

The Sikh Bulletin

੧ਓ ਸਿਤਿ ਨਾਮੂ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੂਰਖੂ ਨਿਰਭਊ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੂ ਅਕਾਲ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥ Ik oa'nkār sat nām kartā purakh nirbhao nirvair akāl mūrat ajūnī saibha'n gur parsād.



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editor@sikhbulletin.com

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In This Issue / ਤਤਕਰਾ

Editorial1
Shabd Vichar ਖੁਰਾਸਾਨ ਖਸਮਾਨਾ ਕੀਆ Khurasan Khasmana Kiya Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD6
What Is Gurdwara. Dr. Kala Singh 12
Guru Nanak's Life and Works: A Scientific Perspective. <i>Dr. Devinder Pal Singh</i> 17
Sakhi Analysis: Sri Chand the Greatest Saint Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD19
Gurbani Verse Analysis: ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਕਹਰੁ ਮਤ ਝੂਠੇ Beyd Kateb Kho Mat Jhuthay. Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD20
A UK Star Shines in Malaysia22
The Kursees That Need to Be Burnt Jarnail Singh Arshi Gyani24
ਗੁਰ ਜੈਸਾ ਨਾਹੀ ਕੋ ਦੇਵ॥ <i>ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੰਵਰ</i> 27
ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਗਲ ਸ੍ਰਿਸਟ ਕੀ ਚਾਦਰ <i>ਗੁਰਚਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਜਿਉਣ ਵਾਲਾ</i> 29
ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਜੀ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਪੱਤਰ <i>ਸਰਵਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੈਕਰਾਮੈਂਟੋ</i> 31
ਫ਼ੇਸਬੁਕੀ ਗੱਪਾਂ. <i>ਡਾ. ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲਗੀਰ</i> 34
9 ਮਹਿਨੇ 9 ਦਿਨ <i>ਪ੍ਰੋ ਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੋਹੀ</i> 35
Book Review: Own Your Life 36
Book Review. Understanding Gurbani39
Note to Contributors44

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Editor in Chief: Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD (Boston), Kuala Lumpur Punjabi Editor: Gyani Jarnail Singh

Arshi (Malaysia) Editors: Moninder Singh (India),

Harpreet Kaur (New Zealand) **Technical Lead:** Amrinder Singh

Sandhu (USA)

Editorial

Will The Fake Global Sikh Council Please Stand Down.

For a community that is miniscule by global standards, Sikhs have – for some time now - been presented with two Global Sikh Councils. Both have the same name, the same logo and the same motto. Their website domain names are the same too - one being hosted as .net and the other as .org. It cannot be that such gross overlap is by error. It also cannot be that the Sikh world has run out of names, logos and mottos for their global organizations.

The plain truth therefore is that one is real and the other fake. The truth is that the confusion is created with a purpose. To get to the bottom of things, we need to go back to when there was only one Global Sikh Council (GSC). The GSC is the brainchild of Sardar Kuldip Singh of USA who was the Chairman of the American Sikh Council (ASC). The organization formally came into existance at a Conference held in Sydney on the 28th of February 2014 through the efforts of Sardar Ajmer Singh. At the Sydney meeting, the GSC membership consisted of USA, UK, Australia and Thailand. The USA was represented by Gulbarg Singh Basi who had taken over as Chairman of ASC; the UK by Lady Singh Dr Kanwaljit Kaur of the Network of Sikh Organizations UK; and Australia by Sardar Ajmer Singh. No elections were held at this Conference.

Basi registered the GSC in the State of Georgia on July 21st 2014 as a Corporation – a business entity - with the name Global Sikh Council Inc. The Certificate of Incorporation listed Gulbarg Singh Basi as the Registered Agent cum CEO and his home address as the Principal Office Address. The business purpose column on the Certificate was filled in with the word "none."

In 2015, the GSC had its Conference in London. At this meeting, France, Spain, and Switzerland attended as members, while Pakistan joined in via Skype. The first GSC Elections were held here.

Lady Singh Dr Kanwaljit Kaur of UK got the most number of votes, but yielded the post of President to Basi on account of deference to the ASC. Lady Singh thus became the Vice President.

The 2016 AGM was held in Bobigny, France. By this time Italy, Germany, Kenya and Portugal had joined the GSC. During the elections, Lady Singh again got the most number of votes. And she yielded the post of President to Basi yet again. Lady Singh was once again appointed to the Vice President's post. A total of 15 individuals were also appointed as Board of Directors (BOD) for a one-year period.

In March 2017, a total of 26 delegates representing 13 countries (out of a total of 18 member-countries then) gathered at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to conduct its third Annual General Meeting (AGM). The primary purpose of this AGM was to elect its Executive Committee and set its policy direction for a period of one year. The delegates at this AGM however discovered a number of issues, defects and flaws that needed fixing. The pertinent ones were as follows.

First, the "Constitution" of GSC Inc. that was circulated to the delegates did not have a heading, reference number, signature or seal. It was pointed out by the Malaysian delegate Jagir Singh – an attorney by training – that it could have been "typed out or amended by just about anybody." It was, for all intents and purposes a "dubious constitution." Second, the registration documents of GSC Inc. listed Gulbarg Singh Basi as the Chief Executive Officer. The company (GSC Inc.), CEO Basi and Secretary Rupinder Kaur Basi were all listed on the one same address. Jagir Singh said this meant that "the control of the GSC was in the hands of one person." Third, in 2016 a total of 15 persons were appointed to the Board of Directors (BOD) for a one-year period – of which only 6 were present at the Kuala Lumpur AGM. Fourth, the "dubious constitution" dictated that the Executive Committee of GSC Inc. was to be "elected from the Board of Directors." This meant that the 26 representatives of 13 member countries that had travelled to Malaysia from all over the globe to attend the AGM discovered that they had no role in the selection of the Executive Committee of GSC Inc. And that the 6 BOD members that were present would determine the Executive Committee amongst them alone.

After a lengthy debate that went on for the better part of the 3-day AGM, a number of resolutions were passed by the 26 delegates present to rectify the issues, flaws and defects that are mentioned in the previous paragraph. The pertinent resolutions were as follows:

One, that a sub committee headed by Attorney Jagir Singh be tasked with preparing a new constitution for deliberation by members at the 2018 GSC Inc. AGM. A Draft New Constitution prepared by this committee that made the General Body of GSC the Supreme Body was distributed by e-mail to delegates of member countries in July of 2017.² This Draft New Constitution properly placed the authority that was given to the BOD as per the "dubious constitution" into the hands of the General Body of members.

Two, that the GSC be registered as an International Organization (as opposed to GSC Inc. that was registered as a business Corporation within Georgia) based on the New Constitution once it was approved by the General Body.

At this March 2017 AGM, in accordance with the Constitution that was presented – despite the misgivings over it amongst the member countries - a 6-member Executive Committee was elected by the 6 Directors present amongst themselves without involvement of the other delegates present. This Executive Committee (DC) was tasked to run the GSC for the next one year. Lady Singh Kanwaljit Kaur, OBE of the UK was elected its President, Ajmer Singh (Australia) as Vice President, Gurdeep Singh Kundan (Switzerland) Secretary, Gurpreet Singh (India), and Harcharan Singh (Malaysia) as members. As a mark of respect for his past services to the GSC, Lady Singh invited Basi to be a member of the Exco.

