

ਆਸਾ

ਬਾਣੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀਉ ਕੀ

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

There is but one God. He is realized by the kindness of the True Guru.

Prologue: There are six hymns in Raag Aasaa by reverend Ravi Dass Ji in the Holy Book of the Sikhs, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. In the first hymn on Page 486, Ravi Dass Ji is making us realize our vulnerability toward and falling prey to the five demonic forces (vices or passions). When it is so difficult for a being with a single vice to overcome that vice, then imagine the condition of a human being who is under the control of five such vices as lust (desire or pleasure seeking), anger, greed, attachment (delusion, infatuation), and pride (vanity).

ਮਿ੍ਰਗ ਮੀਨ ਕ੍ਰਿੰਗ ਪਤੰਗ ਕੁੰਚਰ,

ਏਕ ਦੋਖ ਬਿਨਾਸ ॥

ਪੰਚ ਦੋਖ ਅਸਾਧ ਜਾ ਮਹਿ,

ਤਾਂ ਕੀ ਕੇਤਕ ਆਸ ॥੧॥

Mirag Meen Bhiring Patang Kunchar,

Ek Dokh Binaas.

Panch Dokh Asaadh Jaa Meh,

Tan Ki Ketak Aas. 1.

In this world there are beings that cannot get themselves liberated from the never-ending cycles of birth and death because each one of them has a weakness? Ravi Dass Ji cites five examples to draw our attention toward their weaknesses. First, the deer has a shortcoming of being mesmerized by music. Secondly, the fish cannot control its desire of biting on whatever comes in its view. Thirdly, the bumblebee cannot restrain itself from smelling the flowers. Fourthly, the moth is attracted by the sight of light. Finally, the elephant cannot suppress its sexual desire. If due to single weakness, each one of them has to suffer the never-ending pangs of birth and death, then what hope is there for a person who has five weaknesses? ||1||

ਮਾਧੋ, ਅਬਿਦਿਆ ਹਿਤ ਕੀਨ ॥

ਬਿਬੇਕ ਦੀਪ ਮਲੀਨ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Maadho, Abidiya Hit Keen.

Bibayak Deep Maleen. 1. Rahaao.

O Lord, I have fallen in love with ignorance and the lamp of my divine wisdom has become dim. 1. Pause.

Purport: Says Ravi Dass, I am unable to notice the difference between the good and bad because my mind is under the control of darkness of ignorance.

ਤ੍ਰਿਗਦ ਜੋਨਿ ਅਚੇਤ,
ਸੰਭਵ ਪੁੰਨ ਪਾਪ ਅਸੋਚ॥
ਮਾਨੁਖਾ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਦੁਲਭ,
ਤਿਹੀ ਸੰਗਤਿ ਪੋਚ॥੨॥

*Tregad Joni Achait,
Sunbhav Puun Paap Asoch.
Maanookhaa Avtaar Dulabh,
Tihl Sangat Poch. 2.*

The animals and other creeping creatures do not possess common sense and are unable to know the difference between the good and evil. Therefore, it is natural for them to live a carefree life regardless of wickedness or virtue. However, it is only after passing through enormous difficulties, one takes birth as a human being. God has blessed human beings with perfect wisdom. Even then, we keep company with the nefarious people. ||2||

ਜੀਅ ਜੰਤ ਜਹਾਂ ਜਹਾਂ ਲਗੁ,
ਕਰਮ ਕੈ ਬਸਿ ਜਾਇ ॥
ਕਾਲ ਫਾਸ ਅਬਧ ਲਾਗੇ,
ਕਛੁ ਨ ਚਲੈ ਉਪਾਇ ॥੩॥

*Jeeya Jant Jahaan Jahaan Lag,
Karam Kai Bas Jaaye.
Kaal Faas Abadh Laagay,
Kachhu Na Chaley Upaaye. 3.*

All beings and creatures take birth according to their past actions (karma). To fulfill one's materialistic aspirations, as if pre-ordained by the Lord, one wanders from one place to another. Even by doing so, one is still helpless because an untamable noose of spiritual death is always around one's neck and one cannot escape from it. ||3||

Purport: Says Ravi Dass Ji, it does not really matter whatever you do and wherever you go, your death is certain and you cannot escape it. Therefore, right now is the most opportune time for you to pray for His forgiveness and mercy.

ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਦਾਸ, ਉਦਾਸ, ਤਜੁ ਭ੍ਰਮੁ,
ਤਪਨ ਤਪੁ ਗੁਰ ਗਿਆਨ ॥
ਭਗਤ ਜਨ ਭੈ ਹਰਨ,
ਪਰਮਾਨੰਦ ਕਰਹੁ ਨਿਦਾਨ ॥੪॥ ੧॥

*Ravi Dass Dass, Udass,
Taj Bharam, Tapan Tap Gur Giyaan.
Bhagat Jan Bhai Haran,
Parmaanand Karho Needhaan. 4. 1.*

O Ravi Dass, the servant of the Lord, you must not only rise above the worldly desires and dispel your sorrows and doubts but also realize that penance of all penances is the spiritual wisdom bestowed upon you by the Lord. O God, Dispeller of Doubts of the devotees, kindly grant me supreme bliss as I have sought your refuge. ||4|| 1||

Prologue: This is the second hymn in Raag Aasaa by Ravi Dass Ji and is on Page 486 of the Holy Book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. In this hymn Ravi Dass Ji is making a plea to the All-powerful Lord to grant him the company of His devotees. Only in the company of God-fearing people, one can exert control over his passions (vices), recite His Name with his tongue, hear His Name with his ears, and see His image in all beings.

ਸੰਤ ਤੁਝੀ ਤਨੁ, ਸੰਗਤਿ ਪ੍ਰਾਨ ॥

Sant Tujhy Tan, Sangat Praan.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਗਿਆਨ ਜਾਨੈ ਸੰਤ ਦੇਵਾਦੇਵ ॥੧॥

Satgur Giyaan Janey Sant Devaa Dev. 1.

O my Lord, God of gods, one realizes the greatness of your devotees only when one acquires the spiritual wisdom from the Guru. It is through this realization one becomes aware of the fact that, on one hand, there is no difference between You and Your devotees, and, on the other, their company is one's breath of life. ||1||

ਸੰਤ ਦੀ ਸੰਗਤਿ, ਸੰਤ ਕਥਾ ਰਸੁ, ਸੰਤ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ,

Sant Chee Sangat, Sant Kathaa Ras, Sant Prem,

ਮਾਝੈ ਦੀਜੈ, ਦੇਵਾਦੇਵ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Majhey Deeje, Deva Dev. 1. Rahaao.

O Lord, God of gods, kindly grant me the company of Your humble devotees; allow me to enjoy the sublime essence of their discourses; and gift me with the ability to love them. ||1|| Pause ||

ਸੰਤ ਆਚਰਣ, ਸੰਤ ਚੋ ਮਾਰਗੁ,

Sant Aacharan, Sant Cho Maarag, Sant

ਸੰਤ ਚ ਓਲ੍ਹਗ ਓਲ੍ਹਗਣੀ ॥੨॥

Cha Ohlag Ohlagany. 2.

O God, bestow upon me the ways of life of Your saints (devotees); enable me to follow their footsteps; and let me clean their soiled utensils. ||2||

Purport: In other words, let me, at least serve those who are very fortunate to be the servants of your saints.

ਅਉਰ ਇਕ ਮਾਂਗਉ ਭਗਤਿ ਚਿਤਾਮਣਿ ॥

Aur Ek Maangyoon Bhagati Chintaamani.

ਜਣੀ ਲਖਾਵਹੁ ਅਸੰਤ ਪਾਪੀ ਸਣਿ ॥੩॥

Janhy Lakhaawoh Asant Paapi Sani. 3.

In addition, O Lord, I beg for one more thing: Let me perform Your devotional worship because it will help fulfill all my spiritual desires. O merciful God, keep me away from the company of sinners and help me not even see the faces of ungodly persons. ||3||

ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਭਣੈ, ਜੋ ਜਾਣੈ ਸੋ ਜਾਣ ॥

Ravi Dass Bhaney, Jo Janey So Janh.

ਸੰਤ ਅਨੰਤਹਿ ਅੰਤਰੁ ਨਾਹੀ ॥੪॥ ੨॥

Sant Ananteh Aantar Nahi. 4. 2.

Ravi Dass Ji says that it does not really matter what other people think about it. As far as I am concerned, there truly is no difference between the saints and the Infinite Lord. ||4|| 2||

ਮਾਸਾ ॥**AASAA**

Prologue: This is the third hymn in Raag Aasaa by Ravi Dass Ji and is on Page 486 of the Holy Book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. In this hymn Ravi Dass Ji says that one should not be labeled as lowly person upon the basis of one's birth, may it be in an untouchable family. Consider that person as truly lowest of the low who does not perform the unconditional service of the Lord.

