explains the importance of God’s Name in their lives.

He says: “For the Guru’s follower, God’s Name is the true song of God’s praise. The mind of those who have praised God’s Name everyday, and have meditated on God, always remains in a state of bliss. (In this way), the fortunate ones have obtained God, (who is) the source of perfect peace and bliss. Devotee Nanak (says): ‘they who have praised God’s Name, their peace of mind and body is not disturbed again.”(3)

In this salok, Guru Ji shows us what kind of love and devotion we should have for our beloved God, who is our true friend and who can unite us with Him. He puts himself in our
situation, and using the metaphor of a truly devoted and loving young bride, shows us how to search for (God) our Groom.

He says: “I am in love with my beloved Spouse; (I wonder), how can I meet my dear friend? I am in search of those true friends who have been united with His true Name. The true Guru is my friend; if I meet him I would sacrifice this mind for him (and follow his guidance). He always tells me where to find my dear friend, the Creator. O’ Nanak, I was searching for my Groom, but the true Guru has shown me (that God) is right beside me.”(4)

These days, we wait at airports to receive our near and dear ones. In ancient times, people waited outside their door and searched the street for a sight of their dear ones. In this salok, Guru Ji uses the metaphor of a bride waiting outside her door in anticipation of her dear groom’s arrival to expresses his love for his beloved God.

He says: “I stand on the roadside and look forward, hoping that perhaps my Friend and Mate may come today. I wish that someone might arrive today and unite me with (God), my Groom. (I am ready to pay any price, so much so that) I shall cut myself into four pieces for that person, who shows me my beloved Spouse.

Finally, Guru Ji says: “(I) Nanak know, that when (God) becomes merciful, He unites us with the Guru (who unites us with God).”(5)

In salok (4), Guru Ji stated that he would forsake the dictates of his own mind and simply follows the Guru’s guidance. However, most of us ignore or disobey the Guru’s advice, yet still visit the Guru to keep up appearances. In this salok, Guru Ji makes it clear that without following the Guru’s advice, this dreadful worldly ocean cannot be crossed over. Therefore, he very much loves and respects those who faithfully follow the Guru’s advice.

He says: “Within whom, ego is dominating, and whose body is controlled by worldly attachments, falsely visits (the Guru). That one cannot obey the true Guru’s command, and therefore cannot cross the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”

(However, one on whom God) shows His grace conducts himself in accordance with the true Guru’s will. (For him) the sight of the true Guru is fruitful, and he obtains what he wishes for. I am a sacrifice to those who have obeyed the true Guru. Nanak is a slave to that (person) who, day and night, remains attuned (to the Guru’s command).”(6)

In salok (4), Guru Ji stated that just as a newly-wedded bride stands on the roadside, hoping perhaps her friend and mate might arrive, similarly he craves daily to see the sight of his beloved (God). He also knows that when one truly follows the Guru’s command, then God shows His mercy and imperceptibly blesses that person with His sight.

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), they within whom is (true) love for their beloved (Groom) cannot be satiated without His sight. (But) O’ Nanak, (one who follows the Guru’s advice) imperceptibly meets (God. In this way), through the Guru’s grace their mind blossoms (in delight).”(7)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that they within whom resides true love for the beloved Groom cannot be satiated without His sight, and they blossom in delight upon seeing Him. In this salok he re-emphasizes this point.
He says: “(O’ my friends), they within whom is (true) love for (God) their Spouse cannot survive without (the company of) their Groom. But O’ Nanak, when they see the sight of their Master, they bloom (in delight).”(8)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that the Guru wards cannot survive without the sight of their beloved (Spouse), and in His company they blossom with happiness. Now he describes the conduct of such devotees.

Addressing God, he says: “O’ the eternal Groom, they within whom You have instilled Your love through the Guru, Nanak says that day and night they remain absorbed in Your love.”(9)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that they in whom God enshrines His love remain absorbed in His love, day and night. In this salok he elaborates on the conduct of the Guru’s follower, and the blessings he enjoys.

He says: “(O’ my friends), within the Guru’s follower is true love, through which that one has obtained the eternal (God. (Such persons) day and night remain in a state of bliss. O’ Nanak, this is how we get merged in a state of equipoise.”(10)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that within the Guru following person is true love, through which we obtain the eternal (God). In this salok, he tells us from whom we learn to imbue ourselves with true love for God, which never ends.

man chindi-aa fal paa-isee antar bibayk beechar. naanak satgur mil-ai parabh paa-ee-ai sabh dookh nivaaranhaar. ||16||

manmukh sayvaa jo karay doojai bhaa-ay chit laa-ay. puṭ kalat kutamb hai maa-i-aa moh vaDhaa-ay. dargahi laykhaa mangee-ai ko-ee ant na sakee chhadaa-ay.

SGGS P-1423

bin naavai sabh dukh hai dukh-gaa-ee moh maa-ay. naanak gurmukh nagree aa-i-aa moh maa-i-aa vichhurh sabh jaa-ay. ||17||
gurmukh hukam mannay sah kayraa hukmay hee sukh paa-ay. hukmo sayvay hukam araaDhay hukmay samai samaa-ay. hukam vartaq naym such sanjam man chindi-aa fal paa-ay. saada suhaagan je hukmai bujhai satgur sayvai liv laa-ay. naanak kirpaa karay jin oopar ālina hukmay la-ay mila-ay. ||18||

manmukh hukam na bujhay bapurhee niṯ ha-umai karam kamaa-ay. vartaq naym such sanjam poojaa pakhand bharam na jaa-ay. anṭrahu kusuDh maa-i-aa mohi bayDhay ji-o haṣṭee chhaar udhaa-ay. jin upa-ay tiṣai na cheetbhin man chayta kio sukh paa-ay. naanak parpanch kee-aa Dhur karṭai poorab likhi-aa kamaa-ay. ||19||
gurmukh paṛṭet bhaa-ee man maani-i-aa an-din sayvaa karat samaa-ay. antar satgur guroo sabh poojay satgur kaa daras gaykhai sabh aa-ay. mannee-i satgur param beechaaree jīṭ mil-ai tiṣaa ābhu sabh jaa-ay. ha-o saḍaa saḍaa balīhaaree gur apunay jo parabh sachaay day-ay mila-ay. naanak karam paa-i-aa tiṇ sačhaa jo gur chareelagay aa-ay. ||20||
He says: “(O’ my friends), it is from the perfect Guru, that we obtain everlasting love (for God. Such a true love) never breaks. O’ Nanak (imbued with this love, we always) sing God’s praises.”(11)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that it is the true Guru from whom we learn to have true love for God. In this salok he describes the qualities of such true lovers of God, and the blessings enjoyed by them.

He says: “(O’ my friends), they within whom is true love (for God), they cannot survive without their (beloved) Spouse. O’ Nanak, God Himself unites these long separated ones with Him through the Guru.”(12)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji described the signs of true love for God, and also told us how by His grace God unites us with Him. In this salok, he prays to God even for himself, to instill such a true love in him.

He says: “(O’ God), those who are imbued with Your love and devotion, You Yourself have imbued them with such love through Your mercy. (O’ God), please bless a beggar like me also with Your Name, and unite Nanak with You.”(13)

Guru Ji now further describes the conduct and state of mind of a Guru’s follower who, by the Guru’s grace, has been imbued with loving devotion for God.

He says: “(O’ my friends), a Guru’s follower (sometimes) laughs (while enjoying the bliss of God’s union. At other times) the Guru’s follower cries (when he or she feels separated from his Beloved. But) whatever the Guru’s follower does, that is his or her devotion. The one who is a Guru’s follower reflects (on the praise and glory of God). O’ Nanak (in this way), the Guru’s follower (crosses over the worldly ocean and) obtains to the yonder shore.”(14)

In salok (13), Guru Ji begged God to bless him also with His Name. In this salok, he tells us what is so special about God’s Name that he doesn’t hesitate begging for it.

He says: “(O’ my friends), by reflecting on Gurbani (the Guru’s word), they within whom is (enshrined) the treasure of God’s Name (are honored, therefore) their faces shine brightly in the court of that eternal (God). They, on whom God Himself has bestowed His grace, whether sitting or standing, never forsake (God). O’ Nanak, they whom the Creator (God) Himself has united (with Him), such Guru’s followers are never separated (from Him).”(15)

Now Guru Ji tells us how difficult the service of one’s Guru, or prophet, truly is. It appears that while uttering this salok, he had in mind the service rendered by his father in-law Guru Amar Das Ji, who in his old age used to daily bring water from a far-off river to bathe Guru Angad Dev Ji. He carried out this service for twelve years, unmindful of heat or cold; One time, he stumbled on the unpaved path and even bore the curses of weavers in whose loom his foot was entangled, causing him to fall. Yet in the end, because of this desire less service, he was anointed as the third Guru.