¹ State of Georgia, Certificate of Incorporation dated July 21,2014. Control No: 14069804.

² Preliminary Report and Draft Constitution of Global Sikh Council Inc, distributed by Jagir Singh on 31 July 2017.

It was thus clear that the 26 delegates from 13 member countries who were present at this AGM had set the GSC on the right footing. The resolutions they had passed would allow the body to achieve its aim of becoming the voice of Sikhs across the world. The most important aspect was that the New Constitution – once passed – would hand the management, administration, direction and setting of policy goals of GSC to the General Body and not the arbitrarily appointed BOD. Such actions ensured that the GSC operated on the principles of democratic norms and inclusivity. Members were looking forward to the 2018 AGM which was scheduled to be held in Dubai on the 18th of March.

However, this development did not sit well for some people who had other designs.

A Coup De Tat' In The Making.

Twelve days prior to the Dubai AGM, on the 5th of March 2018, Secretary Gurdeep Singh Kundan called for a Skype meeting of the Executive Committee of the GSC. It was attended by three other persons: Basi, Gurpreet Singh of India, and Harcharan Singh of Malaysia. Of these 4 persons, two had no position within the Exco or even the GSC. Basi had been sacked by his parent organization ASC³, and Harcharan Singh no longer held his position in his parent organization – the Malaysian Gurdwaras Council. So, for all intents and purposes, this meeting consisted of only 2 Exco members who were in legal standing. In other words, a minority faction consisting of 2 out of 6 Exco members took on the role of decision making for GSC. That was the first problem with this illegal meeting.

Secondly, the President and Vice President were not informed of the meeting. Thirdly, even the "dubious constitution" provided no authority for the Secretary to call for a meeting; and invite persons who had no standing.

But these string of illegalities did not prevent these 4 individuals from passing a "resolution dismissing Lady Singh as the President and appointing one of their own as the President." This illegal meeting was thus clearly an exercise to usurp power by Kundan, Basi and Gurpreet Singh. It was a coup de 'tat aimed at undoing all the decisions that had been taken at the 2017 Kuala Lumpur AGM.

The most important question however was this: If indeed there were any grouses by Kundan, Gulbarg Singh or Gurpreet Singh – or any other members - why could they not wait another 12 days for the AGM in Dubai to present their proposals for deliberation? Because they knew they had no support of the General body of members?

But such a reality was not sufficient to make this group stop their coup of taking over the GSC. They organized a parallel AGM in Switzerland on the same dates at the Dubai AGM. Having been sacked from his parent organization (ASC), Basi had set up his new organization named ASEEN. Gurdeep Singh Kundan wrote to all members to get ASEEN accepted as a GSC member to allow Basi to attend the Switzerland AGM and presumably get elected as the President. Kundan tried to get this approval by email. This was clearly against the constitution – which mandated that new members will have to be approved at the AGM. The Switzerland AGM failed for one reason alone. All member nations chose to attend the AGM in Dubai.

The Dubai AGM of 2018.

At the Dubai AGM, the following resolutions were passed by the General Body.⁴

First, the New Draft Constitution was tabled and debated clause by clause. After the requested amendments were made, Attorney Jagir Singh proceeded to table the following motion: "We, the representatives from various countries' organizations assembled here today and after due deliberations do hereby approve the

³ The American Sikh Council (ASC), through a letter issued by Sardar Karnail Singh Nijher of the ASC, had informed the President of the GSC on December 7, 2017 that Basi was sacked from the ASC and thus was no longer their representative in the GSC. The ASC had submitted the name of a delegate to replace Basi.

⁴ I was present at this meeting in my capacity as a delegate representing Indonesia.

draft constitution, adopt, enact, give effect and deliver to ourselves this Constitution on the 18th day of March, 2018 at Dubai, UAE." The motion was adopted unanimously with none dissenting.⁵

Second, an application forwarded by Gulbarg Singh Basi for a USA based organization named ASEEN was tabled and unanimously rejected by the General Body. Had ASEEN's membership been accepted, Basi would have been re-instated as a delegate.

Third, the General Body decided unanimously to permanently dissolve GSC Inc., that was incorporated as a business corporation in Georgia on July 21st 2014.⁷ The logistics of its permanent dissolution were deputized to the American Sikh Council. The General Body tasked Attorney Jagir Singh with the job of registering the GSC as a properly and legally constituted International Organization in any of the world's capitals that provided for such registration.

Fourth, the AGM voted on the following resolution: "In accordance with Clause 7E of the GSC Constitution, Mr. Gulbarg Singh Basi, S. Gurdeep Singh Kundan, Switzerland and S. Gurpreet Singh India, be removed as members with immediate effect for holding an illegal Skype meeting on March 5, 2018 without due authorization and passing unlawful resolutions, which resulted in bringing the GSC into disrepute." This resolution was unanimously adopted with none dissenting. ⁸

Fifth, the AGM elected Lady Singh Kanwaljit Kaur to be the President of GSC for a further two-year term. Bhenji Jasbir Kaur of the ASC was elected Vice President and Attorney Jagjit Singh of Malaysia its Secretary.

The Fake GSC is Born

Even after the General Body of the GSC had decided – without a single dissenting vote – to dissolve the Georgia Incorporated Global Sikh Council Inc., Basi decided to keep the aborted baby alive and to falsely keep presenting it to the Sikh world as the GSC. The GSC Inc. is Basi's private organization. This Fake GSC is his personal business entity. He owns it. His name is on the Certificate of Registration as the CEO forever. There is no provision for any elections. Even when the Exco were elected in 2015, 2016 and 2017 – Basi did not register any of these names on the Certificate of GSC Inc. Only he could do so, as only he had the power to do so. He chose not to. He chose to keep his own name there as CEO. This is not how any Global Organization of the Sikh World should be run – as a privately owned property of one man.

The GSC Inc. of Georgia thus stands as the Fake GSC – complete with the logo and motto of the Real GSC. At its very core, this Fake GSC is the result of the hubris of one man to remain at its helm even if his own organization – the American Sikh Council - had removed him; thus, terminating his status as member of GSC Inc., and even if the GSC General Body had removed him at its AGM in Dubai by unanimous vote.

The Global Sikh Council

The Global Sikh Council under the current leadership of Lady Singh Kanwaljit Kaur OBE, UK has been registered in accordance with the Dubai approved Constitution in the United Kingdom and has grown to become a truly global body with 31 member countries as members. The GSC is registered with the Charities Commission in the UK as a Trust. Its last AGM was held in Amritsar, Punjab in October 2022. The trustees registered with the Charity Commission subsequent to this AGM are Satnam Singh (UK), Ram Singh (India), Harsaran Singh (India), Gurprit Kaur (Uganda), Jagir Singh (Malaysia), Lady Singh (UK), Gurdial Singh (France) Amanjeet Singh (Dubai) and

⁵ Minutes of Meeting. Global Sikh Council, Annual General Meeting 17-18 March 2018, Hotel Grand Millennium, Dubai, UAE. Item 8.

