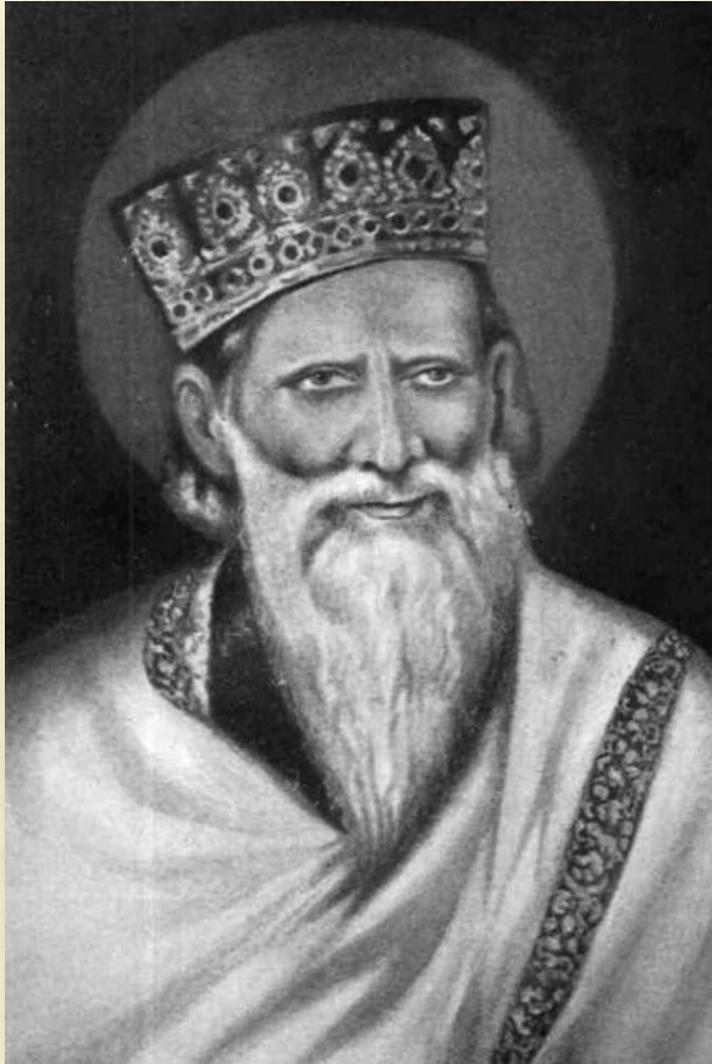


SOAMI JI MAHARAJ



“RADHA SOAMI Name, whoever recites will swim across the ocean of existence. All conflict will end, all pain and agony will cease and they will find peace. Rarely does anyone know the secret of that boundless Name. But the ones who do reach the far shore, never to be reborn into this world.” - quoted in Soami Ji’s ‘Sar Bachan Poetry’

Written & compiled by Clay W. Guthrie ©



Shiv Dayal Singh was born in Agra, India, in 1818. Later, He became known to his followers as **Soami Ji Maharaj**. As his biography reveals, and was written by his younger brother Pratap: ***“The Supreme Being... RADHASOAMI Incarnated Himself as Soami Ji Maharaj.”*** ‘Radhasoami’ is the name of God given to us by the Most High and represents the original and loftiest heaven from which all creation emanated.

Soami Ji’s father had been a follower of Guru Nanak, the first and greatest of the ten Sikh gurus, and later came in contact with Tulsi Saheb of Hathras. The latter was believed by many to be a perfect Sant (Saint) Sat Guru of his era. Like all great Saints, he had taught that the only true way back to God was by practicing Surat Shabd Yoga.* Soami Ji’s family became followers of Tulsi Saheb (Biography): ***“They were all convinced of the sublimity of the Sant Mat (Religion of Sants), and the efficacy of the Surat Shabd Yoga.”*** (*Note: *Surat* is synonymous with Soul, while *Shabd* is the divine Sound Current resounding within every human being).