Therefore, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), extremely difficult is the service of the Gurus and prophets, but it provides supreme bliss in the end. Only on whom (God) casts His glance of grace, will He imbue that one with love and affection (for the
Guru), and by getting engaged in the service of the true Guru, the entire world crosses over the dreadful (worldly) ocean. (Whosoever yokes him or herself to the Guru’s service) will obtain the fruit of his or her heart’s desire, and will obtain a sense of discrimination (a sense of perceiving the difference between good and bad). But O’ Nanak, it is only by meeting the true Guru (and listening to his advice) that we obtain to God, the Destroyer of all pains.”(16)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that the service of the Guru or spiritual guides is extremely difficult, but it provides supreme bliss in the end. Therefore, many times even self-conceited persons are also seen serving the true Guru. But their service is not out of true love or devotion, but for the sake of fulfilling their own selfish desires.

Commenting on such service, Guru Ji says: “Whatever service (of the Guru), the self-conceited person does, his or her mind is attached to the love of duality (the love for worldly wealth, or relatives, and not for the love of their Guru or God. Such a person doesn’t realize that) sons, wife and family all multiply one’s worldly attachment. But when the account of one’s deeds is called for in God’s court, no one can liberate (or save one from punishment by the demons of death. Such a person doesn’t realize that) without (God’s) Name it is all pain, and painful is worldly attachment. O’ Nanak, to whom this truth is revealed through the Guru’s grace, all that one’s worldly attachment goes away.”(17)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji pointed out that whatever service of the Guru the self-conceited person performs; his or her mind is attached to the love of duality (the love for worldly wealth and relatives and not for the love of the Guru or God). Therefore, such a person continues suffering in pain. In this salok, Guru Ji contrasts this attitude with that of a Guru’s follower who does everything according to God’s command and enjoys peace. He says: “The Guru following (soul-bride) obeys the command of her spouse (God), and by obeying His will she obtains peace. In His will she serves, in His will she worships, and in His will she remains merged. For her (to obey God’s will) is her fasting, daily worship, ablution, and self-control (and she) obtains the fruit of her heart’s desire. The bride soul who understands (God’s) will and serves the true Guru (by following his) advice becomes an eternally wedded bride (of God). O’ Nanak, they on whom (God) bestows His grace, them He unites with Him, according to His will.”(18)

In the above salok, Guru Ji described the attitude and conduct of a Guru following soul, and told us how by doing everything according to God’s command, she obtains peace and is ultimately united with God. In this salok, he describes the attitude and conduct of a self-conceited bride (soul) regarding the will of God, and what is the end result?.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the wretched self-conceited (bride) doesn’t realize the will of God, and daily she performs (ritualistic) deeds to feed her ego. She observes fasts, performs faith routines, ablutions, austerities, and worships (but all this is an outward show. She doesn’t realize that) by practicing hypocrisy, the doubt (in one’s mind) doesn’t go away. They who are impure from within, are (so obsessed with) with worldly attachments, as if they have been pierced with worldly wealth. Therefore (all their faith rituals are like that of) an elephant (who after taking a bath) throws dust on itself. (The self-conceited persons) don’t cherish Him who has created them, and without remembering Him, how can they find peace? O’ Nanak, (this is how) the Creator has established the expanse of the world: that one keeps doing the deeds as per one’s pre-ordained destiny based on one’s past deeds.”(19)
In the above salok, Guru Ji described the conduct of a self-conceited person and the consequences he or she bears. In this salok, he reverts back to the conduct of a Guru’s follower, and explains how fortunate are those who serve the Guru.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in a Guru’s follower’s mind has been convinced (about the truth in the Guru’s words. Therefore), day and night he or she remains merged in serving (and obeying the Guru’s command. Such a person realizes that) within all is the true Guru, all worship the Guru, and the entire world comes to see the (Guru’s) sight. The true Guru is known as the supreme thinker, upon meeting whom all one’s (worldly) thirst and hunger dissipates. Therefore, ever and forever, I am a sacrifice to my Guru who unites (one) with the eternal God. O’ Nanak, they who have come and fallen at the feet of the Guru (and sought his shelter), have obtained a true blessing (from God).”(20)

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In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that a Guru’s follower always remains merged in serving the Guru, and obeying his command. In this salok, he describes his own conduct and reveals how even while doing his household chores he remembers God, so that we may follow his example and remember God even while discharging our worldly duties.

He says: “They who are in love with my beloved (God), those friends are (always) with me. Even though (while performing my worldly tasks), I may keep going in and out, yet still I continuously cherish (God) in my heart.”(21)

In the above salok, Guru Ji described how he always remembers God, even while moving about performing his worldly duties. In this salok, he states the blessings those persons obtain who thus keep remembering God.

He says: “Keeping their mind attuned to the true Guru, they who have meditated on God with full concentration of their mind and heart have been rid of their pain, hunger (for worldly things), and the chronic malady of ego. By being attuned to God, they have become pain-free. They always sing and utter (God’s) praises, and remain merged in (His) praises. O’ Nanak, through the perfect Guru they have attained (this intellect), and imperceptibly (God) has come to meet them.”(22)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that they who are Guru’s followers remain attuned to God with single minded devotion, and by doing so their pain, hunger (for worldly things), and malady of ego is removed. In this salok, he shows us the opposite side of the picture by describing the conduct of self-conceited persons, and how they continue suffering.

He says: “(Within a) self-conceited person is attachment for Maya (the worldly riches and power, therefore) such a person is not imbued with love for God’s Name. That person earns falsehood, amasses falsehood, and survives on falsehood. Such a person dies amassing the poisonous worldly wealth, which (cannot accompany that person, all) is reduced to ashes in the end. Though he or she performs numerous faith deeds, rituals of purifying the body, and self-discipline, yet within that person is greed and evil thoughts. But O’ Nanak, whatever the self-conceited person earns, is not approved, and therefore suffers in God’s court.”(23)

Even though almost all of the Guru Granth Sahib is written and set to music in different measures and tunes, it doesn’t mean that music is everything, or that one form of measure or melody is better than others. In this salok, Guru Ji removes all such misconceptions, and reveals the most important thing; we should try to concentrate upon.

He says: “(O’ my friends), out of all musical measures and tunes, that alone is the best, through which (God) comes to reside in our heart. The essence of all music and melody is to attain to (God), whose Truth and worth cannot be described. (God) is above all musical measures and tunes, and through these alone (His) will cannot be understood. O’ Nanak, (this music) proves useful only to them who by receiving knowledge from the true Guru are able to understand His will. (They understand that) everything (including music) has come from Him, (and everything is happening) according to His will.”(24)
In previous saloks, Guru Ji has stressed the importance of seeking the guidance of the true Guru. In the previous salok he explained that even all these musical melodies and tunes are of no use unless we obtain understanding about their essence from the true Guru.

Naturally, the question arises: what is so special about the true Guru, what special merits does he himself have, and what special blessings does he bestow on his disciples, which they cannot obtain on their own, or from somebody else? In this salok, Guru Ji answers all such questions.

He says: “(O’ my friends), within the true Guru is enshrined the nectar of (God’s) Name; it is this ambrosial (Name) which he himself recites and makes others to recite. It is through the Guru’s instruction that this immaculate Name is obtained, and one who meditates on (God’s) Name also becomes immaculate. (The) nectar-like word (of the Guru) is the essence (of all truth), and by the Guru’s grace it comes to reside in one’s heart. (Within whom Gurbani has come to reside), the lotus of that one’s heart blossoms forth and (such a person) unites (his or her) soul with the (prime) soul (of God). But, O’ Nanak, (God) has united only those with the true Guru, in whose destiny (He has) so ordained from the very beginning.”(25)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that the nectar word of the Guru is the essence of all truth, and through the Guru’s grace it comes to reside in one’s heart. By virtue of Gurbani, the lotus of one’s heart blossoms forth and unites one’s soul with the prime soul of God. In this salok, he reveals the state of mind of self-conceited persons, how they always worry about worldly wealth and remain bound in the painful cycle of birth and death. He also tells us how even they can become emancipated from their suffering and pain by seeking the shelter of the Guru.

Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friends), within (a self-conceited person) is the fire of (worldly) desire, and the hunger of the self-conceited person (for worldly riches) does not go away. (A self-conceited person doesn’t realize that) attachment to one’s family is illusory, but he or she still keeps clinging to this illusion. Day and night such a person worries about (worldly affairs) and ultimately departs (from the world) bound with anxiety. Such a person performs deeds out of ego, and so his or her (cycle) of birth and death doesn’t end. O’ Nanak, (even such people) are emancipated (if they seek) the shelter of the Guru, who liberates them (from worldly entanglements).”(26)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that even self-conceited persons are emancipated if they seek the shelter of the Guru, who gets them liberated from worldly entanglements. In this salok, he explains how the Guru is able to save such persons from perpetually suffering the cycle of births and deaths.