⁶ Minutes of Meeting. Global Sikh Council, Annual General Meeting 17-18 March 2018, Hotel Grand Millennium, Dubai, UAE. Item 13 (d).

⁷ Ibid. Item 17.

⁸ Ibid. Item 16.

Paramjit Singh Bedi (Afghanistan- now in USA). This organization is not owned by any one individual but by members elected from the General Body that function according to an approved constitution.

Examples of activities at the international level that are undertaken by the GSC include its role in negotiating the placement of Sikh refugees that exited Afghanistan in 2022. Other examples include its role in persuading the Punjab State Assembly to table an Anti-Conversion Bill. It is also involved in the preservation of Sikh heritage in India and Pakistan; in women empowerment programs; Gurmukhi documentation and development of Sikh martial arts; as well as religious affairs. The Global Sikh Council has not undertaken any kind of fund drive for its activities – all of which are funded by the member country organizations themselves.

The Fake GSC Needs to Stand Down

The Fake GSC exists as a WhatsApp group in which random individuals from different countries are added. If the adding of Sikh individuals from various countries in a WhatsApp group is the defining factor for a "global Sikh council," then there must be a myriad of "global Sikh councils" out there. The difference perhaps is that the Fake GSC has "appointed hand-picked" individuals into various positions such as "President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary" to provide the façade of an "organization," and hide the reality that it is merely a WhatsApp group. This Fake GSC has appointed other well-intentioned Sikhs as its "ambassadors" for the same purpose. Its main and perhaps only activity appears to be the conduct of zoom based seminars. Its latest activity is an appeal for funds.

There is nothing wrong in running a WhatsApp group and appointing a President and Secretary of that WhatsApp group. There is nothing wrong in organizing Zoom seminars and collecting funds for such activities either. The wrong is in appropriating the name, logo and motto of a legitimately set up body — The Global Sikh Council — and pretending not to know or care for the truth of the matter. The wrong is in masquerading as the Global Sikh Council to fool the people into believing the fakery. The wrong is in the impersonation of it. The wrong is in the hubris of one man. Respectable Sikhs must disassociate from such wrongs.

The Fake Global Sikh Council must stand down. Or risk the disrepute of being exposed repeatedly for its fakery.

Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD (Boston) Chief Editor.

New Features

Beginning with Vol 2/2022, The Sikh Bulletin has introduced two new regular features as follows:

SAKHI ANALYSIS. This feature examines a popular *sakhi* for its historic origins, truth (based on logic and reasoning), the motive behind its creation (if fake), believability and its role in furthering the philosophy of Gurmat. This issue analyses the *sakhi* of Guru Nanak's eldest son Baba Sri Chand being declared the "Greatest Saint Alive" by Mian Mir. The analytical essay is in page 19 of this issue.

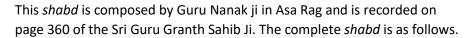
GURBANI VERSE ANALYSIS. This feature examines a popular verse from Gurbani for its authentic spiritual message. The purpose is to critically examine the interpretation of popular verses that are used or misused by people of groups to further their own agendas. The verses will be examined for their actual meanings and messages. This issue analyses the Gurbani verse that is found on page 1350 of the SGGS namely ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਕਹੁਰੂ ਮਤ ਝੂਠੇ ਝੂਠਾ ਜੋ ਨ ਬਿਚਾਰੈ Beyd Kateb Kho Mat Jhuthay, Jhootha Jo Na Bicharaiy. This essay is on page 20 of this issue.

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⁹ I am the Chairman of the Religious Affairs Committee of the GSC with effect from 2021.

ਖੁਰਾਸਾਨ ਖਸਮਾਨਾ ਕੀਆ Khurasan Khasmana Kiya

Karminder Singh, PhD (Boston) dhillon99@gmail.com





ਖਰਾਸਾਨ ਖਸਮਾਨਾ ਕੀਆ ਹਿੰਦਸਤਾਨ ਡਰਾਇਆ ॥

Khurasan Khasmana Kiya Hindustan Draya.

ਆਪੈ ਦੋਸੂ ਨ ਦੇਈ ਕਰਤਾ ਜਮੂ ਕਰਿ ਮੁਗਲੂ ਚੜਾਇਆ ॥

Apey Dos Na Deyi Karta Jum Kar Mugal Chareya.

ਏਤੀ ਮਾਰ ਪਈ ਕਰਲਾਣੇ ਤੈਂ ਕੀ ਦਰਦ ਨ ਆਇਆ॥1॥

Eyti Mar Pyee Kurlanney Tain Ki Dard Na Aiya.

ਕਰਤਾ ਤੂੰ ਸਭਨਾ ਕਾ ਸੋਈ ॥ ਜੇ ਸਕਤਾ ਸਕਤੇ ਕਉ ਮਾਰੇ ਤਾ ਮਨਿ ਰੋਸੁ ਨ ਹੋਈ ॥ 1 ॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Karta Tu Sabhna Ka Soyi. Jay Sakta Saktay Ko Marey Ta Mun Ros Na Hoyi. Rahao

ਸਕਤਾ ਸੀਹੁ ਮਾਰੇ ਪੈ ਵਗੈ ਖਸਮੈ ਸਾ ਪੁਰਸਾਈ ॥

Sakta Seeh Marey Paiy Vagey Khasmeiy Sa Pursayi.

ਰਤਨ ਵਿਗਾੜਿ ਵਿਗੋਏ ਕਤੀ ਮਇਆ ਸਾਰ ਨ ਕਾਈ॥

Ratun Vigarr Vegoe Kuti Moeya Sar Na Kayi.

ਆਪੇ ਜੋੜਿ ਵਿਛੋੜੇ ਆਪੇ ਵੇਖੁ ਤੇਰੀ ਵਡਿਆਈ॥ 2॥

Apey Jorr Vichorrey Apey Vekh Teri Vadeayi.

ਜੇ ਕੋ ਨਾਉ ਧਰਾਏ ਵਡਾ ਸਾਦ ਕਰੇ ਮਨਿ ਭਾਣੇ ॥

Jay Ko Nao Dhraye Vdda Saad Krey Mun Bhanney.

ਖਸਮੈ ਨਦਰੀ ਕੀੜਾ ਆਵੈ ਜੇਤੇ ਚੂਗੈ ਦਾਣੇ॥

Khasmey Nadri Kirra Avey Jaytay Chugaiy Danney.

ਮਰਿ ਮਰਿ ਜੀਵੈ ਤਾ ਕਿਛ ਪਾਏ ਨਾਨਕ ਨਾਮ ਵਖਾਣੇ ॥ 3 ॥

Mar Mar Jevay Ta Kich Paye Nanak Nam Vkhanney.

This *shabd* stands high on the list of mistranslated *shabds*; with one of its verses (the third one) being (mis)translated as Guru Nanak expressing his "dismay" that the Creator "allowed the slaughter of innocent people" and bewailed the Creator by asking "didn't you feel compassion?" (Sant Singh Translation).

