

52nd ਸਲੋਕ \ Couplet

ਜੋ ਉਪਜਿਓ ਸੋ ਬਿਨਸਿ ਹੈ ਪਰੋ ਆਜੁ ਕੈ ਕਾਲਿ ॥
ਨਾਨਕ ਹਰਿ ਗੁਨ ਗਾਇ ਲੇ ਛਾਡਿ ਸਗਲ ਜੰਜਾਲ ॥੫੨॥
jo upajio so binas hai paro aaj kai kaal ||
naanak har gun gai le chhaadd sagal ja(n)jaal ||52||

Literal Meaning: Whatever has been created shall be destroyed; everyone shall perish, today or tomorrow. O Nanak, sing the Glorious Praises of the Lord, and give up all other entanglements.

Literal Word Meanings:

ਜੋ (jo) = whatever
ਉਪਜਿਓ (upajio) = created
ਸੋ (so) = that
ਬਿਨਸਿ (binas) = destroyed
ਹੈ (hai) = is
ਪਰੋ (paro) = everyone
ਆਜੁ (aaj) = today
ਕੈ (kai) = or
ਕਾਲਿ (kaal) = tomorrow

ਹਰਿ (har) = the Lord
ਗੁਨ (gun) = praises
ਗਾਇ (gai) = sing
ਲੇ (le) = take
ਛਾਡਿ (chhaadd) = give up
ਸਗਲ (sagal) = all
ਜੰਜਾਲ (ja(n)jaal) = entanglements

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: Facing an Uncomfortable Truth

This Salok states something unavoidable:
Everything that begins will end.

Which of these will eventually change or end?

- ☐ Body
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Career
- ☐ Relationships
- ☐ Possessions
- ☐ Reputation

Is Guru Sahib being pessimistic — or realistic?

- ☐ Pessimistic ☐ Realistic

Exercise 2: Why This Truth Feels Heavy

Ask yourself:

Why does hearing this truth feel uncomfortable?

- ☐ Fear of loss
- ☐ Attachment to identity
- ☐ Desire for control
- ☐ Forgetfulness of impermanence

Do problems increase when we expect temporary things to behave permanently?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Exercise 3: Understanding Today or Tomorrow “आजु कै कालि” “aaj kai kaal”

This phrase does not create fear.

It creates urgency of awareness.

Reflect:

If something can end at any moment:

Does clinging make sense?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does appreciation deepen?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

What changes when you remember impermanence?

- ☐ Gratitude increases
- ☐ Presence deepens
- ☐ Ego softens

Exercise 4: What Are Entanglement “ਜੰਜਾਲ” “ja(n)jaal” ?

Which of these create suffering?

They are:

- ☐ Over-attachment
- ☐ Obsessive thinking
- ☐ Fear-based clinging
- ☐ Identity traps

Duties are not Entanglements alone.

Exercise 5: What Does “ਹਰਿ ਗੁਨ ਗਾਇ ਲੇ” “har gun gai le” Mean?

This is not just singing words.

It means:

- ☐ Living divine qualities
- ☐ Responding with awareness
- ☐ Aligning actions with truth

Examples of *Har Gun* in daily life:

- ☐ Compassion instead of anger
- ☐ Acceptance instead of resistance
- ☐ Clarity instead of fear

Does this feel like escape from life — or a better way to live life?

Exercise 6: Letting Go Without Renouncing Life

“Leaving entanglements” does NOT mean:

- ☐ Leaving family
- ☐ Rejecting responsibilities

☐ Becoming detached emotionally

It means:

- ☐ Doing without clinging
- ☐ Loving without possession
- ☐ Living without fear of loss

Is this freedom — or loss?

☐ Freedom ☐ Loss

Spiritual Meaning (Word → Wisdom)

ਜੋ ਉਪਜਿਓ (jo upajio) = Whatever is born/created—everything that begins

ਸੋ ਬਿਨਸਿ ਹੈ (so binas hai) = Will perish—nothing here is permanent

ਪਰੋ (paro) = Surely/inevitably—this is the law of life

ਆਜੁ (aaj) = Today—could be sooner than you think

ਕੈ ਕਾਲਿ (kai kaal) = Or tomorrow—time is uncertain

ਹਰਿ ਗੁਨ (har gun) = Divine virtues—truth, humility, compassion, contentment

ਗਾਇ ਲੇ (gai le) = Sing/embody—make virtues your living practice

ਛਾਡਿ (chhaadd) = Let go—release the grip, not the responsibilities

ਸਗਲ (sagal) = All—every form of attachment that drains you

ਜੰਜਾਲ (ja(n)jaal) = Entanglements—worldly knots: obsession, worry, ego-chasing, over-attachment

Write Your Own Interpretation:

Take Action → Living the Wisdom

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

Define what truly lasts - Clarify the values and devotion that remain beyond change.

Audit daily distractions - Identify habits that consume time without lasting benefit.

Detach from fleeting noise - Reduce engagement with trends that quickly fade.

Reinvest in permanence - Allocate time to practices that strengthen your inner foundation.

Choose depth over diversion - Prioritize what nourishes your spirit over what merely entertains.

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 everything will one day fade, how should that change the way you see work or goals?

What attachments—like status, possessions, or habits—are holding you back? How can you start letting them go?

How can you focus more on building qualities like honesty and compassion instead of chasing achievements?

In a busy workplace, how can you let go of stress or the need to control everything?

If life is temporary, how would you change your priorities to focus on lasting fulfillment?
