

This Braj Bhasha verse is selected from the *padāvalī* (collection of songs) of the poet-saint Sundardas (1596-1689). Through the metaphor of rainy-season (*pāvāsa*), this verse presents the state of a woman (*virahṇī*) who is separated from her lover.

राग मल्हार

हम पर पावस नृप चढि आयौ ।
बादल हस्ती हवाई दामिनि गरजि निसान बजायौ॥
पवन तुरंगम चलत चहुँ दिश बूंद बान झर लायौ।
दादुर मोर पपीहा पाइक मारै मार सुनायौ॥
दशहू दिशा आइ गढ घेयौ बिरहा अनल लगायौ।
जइये कहाँ भागि कै सजनी रजनी दुन्द उठायौ॥
को अब करै सहाइ हमारी पिय परदेशहि छायौ।
सुन्दरदास बिरहनी ब्याकुल करिये कौन उपायौ॥¹

hama para pāvāsa nrpa caṛhi āyau,
bādala hastī havāi dāmini garaji nisāna bajāyau.
pavana turangama calata cahū diśa būnda bāna jhara lāyau,
dādura mora papīhā pāika mārāi māra sunāyau.
daśahu diśā āi gaṛha gheryau birahā anala lagāyau,
jaiye kahā bhāgi kaiñ sajanī rajanī dund uṭhāyau.
ko aba karai sahāi hamārī piya pardeśahi chāyau,
Sundardāsa birahanī byākula kariye kaūn upāyau.

King rain has waged war against me.

Taking his cloud-elephants and forces of lightning, roaring he sounded the cattle-drum,
His rainstorm like horses are walking everywhere and showering rain-drops like arrows.

(His) frogs, peacocks and cuckoos like foot-soldiers are shouting war-cries,

(He has) covered the fort from all sides and burned the fire of separation.

There is no way to escape, O friend! (because) the night has also revolted against me,

Who can help me now, because my lover lives abroad,

Sundardas says the separated-woman is anxious, what solution can be made?

¹ Mishra, Rameshchandra ed., *Sundar Granthavali*, volume-2, New Delhi: Kitabghar publication, 1992, p. 1070-71