The *shabd* is further (wrongly) described as being composed pertaining to the attack of Babur and narrated to the Mogul conqueror Babur as advice.

Gurbani is Sarab Sanjhi; by which is meant it is never occasion, location, era or person specific. This means that while Gurbani is always composed at some location; may be composed to draw from specific occasions and events; and may be uttered in the presence of person or persons – the composition is never meant for any specific location, any particular occasion or for a certain person(s).

All of Gurbani is composed for use in all locations, all occasions, all eras and all persons. Gurbani is spiritual in nature and meant for the whole of humanity throughout time.

Specifying Gurbani for specific locations, occasions and person(s) is a human failing. It arises from our failure to explore the true spiritual messages of Gurbani within *shabds*. It originates out of our folly of wanting to understand Gurbani only in the literal sense.

UNDERSTANDING THE SHABD

This article attempts to provide Tatt Gurmat (Authentic SGGS based Sikhi) meanings to the verses by using the Gurbani Framework – a method which uses Gurbani within the SGGS to explain Gurbani.

The *Rahao* verse contains the gist of a *shabd*. It is the verse that contains the primary principle of the entire *shabd*. It is thus the verse that provides the context for the remaining verses. All remaining verses of the *shabd* revolve around this gist verse; and must thus be understood within the context provided by the Rahao verse. We shall start by looking at the Rahao verse of the *shabd* under discussion.

ਕਰਤਾ ਤੂੰ ਸਭਨਾ ਕਾ ਸੋਈ ॥ ਜੇ ਸਕਤਾ ਸਕਤੇ ਕਉ ਮਾਰੇ ਤਾ ਮਨਿ ਰੋਸੂ ਨ ਹੋਈ ॥ 1 ॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Karta Tu Sabhna Ka Soyi. Jay Sakta Saktay Kao Marey Ta Mun Ros Na Hoyi. Rahao.

Karta – Creator. Tu – You. Sabhna Ka – Of all. Soyi - From ਸਾਰ ਲੈਣ ਵਾਲਾ; provider, protector. Jay – in the event, if. Sakta - Powerful, strong; prevalent. Saktay – Sp. Powerful, Overbearing Vices. Kao – Them. Marey – Lit. kills, eliminates, overcomes. Ta Mun (with sihari) – Within one's mind. Ros – Grievance, Objection. Na Hoyi – Not have.

Note: As is the case with Gurbani, its messages are addressed to the mind. The words ਸਕਤਾ Sakta, ਸਕਤੇ Saktay, ਮਾਰੇ Marey and ਰੋਸੁ Ros are thus interpreted in the context of the mind.

O Creator, You are the Provider of All. A Mind that Prevails Over Overbearing Vices Will Have No Grievance Within Itself (Regarding the fact that You are the Provider of All).

COMMENT

The common translation of this verse is: O Creator Lord, You are the Master of all. If some powerful man strikes out against another man, then no one feels any grief in their mind. (Sant Singh MD). This literal translation is erroneous on the following four grounds.

One, why would Guru Nanak – a man of love, peace and God – feel *no* grief for the powerful fighting the powerful? He would feel grief at *any* and *every* kind of violence between mankind. In fact, fights between powerful opponents are more destructive and truly wasteful than between weaker opponents. Guru Nanak would express more grief if the powerful fought the powerful.

Second, in such a translation, the first verse of the *Rahao* appears to have no connection with the second. The first talks about God being the master of all. And the second suddenly shifts gears towards the powerful fighting the powerful! What is the relationship between these two disjointed assertions? There appears to be none; and that is not because the composer of the verse sufferts from a defect but because the translation is faulty.

Third, in such a translation, the first verse and the second become contradictory. If the Creator is the master of all – then he is the master of the fighting parties too – whether they are weak or powerful. So what then is the need to feel grief over one type of fight and not over another.

Fourth, such a translation takes away the spirituality of the message. What is the spiritual message in saying "there is no grief if the powerful fight the powerful?" How can a spiritually inclined mind feel no grief? Worse, the (mis)translations seem to suggest that the strong fighting the strong is acceptable.

The conclusion therefore is that this verse is not about any external fight between external forces. It is about our mind accepting that the Creator is the provider of all and our mind not having any grievances or

complaints to that effect (ਤਾ ਮਨਿ ਰੋਸੂ ਨ ਹੋਈ *Ta Mun Ros Na Hoyi*). For such acceptance to take place, and for such grievances to not exist, our mind must prevail – be strong (ਸਕਤਾ *Sakta*) enough to overcome (ਕਉ ਮਾਰੇ *Kao Marey*) the strong overbearing vices (ਸਕਤੇ *Saktay*) within our mind. Let's begin understanding this shabd from its first verse.

ਖਰਾਸਾਨ ਖਸਮਾਨਾ ਕੀਆ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਡਰਾਇਆ ॥

Khurasan Khasmana Kiya Hindustan Draya.

Khurasan – Persia (reference to the rulers and invaders during Guru Nanak's times). Khasmana - by the Khasam (master); of the Master. As used in ਪ੍ਰਭ ਜੀਉ ਖਸਮਾਨਾ ਕਰਿ ਪਿਆਰੇ ॥ ਬੁਰੇ ਭਲੇ ਹਮ ਥਾਰੇ ॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥ *Prabh Jio Khasmana Kar Pyare. Burey Bhaley Hum Tharey.* SGGS 631. **Kiya** – Created. **Hindustan** – India (reference to those who were being ruled as subjects by the foreign rulers). **Draya** – Instilled fear; in fear.

Note: The word বীপা Kiya applies to both Khurasan and Hindustan. It cannot be that the Creator created one and not the other. The reference is not to the geographical places, but to people who are linked to both locations – the invader rulers and those who are invaded and ruled.

The Rulers Who Instill Fear and Their Subjects Are (Both) Creations of The Creator.

COMMENT

The common translation of this verse is: Having attacked Khuraasaan, Babar terrified Hindustan. Such a translation makes no sense on the following three grounds.

One, Babur is not mentioned in this verse, or in any verse in this *shabd*. Second, the words "having attacked" are not found in the verse. Third, the context that is provided in the *Rahao* verse is being disregarded and ignored.

If we bring in the context of the *Rahao* verse, then the connection becomes clear. In the *Rahao* verse Guru Nanak is saying "O Creator You are the Provider for All." Now, in this first verse, the follow through message is: Both the Invader Rulers and the Ruled Are Creations of the Creator. The underlying question therefore is "Given that fear is an anti-thesis to spirituality, then who is responsible or to be blamed if the people live their lives in fear (ৱবাঘিশা *Draiya*)? The answer is provided in the next verse.

ਆਪੈ ਦੋਸੂ ਨ ਦੇਈ ਕਰਤਾ ਜਮੂ ਕਰਿ ਮੂਗਲੂ ਚੜਾਇਆ ॥

Apey Dos Na Deyi Karta Jum Kar Mugal Chareya.