ਤੁਮ ਚੰਦਨ ਹਮ ਇਰੰਡ ਬਾਪੁਰੇ,

Tum Chandan Ham Eerind Baapuray,

ਸੰਗਿ ਤੁਮਾਰੇ ਬਾਸਾ ॥

Sang Tumhaaray Baasaa.

ਨੀਚ ਰੁਖ ਤੇ ਉਚ ਭਏ ਹੈ,

Neech Rukh Tay Ooch Bhaye Hain,

ਗੰਧ ਸੁਗੰਧ ਨਿਵਾਸਾ ॥੧॥

Gandh Sugandh Niwaasaa. 1.

O God, if You as a sandalwood tree with exquisite fragrance, then I am like a castor-oil plant. However, with Your kindness, I have found a place to dwell close to You. For this reason, Your exquisite fragrance now permeates through me and I feel highly exalted from an otherwise lowly being (plant). ||1||

ਮਾਧਉ, ਸਤ ਸੰਗਤਿ ਸਰਨਿ ਤੁਮਾਰੀ ॥

Maadhayo, Sat Sangat Saran Tumhaary.

ਹਮ ਅਉਗਨ ਤੁਮ ਉਪਕਾਰੀ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Ham Aougan Tum Upkaary. 1. Rahaao.

O Lord, I seek that sanctuary where I can find the company of Your saints. Once there, please do not let me leave that sanctum. I am a worthless person and am easily swayed to perform misdeeds. O Lord, direct me toward a righteous path because You are the Most Benevolent One. ||1|| Pause ||

ਤੁਮ ਮਖਤੂਲ ਸੁਪੇਦ ਸਪੀਅਲ,

Tum Makhtool Supaid Sapiyal,

ਹਮ ਬਪੁਰੇ ਜਸ ਕੀਰਾ ॥

Ham Bapuray Jas Keeraa.

ਸਤ ਸੰਗਤਿ ਮਿਲਿ ਰਹੀਐ ਮਾਧਉ,

Sat Sangat Mil Raheeye Maadhyo,

ਜੈਸੇ ਮਧੁਪ ਮਖੀਰਾ ॥੨॥

Jaisay Madhup Makheeraa. 2.

O Lord, You are like the beautiful threads of white and yellow silk while I am like the silkworm who leaves its silky case and dies. However, owing to Your generosity, even a silkworm is capable of weaving a silky cocoon. O Lord, have mercy upon me and let me take pleasure from the kinship of Your saints just as the bees derive infinite pleasure from honey. || 2||

ਜਾਤੀ ਓਛਾ, ਪਾਤੀ ਓਛਾ,

Jaaty Ochhaa, Paaty Ochhaa,

ਓਛਾ ਜਨਮੁ ਹਮਾਰਾ ॥

Ochhaa Janam Hamaraa.

ਰਾਜਾ ਰਾਮ ਕੀ ਸੇਵ ਨ ਕੀਨੀ,

Raajaa Raam Kie Sev Na Kinhy,

ਕਹਿ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਚਮਾਰਾ ॥੩॥ ੩॥

Keh Ravi Dass Chamaraa. 3. 3.

Ravi Dass Ji says that, in the eyes of the world, I am born in the lowest of the low family, my ancestors belong to an untouchable class, and my social status is low as well. However, O Lord, I will remain absolutely low if I did not completely surrender myself to You and did not perform Your service unconditionally. || 3|| 3||

ਮਾਸਾ ॥

AASAA

Prologue: This is the fourth hymn in Raag Aasaa by Ravi Sass Ji and it begins on Page 486 and continues on Page 487 of the Holy Book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. In this hymn Ravi Dass Ji says that when a person is truly absorbed in the Name of the Lord, his mind attains a stable state. In that state, the pleasures and sorrows do not influence the behavior of such a person in any way.