It’s been said that Tulsi Saheb had also prophesied the coming of Soami Ji. For example, while referring to his yet-to-be-mother, the Sat Guru reportedly stated, ***“Yes, she will have a son. But do not look upon the child as a mere human being.”*** In most all respects, Shiv Dayal Singh’s nature was far from that of a normal child, as his brother explains (Biography): ***“Soamiji Maharaj’s infancy passed in a normal way. After, however, attaining the age of five, He began to devote Himself to studies and to Parmarth (religious practices) of the highest order. His mother used to give Him a bath early in the morning and prepare Him for devotion. And soon He would engage in His devotional practices. Side by side, His studies were also going on. He was so quick that it looked as if He was simply revising the previous lesson.”***

Not only was this child far beyond his years in his spiritual pursuits, but he was also able to quickly master several different languages, including: Hindi, Gurumukhi, Persian and even knew Sanskrit and Arabic. In spite of these talents and others, Soami Ji never lost track of the greater spiritual realities. (Biography): ***“Even during His school days, Soamiji Maharaj used to impart religious instructions of the highest order to His parents and the members of His family, acquaintances***

and ascetics who came to Him. At that tender age, He would impress upon them the perishable nature of the world.”

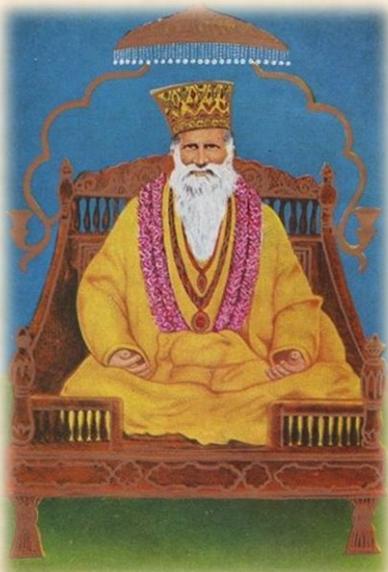
As a young boy, Soami Ji had repeatedly ***“emphasized that this world is a vast trap.”*** Like all great spiritual masters, rather it be Christ who exhorted his followers to “renounce the world” or St. Kabir, He intuitively knew the world to be false. Indeed, according to the Religion of the Saints (Sant Mat), our soul originally came from the highest abode of Sach Khand - a heavenly realm where there is pure spirituality and bliss without end, and has now been entrapped in the prison house of its karma (action and reaction) in this lower material world, while forever reincarnating and transmigrating into ‘8,400,000’ different life forms. (Biography): ***“When Soamiji Maharaj, at that early age, explained such sublime truths to elderly persons, people were taken aback as to who He was and what He was going to be. They were wonder-struck to hear Him speak seriously about lofty subjects in His inimitable sweet and simple words.”***



While still a young man, Soami Ji married Naraini Devi, who later became affectionately known as ***Radhaji***. It is said that because neither one of them ever let their spiritual focus go below the ‘third eye’ chakra, they never had children. Radhaji soon realized the greater mission of her husband and became intoxicated by his lectures. She, herself, attained the highest spiritual status, and was also recognized in her time as one of the most charitable benefactors of the poor and downtrodden (Biography):

“The discourses produced so deep an impression upon Radhaji Maharaj that She had Her entire jewelry, worth thousands of rupees, spent by Soamiji Maharaj in the service and entertainment of Sadhus (recluses). She gave away food, clothing, etc... generously to the poor and needy. She was so very fond of feeding others, that She, singlehandedly, cooked food for forty to fifty Sadhus daily. After feeding them, if there came a fresh batch of Sadhus, She would again cook and feed them. In this way, She remained in kitchen from six in the morning to four or five in the afternoon. Cooks were engaged several times, but they could not cope with the work.”

Pratap Singh (Soami Ji's brother and biographer) had shared the sentiments of scores of others who had experienced the higher heavenly realms and salvation through the Great Master, exclaiming that Soami Ji was no ordinary Sat Guru. (Biography): ***“Anami Purush or the Supreme Being is omnipotent. He is all powerful and the fountain-head of all. The entire creation owes its functioning to the energy supplied by Him. The Param Sant who comes from there has the same powers. There is no difference at all between Anami Purush, the Supreme Being and the Param Sant. Hence when Anami Purush incarnates Himself in this world as Param Sant for the benefit of Jivas (spirits), there is none greater than Him. And He cannot have any one as His Guru. For this reason, Soamiji Maharaj had no Guru, nor did He receive instructions in Parmarth (spiritual practices) from anyone. On the other hand, He explained Parmarth to His parents and to the Sadhus who came to Him.”*** This assertion, that Soami Ji had no guru, has been particularly controversial. Although, whether true or not, does not diminish the fact that He exemplified and was viewed by thousands to be the supreme incarnation of the highest spiritual abode of Radhasoami, or “Anami Purush,” which to date no Sat Guru of Sant Mat has ever equaled.