Apeiy - (with *dolavan*) Self. **Dos** – Blame for responsibility. **Na Deyi** – Give not. **Karta** – Creator. **Jum** – Lit. soldiers of death. Sp. Causes of spiritual death; vices in general, crippling fear in this case. **Kar** - Result. **Mugal** – Mughals; the ruling class; invaders. **Chareya** – got conquered by.

Note: The verse is to read with the pause as follows: Apey Dos, (pause) Na Deyi Kartey.

The Self Bears Responsibility, Not the Creator; for the Crippling Fear of Conquest that Results in Spiritual Death.

BLUE: Context (*Draiya*) from the previous verse.

COMMENT

The common translation of the verse is: The Creator Himself does not take the blame, but has sent the Mughal as the messenger of death. (Sant Singh MD). Such a literal translation is erroneous on the following grounds.

One, the notion of the "Creator taking blame" or otherwise is not the issue. The issue is if we human beings should assign blame for our follies on the Creator. The use of the words ਆਪੈ ਦੋਸ Apeiy Dos makes clear

that the blame is ours to bear. The use of the words ਨ ਦੇਈ ਕਰਤਾ *Na Deyi Karta* makes clear that blame cannot be laid on the Creator.

Two, the notion that the Creator "sent the Mughal as the messenger of death" is not in line with Gurmat. All matters of life and death are within the hands of the Creator himself. The Mughals are subject to death themselves, so how can they be messengers of death?

Third, the "death and destruction" that the Mughals brought was physical. Guru Nanak's concern and that of Gurbani is "spiritual death". This kind of death is caused by the crippling fear that the subjects suffer upon themselves as a result of the nature of the rule they live in. This is the point that is captured in the first verse with the word ਡਗਇਆ Draiya.

ਏਤੀ ਮਾਰ ਪਈ ਕਰਲਾਣੇ ਤੈਂ ਕੀ ਦਰਦੂ ਨ ਆਇਆ ॥ 1 ॥

Eyti Mar Pyee Krlanney Tain Ki Dard Na Aiya.

Eyti – Such. Mar – Lit. physical death. Sp. Spiritual death. Pyee – Sustaining. Krlanney – From ਕਰ Kar+ ਲਾਉਣਾ Launna, Taxing; 2. Wretched Pain. Tain – You. Ki Dard – Which pain, which suffering. Na Aiya – Not endured.

In Sustaining Such Spiritual Death, Which Wretched Pain Have You Not Endured, O Mind.

BLUE: Context from the Rahao verse.

COMMENT

The common translation is: There was so much slaughter that the people screamed. Didn't You feel compassion, Lord? Such a literal translation is problematic on the following three grounds.

One, asking such of the Lord is out of character of Guru Nanak. He says it four times in Jup Bani ਜੋ ਤੁਧੁ ਭਾਵੈ ਸਾਈ ਭਲੀ ਕਾਰ॥ ਤੂ ਸਦਾ ਸਲਾਮਤਿ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰ ॥ *Jo Tudh Bhavey Sayee Bhlee Kaar. Tu Sda Slamat Nirangkar.* The spirituality of Guru Nanak is of accepting the entirety of the will of the Creator under all circumstances; never to complain or lament. And certainly, never to question the Lord.

Second, the word ਤੈਂ *Tain* translates as "you." Given the context of the *Rahao* verse, it refers to the Mind, not the Creator. This word ਤੈਂ *Tain* further derives its context from the word ਆਪੈ ਦੋਸੁ *Apeiy Dos* namely the self.

Third, the words ਤੈਂ ਕੀ ਦਰਦੂ ਨ ਆਇਆ *Tain Ki Dard Na Aiya* are being mistranslated. The word ਦਰਦੂ *Dard* means "pain." It does not mean Didn't You feel Compassion, Lord? The Punjabi equivalent would be ਤੈਨੂੰ ਕਿਹੜਾ ਦਰਦ ਨਹੀ ਸਹਿਣਾ ਪਿਆ? *Tainu Kehra Dard Nahi Sehna Pya*? Meaning: Which pain have you not suffered? Putting the above three pointers together the meaning of the verse is:

In Sustaining (*Pyee*) Such Spiritual Death (*Eyti Mar Payee*) Which (*Ki*) Wretched Pain (*Krlaney Dard*) Have You Not Endured (*Na Aiya*), O Mind (*Tain*)

ਕਰਤਾ ਤੂੰ ਸਭਨਾ ਕਾ ਸੋਈ ॥ ਜੇ ਸਕਤਾ ਸਕਤੇ ਕਉ ਮਾਰੇ ਤਾ ਮਨਿ ਰੋਸੁ ਨ ਹੋਈ ॥1॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Karta Tu Sabhna Ka Soyi. Jay Sakta Saktay Ko Marey Ta Mun Ros Na Hoyi. Rahao

O Creator, You are the Provider of All. A Mind that Prevails Over Overbearing Vices Will Have No Grievance Within Itself (Regarding the fact that You are the Provider of All).

ਸਕਤਾ ਸੀਹੁ ਮਾਰੇ ਪੈ ਵਗੈ ਖਸਮੈ ਸਾ ਪੁਰਸਾਈ॥

Sakta Seeh Marey Paiy Vagey Khasmey Sa Pursayi.

Sakta — Powerful. Seeh — Lit. Lion. Sakta Seeh — Idiomatic, powerful as lion. Sp. vice filled mind. Marey - Lit. physical death. Sp. Spiritual death. Marey Paiy — Causes spiritual death. Vagey — 1. Group of animals. 2. From ਵਗਦਾ ਪਿਆ Vagda Pya. Flowing, continuous, sustained. Khasmey — Master's, owners. Sa — Of, to. Pursayi —1. Masculinity 2. From ਪੁਰਸ਼ਿਸ਼ (ਪੁਛ ਗਿਛ); accountability.

The Powerful Vice Filled Mind Causes Sustained Spiritual Death; the Accountability of Which Accrues to its Owner

COMMENT

The verse has been commonly mistranslated as: If a powerful tiger attacks a flock of sheep and kills them, then its master must answer for it. Such a translation is problematic on the following three grounds.

One, there is no spiritual message in such a literal translation.

Two, a tiger attacks and kills a single prey at a time, not a flock of them. The word "sheep" is not mentioned in the verse. The word हों Vagey must therefore be translated for the purpose of this shabd not as a flock but as flowing or continuous.

Three, the owner of an animal being responsible for an attack on it by a tiger is indeed base and common knowledge. Nothing new or earth shattering about such a disclosure. It is certainly no spiritual revelation of any kind. Guru Nanak (and the remaining 34 writers of Gurbani) have strived to provide enlightenment that is not just superior but unique, distinct, and matchless. To assign base and common stuff to Gurbani is to relegate its Godly enlightenment to base level.

The verse is about the sustained spiritual destruction that a powerful vice-filled mind brings about onto itself, and the revelation that accountability for such death (spiritual) cannot be transferred elsewhere.

ਰਤਨ ਵਿਗਾੜਿ ਵਿਗੋਏ ਕੁਤੀ ਮੁਇਆ ਸਾਰ ਨ ਕਾਈ॥

Ratun Vigarr Vegoe Kuti Moeya Sar Na Kayi.

