

With Every Breath You Take

Shah Abdul Karim

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With every breath you take
Recite the Zikr: *Lā ilāha illā-llāh*
With every breath you take
Repeat, O mind: *Lā ilāha illā-llāh*
Die without His Name on your lips
And on the day of judgement
You'll find yourself in a fix

The power of His Name shall ferry you
From this riverbank to the one across
God guides the rafts between two worlds
All His lovers are safely lodged

Remembrance of God's Name
Soothes the heart instantly
In the chamber of breath
Turn the key and you'll sight
The sparkle of light

Caught in the snare of illusion
Earthly life is but a wasted mission
Says Baul Abdul Karim
Murshid Maula is the only option

Note:

“With Every Breath You Take” is a Baul song. The Bauls of Bengal are a motley community of itinerant folksingers whose songs repudiate narrow identitarianism and espouse pluralist universalism. The Baul worldview is unique in that it combines influences from the mystical strands of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. In 2008, UNESCO included the Baul tradition in the

'Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.' Shah Abdul Karim (1916-2009) was an iconic Baul singer-songwriter from Bangladesh. His songs are a testimony to the glorious heritage of South Asian devotional poetry thriving in the Bengal region. In recognition of his services to folk music and culture, Shah Abdul Karim was bestowed with the Ekushey Padak, Bangladesh's second highest civilian award.