

# COMMUNICATING THE INCOMMUNICABLE

## VISIONARY POETRY AND PHILOSOPHY OF

### KABIR

#### 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY INDIAN POET-SAGE

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For over five hundred years now, 15<sup>th</sup>-century Indian poet-sage, Kabir, continues to be celebrated as the most loved poet and philosopher of India. Kabir's voice is really *vox populi* and his *sakhis* are constantly quoted as real 'testimonies' to the highest and the most profound truth.

Yet as an unlettered and socially marginalized low-caste weaver, Kabir was far from any academic philosophy; instead he invoked 'perennial philosophy' and transcendental vision beyond any labels or 'isms'.

Kabir's poems and songs, recited and sung by children, scholars and peasants alike, are forever alluding to the 'incommunicable' in hundred different and eloquent ways that challenge both the limitations of language and of intellectual philosophical thought.

Through Kabir's poems in original 15<sup>th</sup> century Hindi, and his *trans-creations* in English, in this seminar Professor Sehdev Kumar presents a glimpse of the transcendental vision of Kabir.

#### **About the presenter:**

Dr. Sehdev Kumar is Professor Emeritus of Bioethics & Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

He is author of *The Vision of Kabir*, *Lotus in the Stone*, *Ocean in a Drop* and forthcoming *Angels in Black Holes*.

Under his direction, Kabir is being translated into ten European and Asian languages, including Russian and Chinese.

He currently lives in the Himalayas and in the international community of Auroville in South India with some 3200 people from 62 countries, many from Russia.