He says: “(O’ my friends), with loving devotion the sublime true Guru meditates upon God in the congregation of saintly persons, and such a (holy) congregation of (God) is pleasing to the Guru. Joining such a saintly congregation, those who serve (and follow) the true Guru are united with God through the Guru. This world is (like) a dreadful ocean, and the Guru is like a ship that ferries (people) across, through (meditation on God’s) Name. Those Gursikh (disciples of the Guru) who have obeyed the Guru’s command are ferried across (the worldly ocean by the perfect Guru. Therefore O’ God, I also pray that) You bless us with the dust of the feet (the most humble service) of Gursikhs. (In their company) sinners like us may also be emancipated. O’ Nanak, they in whose destiny God has so written are met by the Guru. The Guru beats away demons of death, and gets (his disciples) liberated...
It is the same light

in God’s court. Therefore, blessed are the Guru’s disciples, because being pleased with them, God has united them with Him by (first) uniting them (with the Guru).” (27)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that this world is (like) a dreadful ocean, and like a ship the Guru ferries (people) across by making them (meditate on God’s) Name. In this salok, he explains how the Guru does all this, and what changes come in the mind of that person whom the Guru guides and makes to meditate on God’s Name.

He says: “The perfect Guru, who (has firmly) enshrined God’s Name, and has removed all doubt (from one’s mind, and) by making one meditate on God’s Name and by singing God’s praise, that Guru has illuminated and shown the right path (of life. Further) by stilling one’s ego, who is attuned to the one (God, that person) has enshrined God’s Name in him or her. Because that person follows the Guru’s instruction, the demon of death cannot look towards (or scare that person), and such a person remains absorbed in (God’s) eternal Name. (Such a person understands that) the Creator Himself pervades everywhere, and whosoever seems pleasing to (God), He engages that person in meditating on (His) Name. Devotee Nanak feels alive when he meditates on His Name, and without it he feels as if he had died.” (28)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji explained how by instilling God’s Name, the perfect Guru removes all doubts from within a person’s mind. Enlightening one’s mind with divine wisdom, the Guru shows one the true path of life. In this salok, he tells how even self-conceited persons can get rid of their malady by meeting and following the advice of the saint Guru.

He says: “Within the minds (of self-conceited persons) is the malady of ego. Because of this ego, these evil worshippers of power remain lost in doubt. But O’ Nanak, (even these people) can get rid of their ailment (of ego) by meeting the saintly friend, the true Guru (and following his advice).” (29)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that even a worshiper of Maya could cure his or her malady of ego by meeting the immaculate saintly Guru. In this salok he explains what happens when one meets the true Guru and follows his advice.

He says: “Following the Guru’s advice, (the bride-soul) who continuously utters God’s Name day and night, remains pierced with God’s love (and remains so imbued with His love, as if her entire) body were dyed in the color of God’s love. (She says to herself): “I have searched throughout the world, but I cannot find any sublime Being like God (anywhere). When the true Guru makes one devotedly meditate on God’s Name, one’s mind doesn’t waiver in any other direction. Therefore slave Nanak is also a servant of God, and a servant of servants of the true Guru.” (30)

Once again, although each of the above 30 saloks has a unique meaning, the underlying message of all is that if we wish to eradicate all our maladies (including the chronic malady of ego), and remove our fear of birth and death, then we should seek the guidance of the true Guru (Granth Sahib Ji). As advised therein, we should fall so much in love with God that day and night we meditate on His Name, so that one day we may become one with Him.
SGGS P-1425
salok mehlaa 5
ik-o'kaar satgur parsaad.
ratay say-ee je mukh na morha'nii jin'ee jinjaataa saa-ee.
jharh jharh pavday kachay birhee jin'aa kaar na aa-ee. ||1||

Dhanee vihoonaa paat patambar bhaahee saytee jaalay.
Dhoorhee vich ludand-rhee sohaa'n naanak tai sah naalay. 2||
gur kai sabad araaDhee-ai naam rang bairaag.
jeetay panch baira-ee-aa naanak safal maaroo ih raag. ||3||
jaan' moo' ik ta lakh ta-o jitee pinnyar dar kit-rhay.
baaman birthaa ga-i-o jannam jin keeto so visray. ||4||
sorath so ras peee-ee-ai kabhoo na feekaa ho-ay.
naanak raam naam gun gaa-ee-ah dargheh nirmal so-ay. ||5||

do parabh rakhay aap't ko-ay na maar-ee.
andar naam niDhaan saag gun saar-ee.
aykaa tayk agamm man tan parabh Dhaar-ee.
lagaar rang apaar ko na ujaara-ee.
gurmukh har gun gaa-ay sahj sukkh saar-ee.
naanak naam niDhaan rigai ur haar-ee. ||6||

caray so changa maan guyee gajat laahi.
apnee nadar nihaal aapay lai hu laa-ay.
jan dayh maaee upday vichau bharaaj jaa-ay.
jo Dhur likhi-aa laykh so-eo sabh kamaa-ay.
sabh kachh tis dai vas doojee naahi jaa-ay.
naanak sukkh anad bha-ay parabh kee man rajaa-ay. ||7||
gur pooraa jin simri-aa say-ee bha-ay nihaal.
naanak naam araaDhaanaa kaaraj aavay raas. ||8||

paapee karam kamaavday karday haa-ay haa-ay.
naanak ji-o mathan maadhaanee-aa ti-o mathay dharaam raa-ay. ||9||
naan Dhi-aa-in saajnaa janam padaarath jeet.
naanak Dharhaisay chaveh keeto bhave puniit. ||10||
Now begins this chapter of saloks, uttered by the fifth Guru (Arjan Dev Ji), which are in addition to the saloks included in the epics (Vaaars). In salok (30), of the previous chapter, Guru Ji stated that the bride soul who follows the Guru’s advice and continuously utters God’s Name day and night, remains pierced with God’s love, she remains so much imbued with His love, as though her entire body were dyed in the color of God’s love. In this salok, Guru Ji gives us the touch-stone, on which we can test the strength of anyone’s love for God, and reveals what happens to those whose bond of love with God is weak, and who don’t comprehend how to truly imbue themselves with His love.

He says: “Only those persons are truly imbued with the love of God who have realized their Master, and who do not turn their faces away from Him (even during difficult times). But the false lovers who have not understood this way (of true love) break away (from their path of love) like the raw and weak fruits falling from a tree branch.”(1)

Now Guru Ji gives us another beautiful picture of a soul truly imbued with the love of God.

Imagining himself as a young bride of God, he says: “Without my Groom, (I feel like) burning my silken and satin wardrobe. Nanak says: “O’ my beloved Spouse, if You are with me, I look beauteous even while rolling in dust.”(2)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji described the feelings of a young bride who is truly in love with her Groom. In this salok, he tells us how we should love God and meditate on His Name, and what kinds of blessings we obtain when we do so.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should meditate on God by attuning ourselves to (Gurbani), the Guru’s word In this way, through the love of God’s Name, we become detached (from false worldly attachments, and we) overcome our five enemies (the impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego). O’ Nanak, such a wave of love is an effective medicine to cure these maladies.”(3)

Now Guru Ji comments upon another very prevalent aspect of the Hindu tradition and way of life. During Guru Ji’s times, even though the Brahmins used to consider themselves the highest caste, and feel very proud of themselves, yet still they used to go and beg at the houses of other people, (who believed that giving charities to the Brahmins was their sacred duty). But Guru Ji doesn’t believe in this ritual, and lays importance only on remembering God, our Creator.

Addressing such a Brahmin, he says: “(O’ Brahmin), when the One (God) is on my side, (I feel I have) millions (of hosts). Innumerable beggars (like you) are standing at His door. O’ Brahmin, if one forsakes Him who has created us (then in spite of being born as a) Brahmin, your birth may be considered in vain.”(4)

In salok (3), Guru Ji told us that when we meditate on God through Gurbani, the Guru’s word, we are able to conquer our five enemies (the impulses of lust, anger, greed, attachment, and ego). Such singing becomes fruitful in the musical measure “Maaru.” In this salok, he tells us the best use of the melody of “Sorath.”
He says: “Through the melody of Sorath, we should drink that nectar of (God’s) Name, which never becomes sour. O’ Nanak, when we sing the praises of God’s Name (from the core of our heart in any tune), we obtain immaculate glory in God’s court.”(5)

In salok (1), Guru Ji stated that only those persons are truly imbued with the love of God who have realized their Master, and who do not turn their faces away from Him even during difficult times. In this salok, he elaborates on the conduct and attitude of such Guru following persons, and tells us about the blessings God bestows on such devotees.

He says: “They whom God saves, nobody can kill (or harm.) Within whom resides the treasure of God’s Name always cherishes God’s virtues. One who depends on the support of One (God) alone keeps God enshrined in one’s body and mind, that one is imbued with such limitless love (for God) that nobody can remove (the color of his or her love). By Guru’s grace, one who continuously sings God’s praises imperceptibly enjoys (divine) bliss. In short, O’ Nanak, (A Guru’s follower) keeps the treasure of (God’s) Name so enshrined in the heart, as if he or she) has put the garland (of His Name around his or her neck).”(6)

Everyone in this world seems to be pursuing happiness, but it appears that happiness has eluded us all. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us a sure way of obtaining happiness, and always remaining in a state of peace and bliss.

