

Saint Kabira

Kabira's teachings are founded on the truth that *Brahman* is one without a second. *Brahman* is the essential nature of man. Through ignorance one remains attached to his passing personality, develops egoism and egoistic action, and whirls in the wheel of birth and death. The highest goal of life is the attainment of one's essential nature through the removal of ignorance, through devotion and wisdom. Kabira encouraged his disciples to follow spiritual life in all its details. The following translations of his verses reveal his experience, devotion and wisdom:

कबिरा मन निर्मल भया जैसे गंगा नीर ।
पाछें लागे हरि फिरै कहत कबीर कबीर ॥

Kabiraa man nirmal bhayaa jaise gangaa neer.
Pachhe laage hari phirai kahat kabeer kabeer.

Kabira says: My mind became pure like the water of the Ganga River. Now, Lord Hari is running after me, saying, 'Kabir, Kabir!'

देह धरे का दंड है सब काहू को होय
ज्ञानी भुगते ज्ञान से मूख भुगते रोय ॥

Deha dhare kaa dand hai sab kahoo ko hoy
Jnaani bhugate jnaan se moorakh bhugate roy

The punishment for entering into human embodiment is meted out to everyone according to their karma. The wise endure it by wisdom, while the ignorant suffer from it with lamentations!

by Swami
Jyotirmayananda



लाली मेरे लाल की जित देखौं तित लाल ।
लाली देखन मैं चली मैं भी हो गई लाल ॥

*Laalee mere laal kee jit dekhaun tit laal.
Laalee dekhana main chalee main bhee ho gayee laal.*

I went to behold the Beauty of my Beloved God, and wherever I look I found His Beauty everywhere. I started looking for the Beauty of the Beloved, but I ended up with becoming the Beloved!

निंदक नियरे राखिये आँगन कुटी छवाय ।
बिनु पानी साबुन बिना निर्मल करै सुभाय ॥

Nindak niyare raakhiye angan kutee chhavaay. Binu paani sabun binaa nirmal karai subhaay.

Keep the fault-finder very close to you—give him a well-furnished room. He will help you to purify your nature even without the use of soap and water.

ऐसी बाणी बोलिये मन का आपा खोइ ।
अपना तन सीतल करै औरन कूँ सुख होइ ॥

*Aisee baanee boliye man kaa aapaa khoi;
Apanaa tan seetal karai, auran koon sukh hoi.*

Rising above the limitations of your mind, speak in such a way that causes refreshing coolness in your body and brings joy to people around you.

न्हाए धोए क्या भया जो मन मैल न जाए ।
मीन सदा जल में रहै धोए बास न जाए ॥

*Nhaaye dhoye kyaa bhayaa jo man mail na jaay;
Meen sadaa jal men rahai dhoye baas na jaay.*

What is the use of bathing and washing if the dirt of your mind is not dispelled? Fishes live in water all the time and in spite of all the washing they are not free of the foul smell.



Treasured Verses by Saint Kabir

Translated by Swami Jyotirmayananda

गुरु गोविंद दोनो खड़े काके लागुं पाँए
बलिहारी गुरु आपने गोविन्द दियो मिलाए ॥

*Guru govind dono khare kaake lagoon paany
Balihaaree Guru aapane govind diyo milaay.*

Guru and Govinda both stand before me. To whose feet should I bow down? Glory to my Guru (I bow down to my Guru's feet), because "It is You, O my Guru, who has led me to be united with Govinda (God)!"

जो तोकों काँटा बुवै ताहि बोइ तू फूल ।
तोकों फूल के फूल है वाको है तिरसूल ॥

*Jo tokon kaantaa buvai taahi boi too phool.
Tokon phool ke phool hai vaako hai tirsool.*

If someone sows thorns for you, then (instead of being bitter) sow flowers for him. Because then, for you there will be nothing but flowers (as a result of your goodness); but for the person (who has sown thorns), there will be the trident (karmic punishment) awaiting for him. (By your act of goodness, the person will experience a spiritual transformation in the triad of Seer, Seen and Sight!).

