

BID ME FAREWELL!

In this lyric the Lord is depicted as the Bridegroom, and His abode as the Bridegroom's house. Bullah has brought out graphically the state of an inept bride on the eve of her marriage. She has failed to equip herself adequately in her parents' house, and is now in a state of intense anxiety at the thought of being confronted by her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law. In this analogy, Bullah depicts the state of one, who is about to leave this world, but who has made no spiritual preparation for the hereafter.

In the last stanza, Bullah invokes the grace of the Lord to show mercy on him and overlook his faults. For if He were to dispense justice, there would be no place for him.

Sada main sahaurian ghar janan

I have to go forever to the house of my in-laws.
O come and bid me farewell, my friends!
God-willing you too will have to go there;
O come and bid me farewell, my friends!

Thorns and briars, extremely sharp, cling to me.
I carry with me my future woes,
to whom shall I give my old ones?
One woe is my separation from my friends,
as is the *Koonj*¹ deserted by its flock.

One blouse and a single veil,
That is all my parents have given at my marriage.

1. A species of crane, well-known for flying together with others of its kind, thus giving the idea of comradeship in Oriental poetry.

When I see this dowry that they gave,
copious tears flow from my eyes.

My mother-in-law and sisters-in-law will taunt me,
making my life miserable.

O Bullah, I hear that the Lord is the Coverer of sins,
Let Him help me to pass over this crisis!

If He were to dispense justice, I have no hope.
Let him shower His mercy on me!

I have to go forever to the house of my in-laws;

O come and bid me farewell, my friends!

God-willing you too will have to go there!

O come and bid me farewell, my friends!

Faqir Mohd., Kulliyat, pp. 147-148, poem 72