

## Of Remembering God

### Kabir

*KABIR (1398-1451, one of the major exponents of the Bhakti poetry in India, was a weaver by profession. He openly criticized the caste system and other ills of the contemporary society. He has written more than 500 verses. His poetry exhibits a mystical love for God and celebrates the equality of all men before the eyes of God. The poem 'Of Remembering God' is a transversion by Mohan Singh Karki of Kabir's poem 'Sukh mein sumiran sab kare...'*



### Of Remembering God

In sorrow all remember God,  
But in happiness nobody;  
Who remembers God in happiness  
Why should ever sorrow there be?

O how sad ever for him who's asleep!  
In his grief he doesn't he doesn't wake to weep  
One whose dwelling is in the grave,  
In full ease he ever he even can sleep.

'Why art thou asleep?' says Kabir,  
'Sing of God's glory, be awake!  
Death doth stand just over thy head  
For his daily ration's intake'.

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3

Why are thou asleep! Says Kabir,  
Greatly thy sleep may thee damage;  
When Time maketh thundering sound  
Even Brahma's throne starts to shake.

4

Leaving aside the beloved Ram  
Who doth adore an alien god,  
He is like the prostitute's son,  
Whom to call his father knows not.

5

Loot in as much as thou canst loot  
Divine name of Ram in treasure;  
God of Death will hold thee by throat  
And throttle all thy ten apertures.

6

Guru and God stand side by side,  
Whose feet should I touch and kowtow?  
O guru! I offer myself  
At thy feet since God tells me so.

7

Why God's in the sulks, says Kabir,  
To the guru for shelter goes,  
But when guru is in the sulks  
In no way the helper is god.

8



### LET'S THINK AND DO

1. Why do we remember God only in our sorrow?
2. Who, in your opinion, is greater – Guru or God? Why? Discuss in small groups.
3. Talk to the people of different religions and find out the essential similarities between them.

