

AUSPICIOUS DAY

It is one of the many love lyrics of Bulleh Shah based on the tale of Heer and Ranjha. He considers it the most auspicious of days, when his master, Inayat Shah, comes to his house. And just as the worth of Ranjha was known only to Heer, as the others took him to be only a cowherd, so also the true worth of Inayat Shah is known only to Bulleh Shah, whereas the laity considers him a mere *Arain*, a vegetable-grower. To be ignorant about his true nature is like trampling a crown under trash or letting it go to waste in rivers and jungles.

Ao sayyo ral dayo ni vadhai

سیو رال
دایو نی
واڈھائی

Come, dear friends, felicitate me on my good fortune!
I have found my consort in beloved Ranjha!

Today is the dawn of an auspicious day;
Ranjha has stepped into my courtyard.
With a staff in hand and a blanket on shoulders,
He has taken on the form of a cowherd.
Come, dear friends.

The crown is trampled under hoofs of cows,¹
It is being wasted in jungles and pastures.
He appears to come from the place of the Lord,
No one cares to know the truth.
Come, dear friends.

Bulleh Shah has struck a bargain,
He has drunk a cupful of poison.
He did not think of gain or loss,
He carries overhead a bundle of sorrows.

Come, dear friends, felicitate me on my good fortune!
I have found my consort in beloved Ranjha!

Faqir Mohd., Kulliyat, pp.30-31, poem 19

1. The poet suggests that the master is the crown of creation but none knows his real worth.