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# The Philosophical and Religious Significance of Songs of Kabir

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**ABSTRACT** : Saint Kabir's authentic philosophy encompasses both the human and divine aspects along with the social and ethical dimensions. Key themes such as harmony, equality, and devotion are central in Saint Kabir's philosophy. The notion of dedication, particularly in the form of Seva, plays a predominant role in his teachings.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Kabir's songs are often interpreted as a representation of his personal mystical encounters by a considerable number of individuals. Certain scholars argue that his compositions illustrate the spiritual journey of the individual soul towards attaining oneness with the divine entity. Through the use of metaphors and allegories, Kabir elucidates the essence of the divine as well as the relationship between humanity and the divine. In this project I will work upon two of his famous songs .

About the author , Kabir Das

Kabir Das is renowned as the first Indian poet and saint who successfully integrated Hinduism and Islam by presenting a universal approach for these religions. He gained a substantial following from both Hindus and Muslims who embraced his philosophy. Central to Kabir's teachings is the belief that every human relationship embodies two fundamental principles: Paramatma and Jivatma. He asserted that Moksha signifies the union of these divine elements within a relationship. Kabir's work, particularly his Bijak, reflects his spiritual insight and unwavering faith in Bhakti, Sufi beliefs, and the concept of Unity in God. Known for his clear and succinct style, the poet frequently composed his verses in the forms of shloka and Sakhi, drawing inspiration from his revered Guru. These poems provided Kabir Panthis with a distinct pathway to adopt and embody his ideologies.

Religious significance of songs of Kabir :

Kabir espoused the belief that love was the pathway to spiritual advancement and had the potential to unite individuals from diverse cultures and faiths. Illustrated through his composition "Moko Kahan Dhunde Re Bande," Kabir emphasized that love and dedication to the divine transcend religious boundaries. Kabir advocated for the nirguna form of Bhakti, emphasizing that the same divine entity is known by various names such as Rama, Hari, Allah, and Rahim. He preached universal devotion to God, urging people to disregard religious distinctions. Kabir also denounced the caste system, idol worship, and pilgrimages.

Philosophical significance of songs of Kabir :

Kabir asserts that the human soul is immortal and undergoes transmigration into another human body after death. Throughout his poems, there is a prevalent theme of death. Kabir regards God as his master, Guru, and lover. Kabir offers worships to the formless God, known as Nirakar Ishwar in Vedanta philosophy. The cornerstone of his secular beliefs lies in monotheism and syncretism. Within the realm of religion, Kabir shunned idolatry and challenged the notion of monarchy as the divine earthly intermediary. He advocates for the belief in a singular God and calls upon this deity to safeguard the vulnerable and marginalized.

Kabir's song : Moko Kahan Dhunde Re Bande

English Translation of the Song Moko Kahan Dhunde re Bande :

Dear follower, I am constantly by your side, not to be found in journeys or statues, loneliness or places of worship. You will not find me in temples, mosques, or revered sites, for I am right there with you, devoted follower.

I am constantly present by your side, not through prayers, meditation, fasting, yogic exercises, renunciation, the soul, the body, or even within infinite space.

In no circumstance am I present with you – not in prayers, meditation, fasting, yogic exercises, renunciation, the soul, the body, or even the infinite space.



Understanding: Despite the diverse approaches found in all religious and philosophical teachings, it is evident that the omnipresent, omnipotent factor ultimately corresponds to God. Variations in naming this entity stem from our customs, traditions, and languages. However, despite this recognition, a significant amount of time is expended in debating the attributes of God and attempting to enforce specific characteristics.

Kabir observed this enduring phenomenon during his era as well. This esteemed Master elucidates in the aforementioned verse the foundational principle that God pervades all existence.

In this verse, Kabir exposes the diverse methods employed by humanity in seeking the divine. Each individual appears to be rationalizing their chosen approach. Some assert that God can only be realized through pilgrimages, while others defend idol worship. Certain individuals posit that God resides in the mountains, whereas others believe His presence is within places of worship. Some advocate prayers and meditation as the means to realization, while others argue for understanding through fasting. Many focus on yogic practices and renunciation.