Ratun - Lit. Precious stones; sp. conscience. Vigarr - Break in relations, quarrel, estrangement. Vegoe –

Destroyed, destructed. Kuti – Lit. by the dogs. Metap. Temporal Greed. Moeya - Lit. Dead, spiritually dead. Sar – Concern. Na – None. Kayi – No one.

In Such Sustained Spiritual Death, The Conscience is Estranged (From the Creator); Destructed by Temporal Greed, Yet It Is of No Concern to Any of the Powerful Vices.

BLUE: Context from the previous verse.

ਆਪੇ ਜੋੜਿ ਵਿਛੋੜੇ ਆਪੇ ਵੇਖ਼ ਤੇਰੀ ਵਡਿਆਈ॥ 2॥

Apey Jorr Vichorrey Apey Vekh Teri Vadeayi.

Apey – Self. Jorr – Lit. Join; sp. Bring about Realization of the Creator Within. Vichorrey- Lit. Separate. Sp. Negate the Realization. Vekh – Lit. See, know, enlightened. Teri – Your. Vadeayi – Greatness; ability.

One's Self Creates Realization (of the Creator Within) and Negates It; Know That This is Your Greatness O

ਜੇ ਕੋ ਨਾਉ ਧਰਾਏ ਵਡਾ ਸਾਦ ਕਰੇ ਮਨਿ ਭਾਣੇ॥

Jay Ko Nao Dhraye Vdda Saad Krey Mun Bhanney.

Jay – If, should. Ko – One, someone. Nao - Virtues. Dhraye – Claim. Vdda – Greatness, Glorious. Saad – Pleasures. Krey – Partake, Perform, Do. Mun Bhanney – From ਮੰਨ ਭਾਉਂਦੇ Mun Bhao(n)day Self Indulgence.

Should One Make a Claim to Glorious Virtues; Yet Revel in Selfish Indulgences, O Mind;

ਖਸਮੈ ਨਦਰੀ ਕੀੜਾ ਆਵੈ ਜੇਤੇ ਚੂਗੈ ਦਾਣੇ॥

Khasmey Nadri Kirra Avey Jaytay Chugay Danney.

Khasmey – Creator's, Master's, Of the Creator / Master, Pertaining to the Creator. **Nadri** – Grace, blessings. **Kirra** – Ant, worm. Metap. Lowly. **Avey** – Comes. **Jaytay** – Just like, not different. **Chugay** – Lit. Pick up, collect. **Danney** – Lit. seed for feed. Chugey Danney – survival activities, make a living.

When it Pertains to the Creator's Grace; Such A Claim and Reveling Is No More Than Temporal Survival by Lowly Means.

BLUE: Context from previous verse.

ਮਰਿ ਮਰਿ ਜੀਵੈ ਤਾ ਕਿਛੂ ਪਾਏ ਨਾਨਕ ਨਾਮੂ ਵਖਾਣੇ॥ 3॥

Mar Mar Jevay Ta Kich Paye Nanak Nam Vkhanney.

Mar – Death. Sp. Liberated. Mar Jevay – Lit. Death while living. Sp. Liberated from vices while living. Ta – Only, Then. Kich – That particular thing; reference to Grace from the previous verse. Paye – Obtain, Realize. Nam – 1. Divine Virtues. 2. From ਨਿਯਮ, ਨੇਮ Niyem, Neym: Hukm, Order. Vkhanney – Discourse, state.

Nanak States His Hukm: Live a Life Liberated from Vices O Mind; Only Then Is Grace Realized.

BLUE: Context from previous verse.

CONCLUSIONS

This *shabd* conveys spiritually rich messages pertaining to living virtuously that are derived from within the context of living under social, political and cultural systems that are or can be inhibiting.

Guru Nanak is providing spiritual (and temporal) pointers to enable virtuous living within such a context. The overall message is that political, social and cultural subjugation should not be allowed to come in the way of our spiritual goals. They should also not be blamed for our spiritual failings; neither should one blame the Creator. The Rulers and the Ruled are creations of the one single Creator. Fear can be eliminated from within our mind if we accept this premise. (Verse 1 and first part of *Rahao*).

If one rejects such a premise, then one will blame the Creator for it – a misplaced action. The self and the self alone bears responsibility for allowing fear to cripple one to the point of spiritual death. Fear can be eliminated from within our mind if we accept this premise. (Verse 2).

In spiritual death, the mind has to endure the pain of a vice-filled life - the accountability of which accrues to one's self. The result is a conscience that is destructed by temporal greed and thus estranged from the Creator. (Verses 3, 6 & 7)

Temporal survival lures the self to make claims of virtuous-ness while reveling in selfish indulgences. (Verse 9 & 10)

The *Hukm* pertaining to spirituality is plain: One needs to live a life liberated from vices, and realization of the Creator within must be created by the self. The mind is the entity that is fully empowered to do this. Only then is grace realized, says Nanak. (Second part of the Rahao Verse, Verses 8 & 11).

All these messages are applicable to the entirety of humanity across the entirety of social, cultural and political systems that we live in.

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WHAT IS A GURDWARA

Dr. Kala Singh Kala.singh18@gmail.com

A Gurdwara is a place of assembly and worship for Sikhs where spiritual discourse and religious hymns (*Shabds*) are sung. People from all faiths are welcomed in Sikh Gurdwara. The term Gurudwara is made of two words *Gur* (a reference to the Sikh Gurus) and *Dwara* (Gateway), together meaning 'The gateway through which the Guru could be reached (obtains spiritual knowledge and wisdom).



ਗੁਰੂ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਹੋਇ ਸੋਝੀ ਪਾਇਸੀ ॥ Guru Dwarai Hoe Sojhi Paeisi. SGGS 730 Through the Gurdwara (the Guru's Gate) one obtains spiritual knowledge and wisdom.

ਬਾਣੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ ਹੈ ਬਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਿ ਬਾਣੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਸਾਰੇ ॥ Bani Guru Guru Hai Bani Vich Bani Amrit Sare. SGGS 982 The Bani is Guru, and Guru is the Bani. Within the Bani, is the Ambrosial Nectar of spiritual knowledge and wisdom.

ਗਿਆਨ ਅੰਜਨੁ ਗੁਰਿ ਦੀਆ ਅਗਿਆਨ ਅੰਧੇਰ ਬਿਨਾਸੁ ॥ Giyan Anjan Gur Dia Agiyan Andher Binas. SGGS 293
The way antimony beautifies eye and improves vision, Guru has given the antimony to my mind (Mann) of spiritual knowledge and wisdom, which dispelled the darkness of ignorance.

ਸਿਖੀ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਗੁਰ ਵੀਚਾਰਿ ॥ Sikhi Sikhia Gur Vichar. SGGS 465 Sikh gets spiritual knowledge and wisdom by contemplating on the teachings of the Guru (Bani).