ਕਹਾ ਭਇਓ, ਜੁ ਤਨੁ ਭਇਓ ਛਿਨੁ ਛਿਨੁ ॥ **Kahaa Bhaiyo, Ju Tann Bhaiyo Chhin Chhin.**

ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਜਾਇ, ਤਉ ਡਰਪੈ ਤੇਰੇ ਜਨੁ ॥੧॥ **Prem Jaye, Tao Darpey Tairo Jann. 1.**

Since I have found my true Lord, it does not matter now if my entire body is cut into pieces bit by bit. (In short, I am not afraid of dying as long as I am in love with God.) In fact, what I am really afraid of is that I may not stop worshipping the Lord. ||1||

ਤੁਝਹਿ ਚਰਨ ਅਰਬਿੰਦ ਭਵਨ ਮਨੁ ॥ **Tujhay Charan Arbind Bhawan Mann.**

ਪਾਨ ਕਰਤ ਪਾਇਓ ਰਾਮਈਆ ਧਨੁ ॥੧॥ **Paan Karat Paaiyo Raamaiya Dhann.1.**

ਰਹਾਉ ॥ **Rahao.**

O my Most Gracious Lord, my mind has found a home in Your lotus-like beautiful Feet. There I have savored the elixir of life and obtained the treasure of Your exquisite Name. ||1|| Pause ||

ਸੰਪਤਿ ਬਿਪਤਿ ਪਟਲ ਮਾਇਆ ਧਨੁ ॥ **Sampati Bipati Patal Maayaa Dhan.**

ਤਾ ਮਹਿ ਮਗਨ ਹੋਤ ਨ ਤੇਰੇ ਜਨੁ ॥੨॥ **Ta Meh Magan Hoyt Na Tairo Jan. 2.**

Prosperity, misfortune, and property are mere disguises of Maya (the worldly illusions). The whole world is being blinded by such a materialistic trivia. However, O Lord, You have made me realized the truth. It is for this reason, Your humble servant is not enthralled by them. ||2||

ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਕੀ ਜੇਵਰੀ ਬਾਧਿਓ ਤੇਰੇ ਜਨੁ ॥ **Prem Ki Jaywary Baandhiyo Tairo Jann.**

ਕਹਿ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਛੁਟਿਬੋ ਕਵਨ ਗੁਨੁ ॥੩॥ ੪॥ **Keh Ravi Dass Chhutibo Kawan Gun. 3. 4.**

Ravi Dass Ji says that Your obedient servant is bound by the fiber of Your love and what benefit can be derived by escaping from it? ||3|| 4||

Purport: Essentially, Ravi Dass Ji says, since I have established a union with the Almighty God, now there is nothing in the world that can sever that relationship and even death cannot keep me away from my Lord. After death my soul will rest in peace at His feet.

ਆਸਾ ॥

AASAA

Prologue: This is the fifth hymn in Raag Aasaa by Ravi Dass Ji and is on Page 487 of the Holy Book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. In this hymn Ravi Dass Ji says that a person who meditates regularly on the Name of the Lord is spared from the pain and suffering associated with the cycle of birth and death. By concentrating upon the Lord's Name and singing His Glorious Praises, even the lowest of the lowly person attains salvation.

ਹਰਿ ਹਰਿ, ਹਰਿ ਹਰਿ, ਹਰਿ ਹਰਿ ਹਰੇ ॥ **Har Har, Har Har, Har Har Haray.**

ਹਰਿ ਸਿਮਰਤ, ਜਨ ਗਏ ਨਿਸਤਰਿ ਤਰੇ ॥੧॥ **Har Simrat, Jann Gaye Nistar Taray. 1.**

ਰਹਾਉ ॥ **Rahaao.**

Only by meditating time and again upon the Name of the Lord, one can get across the terrible world-ocean and find salvation. 1|| Pause ||

ਹਰਿ ਕੇ ਨਾਮ ਕਬੀਰ ਉਜਾਗਰ ॥ **Har Kay Naam Kabeer Ujaagar.**

ਜਨਮ ਜਨਮ ਕੇ ਕਾਟੇ ਕਾਗਰ ॥੧॥ **Janam Janam Kay Katay Kaagar. 1.**

Kabir became famous and got respect in the whole world because he meditated regularly upon the Lord's Name. Thus, he was able to put a seal on all records of his past actions. 1.

Purport: According to Hindu philosophy, invisible angels, known as Chitra Guptas, keep a running record of a person's deeds and misdeeds. Based upon these records, the angel of justice sends the soul either to heaven or hell. Ravi Dass Ji says that by virtue of the fact that Kabir was in love with God, the ledger kept by these angels was sealed forever.