Kabir's song 2: Mat Kar Maya ko Ahankar

English Translation of Song – Mat Kar Maya ko Ahankar :

Be cautious not to be misled by illusions and refrain from boasting about the body, as it is as delicate as clay.

Dainty as clay, akin to a dewdrop, susceptible to the slightest breeze. A mere gust could easily reduce the body to dust.

Present was a severe sovereign, renowned amidst various nations. Elephants elegantly graced his court, and upon their presence, the clay lamp depleted its supply of oil.

Upon the arrival of a sudden burst of wind, even a gentle gust may result in the disintegration of the human body.

Once the clay lamp ran out of oil, the flame scattered and eventually went out, just like a single drop of dew.

A blast of wind... Just a little gust And the body will turn to dust.

I have serious doubts about the authenticity of my parents and the rest of my family. It appears they are insincerely expressing emotions such as grief and pain.

The individual named Bhavani Nath stated that their mentor placed their hand on their head and declared, 'Liberation is mine. Liberation is mine. Liberation is mine, like a drop of dew.' The breeze...

Beware of being deceived by illusions and refrain from boasting about the body, as it is just as fragile as clay or a drop of dew.

The blow of the wind... Just a bit of a gust The body is going to turn to dust!

Understanding -

Let us not be deceived by illusions, and let us not boast about our physical bodies which are as fragile as clay or as a drop of dew. A mere gust of wind could reduce the body to dust. In the past, a strong and respected king, surrounded by majestic elephants in his court, was also temporary like a drop of dew. The analogy of a clay lamp filled with oil, where the light flickers like a drop of dew, shows the fleeting nature of life. When the oil runs out, the play ends, and the light goes out as swiftly as a drop of dew. Ultimately, death will come for us all, just like a drop of dew vanishes. The relationships with our mother and father, family ties, and the act of mourning are all temporary illusions, akin to the transient nature of a drop of dew.

## II. SUMMARY

Kabir, the poet whose songs are being presented to English readers for the first time, is a remarkable figure in the realm of Indian mysticism. Born around 1440 in or around Benares to Muslim parents, Kabir initially followed the teachings of the renowned Hindu ascetic Rāmānanda. Rāmānanda introduced a religious resurgence in Northern India that was inspired by Rāmānuja, the influential twelfth-century reformer of Brāhmanism in the South. This resurgence emerged as a response to the growing formalism within orthodox practices, and as a insistence on the emotional aspect disparaging the highly intellectualized Vedānta philosophy and its emphasized monism. This spiritual renewal found expression in Rāmānuja's teachings through a passionate devotion to God Vishnu, symbolizing the personalized facet of the Divine, characterized by a mystical "religion of love" that transcends boundaries.

## III. CONCLUSION

Kabir Das's noteworthy literary works primarily consist of dohas and songs. Among his seventy-two total works, notable pieces include Rekhtas, Kabir Bijak, Anurag Sagar, Kabir Bani, Kabir Granthawali, the Suknidhan, Mangal, Vasant, Sabdas, Sakhis, and Holy Agams. The Bijak, Kabir's significant work, holds a special place in the Kabir Panth sect and has passages featured in the Guru Granth Sahib and the Anurag Sagar. Notably, 217 songs of Kabir are included in the revered Sikh Holy Book, Guru Granth Sahib, dating back to 1604. Kabir made the largest contribution among all Gurus to the Guru Granth Sahib.



Kabir Das, a distinguished mystic poet, imparted profound teachings on morality, humanity, and spirituality. Guided by his Guru Ramanand, he diligently treaded the path to prosperity. Through his sermons, poetry, literary works, and principles, this saint enlightened many individuals. Advocating for non-violence, love, and peace, Kabir Das continues to be venerated by numerous Kabir Panthis at Kabir Chaura, Varanasi. Despite the absence of concrete evidence regarding his birth and lineage, his legendary journey epitomizes valuable lessons in humanism.

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