He says: “(O’ my friend, if you want to obtain true and everlasting happiness, then) deem whatever God does as the best (thing), and forsake all other (worldly) considerations. (Also pray to God and say), “O’ God, bless me with Your merciful glance of grace, and attune me (to Your love). Give (such) instruction to Your slave that (all) doubt from within me may disappear.”

Guru Ji further advises us and says: “(O’ my friends), all do only those deeds which have been written (by God) in their destiny from the very beginning. Everything is under His control, and there is no other place (where anyone could go for any help. But) O’ Nanak, peace and bliss prevail (in one’s mind if one gladly) submits to (God’s) will.”(7)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that if we wish to obtain happiness in life, we should gladly accept and obey God’s will. In this salok, he reveals another secret of success in life.

He says: “Those who have meditated upon (and remembered the advice of the perfect Guru) have been blessed. (O’) Nanak, by meditating upon (God’s) Name, one’s (life) goal is successfully accomplished.”(8)

In the previous three saloks, Guru Ji described the kind of peace and happiness enjoyed by those devotees of God who meditate on His Name and gladly accept His will. In this salok, he describes the fate of those sinners who do not listen to the Guru’s advice and, swayed by ego and other evil instincts; keep committing all kinds of sins.

He says: “The sinners who commit (evil) deeds continue to cry and wail in pain. O’ Nanak, just as the churning sticks keep beating upon and churning (the yogurt, similarly the demon of death keeps torturing them).”(9)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us about the fate of sinners who continue to indulge in sinful deeds. In this salok, he illustrates the opposite side, and tells us how those virtuous
persons, who meditate on God’s Name, not only benefit themselves, but also the entire world.

He says: “(The saintly) friends who meditate on God’s Name (depart from here after) winning the object of life. O’ Nanak, they utter such (words of) righteousness (and give such good advice that) they sanctify the entire world.”(10)

\[\text{hubh-thee kuthaa-ay mithee galan kuman tareae-aa. naanak say-ee ubray jinaa bhaag mathaahi.} \quad ||11||\]

\[\text{su-rhay sukhee savanii jo ratay sah aapnai. paraym vichhohaa Dhanee sa-o athmay pahar lavalini.} \quad ||12||\]

\[\text{marig tisnaa paykh bhulnay vuthay nagar ganDharab. jine sach araaDhi-aa naanak man tan fab.} \quad ||14||\]
In salok (9), Guru Ji stated that the sinners who commit evil deeds continue to cry and wail in pain. In this salok, he explains the danger of committing evil deeds, and tells who are those who remain safe from any such tendencies.

He says: "(Many times, misled by sweet but evil advices, the ordinary human soul) becomes mired in a very difficult position, (which compels her into a cycle of evil deeds). O' Nanak, only those whose forehead is blessed with (good) destiny are saved (from sinking into such a marsh of evil)."(11)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us who remain mired in sinful deeds, and who are saved from such tendencies. In this salok, he describes what kind of lives these two categories of people lead.

He says: "(O' my friends), they sleep in peace (and enjoy a peaceful life) who remain imbued with the love of their (beloved) Spouse. They who remain devoid of the love of their Master continue wailing in grief at all times."(12)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that those who remain imbued with the love of their (beloved) Spouse sleep in peace. In this salok, he tells how most people remain asleep (and unaware) in their love for false worldly wealth. Guru Ji explains who are the ones who remain alert and don't allow themselves to be caught in the web of Maya, or worldly attachments.

He says: "Myriad remain asleep (and unaware of the real purpose of life) for the sake of false worldly wealth. O' Nanak, only those who keep uttering (God's) Name from their tongue remain awake (and alert to worldly enticements)."(13)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that myriad remain asleep (and unaware) for the sake of false worldly wealth, and only those remain awake who continuously utter God's Name from their tongue. In this salok, he explains the reason people become allured by false worldly wealth, and what blessings those people enjoy who keep uttering God's Name.

Guru Ji says: "(O' my friends, just as upon) seeing the mirage (the false appearance of water), a thirsty deer is allured (and loses its life, similarly human beings) are misled by the false city of worldly wealth. But O' Nanak, the minds and bodies of those who have meditated on the eternal God, look beauteous (with divine virtues)."(14)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that just as thirsty deer are misled by the false appearance of water, similarly human beings are strayed by false worldly wealth, and suffer for it. On the other hand, those persons look beauteous who meditate on God's Name. In this salok, he describes the blessings God bestows on the one whom He wants to save.

He says: "(O' my friends), the all powerful infinite Being is the sanctifier of sinners. O' Nanak, whom (God) saves, that person starts meditating on that Creator."(15)
In salok (14), Guru Ji told us that just as upon seeing the false appearance of water, a thirsty deer is allured and loses its life; similarly human beings are misled by false worldly wealth. But the minds and bodies of those, who have meditated on the eternal God, look beauteous with divine virtues. In this salok, he suggests to us the right way of life.

He says: “(O’ my friend), attune your mind only to the one (God), and forsake the other wrong path (of worldly attachments). But O’ Nanak, (most of the world) is washed away in the (stream of false worldly allurements).”(16)

Now Guru Ji uses a beautiful metaphor to describe the nature of this world, and the general conduct of human beings in it. He also tells us what is the best deed, which we should all try to perform in this world.

He says: “(O’ my friends, human beings are like) dealers who have come to trade in this bazaar (of the world), which has mainly three large shops (in the form of earth, sky, and the netherworld). The truly (successful) businessmen are those who have procured the everlasting commodity (of God’s Name).”(17)

Guru Ji concluded the previous salok, with the remark that in this worldly bazaar, truly successful businessmen are those who have procured the everlasting commodity of God’s Name. In this salok, Guru Ji reveals the fate of those who do not know how to follow the path of love for God.

He says: “The foolish bride (soul) who doesn’t know how to tread on the path of (divine) love, strays (from the right path of life). O’ Nanak, by forsaking God (the foolish self-conceited persons) fall into a (deep) dark hell.”(18)

In salok (16), Guru Ji stated that most of the world is washed away in a stream of false worldly allurements. In this salok, he tells us the main reason behind this general tendency of the world.

He says: “(O’ my friends, the thought of amassing) worldly wealth doesn’t disappear from the minds (of self-conceited human beings), and with every breath they continue asking for more and more. But that God (who has created them) doesn’t come into their mind (at all, because) O’ Nanak (the wealth of God’s Name) is not in their destiny.”(19)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that self-conceited human beings don’t think of God’s Name, because this wealth is not in their destiny. In this salok, he tells how those who are once blessed with this wealth never feel its shortage.

He says: “As long as (God) Himself is kind, one never feels shortage. Because O’ Nanak, no matter how you consume or spend it, the wealth and commodity of the word (of God’s Name) is inexhaustible.”(20)

Now Guru Ji goes into the heights of his poetic imagery to express his limitless love for his beloved Groom.

He says: “If somehow I could find that wings are being sold somewhere, I would buy them even if the price were equal to my weight. I would (have these wings) fastened onto my body, and would search out (God), my beloved friend.”(21)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that even if he had to sell himself to buy wings to search for his Friend (God), he would gladly do so. In this salok, he tells us what is so special about this Friend that he is ready to pay such a high price.

He says: “(God) the eternal King is our true friend. He is the King of all kings. Sitting beside (that emperor) we look beauteous (and honorable); He is the support of all.” (22)

Note: This salok is often uttered when we first open Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

The one outstanding message of the above saloks of the fifth Guru Ji is that God is the Master and the true support of all. Therefore, instead of running after false worldly wealth, we should seek the guidance of the Guru (Granth Sahib Ji) and amass the wealth of God’s Name; this alone can provide us true peace and pleasure.
It is the same light
He says: “(O’ man), you have become old (but still) you don’t understand that (your time of) death has come (very near). Nanak says, “O’ foolish man, why don’t you meditate on God (at least now)?”(4)

The most common reason why man doesn’t meditate on God is that he remains involved in amassing wealth or taking care of his family, and he thinks that his possessions and relatives will remain his own, forever.

Cautioning us against such false hopes, Guru Ji says: “(O’ man), wealth, wife, and all the worldly possessions which you deem as your own, Nanak says, “Realize this truth: that none of these will accompany you (in the end).”(5)

In salok (1), Guru Ji advised us that we should love God as a fish loves water. In this salok he suggests another beautiful way of remembering Him.

He says: “(O’ my friend, God is) the purifier of sinners, and Destroyer of fears. That God is the support of the support-less. Nanak says, “We should always deem (that God) abiding by our side.”(6)

It is a common human trait that in ordinary circumstances, when one is enjoying pleasures and comforts, one does not remember God. But when some tragedy happens and one feels one has become weak and helpless, then man starts wavering and trembling like a poor helpless person.

