

Light and Sound

What does a man experience on attaining the state of *samadhi*? What happens when he completely withdraws his soul current from the nine sense organs and opens the “tenth door”? As mentioned earlier, such a man experiences death while still living. He leaves the abode of the dead behind and enters the realm of the truly alive. Bulleh Shah says that the one who enters the bright eye center behind the two dark eyes experiences three things: he hears the divine melody, he sees the divine light, and he has the vision of the astral form of his Master:

Your face is reminiscent of Yusuf,
take care of the thunder of clouds, O friend.
From the center within the black tresses,
show me the flash of Your light, O friend.
Whatever color is given, I am dyed in a deep hue,
it has the glow of my Master, O friend!

The experience of these three elements within has also been described by him in a different way:

From the resplendent heaven came out a call,
And it was heard at the court of Lahore.

1. Those devoid of love are the same as dead.

King Inayat fastened a hook as a trap:
And he himself pulls the strings to catch me!

Many saints and mystics have given hints in their writings that by entering the tenth door the soul hears celestial music and sees divine light. For example, Hafiz, the great poet and mystic of Persia, counsels man to raise his attention from the six lower centers and the seven skies to be able to hear the five divine melodies ringing within him: "Be silent and listen thou to the five melodies emanating from above the skies. For, they emerge from beyond the seven and the six." Shams-i-Tabriz conveys the same in these words: "Above the seven skies you will hear the five melodies, when you will unpeg your tent from all the six sides." To make it absolutely clear that the melody comes from within, and is not to be found anywhere outside, he writes, "Reason says: six directions there are and there is no way other than these. Love says: there is a way, and I have traveled on it many a time."

Here are some other statements by Indian mystics: "I have closed the (nine) doors; now rings the unstruck melody."¹ "There are nine doors, but only the tenth leads to salvation. In it you hear the unstruck melody."² Guru Nanak, in one of his hymns, brings out the fact of light and sound together in the inner experience, and of arousing imperishable love for the Lord: "There is light within, and from within the light emanates sound. Together they put me in rapture of the True. Lord."³

Saint Paltu in one of his *kundalis* gives a detailed account of light and sound experienced within:

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1. *Adi Granth*: Kabir, p. 656
 2. *Adi Granth*: M.3.p. 110
 3. *Adi Granth*: p. 634.

An inverted well is there within,
wherein burns a lamp ;

Wherein burns a lamp without a wick,
without any oil.

Day and night it burns, through the six seasons
and the twelve months.

To one who has found a Master, it comes
within his sight.

By the one without a Master, this flame
cannot be seen.

From within the flame of the lamp
emanates a sound.

Only the one in *Gyan Samadhi*¹ hears it,
it is heard by none else.

O Paltu, whosoever hears it, is the one
with perfect fate :

An inverted well is there within,
wherein burns a lamp.