



THE SHIB BURN

068 / 16 MAY 2021 / SHIBA INU / COMMON

NO WAY BACK.

On 16 May 2021, Vitalik Buterin sent approximately 410 trillion SHIB to a burn address. The Ethereum co-founder had received an enormous allocation from Shiba Inu's creators. Sending tokens to an address treated as inaccessible removed that allocation from usable circulation.

In his accompanying explanation, Buterin described the amount as 90% of the SHIB remaining in his wallet. That percentage did not mean 90% of the token's entire supply. He also said he intended the remainder for charitable purposes and asked projects not to send him tokens without consent.

The burn followed a separate donation on 12 May: Buterin transferred more than 50 trillion SHIB to the India Covid-Crypto Relief Fund. Donation and burning served different purposes. A charity could put donated assets to use; the burn relinquished access to tokens instead.

The picture turns an on-chain action into a cosmic metaphor. A ribbon of dog-faced coins curves toward a black hole while a stylised observer watches from a spacecraft window. Neither this location nor these physical coins records a real scene. The observer is an artistic interpretation, not a documentary portrait.

The dark centre gives the card its idea of finality. The single inward trail represents relinquished control, rather than a second route to a charity. NO WAY BACK. is original editorial wording, not a quotation from Buterin. A burn alone does not guarantee demand, a higher market price or investment returns.

DETAILS IN THE ART

01 THE BLACK HOLE

The dark centre stands for an inaccessible burn address. It is a visual metaphor for giving up token control, not a claim about physics or a real event in space.

02 THE DOG-FACED COINS

The Shiba Inu faces identify the SHIB theme. These illustrated coins represent digital tokens; their count and size do not encode the amount burned.

03 THE SINGLE INWARD TRAIL

The shrinking coin stream has one endpoint inside the dark centre. It symbolises the burn transfer, with no separate charity route shown in this scene.

04 THE OBSERVER AT THE WINDOW

The figure and straight spacecraft frame place the viewer outside the spectacle. The setting and pose are invented; they do not document Buterin performing the transaction.

SOURCE & ART NOTE

Sources: Ethereum burn transaction; Buterin transaction message; Decrypt, 17 May 2021; Forbes, 12 May 2021. The burn and message are linked as primary records; historical details are corroborated by contemporary reporting. Black hole, coins, spacecraft and figure are interpretive artwork. The caption is editorial, not a historical quotation. Artwork approval does not establish commercial rights clearance.