

A WARNING

Human life is an opportunity given by the Lord to man to realize Him. But, man in his folly whiles away this rare opportunity in running after sense pleasures. This poem is in the form of a warning to man of the impending disaster. The poet exhorts man to find out the true purpose of human existence, and then impresses upon him the desirability to achieve this goal—"Do your repetition and don't be so stupid! . . . Do not be so foolish, come by some wisdom . . . Leave alone the tale of this world! This is the time for union with the Lord."

In the last stanza Bulleh Shah holds God responsible for all the ills the world suffers from. For if He had not created this world, there would have been no problems—"O Bullah, God Himself created this world, and then arose all troubles and distress. Quarrels in homes and strifes among parents, disasters, and calamities befell all men."

Main puchhan shauh dian vatan ni

I ask about the path leading to the Lord.
Let someone come and tell it to me.

I remained unmindful and repeated not His Name.
In my carelessness the Beloved remained hidden.
You have to make manifest who abides within you,
But you have a liking for sensual pleasures.
I ask about the path leading to the Lord.

O, do your repetition and don't be so stupid!
Or else you will be called the top renegade.
Perverse are the ways of the city of love!

Within it blaze its all-consuming flames!
I ask about the path leading to the Lord.

Do not be so foolish, come by some wisdom.
Fill your heart with the light of love.
Leave alone the tale of this world.
This is the time for union with the Lord!
I ask about the path leading to the Lord.

O Bullah, God himself created this world,
And then arose all troubles and distress.
Quarrels in homes and strifes among parents,
Disasters and calamities befell all men.

I ask about the path leading to the Lord.
Let someone come and tell it to me.

Faqir Mohd., Kulliyat, pp. 287-288, poem 133