

Scripture 101

Vaars, saloks and pauris

🕒 4 min read · Updated 27 September 2026 · Verified against [6332e94](#) on 2026-09-25

The twenty-two ballads inside the raags: pauris by one author with saloks interleaved from several, why attribution needs a rule, and how the pipeline detects a Vaar by its title, not its shape.

<https://docs.gurbanisoul.com/scripture/vaars-saloks-pauris/>

Explanation, not scripture — scholar review pending. These pages explain the scripture to engineers and students. Every quoted line is verbatim from the pinned database and cited by Ang; everything else is explanation, written by engineers and awaiting a Granthi's review. Where this page and the scripture differ, the scripture is right.

A **Vaar** is a ballad: a sequence of pauris — stanzas — each preceded, in the Granth's arrangement, by one or more saloks, couplet-style verses. The pauris are by one author; the saloks that go with them are drawn from several Gurus and carry their own Mahalla headers. Twenty-two Vaars sit inside the raags; the pinned database lists them like this:

#	Raag	Angs	Pauris	Saloks	Pauris by	Salok authors
1	ਸਿਰੀਰਾਗੁ (sireeraag)	83–91	21	43	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	4
2	ਮਾਝ (maajh)	137–150	27	63	Guru Nanak Dev Ji (M1)	4
3	ਗਉੜੀ (gaurhee)	300–317	33	68	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	3
4	ਗਉੜੀ (gaurhee)	318–323	21	42	Guru Arjan Dev Ji (M5)	1
5	ਆਸਾ (aasaa)	462–475	24	59	Guru Nanak Dev Ji (M1)	2
6	ਗੂਜਰੀ (goojaree)	508–517	22	44	Guru Amar Das Ji (M3)	1

#	Raag	Angs	Pauris	Saloks	Pauris by	Salok authors
7	ਗੂਜਰੀ (<i>goojaree</i>)	517–524	21	42	Guru Arjan Dev Ji (M5)	1
8	ਬਿਹਾਗੜਾ (<i>bihaagarhaa</i>)	548–556	21	41	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	5
9	ਵਡਹੰਸੁ (<i>vadahans</i>)	585–594	21	43	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	2
10	ਸੋਰਠਿ (<i>sorath</i>)	642–653	29	58	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	4
11	ਜੈਤਸਰੀ (<i>jaitasaree</i>)	705–710	20	20	Guru Arjan Dev Ji (M5)	1
12	ਸੂਹੀ (<i>soohee</i>)	785–792	20	47	Guru Amar Das Ji (M3)	3
13	ਬਿਲਾਵਲੁ (<i>bilaaval</i>)	849–855	13	27	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	3
14	ਰਾਮਕਲੀ (<i>raamakalee</i>)	947–956	21	53	Guru Amar Das Ji (M3)	3
15	ਰਾਮਕਲੀ (<i>raamakalee</i>)	957–966	22	44	Guru Arjan Dev Ji (M5)	1
16	ਰਾਮਕਲੀ (<i>raamakalee</i>)	966–968	8	0	Satta & Balwand	0
17	ਮਾਰੂ (<i>maaroo</i>)	1086–1094	22	47	Guru Amar Das Ji (M3)	5
18	ਮਾਰੂ (<i>maaroo</i>)	1094–1102	23	52	Guru Arjan Dev Ji (M5)	1
19	ਬਸੰਤੁ (<i>basant</i>)	1193–1193	3	0	Guru Arjan Dev Ji (M5)	0
20	ਸਾਰੰਗ (<i>saarang</i>)	1237–1251	36	74	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	5
21	ਮਲਾਰ (<i>malaar</i>)	1278–1291	28	58	Guru Nanak Dev Ji (M1)	4

#	Raag	Angs	Pauris	Saloks	Pauris by	Salok authors
22	ਕਾਨੜਾ (<i>kaanarhaa</i>)	1312–1318	15	30	Guru Ram Das Ji (M4)	1

Why attribution needs a rule

Read line by line, a Vaar looks like a stream of alternating authors: a salok of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, a salok of Guru Angad Dev Ji, then a pauri. The pauri belongs to the Vaar's author even though the line just before it carried another Guru's

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header. So the pipeline gives a Vaar's pauris the Vaar's author (*vaar_author*), never the author of the preceding salok — one of the engineering invariants. The Vaar with no saloks is Satta and Balwand's (Angs 966–968), the one composition in the Granth by those two authors; the short Vaar on Ang 1193 is Guru Arjan Dev Ji's in Basant.

Detected by title, not by shape

Twenty-two is the count of Vaars **by title header** — a heading carrying

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with

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. Detecting Vaars structurally, by runs of pauris, over- and under-counts, so the pipeline never does it. The *vaars* and *vaar_units* tables in the database hold every Vaar's anatomy — `/api/analytics/vaars` and `/api/analytics/vaar?id=N` serve them — and `golden_analytics.ndjson` pins the count.

In the app

The daily banis include Asa Ki Vaar (Vaar 5 above, Angs 462–475), read both as printed and in its kirtan interleave with the chhants of Angs 448–451 — two Nitnem variants of one registry key — and a Vaar's pauri numbers come only from the markers the scripture prints (Nitnem for engineers).

Read next: The Bhatta and the Swaiyye.