Soami Ji would often meditate in a transcendent, out-of-body state for hours on end, while even days would pass without stopping. (Biography): ***“For about fifteen years, Soamiji Maharaj used to shut Himself up in a room which is within another room. He was all the time absorbed in the bliss of Surat Shabd Yoga. Often He would not come out for two or three days at a stretch, not even to ease Himself. His Surat (Soul) was all the time withdrawn and raised to the Region of Anami (the highest heaven). Soamiji Maharaj was of a delicate constitution. But He often delivered discourses for eight or ten hours at a time with the least sign of fatigue. People were amazed at this. His diet was meager. It had been observed during twenty years that He did not take more than two ounce a day.”***

ORIGIN OF RADHASOAMI NAM

‘Soami’ is the Prime Spiritual Current of the original Shabd (the Divine Sound emanation), and ‘Radha’ is the first manifestation of that Prime Current. (Biography): *“Radhasoami Nam (name) was revealed by the Supreme Being Himself. When the humble servants of Huzur Radhasoami Saheb (Soamiji Maharaj), by their Abhyas (devotional practices) and Satsang, came to realize His high position and immense powers, and when, in His grace, He enabled them to recognize Him, they started addressing Him by the appellation of "Radhasoami", the Name of the Original Abode from where He had been pleased to come down into this world, for showering His immense grace on Jivas (spirits) in this Kali Yuga.”*



Soami Ji gave spiritual discourses and initiations to seekers for 17 ½ years, before his death in 1878. (Biography): *“Often, the discourses, which began in the evening, continued till midnight or even next morning. During His regime, some eight to ten thousand persons, both men and women, were initiated into Sant Mat, that is, Radhasoami Faith. They were mostly Hindus from different provinces (states). Some Mohammedans (Muslim), Jains and Christians were also initiated. About one thousand of them were Sadhus and the rest were householders. Those who devoted themselves to practices with zeal and earnestness came often to Soamiji Maharaj for having His Darshan, taking further instructions in the performance of Abhyas, and understanding its secrets and mysteries. By experiencing immense powers and glory of Soamiji Maharaj in their devotional practices and realizing His internal grace and mercy, they were deeply impressed with His greatness, and engendered profound love for and faith in His Holy Feet.”*

The following passages of Soami Ji Maharaj are all taken from his ‘SAR BACHAN’ POETRY, originally published in 1884. The italics and words inserted are my own, which are there to help the reader better understand some of the Sant Mat terminology which is not always discernable.



“Soul, who are you? Where have you come from? The mind has created worldly entanglements – why have you strayed into this net? You are a child of Sat Purush, the true Lord, and once you were a resident of the eternal home. But Kal (the Negative Power) has put his noose around your neck. Through the Master’s grace and the company of realized souls, reverse your direction and you will reach your home. Listen to the boundless Shabd (Sound Current) within. Radha Soami has said this for you to understand.”

“The drop that is the soul left the Ocean of Truth and reached the Tenth Gate (the ‘third eye’ center). From there it went down into the physical body and settled in the world of the nine doors (nine apertures of the body). Creating a relationship with mind and senses, it got entangled in the world. Life after life it suffered the agonies of drift in the stream of transmigration (i.e., rebirth into many life forms). It forgot all about its primal home – the court of Sat Purush, the true Lord...”



“You are the ocean, I am a wave. From you I arose, in you I am finally merged. You are the sun, I am a ray of light. From you I emerged, to you I have returned. You are the pearl, I am the string, never am I really separate from you.”

“The sun of love has arisen within me and has dispelled of illusions and delusions.”

“I am a fish, Thou art like an ocean. I am filled with ecstasy in Thy company.”