Talking to a person in the above state, Guru Ji says: “(O’ my friend), you never imbued yourself with love for Him, who gave you this body and wealth. Nanak says, O’ foolish man, why do you now waiver like a poor helpless person?”(7)

Often we forget that it is God who has given us our body, wealth, and all our comforts. In this salok, Guru Ji asks us why don’t we remember such a benevolent Giver, who has given us everything.

Addressing his own mind, Guru Ji says: “He gave you this body, wealth, luxuries, comforts, and (He gave you these) beauteous houses; Nanak says, listen O’ my mind, why don’t you remember that all-pervading God?”(8)

Many times we think that it is our parents, relatives, or friends who have provided us with all the comforts and luxuries of life. But in reality it is God who provides us with all these comforts. Our friends and relatives are just the means for passing on the gifts of God to us. Therefore, Guru Ji advises us to thank and remember that God.

He says: “(O’ my friend), it is God who is the provider of all comforts; there is no second (Giver). Therefore Nanak says, listen O’ my mind, it is by remembering Him that we obtain (the sublime) state (of salvation).”(9)

In the above salok, Guru Ji advised us that it is God who gives us all comforts, and it is by remembering Him that we obtain salvation. In this salok, he again urges us to remember that God, because everyday our life span is decreasing.
He says: “O’ my friend, by remembering whom we obtain salvation, meditate upon that (God). Nanak says, listen O’ my mind: your life is diminishing every day. (Don’t postpone your worship any longer).”(10)

No doubt we need to take care of our body to remain healthy, and able to discharge our worldly duties and meditate on God’s Name. But we shouldn’t become so obsessed with the love and care of our body that we forget everything else (including meditating on God, who has blessed us with this bodily gift). In this salok, Guru Ji awakens us to the reality of this body, and tells us what will ultimately be its end.
He says: “O’ the clever and wise person understand this thing: that this body has been created out of the five basic elements (of air, fire, water, ether, and clay). Nanak says, (O’ my friend), believe that (ultimately) it will merge into the same elements from which it has been created.”(11)

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us that this body of ours has been created out of the five basic elements, and ultimately it will merge back into the same. In this salok, he reveals another important fact about this body.

He says: “(O’ my friends), the saints have loudly proclaimed that God resides in each and every heart. Nanak says: “O’ my mind, worship that (God) so that you may cross over the dreadful (worldly) ocean.”(12)

Now Guru Ji paints before us the picture of an ideal man, who is embodiment of God Himself.

He says: “Whom neither pleasure nor pain touches (disturbs balance of mind), who is not motivated by any greed, attachment or ego; Nanak says, listen O’ my mind, such a person is the embodiment of God Himself.”(13)

Now Guru Ji describes the attitude of the mind of such a person, who is sure to obtain salvation.

He says: “Whom neither praise nor slander affects, and for whom gold and iron are the same (so that person is not proud of his or her wealth or saddened by lack of it), Nanak says, listen O’ my mind, know that (such a person) is an emancipated (person).”(14)

Elaborating on the qualities of such an emancipated person, Guru Ji says: “Whose (heart is not) affected by pleasure or pain, and for whom friend and foe are the same, Nanak says: listen O’ my mind, know that person is emancipated.”(15)

Now Guru Ji gives the definition of a truly wise person. He says: “The person who neither scares anyone, nor is scared (by any threats or power); Nanak says: listen O’ my mind, consider such a person as (truly) wise.”(16)

Some people consider those who have been blessed with riches, possessions, or big families as very fortunate, but Guru Ji has quite different definition of good fortune. He says: “The person who has entirely abandoned the poison of Maya (the attachment to false worldly pleasures, possessions, or involvement in worldly affairs, that person) has (truly) donned the garb of a renouncer; Nanak says, listen O’ my mind, consider that person to be blessed with good fortune.”(17)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji stated that the one who has abandoned attachment for Maya is a truly fortunate person. In this salok, he goes one step further and says: “One who has abandoned attachment for Maya and has become detached (from worldly allurements), Nanak says: listen O’ my mind, in that one’s heart is the abode of God Himself.”(18)

Now stating the blessings obtained by a person who has renounced Maya (the attachment for worldly riches and power), Guru Ji says: “One who has shed off one’s ego and has realized God the Creator, Nanak says: O’ my mind, accept as true that such a person is emancipated (from rounds of births and deaths).”(19)
In the previous salok Guru Ji stated that the one who has shed off ego and has realized the Creator, is saved from rounds of births and deaths. Now he tells us the way to ward off our bad intellect, dispel our fears, and accomplish our tasks.

He says: “(O’ my friends), in this Kal Yug (present age), God’s Name is the dispeller of fears, and destroyer of bad intellect. O’ Nanak, one who meditates on this (Name) day and night, all that one’s tasks are accomplished successfully.”(20)

SGGS P-1428

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In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji stated that in *Kal Yug* (the present age), God’s Name is the dispeller of fears and destroyer of bad intellect.

Elaborating on the merits of meditating on God’s Name, Guru Ji advises: “*(O’ my friends)*, with your tongue utter praises of God and with your ears listen to God’s Name. Nanak says, "Listen O’ my mind: (they who do, are not sent to the abode) of the demon of death (and made to suffer the pains of birth and death).*”(21)

In *salok* (5), Guru Ji told us that wealth, wife, and all worldly possessions, which we deem as our own, would not accompany us in the end. Now he tells us the benefits of shedding our attachment to all such things.

He says: “The mortal who renounces his or her sense of ‘mine-ness’ (or ownership, and also sheds) greed, worldly attachment, and self-conceit, that mortal saves him or herself, and also emancipates others.”(22)

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji told us that the person who renounces his or her sense of ‘mine-ness,’ greed, worldly attachment, and self-conceit, saves him or herself and also emancipates others. But while living in this world, it is not an easy task to renounce all such things. In this *salok*, Guru Ji tells a way to accomplish this task.

He says: “*(O’ my friend), deem this world as a dream, or an (entertaining) show. Nanak says, “Except God, nothing is eternal in these (dreams or shows).*”(23)

In the previous several *saloks*, Guru Ji advised us to shed our love and attachment for worldly entities, and instead imbue ourselves with the love of God. However, he observes that rare is the one who does this.

He says: “Night and day, the humans waver and wander for the sake of *Maya* (worldly riches and power). *O’ Nanak, it is only a rare person among millions, in whose mind is the remembrance of God.*”(24)

In *salok* (23), Guru Ji advised us that we should deem this world as a dream or an entertaining show in which (except God) nothing is eternal. Now he gives another beautiful example to illustrate the absolute short-lived nature of this world.

He says: “Listen O’ my friend, just as a bubble appears and disappears in water everyday, similarly (God) has fashioned this worldly creation.”(25)

In *salok* (24), Guru Ji commented that night and day, human beings waver and wander for the sake of *Maya*. It is only a rare person among millions in whose mind is the remembrance of God. In this *salok*, he tells us the consequences suffered by human beings on account of this obsession for worldly riches.

He says: “Blinded by the intoxication of worldly riches and power, the mortal doesn’t think about (the consequences) of his or her actions. Nanak says, without meditation on God’s Name, the noose of death falls (around one’s neck).”(26)

Everyone in this world wishes and tries one’s best to attain happiness. Most of us believe that money is the passport to happiness; therefore we use all kinds of moral and immoral means to amass more and more worldly riches and power. In the end, a vast majority of
us find that instead of providing us with happiness, it becomes the biggest source of our stress, worry, and suffering. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us the secret of happiness.

He says: “(O’ my friend), if you want peace and happiness forever, then take shelter in the all-pervading God. Nanak says: “Listen O’ my mind, this human body is precious, and obtained only after great difficulty. (Don’t waste it by running after short-lived happiness; utilize it to meditate on God’s Name, so that you may enjoy eternal bliss).”(27)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that if we wish to obtain peace and happiness forever, then we must take the shelter of the all-pervading God. This human body is very precious, and is obtained only after great difficulty. We must not waste it by running after short-lived happiness, but utilize it to meditate on God’s Name.

But Guru Ji notes and says: “For the sake of (worldly) wealth, the foolish ignorant people keep wandering around the world aimlessly. But Nanak says, their human birth is passing in vain without meditation on God’s Name.”(28)

In several previous saloks and shabads, Guru Ji has stressed upon us the importance of meditating on God’s Name. In fact, if we were to draw the one most important message from the study of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, that message is that meditation on God’s Name is the single most important thing. In this salok, he describes the blessings and the status obtained by a person who meditates on God’s Name day and night with true love and devotion.

He says: “(O’ my friend), deem that human being as the embodiment of God, who day and night (sincerely) meditates on (God’s) Name. O’ Nanak, take this as absolute truth: that there is no difference between God and God’s devotee.”(29)

In the above salok, Guru Ji told us about the supreme status enjoyed by the person who daily meditates on God’s Name. In this salok, he tells us how useless the life of that person is whose mind always remains entangled in worldly affairs.

