

# *Says Rahim*

1

*Says Rahim do not snap ever  
the thread of love  
once broken, it does not unite  
if it does, knots appear.*

2

*Says Rahim do not spurn the trivial  
seeing the weighty  
when you need a sewing needle  
of what use a sword.*

3

*Says Rahim keep your sorrow  
to your own heart  
others will taunt you  
none willing to share.*

4

*Says Rahim a man with no education  
wisdom, religion and generosity  
an animal without a tail or horns  
futile is his birth in this world.*

5

*Says Rahim pleased I am not  
being offered ambrosia without respect  
better to die with dignity  
drinking poison.*

6

*Says Rahim a dilemma indeed  
when you speak out the truth  
worldly ties break  
with lies you don't ever reach God.*

7

*Says Rahim the sun rises with glowing rays  
it sets with equal grace  
so does a good man  
living through ups and downs.*

8

*Body, a paper toy  
turns into pulp in a trice  
strange, so says Rahim  
yet filled with much pride.*

9

*How will the weak ever live  
fighting the strong?  
Says Rahim like being at war  
with the crocodile while in water.*

10

*A tree does not eat its own fruits  
no pond drinks up its own water  
a good man saves for others' needs  
so says Rahim.*

11

*Blessed is the love the fish has for water  
lifeless without it  
says Rahim a bumble bee is different  
hopping flower to flower.*

12

*Blessed is the swamp  
insects thrive on  
says Rahim so vast the sea  
yet everyone comes away thirsty.*

13

*Says Rahim my Lord's image is embedded in my eyes  
there is place for none else  
like a traveller turning away  
from a full caravanserai.*

**Rahim — Abdur Rahim Khankhana,  
a scholar and poet (1556-1627)**

**(Translated from Hindi by Vijay Munshi)**