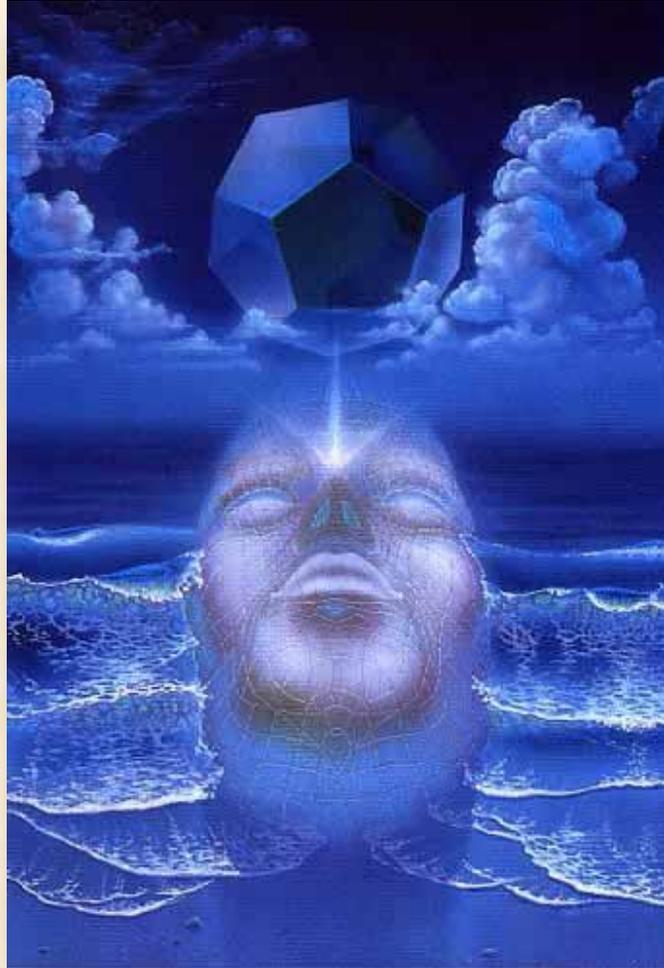
***“You have received this rare human form and this opportunity may not come again (to find God within). The pleasures of wife, children, wealth, property and social repute will ultimately end in pain. Save your self from these, sit in the company of the Master (a self-realized Sant Satguru) and seek refuge in Him. This whole play is but a one-night dream and I have now woken you up.*”**



The body is false, as is the illusion of existence, as is the mind charmed by this falsehood... Take my advice, beloved soul, and get out of the cycle of births and deaths (i.e., reincarnation), soar to the sky within and penetrate the Shabd (the Divine Sound). Radha Soami has said this so that you may understand.”

“Heavy, intense darkness prevails in the world and the body is a storehouse of shadows. Whether they are awake or asleep, I see people helplessly caught in the maze of the creation. Through ignorance of its own real home (the higher spiritual realms) the soul is living here like a homeless wanderer, stumbling through different life forms, tossed about in the cycle of birth and death...”

THE THIRD EYE ('TENTH DOOR')



“The Saints and true Gurus strongly exhort the soul, pointing to the escape route through the Tenth Door (the ‘third eye’ between and behind the two eyebrows). But she wanders out incessantly through the other nine, unwilling to listen, unable to catch their message... Without a Master and without Surat Shabd Yoga (i.e., merging with the Divine Sound Current within) no one can cross the ocean of existence... Now raise your soul through the opening of the Inner Sky.”

“Make the eye center your permanent abode by withdrawing yourself into union with the Lord. Focus your attention on the light there and all duality will vanish from your mind.”

IMPORTANCE OF MEDITATION



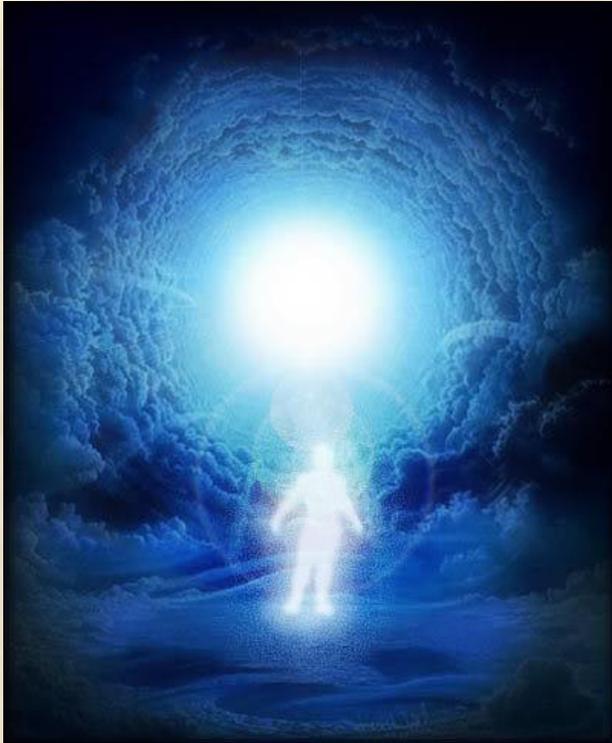
“Practice Meditation and subdue your mind by holding your sense impulses in check. Raise your soul – rise up through the sky of Trikuti and go beyond the top of Sunn. I will show you my form as Sat Purush, the true Lord, and then as the Lord of Alakh and Agam. Beyond them is the stage of Radha Soami, where I manifest in my own true form.”

