By Kabir

Translated by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra

Brother, I’ve seen some
Astonishing sights:
A lion keeping watch
   Over pasturing cows;
A mother delivered
   After her son was;
A guru prostrated
   Before his disciple;
Fish spawning
   On treetops;
A cat carrying away
   A dog;
A gunny-sack
   Driving a bullock-cart;
A buffalo going out to graze,
   Sitting on a horse;
A tree with its branches in the earth,
   Its roots in the sky;
A tree with flowering roots.

This verse, says Kabir,
   Is your key to the universe.
If you can figure it out.

Notes:
Read the translator's notes on this poem.

Source: Poetry (March 2011)