

50th ਸਲੋਕ \ Couplet

ਰਾਮੁ ਗਇਓ ਰਾਵਨੁ ਗਇਓ ਜਾ ਕਉ ਬਹੁ ਪਰਵਾਰੁ ॥
ਕਹੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਥਿਰੁ ਕਛੁ ਨਹੀ ਸੁਪਨੇ ਜਿਉ ਸੰਸਾਰੁ ॥੫੦॥
raam gio raavan gio jaa kau bahu paravaar ||
kahu naanak thir kachh nahee supane jiau sa(n)saar ||50||

Literal Meaning: Raam passed away, as did Raawan, even though he had lots of relatives. Says Nanak, nothing lasts forever; the world is like a dream.

Literal Word Meanings:

ਰਾਮੁ (raam) = Raam
ਗਇਓ (gio) = passed away
ਰਾਵਨੁ (raavan) = Raavan
ਗਇਓ (gio) = passed away
ਜਾ (jaa) = who
ਕਉ (kau) = had
ਬਹੁ (bahu) = many
ਪਰਵਾਰੁ (paravaar) = relatives

ਥਿਰੁ (thir) = permanent
ਕਛੁ (kachh) = anything
ਨਹੀ (nahee) = not
ਸੁਪਨੇ (supane) = dream
ਜਿਉ (jiau) = like
ਸੰਸਾਰੁ (sa(n)saar) = world

We have explored the literal meanings of the verse, along with the word-by-word breakdown. Now, we begin a deeper journey — to understand what the verse is pointing toward. The following exercises are designed to encourage out-of-the-box thinking. They may feel open-ended, and at times even challenging — that is intentional. Growth often begins where certainty ends.

Exercise 1: Think About Power and Fame

Consider history:

Ram — remembered for ideal kingship and moral authority

Ravan — remembered for immense power, wealth, and intellect

Both represented the highest peaks of their time.

Ask yourself:

At their peak, would it have felt like their time would never end?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are they physically present with us today?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Exercise 2: A Modern Reflection

Think of other historical figures:

Alexander the Great conquered much of the known world with swords and spears.

Can a child born today *feel* Alexander's power as a living reality?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What remains of such greatness today?

☐ Stories

☐ Lessons

☐ Names in books

Does this mean their power was permanent?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Exercise 3: What Guru Sahib Is NOT Saying

This Salok is not saying:

☐ Famous people are bad

☐ Power is evil

☐ History is meaningless

It is saying:

☐ Even the greatest roles are temporary

☐ Time dissolves all forms

☐ Nothing in the world can be held forever

Exercise 4: Understanding Nothing Is Stable “ਥਿਰੁ ਕਛੁ ਨਹੀ” “thir kachh nahee”

Which of these feel solid now but will eventually change?

☐ Body

☐ Career

☐ Social status

☐ Influence

☐ Recognition

If even legendary power fades, what chance do ordinary forms have of permanence?

Exercise 5: The World Like a Dream “ਸੁਪਨੇ ਜਿਉ ਸੰਸਾਰੁ” “supane jiau sa(n)saar”

A dream feels real while you are inside it.

Ask yourself:

Does a dream feel unreal while dreaming?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does it feel unreal *after* waking up?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What changes between dreaming and waking?

☐ Reality

☐ Awareness

So is Guru Sahib denying the world — or changing our relationship with it? _____

Exercise 6: So What Do You Do With a Dream?

If the world is dream-like:

Should we panic over it?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Should we cling to it?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Should we understand what is the reality?

☐ Yes ☐ No

How might life change if you remembered impermanence daily? _____

Spiritual Meaning (Word → Wisdom)

ਰਾਮੁ (raam) = Even the great—those remembered for virtue and honor

ਗਇਓ (gio) = Gone—passed on; nothing stays here

ਰਾਵਨੁ (raavan) = Even the powerful—those with might and control
ਜਾ ਕਉ (jaa kau) = To whom—those who seemed “set for life”
ਬਹੁ ਪਰਵਾਰੁ (bahu paravaar) = Huge family/support—still couldn’t make anything permanent
ਥਿਰੁ (thir) = Permanent/stable—what the ego wants to hold
ਕਛੁ ਨਹੀ (kachh nahee) = Nothing—no lasting ownership or guarantee
ਸੁਪਨੇ (supane) = Dream—seems real, ends quickly
ਜਿਉ ਸੰਸਾਰੁ (jiau sa(n)saar) = Like this world—life is brief, so anchor in the Divine within

Write Your Own Interpretation:

Take Action → Living the Wisdom

Follow these practical action examples to bring the teaching into your daily actions and choices.

Study fallen greatness - Remember how even the most powerful lives eventually ended.

Measure legacy, not status - Value character over temporary influence.

Limit self-importance - Avoid exaggerating your role in success.

Practice grounded gratitude - Thank The Creator for every achievement.

Act with quiet humility - Let awareness of impermanence soften pride.

Reflect and Explore

These discussion questions can be explored alone or in a group to encourage reflection, learning, and honest sharing, with no right or wrong answers.

If even powerful people don't last forever, how should that change the way you see success or fame?

Have you ever felt life moving quickly? How does that affect how you use your time?

How can remembering that life is short help you stay humble at work?

If nothing lasts forever, what kind of impact or values do you want to leave behind?

What daily habit can help you remember that success and failure are temporary?