ਨਿਮਤ, ਨਾਮਦੇਉ ਦੁਧੁ ਪੀਆਇਆ ॥ **Nimat, Naam Dev Doodh Piaayaa.**

ਤਉ ਜਗ ਜਨਮ ਸੰਕਟ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਇਆ ॥੨॥ **Tao Jag Janam Sankat Nahi Aayaa. 2.**

In Hindu holy books, there is a story about Nam Dev Ji. It is said that he offered milk to a stone considering it to be God. Due to his undaunted belief in the Lord, the stone drank the milk. Ravi Dass Ji says that it is because of his love for God that he did not reincarnate, and thereby did not suffer the brunt of pains of birth and death. 2||

ਜਨ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਰਾਮ ਰੰਗਿ ਰਾਤਾ ॥ **Jann Ravi Dass Raam Rang Raataa.**

ਇਉਂ, ਗੁਰ ਪਰਸਾਦਿ ਨਰਕ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਤਾ ॥੩॥ ੫॥ **Eeyoon, Gur Parsaad Narak Nahi Jaataa. 3. 5.**

God's servant, Ravi Dass is also imbued with the Lord's Love. Due to this unconditional love and by God's Grace, he shall not be bound to hell. 3|| 5||

Purport: A true devotee of the Lord is always absorbed in celebrating the Glorious praises of the Lord. He willingly obeys the Lord's Commands and accepts everything good or bad, Happiness or sadness, and pain or pleasure as the Lord's Gifts. He is neither afraid of hell nor he aspires for heaven. He simply rejoices the Will of the Lord.

Prologue: This is the last hymn in Raag Aasaa by Ravi Dass Ji and is on Page 487 of the Holy Book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. In this hymn Ravi Dass Ji says that a person spends his life aimlessly goaded by materialistic wealth. Only that person obtains salvation who directs his attention toward the Creator of this wealth.

ਮਾਟੀ ਕੋ ਪੁਤਰਾ, ਕੇਸੈ ਨਚਤੁ ਹੈ ॥

Maaty Ko Putraa, Kaisey Nachat Hai.

ਦੇਖੈ ਦੇਖੈ ਸੁਨੈ ਬੋਲੈ,

Daikhey Daikhey Suney Boley,

ਦਉਰਿਓ ਫਿਰਤੁ ਹੈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Douriyo Firat Hai. 1. Rahaao.

Look at how the worldly attachments are making a person (who is merely a puppet of clay) to dance obliviously. He is searching for riches all around himself. He likes to talk about his wealth at all times because he is mesmerized by it. He enjoys hearing people having discussions about his worldly fortunes. He is always running after them. ||1|| Pause ||

ਜਬ ਕਛੁ ਪਾਵੈ, ਤਬ ਗਰਬੁ ਕਰਤੁ ਹੈ ॥

Jab Kachhu Paawey, Tab Garabh Karat Hai.

ਮਾਇਆ ਗਈ, ਤਬ ਰੋਵਨੁ ਲਗਤੁ ਹੈ ॥੧॥

Maayaa Gayie, Tab Rowan Lagat hai. 1.

When he acquires something of value, his display of ego knows no bounds. On the other hand, when he loses the wealth, his mental anguish forces him to moan and groan. ||1||

ਮਨ ਬਚ ਕ੍ਰਮ ਰਸ ਕਸਹਿ ਲੁਭਾਨਾ ॥

Mann Bach Karam Ras Kaseh Lubhaanaa.

ਬਿਨਸਿ ਗਇਆ ਜਾਇ ਕਹੂੰ ਸਮਾਨਾ ॥੨॥

Binas Gaya Jaye Kahoon Samaanaa. 2.

Because of his selfish thoughts, deceptive words, and ignoble deeds, he is preoccupied with his seemingly sweet and aromatic indulgences. In the end when he dies, no one knows where his soul has gone. ||2||

Purport: Ravi Dass Ji says that the soul of a person who has spent all his life in satisfying his materialistic desires cannot rest in peace at the Lord's Feet but wanders aimlessly in the cycles of birth and death.

ਕਹਿ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਬਾਜੀ ਜਗੁ ਭਾਈ ॥

Keh Ravi Dass Baaji Jag Bhaayee.

ਬਾਜੀਗਰ ਸਉ ਮੋਹਿ ਪ੍ਰੀਤਿ ਬਨਿ ਆਈ ॥੩॥੬॥

Baajigar Siyoon Mohey Preet Ban Aayee. 3. 6.

Ravi Dass Ji says that the entire world is nothing but a dramatic play. O my friend, I have fallen in love with the director of this play. ||3|| 6||

Purport: The whole world is created by the Lord. We are nothing but His puppets. He has the strings in His Hands. He can make us move in any direction. Ravi Dass says that the most wonderful thing is that I am in love with Him. Now it does not matter what happens to me. Every thing I own is His gift to me. He can take it away whenever He so desires and I will never argue with Him.