He says: “Whose mind is entangled in Maya (or pursuits for worldly riches and power), and who has forsaken the Name of God, Nanak says: “Of what use is the life without meditation on God?”(30)

प्राण अनप्राण विषयक अभ्यास है नाम भजन ||
चरान देह दीय तन्त्र गुरु ज्ञान सम देख ||३१॥
मुझे बसे बसे जरा धर्म से मिले न आये त्रेष ||
विषयक दोष बसे बल भ्रम में सब का दे ||३२॥
समय समय इतिहास भिंतिन्द्र सम से बूझ ||
विषयक दोष बसे बल लघु खजू धर्म बुझ ||३३॥
अंत: बूझ में बिदित्व भिंतिन्द्र त भले भले ||
सुक्ख मैं बहू बांधी भस्म भूय में सहस्त्र भूय || ॥३१॥
कहौ नानाक हर भजन बिन परात भाँह आग फांध।
कहौ नानाक हर भए अन्त सहाय-आह आग फांध।
जनाम जनाम भरमात फिरो दिन मे जम को तारास।
कहौ नानाक हर भए निर्भ्रात पातावे बाला।
जात भावुत मई कर रहों दिन-ओ न मन को मान।
In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that useless is the life of one whose mind is entangled in Maya, and who has forsaken the Name of God. In this salok, he tells us what kind of fate is awaiting such a person.

He says: “Blinded by the intoxication of Maya (the worldly riches and power), the mortal (who) doesn’t remember God. Nanak says, “Without worship of God, such a person remains caught in the noose of (birth and) death.”(31)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that blinded by the intoxication of worldly riches and power, one who doesn’t remember God, that person is caught in the noose of death. In this salok, he tells us what happens to one during one’s lifetime, and how one will be treated by those for whom one has forsaken God.

He says: “(O’ my friend), many become your companions during prosperity, but no one gives you company during adversity. Therefore, Nanak says: “O’ my mind, meditate on God, who would be your helper till the end.”(32)

In salok (27), Guru Ji told us that if we want peace and happiness forever, we should take the shelter of the all-pervading God. But the question is where we should go to seek the shelter of God, because even though, He is pervading everywhere, He has no particular
place where we might go and fall at His feet. In this salok, Guru Ji tells the way not only to reach Him, but also to make our abode within that fearless God (Himself).

He says: “(O’ my friend), you have been wandering birth after birth, but the fear of the demon of death hasn’t gone. Nanak says, “O’ my mind, meditate on God’s Name so that you may obtain residence in that fearless (God Himself).”(33)

In many previous saloks and shabads, Guru Ji has told us that the main reason for our pain and suffering is the ego or self-conceit of our mind. It is for the sake of satisfying our ego that we want to earn more money, so that we may display our wealth to our neighbors and friends. We also may offer large donations to Gurudwaras and temples, to show that we are holier than others. Some people may attempt to rid themselves of their ego by worshipping gods and goddesses, or visiting holy places, but often they end up multiplying their ego: thinking themselves as holier than others. In this salok, Guru Ji puts himself in the place of ordinary humans like us and shows us the way to get rid of our ego.

He says: “I have exhausted myself making many efforts, but the ego of my mind hasn’t been removed. Nanak is caught in (the grip of) bad intellect; “O’ God, please save him (from this ego and bad intellect).”(34)

Broadly speaking, human life can be divided into three stages: childhood, youth, and old age. Ordinarily, one spends one’s childhood in playing, youth in learning and earning, and old age in taking care of family affairs, dealing with one’s health issues, and in a few instances performing ritual worships. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us how important it is to meditate on God’s Name in all stages of life.

He says: “(O’ my friend), consider childhood, youth, and old age as the three stages of life. Nanak says, “Without meditation on God, deem all these (stages) as waste.”(35)

In the above salok, Guru Ji stated that without worship of God, all three stages of life should be considered as waste. Generally, people remain caught in their greed for more toys, wealth, or more power and social status during all three stages. It is only in advanced old age or during their last breaths that mortals see the noose of death tightening around their necks, and only then they realize their mistake in not meditating on God’s Name earlier, and only then do they grieve in pain. In this salok, Guru Ji asks what use it is to repent or grieve now.

He says: “(O’ my friend, all this time), you didn’t do (the meditation on God’s Name), which you should have done, instead you remained entangled in the noose of greed (for more and more worldly objects). Nanak (says): “O’ blind fool, why do you cry now, when the time (for doing God’s worship) has passed?”(36)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji pointed out that we have neglected to meditate on God’s name (because) we have been caught in the noose of greed (for more and more worldly objects). In this salok, he uses a very beautiful metaphor to illustrate such a state of our minds.

He says: Just as a painting (painted) on a wall cannot be separated from it, Nanak says, “(O’ my friend, similarly) your mind has been so absorbed in (amassing) worldly wealth that it cannot break out of (this obsession).”(37)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji explained how one’s mind remains so absorbed in the pursuit of worldly wealth that one cannot stop this obsession. In this salok, he tells us how this obsession many times brings unimagined troubles.

He says: “(Caught in greed for worldly wealth) something different than what one truly desires comes to pass. O’ Nanak, one might have been thinking of cheating (or even killing others for the sake of wealth, but often one gets caught) and the noose of death falls around one’s (own) neck.”(38)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji described how one keeps making efforts to amass more and more worldly wealth in the hope that by doing so one will enjoy more and more comforts. But in the end, one often finds that instead of luxury, these efforts have brought one more misery. In this salok, Guru Ji wants us to realize that we cannot obtain peace or happiness by our efforts alone, because only that which pleases God happens.

Putting himself in our position, Guru Ji says: “I made many efforts for the sake of happiness, and didn’t do anything for the sake of sorrow. Nanak says, listen O’ my mind, only that happens which pleases God.”(39)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that only that happens which pleases God, and not what we expect from our efforts. In this salok, he tells us the way to increase the chances that our tasks may be accomplished.

He says: “(O’ my friend, the entire) world is roaming like beggars, but God is the Giver of all. Therefore Nanak says, O’ my mind, you should also meditate on Him, so that your task may be accomplished.”(40)
In *salok* (30), Guru Ji told us that absolutely useless is (that one’s) life whose mind is entangled in *Maya* (the pursuits for worldly riches and power), and who has forsaken the Name of God. One of the main reasons a person becomes entangled in the pursuit of worldly riches is that one often wants to feel proud of one’s riches, possessions, or relatives. In this *salok*, Guru Ji wants to caution us that all these things and relations are short-lived, and do not prove useful in our real time of need; therefore we shouldn’t feel proud of our possessions or relatives.

He says: “(O’ my friend), why do you indulge in false pride (of your wealth, power, or relatives etc.)? Deem all these (things in the) world (short-lived) like a dream. Nanak proclaims that none of these is (truly) yours.”(41)

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji advised us not to indulge in false pride of our worldly possessions or relatives. However, these are not the only things on account of which we feel arrogant. Many times we start feeling proud of our body itself, as if by our might alone we may conquer the whole world. In this *salok*, Guru Ji awakens us to the flimsy nature of our body, and tells us the most practical way to gain victory over the world (and all its temptations).

He says: “O’ my friend, you take pride in your body, (but know that it) perishes in an instant. O’ Nanak, the mortal who has uttered God’s praises (has gained such control over worldly desires, as if he) has won over the world.”(42)

In the previous *salok*, Guru Ji stated that the person who has uttered God’s praises has gained such control over worldly desires, as if he has won over the world. In this *salok*, he tells us what other blessings and status that person obtains who sings God’s praises and enshrines Him in the heart.

He says: “(O’ man), deem that person as emancipated in whose heart is (continuously practiced) meditation on God’s Name. Nanak says, deem this as a true (statement: that) there is no difference between that person and God.”(43)
In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us about the blessings and high status a person receives who enshrines God in the heart. Now he tells us about the wretched state of that person in whose mind there is no devotion for God.

He says: “The person in whose mind is no devotion for the one God, Nanak says, deem that body (filthy) like that of a pig or a dog (who indulges in sinful habits and commits evil deeds).”(44)

Now Guru Ji illustrates with a metaphor, how we should always remember God, and should never forsake Him.

He says: “Just as a dog never abandons the house of its master, Nanak says, ‘Similarly (O’ my friends), you should meditate upon God with the full concentration of your mind and your heart.”(45)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that we should never abandon single-minded devotion of God. However, he wants to caution us against indulging in any kind of ego on account of our devotion (such as fasting, or pilgrimages). Such devotion may even be counter-productive. He explains with the metaphor of an elephant, who after taking a bath in a river or pond, throws dust on itself and thus wastes its entire effort.

He says: “If after going on a pilgrimage, observing a fast, or giving in charity one feels arrogant in the mind, O’ Nanak, all that one’s good deeds go to waste like the bathing of an elephant (who after a bath throws dust on itself).”(46)

In salok (35), Guru Ji suggested us to consider childhood, youth, and old age as the three stages of life, and told us that without meditation on God, all these stages are fruitless. However, in this salok, he observes that one doesn’t remember God even when one is in the last stage of life, to say nothing of childhood and youth.

