

BELOVED AS YOGI

Just as Ranjha assumed the form of a yogi and came to meet Heer at her in-laws' house, so also the Lord came in disguise as Inayat Shah to this world to redeem Bullah. Bullah felt the same attraction and charm for his Master, as Heer felt for Ranjha. And, even as Ranjha's love for Heer was no less strong than that of Heer for Ranjha, so also the love between Inayat Shah and Bullah was equally mutual and equally strong. Also, it symbolizes the same strong longing of the Lord for the separated soul as the soul feels for the Lord. In fact it is the Lord Himself who enkindles His love in the soul by appearing before her in the attractive form of the Master.

The last stanza brings out the fact that the love between Bullah and Inayat Shah could not be kept hidden for long, just as the mask of a yogi on Ranjha could not remain a secret, and his true identity was soon revealed.

Ranjha jogira ban aya

Ranjha has come in the form of a yogi.
Oh, what a mask he has worn!

This yogi has eyes like goblets,
Beaming their glances as of a hawk!¹
On beholding his face all cares vanish.
These eyes have lost a precious jewel.²
Ranjha has come in the form of a yogi.

1. He has searching looks. Ranjha comes in disguise as a yogi to search for Heer. The allusion is to God seeking the soul of man.
2. Heer.

What are the marks of this yogi?
 He wears rings in his ears and beads round his neck.
 His visage reflects the beauty of Yusuf.
 He has turned *Alif* into *Ahad*.¹
 Ranjha has come in the form of a yogi.

Ranjha is my yogi, I am his yogin;
 I shall serve him like a slave.
 In vain have I wasted my earlier life;
 Now he has come and charmed me!
 Ranjha has come in the form of a yogi.

To what a pass you've brought Bullah!
 The good old love has stirred up a storm;
 How can this now be kept a secret,
 That he has come from Takht Hazara?²

Ranjha has come in the form of a yogi;
 Oh, what a mask he has worn!

Faqir Mohd., Kulliyat, pp. 121-122, poem 61

-
1. Alludes to the transformation of the Absolute into God.
 2. The native place of Ranjha. This means that the Master has descended from the Lord's True Abode to the land of the soul, to guide it back to the Home Eternal.