The Gurdwara is a place where we contemplate the Guru (*Bani*) and obtain spiritual knowledge and wisdom to dispel the darkness of ignorance. A Gurdwara is like a school where students go to listen to what *Bani* Guru is teaching us. Let's discuss why most of us go to Gurdwara.

1. Some go to Gurdwara for *Darshan* of Guru Granth Sahib and for attendance purpose (ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ ਲਗੋਨ ਵਾਸਤੇ).

ਡਿਠੈ ਮੁਕਤਿ ਨ ਹੋਵਈ ਜਿਚਰੁ ਸਬਦਿ ਨ ਕਰੇ ਵੀਚਾਰੁ II Dithai Mukat N Hovee Jichar Sabad N Karae Vichar. SGGS 594. One is not liberated by merely seeing the Guru, unless one contemplates the Shabd.

Many of us go to the Gurdwara, bow (ਮੱਥਾ ਟੇਕੋ) at the entrance, at Nishan Sahib, the entrance of Diwan Hall, in front of Guru Granth Sahib, go around AGGS and bow again in front of AGGS, take *Prashad* and come out. In this way we have taken *Darshan* of AGGS and made our attendance (ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ).

If our child goes to a school, bows at the gate of the school, at the entrance of the class, to the teacher, goes around the teacher and bows again and come out of the school and say I have seen the teacher and made my attendance; has this child learnt anything from the teacher by this ritual and will he pass his exams at the end of the year? The answer is No. If the answer is No for this child, how can this ritual be beneficial to us in the Gurdwara.

2. Some go to Gurdwara and sit full time but don't pay attention to what is taught.

ਜਿਨ ਕੇ ਚਿਤ ਕਠੋਰ ਹਹਿ ਸੇ ਬਹਹਿ ਨ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪਾਸਿ ॥ ਓਥੈ ਸਚੁ ਵਰਤਦਾ ਕੂੜਿਆਰਾ ਚਿਤ ਉਦਾਸਿ ॥

Jin Ke Chit Kathor Hei Se Beheh Na Satgur Pas. Outhai Sach Vartada Kuriara Chit Oudas.

ਓਇ ਵਲੁ ਛਲੁ ਕਰਿ ਝਤਿ ਕਢਦੇ ਫਿਰਿ ਜਾਇ ਬਹਹਿ ਕੂੜਿਆਰਾ ਪਾਸਿ ॥ ਵਿਚਿ ਸਚੇ ਕੂੜੁ ਨ ਗਡਈ ਮਨਿ ਵੇਖਹੁ ਕੋ ਨਿਰਜਾਸਿ॥

Oue Val Chal Kar Jhat Kadade Fir Jae Behe Koriara Pas. Vich Sache Koor N Gadeei Mann Vekhu Ko Nirjas.

ਕੁੜਿਆਰ ਕੁੜਿਆਰੀ ਜਾਇ ਰਲੇ ਸਚਿਆਰ ਸਿਖ ਬੈਠੇ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪਾਸਿ ॥੨੬॥

Koriar Koriarei Jae Rale Sachiar Sikh Baithe Satgur Pas. SGGS 314

Those who have mind (*Mann*) as hard as stone, do not sit near the True Guru. Truth prevails there; the false ones do not attune their consciousness to it. By hook or by crook, they pass their time, and then they go back to sit with the false ones again. Falsehood does not mix with the Truth. The false go and mingle with the false, while the truthful Sikhs sit by the side of the True Guru.

If our child goes to school and sit in the class full time, but instead of listening to the teacher, the child is playing with others in the class; this child has not learnt anything in the class from the teacher. At the end of the year this child will fail in the exam. In the same way, those who go to the Gurdwara and are not listening to what is being preached has not learnt anything and will fail in the exam.

3. Some go to Gurdwara to chant.

ਰਾਮ ਰਾਮ ਸਭੂ ਕੋ ਕਹੈ ਕਹਿਐ ਰਾਮੂ ਨ ਹੋਇ ॥ Ram Ram Sabh Ko Kehai Kehiai Ram Na Hoe. SGGS 491. Everyone chants the God's Name, Ram, Ram; but by such chanting, the God is not obtained.

ਮਾਲਾ ਫੇਰੈ ਮੰਗੈ ਬਿਭੂਤ ॥ਇਹ ਬਿਧਿ ਕੋਇ ਨ ਤਰਿਓ ਮੀਤ ॥३॥

Mala Faerai Mangai Bibhut. Eh Bidh Koe N Tariou Meet. SGGS 888 You chant on your rosary, and beg for blessings. No one has ever been saved in this way.

ਰਮ ਰਾਮ ਰਾਮ ਮਾਲ ॥ ਮਨਿ ਫੇਰਤੇ ਹਰਿ ਸੰਗਿ ਸੰਗੀਆ ॥ ਜਨ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਿਉ ਪ੍ਰੀਤਮੁ ਥੀਆ ॥२॥੧॥੨੩॥

Ram Ram Mal. Mann Ferate Har Sang Sangia. Jan Nanak Prio Pritam Thia. SGGS 1272.

Remember virtues of God in the rosary of your mind (Mann). Those who have imbued their mind (Mann) with Godly Virtues, they become their companions. Such people merged with the God and God dwell in their mind.

ਕਬੀਰ ਜਪਨੀ ਕਾਠ ਕੀ ਕਿਆ ਦਿਖਲਾਵਹਿ ਲੋਇ ॥ ਹਿਰਦੈ ਰਾਮੂ ਨ ਚੇਤਹੀ ਇਹ ਜਪਨੀ ਕਿਆ ਹੋਇ ॥੭੫॥

Kabir Japani Kath Ki Kia Dikhalaveh Loe. Hiradhai Ram Na Chethi Eh Japani Kia Hoe. SGGS 1368

Kabir, why do you show other people your rosary beads? You do not remember Virtues of the God in your mind

(Mann), so what use is this rosary to you?

ਇਕ ਦੂ ਜੀਭੌ ਲਖ ਹੋਹਿ ਲਖ ਹੋਵਹਿ ਲਖ ਵੀਸ ॥ ਲਖੁ ਲਖੁ ਗੇੜਾ ਆਖੀਅਹਿ ਏਕੁ ਨਾਮੁ ਜਗਦੀਸ ॥ ਏਤੁ ਰਾਹਿ ਪਤਿ ਪਵੜੀਆ ਚੜੀਐ ਹੋਇ ਇਕੀਸ ॥ਸੁਣਿ ਗਲਾ ਆਕਾਸ ਕੀ ਕੀਟਾ ਆਈ ਰੀਸ ॥ ਨਾਨਕ ਨਦਰੀ ਪਾਈਐ ਕੁੜੀ ਕੁੜੈ ਠੀਸ ॥੩੨॥

Eik Du Jibho Lakh Hoh Lakh Hoveh Lakh Vees. Lakh Lakh Gerra Aakhiah Ek Naam Jagdis. SGGS 7.

Et Rah Pat Pavarria Charriai Hoe Eikis. Sunn Gla Aakas Ki Kita Aai Rees. Nanak Nadari Paiai Kurri Kurrai Thees.