“Those who have turned their back on Meditation will suffer for their negligence...”

They do not listen to the advice of the Sadh Guru, but adamantly follow the dictates of the mind... Life after life they will suffer in the wheel of birth and death and they may never get this human form again.”

SHABD IS THE LIBERATOR OF THE SOUL

The recurrent theme and message of Soami Ji and all other true spiritual masters is that



“through Shabd you will be liberated from the cycle of birth and death and go to the stage of immortality.” Furthermore, that “without Shabd all are condemned.”

Shabd is the Sound Current heard within us emanating from five different spiritual loks, or higher regions. By focusing on our ‘Third Eye’ during our meditation, doing Simran (the internal repetition of the holy name of ‘Radhasoami’*), and following a true Sant Sat Guru we can be liberated from this lower earth plane.

Shabd has also been referred to as “the Word” in the Bible (often synonymous with Christ), “Holy Spirit,” “Logos,” “Nam,” “Music of the Spheres” and “Unstruck Chord.” It is the heavenly key within us which unlocks the door to who we really are, why we are here, and more importantly – it can transport us back to the eternal bliss of our true home in Sach Khand and beyond.

“The Light of Shabd shines within... the window of your heart. Shabd sustains all souls and yet remains detached. Know that Shabd is the essence of everything – adopt the path of Shabd and attain salvation.”

“Hear Shabd by closing your ears, follow the incessant resonance of Shabd... you will see the dazzling light and and then remain absorbed in sound every moment.”

THE HIGHER HEAVENS WITHIN US



“I have turned my consciousness inwards at the eye center (between and behind the two eyebrows) and directed it towards the thousand-petalled lotus (the astral realm), I have abandoned the mind, and have ascended with the soul. On seeing Jot Niranjana (inner Divine Light or Flame), I was elated beyond measure... I heard the bell and the conch sound, I saw the moon, the sun and the star within. Then the door to the Curved Tunnel opened and my soul ascended through Trikuti (the causal realm) to make contact with Guru’s Shabd... In Bhanwar Gupha (beyond the mental regions) I bathe in nectar while a flute plays Sohanga music.”

“I enjoy the bliss of that region before my soul climbs further... up into Sat Nam which the Saints call the fourth plane. The beauty of the soul, equal in brilliance to sixteen suns and moons, is beyond description.”

***“My soul establishes its base in Sach Khand...
Karmas of countless lives are wiped out and Kal’s plans
are totally frustrated. I bow my head at Radha Soami’s
feet and enshrine his wondrous form in my heart.”***



***“Raise your consciousness and find the opening at the
Third Eye and the current of Shabd flowing on the right
side (i.e., we listen to the sound from our inner right ear only).
To the left is the snare of Kal; stay clear of it and safeguard
your soul. Then listen to the sound of bell and conch beyond
which the music of Onkar is heard. In Sunn the melody is of
Rarankar while further on Bhanwar Gupha resounds with the
strains of the flute. In Sat Lok you will hear the sound of the
veena, but I have no way of describing the Shabd of Alakh
and Agam. Radha Soami has resolved the whole mystery.”***

***“I recognize the gateway to higher regions within myself,
I obtain gifts of love.”***



“The soul breaks open the gate of Bhanwar Gupha, through which the (inner) Master shows it the Lord’s crystal palace. The spectacle there is utterly fascinating – each ray glows with the light of a sun, each sun glows with a novel light, each moons projects a million images. The firmament of the heart is illumined by the light of the higher realms reflecting through billions of inner skies...

How can I possibly describe the unique magnificence of the unutterable, indescribable realms?”

“Sohang and Sat Nam are on the way of Radhasoami Dham (the highest spiritual realm) and Alakh and Agam are at its door... The mansion of RADHASOAMI is Most High. Its majestic grandeur passes description... Doors to the heavenly spheres have opened within me. My Soul soars higher and higher up like a swift-winged bird.”

“It (the soul) sleeps in the shadow of worldly attachments showing no desire to wake up. Enslaved by the senses, it has become restless, for the powers of Kal have eclipsed its innate nature.... Still your inner vision and fix your attention on the door of the Inner Eye that opens to the path leading within. Break through the inner barrier, defeat Kal’s plans, liquidate your karmas and soar to the higher regions. Radha Soami says this for you to hear, friend, so that you can tread this path with understanding.”