दोष पराये देखि करि चले हसंत हसंत ।
अपने याद न आवहीं जिनका आदि न अंत ॥

*Dosh paraaye dekh kari, chale hasant hasant.
Apane yaad na aavaheen jinaka aadi na anta,*

Finding defects in others, one goes on laughing. One does not remember one's own defects (which have no limit) which have neither beginning nor end.



खुले नयन पहचानों हँसि हँसि सुन्दर रूप निहारों ॥

*Khule nayan pahachaanon, hansi hansi
sundar roop nihaaron.*

Having opened my eyes fully (having attained Spiritual Vision), I experience thrill after thrill to behold the Beauteous Expressions of God (everywhere).

घूँघट का पट खोल री, तोहें पीव मिलेंगे ।

घट घट बसता राम रमैया, कटुक वचन मत बोल री ॥ तोहें पीव मिलेंगे --
रंग महल में दीप बरत है, आसन से मत डोल री ॥
कहत कबीर सुनो भाइ साधू, अनहद बाजत ढोल री ॥

*Ghoonghut ka put khol ree, tohen peev milenge;
Ghut ghut basataa Raam ramaiyaa, katuk bachan mat
bol ree. Tohen.
Rang mahal men deep barat hai, Aasan se mat dol ree;
Kahat Kabir suno bhai saadhoo, Anahad baajat dhol ree.*

(O Soul), remove the veil (of illusion). You are going to meet the Beloved! Lord Rama, the source of all Joy, abides in every heart. Do not speak harsh words to anyone (you are going to meet)! The mystic Lamp is burning in the Divine Palace (the Heart). Do not shake from your meditative pose. The music (of Eternity) is sounding (without the help of instruments)! O brothers, listen: So says Kabira.

काल्ह करै सो आज करुण आज करै सो अब्ब ।
पल में परलै होयगीण बहुरि करैगा कब्ब ॥

*Kaalh karai so aaj karu, Aaj karai so abb;
Pal men paralay hoyagee, bahuri karaigaa kabb.*

What you have to do tomorrow, do it today; and what you have to do today, do it right now. Within a moment there may occur a deluge, then, how could you do (what has to be done)?

जाति न पूछो साधु की पूछ लीजियो ज्ञान ।
मोल करो तलवार का पड़ा रहन दो म्यान ॥

*Jaati na poochho Saadhu kee, Poochh leejio jnaan;
Mol karo talawaar kaa, Padha rahan do myaan.*

Do not ask for the family line of the Saint; go after His knowledge. Do not go after the sheath; give value to the Sword.

सब धरती कागज करूं । लेखनी सब बन जाए ॥
सात समुद्र की मसि करूं । गुरु गुन लिखा न जाए
कबीरा गुरु गुन लिखा न जाए ॥

*Sab dharatee kaagaj karoon; Lekhanee sab ban raay.
Saat samudra kee masi karoon; Guru gun likhaa na
jaay Kabira Guru gun likhaa na jaay.*

Even if the entire earth is transformed into paper, and all the big trees are made into pens, and all the waters in the seven oceans are turned into ink—even then the Glories of Guru cannot be fully written.

घट घट में है साई रमता कटुक वचन मत बोल रे ॥
*Ghat ghat me' hai saain ramataa katuk bachan
mat-bol re.*

God abides in every heart. Therefore, do not talk to anyone with harsh speech.

जब मैं था तब हरि नहीं अब हरि हैं मैं नाहिं ।
प्रेम गली अति साँकरीण ता मैं दो न समाहिं ॥

*Jab main thaa tab Hari naheen, Ab Hari hain main naahin.
Prem galee ati saankaree, taa main do na samaahin.*

When “I” existed, there was no Hari (God). Now when Hari (God Alone) is, this “I” has no existence. The street of Divine Love is too narrow to permit the entry of two (duality).