He says: “(O’ my friends, in a late stage of life, one’s) head wobbles, feet falter, and eyes are without light. But O’ Nanak, even when (the body is in) such a state, still one doesn’t merge in the relish of God’s (Name).”(47)

One of the main reasons one doesn’t meditate on God’s Name is that one remains involved in one’s children and relatives, in the hope that they will be of help to him or her during his old age or time of need. However, on the basis of his personal experience, Guru Ji tells that no one can help anyone forever.

He says: “I have personally observed that in this world no one is (a lasting support) for anyone. Nanak says it is only God’s meditation which is permanent, (and you should) keep that in mind.”(48)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us on the basis of his personal observation that in the end, no one can do anything for another. In this salok, he goes even one step further and tells us that (to say nothing of relatives and friends), the entire worldly creation is false, unreliable, and very short-lived.

He says: “O’ my friend, understand this thing: that the entire worldly creation is false (and short-lived). Nanak says: “Like a wall of sand, this (worldly creation) is unstable.”(49)
In the previous two saloks, Guru Ji told us that the entire world is false and short-lived. In this salok, he tells us that even great personalities (whom people worship as gods) must depart from this world.

He says: “(O’ my friends, even god) Raam has left, and so too has (king) Raavan, who had big families. Nanak says nothing is everlasting: this entire world is (transitory) like a dream.”(50)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji pointed out that this entire world is transitory, and even great kings like Ram and Raavan had to depart from here. In this salok, he again reminds us that losses in business or even tragedies like death are a way of this world: there is nothing extraordinary about such happenings, and we shouldn’t worry about such things.

He says: “(O’ my friends), we should worry only if some impossible thing happens. But this (loss, separation, and even death) is a way of the world. O’ Nanak, no one is going to stay (in this world) forever.”(51)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji told us that any loss, separation, and even death are normal happenings in the world, and we shouldn’t worry about these things at all. Now in conclusion Guru Ji advises us and says: “(O’ my friends), whatever has been created will perish, today or tomorrow (sooner or later). Therefore Nanak says, ‘(O’ my friend),

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leave aside all (worldly) entanglements and (avail yourself of the opportunity to) sing God's praises."(52)

**Doahra - (couplet)**

It is a common mistaken belief that the ninth Guru Teg Bahadur Ji wrote this next couplet to his son, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, to relate to him the desperate situation in which he was caught (when he was imprisoned by the then king Aurangzeb, and had lost his physical strength and will-power).

These same people believe that the next couplet (No. 54) was Guru Gobind Singh Ji's reply. These speculations fall flat when we reflect upon the fact that it was Guru Teg Bahadur Ji himself who had offered to sacrifice his body and soul for the sake of the protection of the human rights of Hindus to practice their faith. If Guru Ji were such a weak-willed person, he would not have made this offer. Even otherwise he couldn't expect any help from his own son, who was only nine years old at that time. Furthermore, as per the rules of compilation of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, if the couplet no. 54 was uttered by Guru Gobind Singh Ji, then it should have been entered as No.1 under the heading M: 10. The fact of the matter is that this couplet is a continuation of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji's thoughts on the theme of death, and reveals to us that when all our bodily strength is gone, and we feel as if we are still tied up in worldly bonds, then we should pray to God to help us and release us from these bonds.

Therefore Guru Ji says: "(O' my friend), when your strength has gone, you are tied in (worldly) bonds and you cannot do anything (to free yourself), Nanak says: then seek the support of God (and ask Him to help you), just as He helped the elephant (who was caught by an alligator, and was liberated when it prayed to God for help)."(53)

In the previous salok, Guru Ji advised us that when we have lost all our strength and find ourselves in such worldly chains that there seems no escape, then we should pray to God to come to our help. In this salok, he shares with us the result of such a prayer, when made with full faith and sincerity.

He says: "O' Nanak, when (we say, O' God), everything is in Your hands and You alone are our helper, (then we) find (that we have both strength and will-power); our bonds are released and everything becomes possible."(54)

Sometimes in his advanced old age, or during times of extreme adversity, one observes that all one's friends and companions have deserted, and none remains loyal till the end. Then one finds oneself absolutely lonely. In this salok, Guru Ji tells us who could be our support even in such difficult times.

He says: "(When) all the companions and friends have forsaken you, and no one has remained with you till the end, Nanak says (even) in that predicament there is the one support of God (which can save you)."(55)

In salok (50), Guru Ji stated that this world is as temporary as a dream, and even great kings like Ram and Raavan had to depart from here. In this salok, he tells us that there are some entities, which will stay here forever.
He says: “(O’ my friends, in this world God’s) Name will remain (forever, and also the name of) the saint, and the Guru God. Nanak says, (they also have become eternal) who have meditated on (God’s Name), the mantra of the Guru.”(56)

Guru Ji concludes by saying: “(O’ my friends), I have enshrined God’s Name in my heart; nothing is equal to it (in this world). Meditating upon His Name ends all one’s troubles, (and O’ God), and is also blessed with Your sight.”(57-1)

The one outstanding message of the couplets of Guru Teg Bahadur Ji is that this world is as short-lived as a dream; if we don’t meditate on God’s Name, then we waste our life in vain. When all our friends and relatives leave us, and our body becomes weak and helpless, then only God’s Name can save us.

Translators differ on the interpretation of the word Mundaavani, before Mehla 5 in the heading of this shabad. According to some, the word Mundaavani refers to the word Mundana, which means to close. In other words, this shabad indicates the closing or the last shabad of Guru Granth Sahib. The next shabad may be considered as Guru Ji’s expression of thanks to God for helping him complete this gigantic task, and Raag Mala as the appendix. But some translators interpret this word as a riddle, taking its root from the practice of Poothohaar (in the Pakistan portion of Punjab), in which girls require the marriage party to solve a Mundaavani (or riddle) before being allowed to start their dinner. But in any case, in this shabad Guru Ji tells us what kind of priceless commodities and gems are contained in this platter of Guru Granth Sahib, by partaking which we can obtain supreme bliss and salvation.

He says: “In this platter (of Guru Granth Sahib Ji) are placed three things – truth, contentment, and (wise) reflection. Also contained (in this platter) is the nectar of God’s Name, which is the support of all. Anyone who partakes (of this food) and relishes it, is emancipated. This commodity is (so essential for spiritual enlightenment) that it cannot be forsaken. Therefore, day after day you should enshrine it in your heart (by meditating on God’s Name. When we do so, we realize that this) world is like a dark (sea of) ignorance, and by attuning ourselves to the feet (the word of the Guru-God) we swim across it, and O’ Nanak, we realize that all (creation) is an expanse of God.”(1)

The message of this shabad is that Guru Granth Sahib Ji is not an ordinary book; it is a treasure of priceless jewels of truth, contentment, divine wisdom, and God’s
Name. If we daily read, reflect, and act on it, we can obtain not only salvation, but can become one with the king of all kings, the God Almighty.

Note: It may be added here that officially it was the tenth Guru Gobind Singh Ji who anointed Granth Sahib Ji as the eleventh and eternal Guru, but Guru Arjan Dev Ji had already indicated this high status for this book when he first installed Granth Sahib at Harimandir Sahib and, letting Granth Sahib rest on his bed, he himself slept on the floor.

In this last *salok*, the fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji thanks God for helping him complete the monumental task of compiling Guru *Granth Sahib*, which included not only his own divine utterances and that of his four preceding Gurus, but also the celestial songs uttered by the sincere devotees and lovers of God of many other faiths, casts, creeds, race and social status. In this way, he not only preserved the hymns uttered by Sikh Gurus in their original form, but also preserved the integrity of the holy sayings of other devotees as well. The beauty of this *salok* lies in the fact that instead of assuming even a little bit of credit for his exemplary effort, he most humbly thanks God for bestowing such a great honor on him.