“Your concern with social standing has spoiled everything and worldly attachments have trapped you in their web. Attachment to family has degraded you since your virgin soul was given in marriage to Kal. Karma has put a noose around your neck and subjected you to the ridicule of Yama (Lord of Death). Now you are so attached to the body that you have forgotten all about death... Having gained the opportunity to win, you lost the game of life by failing to end your attachment to the world. Radha Soami is calling out to you – think and do what you can to redeem yourself.”



“If you sleep to the world, that is, withdraw from worldly involvements and devote yourself to God, you build up treasure in heaven. If, instead, you stay alert in the world, that is, are preoccupied with worldly pursuits, you miss the priceless opportunity for God-realization.”

Soamí Jí Maharaj

The Inner Planes Of Creation

Various aspects of Divine Light & Sound-Current
(an approximation only)

↙
*The Country of
Saints*

↙
*Realms
of
Eternity*

↙
*Realms of
Pure Spirit*

↙
*The Eternal Home
Sat Purush
The Supreme Being
dwells in Sach
Khand*

*Trillions of suns
and moons
It is All Light*

↙
*Nirvan Pad
Land of the Holy*

*The Sun of this plane
exceeds 100,000
physical suns*



↙
ANAAMI

The Nameless,
realm of wonders

↙
AGAM

The Ineffable Region
Soundless Sound

↙
ALAKH

The Inconceivable
Region
Adi Shabd

↙
SACH KHAND

The True Home
Here, Soul merges
in God as a drop
merges in the ocean

Predominant Sound
Currents:

Veena & Bagpipes

↙
**BHANWAR
GUPHA**

The Rotating Cave
Soul realizes here its
oneness with God
Predominant Sound

Currents:

Flute

Par Brahm
 The Super Casual
 Beyond Mind and
 Maya

Full Moon exceeds
 1000 outer moons

Brahmand
 The Casual Plane
 Home of the Mind

Red Rising Sun

Anda
 The Astral Plane

The Thousand Petal
 Lotus and Bunk
 Naal

Pinda
 The Physical Plane

The Journey begins



AMAN SANDHU @ 2009

DASWAN DWAR
 The Pool of Nector
 Amritsar / Mansarowar

Predominant Sound
 Currents:

Sarangi & Sitar

TRIKUTI
 The Golden Mountains:

Mer, Sumer & Kailash

Predominant Sound
 Currents:

Thunder & Drums

SAHASRAR
 Heavens & Purgatories

Stars, Suns & Moons

Predominant Sound
 Currents:

Bells & Conch

Six Chakras of Pinda

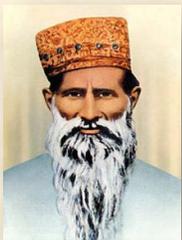
Chakra	Divinity	Color
Third Eye	Soul	Indigo
Throat	Shakti	Blue
Heart	Shiva	Green
Navel	Vishnu	Yellow
Genitals	Brahma	Orange
Rectum	Ganesh	Red

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‘RADHA SOAMI’ is God’s Holiest Name



Guru Nanak had once said, “*Soami* is the Lord of all creation, and the Master of all the souls.” Tulsi Saheb similarly declared, “I address as ‘*Soami*’ the creator of all that is.” St. Kabir went one step further, and hinted at the holy name of RADHASOAMI, which would later be given to the world by Soami Ji Maharaj: “Saith Kabir, ‘The true spiritual guide has shown the *Dhara* (Current) of the Inaccessible; transpose it, affix it to *Soami*, and then perform the repetition.’” If we “transpose” D H A R A – we can create the name Radha, and when we “affix it to Soami” – we have RADHASOAMI!



“What illustration should I give about the glory and majesty of RADHASOAMI?”

“Repeat the Real Name RADHASOAMI; you will then find abode in Sat Lok”

“Utter and repeat (within) the Holy Name RADHASOAMI and engender Love and Devotion in your Heart”

“There is no remedy so effective as the repetition of RADHA-SOAMI Nam which you should do day in and day out”

“RADHASOAMI has provided a boat – get across the Ocean of Universe free of any charge”



“The Holy Word RADHASOAMI comprises five letters of Hindi alphabet, and ten of the Persian. It discloses the mystery of five holy Shabds or Names, and grants ascension to ten regions.”

“Utter the Holy Name RADHASOAMI – all karmas will be eradicated”

“RADHA is the Lover, and SOAMI is the Beloved”

“I say RADHASOAMI with my heart, I hear RADHASOAMI with my soul”