He says: “(O’ God), I have not acknowledged (the favor) done by You. On Your own You have made me fit (for this service). I am the meritless one, but You Yourself took pity on me and helped me complete this task). When you took pity upon me, I was blessed with Your benediction and I met the true Guru and friend. (Now) when (I) Nanak receive (Your) Name, I (feel so energized and) alive that my body and mind blossom forth (in delight).”(1)

The message of this *shabad* is that even when we accomplish a very big task for the benefit of others, we shouldn’t feel proud of it. Instead we should become even more humble, and sincerely thank God for honoring meritless persons like us with the opportunity of providing some useful service to His creatures.
It is the same light

punni-aakee gaavahi bangelo.
pun aslaykhee kee bha-ee baaree.
ay bhairee kee paacha-o naaree.
pancham harakh disaakh sunaaveh.
bangaalam maDh maDhav gavaahi. ||1||

lalat bilaaval gaavhee apunee apunee bhaa\"t.
asaat putar bhairee kay gavaahi gaa-in paat\'ar. ||1||

gutee-aa maalka-usak aalaapeh.
sang raagnee paacha-o thaapeh.
go\^dkaree ar dayvga\mDh aaree.
ganDhaaree seehutree uchaaree.
Dhanaasree ay paacha-o gaa-ee.
maal raag ka-usak sang laa-ee.
maaroo masatang mayvaaraa.
parabalchand ka-usak ubhaaraa.
ka-ukhat a-o bha-uraanak gaa-ay.
asaat maalka-usak sang laa-ay. ||1||

pun aa-i-a-o hindol panch naar sang asat sut\, u\^thee taan kalol gaa-in \^taar milavaahee. ||1||
taylangee dayvkaree aa-ee.
basantee sandoor suhaa-ee.
saras aheeree lai bhaaraa.
sang laa-ee paa\"cha-o aarjaa.
surmaanand bhaaaskar aa-ay.
chandarbin bhaanglan suhaa-ay.
sarasbaan a-o aahi binaa.
gavaahi saras basa\n bhaa.
asaat putar mai kahay savarae.
pun aa-ee deepak kee baaree. ||1||

kachhayeel patmanji aeree toodee kahee alaap.
kaamodee a-o goojree sang deepak kay thaap. ||1||

kaalankaan kun\u0930\u0947 a-o raamaa.
kamalkusam champak kay naamaa.
gaa-uraa a-o kaanraa kal-yaanaa.
asaat putar deepak kay jaanaa. ||1||

sabh mil sireeraag vai gavaahi.
paa\"cha-o sang barangan laaveh.
bairaaree kamaatee Dhaaree.
gavree gavaee aasaavaree.
tih paachh\vDvee alaapee.
Raag Maala

Perhaps no other topic in the Sikh faith has been more controversial than Raag Maala. This controversy has been continuing for at least last 150 years. On the one side are those who believe that this last entry Raag Maala, at the last two pages (1429-1430) of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, is not authentic and should be deleted. Some of the reasons given by them are that it does not contain any spiritual message, nor does it indicate which Guru Ji wrote it, and it is not included in many older compilations of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. On the other side of the controversy are those who argue that this last entry is included in the Kartar Puri Beer, which has been accepted as the original and genuine version of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, written by Bhai Gurdas Ji, under the supervision of the fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji. The main Sikh body Shriomani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee has already decided that this entry should always be a part of any future publication of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. On the other side of the controversy are those who argue that this last entry is included in the Kartar Puri Beer, which has been accepted as the original and genuine version of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, written by Bhai Gurdas Ji, under the supervision of the fifth Guru Arjan Dev Ji. The main Sikh body Shriomani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee has already decided that this entry should always be a part of any future publication of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Though it does not indicate the Name of the Guru, or another devotee who may have compiled or uttered it, still there is no reason for excluding it from the Guru Granth Sahib Ji; other chapters like Japji Sahib also have no indication of the writer or composer.

Moreover, even if it doesn’t provide any spiritual guidance, yet still it provides additional knowledge about many musical measures in which the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is compiled. As far as this humble servant is concerned, he is not at all a scholar, a researcher, or even a musician who can himself comment upon such a serious controversial matter. But after reading the lengthy explanation given by Giani Harbans Singh Ji in Vol 13-B of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Darshan Nirnaiy Steek, and Dr. Bh. Vir Singh Ji in his Shri Guru Granth Sahib Koash, all his personal doubts in this matter have been fully removed. He has no hesitation in saying that because the Guru Granth Sahib Ji is the most sacred scripture for us, we must accept it as genuine in its entirety.
Furthermore, this humble servant feels that we the Sikhs are the most fortunate ones among different faith communities, because our spiritual message has been given to us through the soul-uplifting medium of Music rather than through mythical stories, episodes, or other forms, which may or may not be true. It was an additional favor to us that Guru Ji didn’t leave us without giving at least an elementary knowledge of the main structure of these musical measures, in which this divine message and hymns have been composed, sung and enjoyed by the Sikhs all over the world. This servant not only feels like reading this Raag Maala as part and parcel of the entire Guru Granth Sahib Ji, but also once again offers his utmost gratitude to Guru Ji for including this knowledge of the nectar of God’s Name.

As per the understanding of this humble author, the unknown composer of Raag Maala gives us the primary structure of each Raag (or musical measure), its associates and branches. He explains this structure in the form of a metaphor.

He imagines that all these musical measures and sub-measures have come to sing in the form of royal musical families; each family is headed by a king who has many queens, and each queen has many princes.

He says: “(Each musical measure has five branches, and eight sub branches. As if) each Raag has five wives, and along with (each Raag) are eight sons who emit distinct notes. The first recital is done in Raag Bhairo, and along with it sing the five Raagnies (sub measures). The first is Bhairavi, (second) Bilawali, (third) Punya ki, (fourth) Bangli, and after that comes the turn of the (fifth) Aslekhi. These are the five wives (branches) of Bhairo. (Along with them) recite their sons (or sub-branches) Pancham, Harkh, Disakh. Then sing Bangalam, Madhu, and Maadhav.” (1)

(The seventh sub-branch of Bhairo is) Lalat, and the eighth is Bilawal. They all sing in their own different ways. These are the eight sons (branches) of Bhairon, which are considered its rightful sub-categories.

Secondly, they recite Maal Kauns (Raag) along with their five Raagnies (or branches). These are Gaundkari, Dev Gandhari, Gandhari, Seehuti, and fifth is the Dhanasari, which is sung (under this Raag). This sub-measure has been appended to Raag Maal Kaausak. The eight sons (sub-branches) of Raag Maal Kaausak, which are sung under (this Raag) are Maaru, Masat Angg, Mewaara, Parbal Chandd, Kausak, Ubhaara, Khaukhat, and Bhaura nad.” (1)

After that comes the (Raag) Hindoal, along with its five women (branches) and eight sons (sub-branches). When they synchronize their tunes, waves of melodious music arise (in one’s heart).” (1)

(As for the branches of Hindoal), first come Telangi and Devkari, then Basanti and Sandoor beautify (the occasion), along with the brides Sehas ahiri and Bhaarja. After that come Surma nand, Bhaaskar, Chandad bimb, Mangalan, Sars baan, Binoda, Basan, and Kamoda. I have carefully told about eight sons (of Hindoal), and now comes the turn of Deepak.” (1)

(Along with Raag Deepak) are sung the (melodies of) Kachheli, Patmanjari, and Toadi, and also attached with (Raag) Deepak are the (branches of) Kaamodi, and Goojari.” (1)
Now you should know that Deepak Raag has eight sons (branches), which are Kaalanka, Kuntal, and Raama, then Kamal, Kusam, Champak, Gaura, Kaannarra, and Kalyaana.

Joining together, they all sing Sri Raag, and combine with it all the five women (branches). These have been named as Beraari and Karnaati, Gavri, Asawari, and after this they recite Sindhavi. This is how all these five (sub-measures) have been appended to Sri Raag.”(1)

The eight sons (sub-branches) of Sri Raag are, Saalu, Saarag, Saagra, Goand, Gambhir, Gund, Kumbh, and Hamir.”(1)

In the sixth place they sing in Megh Raag, and along with it they append its five women (branches). They play the tunes of Sorath, Goand, and Malaari. After this, the meritorious ones sing in the tune of Aasa. Then in loud voices they play the tune of Soohou (the Suhi sub-branch). This is how these five are identified with Megh Raag.”(1)

The names of the eight sons (sub-branches) of Megh Raag are Baaira dhar, Gaj dhar, Kedaara, Jablidhar, Natt, and Jal dhaara, and after that are Sankar and Siama.”(1)

(This is how the celestial singers) sing the six Raagas, along with their thirty Raagnies, (accompanied by 48) sons of all the Raagas, which are eighteen plus ten, plus twenty (18+10+20=48).”(1-1)

The figure on the next page shows the arrangement and relationships between all forty-eight Raagas and Raagnies, and their sons (the musical measures, branches and sub-branches).

Waheguru Ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji ki Fateh.

(October 15, 2014)

O’ God, thank you millions of times for honoring this humble servant with the tremendous honor of attempting to understand and aid this coming generation so that they might understand at least a little bit of the divine knowledge contained in this ocean of bliss. The most humble prayer of this servant before all readers is to please do not take any offense for the innumerable mistakes, he may have committed in attempting to interpret the divine message of the Guru. However, he does want to assure you that none of these were ever intended. Also please excuse him for anything, which may not stand up to your genuine criticism or knowledge, and please do not take the word of this amateur to be the final word. Rather, use this to continuously improve, embellish, and perfect your own knowledge and understanding of this universal message (not only for your own benefit, but for the benefit of the rest of humanity). Because this is the firm belief of this servant: that the divine message of the Guru Granth Sahib is not for the Sikhs alone. It is meant for all humanity now, and will remain the universal message for the benefit of all humanity for all time to come.
It is the same light