If one has uncountable number of tongues, and with each tongue, one would repeat uncountable times, the Name of the God, is meaningless as one can't merge with the God like this. Along this path, to climb the steps of the ladder to merge with God, is by giving up ego. Just by knowing the virtues of the God and trying to merge without giving up ego and meaningless rituals. Listening to the teachings of the Guru which are as high as sky; my ant like thought process also climbed up the stairs of spirituality. Nanak says the only way to merge with the God is to make ourselves worthy of the Virtues of the God.

ਜੈਸੇ ਖਾਂਡ ਖਾਂਡ ਕਹੈ ਮੁਖਿ ਨਹੀ ਮੀਠਾ ਹੋਇ ਜਬ ਲਗ ਜੀਭ ਸ੍ਵਾਦ ਖਾਂਡੂ ਨਹੀਂ ਖਾਈਐ॥

Jais Khandd Khand Kehai Mukh Nehi Mitha Hoe Jab Lag Jeebh Svad Khandd Nehin Khaiai.

ਜੈਸੇ ਰਾਤ ਅੰਧੇਰੀ ਮੈ ਦੀਪਕ ਦੀਪਕ ਕਹੈ ਤਿਮਰ ਨ ਜਾਈ ਜਬ ਲਗ ਨ ਜਰਾਈਐ

Jaisae Raat Andheri Mai Dipak Dipak Kehai Timar Na Jai Jab Lag N Jaraiai. ਜੈਸੇ ਗਿਆਨ ਗਿਆਨ ਕਹੈ ਗਿਆਨ ਹੂੰ ਨ ਹੋਤ ਕਛ ਜਬ ਲਗੁ ਗੁਰ ਗਿਆਨ ਅੰਤਰਿ ਨ ਪਾਈਐ॥ Jaise Gian Gian Kehai Gian Hoon Na Hot Kachu Jab Lag Gur Gian Antar Na Paiai. ਤੈਸੇ ਗੂਰ ਕਹੈ ਗੁਰਧਿਆਨ ਹੁ ਨ ਪਾਵਤ ਤਬ ਲਗੂ ਗੁਰ ਦਰਸ ਜਾਇ ਨ ਸਮਾਈਐ ॥੫੪੨॥

Taise Gur Kehai Gurdhian Hu Na Pavat Tab Lag Gur Daras Jae Na Samaiai. Bhai Gurdas.

One cannot taste sugar by just saying sugar, sugar. To taste sugar one has to put sugar on the tongue. Darkness cannot go away by just saying lamp, lamp. One has to light lamp. One cannot get knowledge by just saying knowledge, knowledge. One has to go to Guru and obtain knowledge. In the same way just by saying Gur Gur one cannot get Guru's wisdom till one read, understand and assimilate the philosophy of the Guru.

ਹਿਰਦੈ ਜਪਨੀ ਜਪਉ ਗੁਣਤਾਸਾ ॥ ਹਰਿ ਅਗਮ ਅਗੋਚਰੁ ਅਪਰੰਪਰ ਸੁਆਮੀ ਜਨ ਪਗਿ ਲਗਿ ਧਿਆਵਉ ਹੋਇ ਦਾਸਨਿ ਦਾਸਾ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Hiradai Japani Japo Guntasa. Har Agam Agochar Aparanpar Suami Jan Pag Lag Dhiavo Hoe Dasan Dasa. Rehao. SGGS 841

I remember the Virtues of the God in my mind (*Mann*), which is my rosary. The God is inaccessible, unfathomable and unlimited. I contemplate on such God's Virtues in the company of the Guru as humble of the humblest.

ਐਸਾ ਗਿਆਨੁ ਜਪਹੁ ਮੇਰੇ ਮੀਤਾ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥ Aisa Giyan Japhu Mann Mere. Rahao. SGGS 331.

O My mind! Remember (Japo) spiritual teaching of the Guru (Giyan) all the time in your conscious mind (Mann).

There is no point in meditating spiritual teaching of the Guru (Giyan). Japo means remember.

If our child goes to school and only chants the name of the author of the book, can this child pass the exam at the end of the year? Answer is No. A child needs to read the book and get knowledge out of it to pass the exam. In the same way by chanting Waheguru we can't be liberated from the cycle of spiritual death and birth. We need to read the SGGS and get spiritual knowledge and wisdom.

4. Some go to Gurdwara for Asa Di Vaar only.

Many ask after chanting Waheguru and after listening to Asa Di Vaar that mind (*Mann*) is wandering around. It is not steady. It is because they don't listen to Asa Di Vaar with conscious mind (*Mann*), understand and then practice.

ਕੁੰਭੇ ਬਧਾ ਜਲੂ ਰਹੈ ਜਲ ਬਿਨੂ ਕੁੰਭੂ ਨ ਹੋਇ ॥ਗਿਆਨ ਕਾ ਬਧਾ ਮਨੂ ਰਹੈ ਗੁਰ ਬਿਨੂ ਗਿਆਨੂ ਨ ਹੋਇ ॥੫॥

Kunbhe Badha Jal Rehai Jal Bin Kunbh N Hoe. Giyan Ka Badha Mann Reha Gur Bin Giyan N Hoe. SGGS 469. The potter makes pitcher out of clay and water. Potter mixes clay with water and kneads it till water and clay have mixed properly. Water and clay cannot be separated now. They are one. When we put water in this pitcher, water remains confined within the pitcher, but without water, the pitcher could not have been formed. In the same way mind (Mann) is to be kneaded with the spiritual wisdom till they are one. Now mind (Mann) is restrained from wandering around by the spiritual wisdom, but without the Guru, there is no spiritual wisdom.

ਲਬੁ ਪਾਪੁ ਦੁਇ ਰਾਜਾ ਮਹਤਾ ਕੂੜੁ ਹੋਆ ਸਿਕਦਾਰੁ ॥ਕਾਮੁ ਨੇਬੁ ਸਦਿ ਪੁਛੀਐ ਬਹਿ ਬਹਿ ਕਰੇ ਬੀਚਾਰੁ ॥
Lab Pap Doe Raja Mehata Koorr Hoa Sikdar. Kam Naeb Sadh Puchiai Beh Beh Kare Bichar.
ਅੰਧੀ ਰਯਤਿ ਗਿਆਨ ਵਿਹੂਣੀ ਭਾਹਿ ਭਰੇ ਮੁਰਦਾਰੁ ॥ਗਿਆਨੀ ਨਚਹਿ ਵਾਜੇ ਵਾਵਹਿ ਰੂਪ ਕਰਹਿ ਸੀਗਾਰੁ ॥
Andhi Rayat Giyan Vihuni Bhahi Bhare Murdar. Giyani Nacheh Vaje Vaveh Roop Kareh Sigar.
ਉਚੇ ਕੂਕਹਿ ਵਾਦਾ ਗਾਵਹਿ ਜੋਧਾ ਕਾ ਵੀਚਾਰੁ ॥ਮੂਰਖ ਪੰਡਿਤ ਹਿਕਮਤਿ ਹੁਜਤਿ ਸੰਜੈ ਕਰਹਿ ਪਿਆਰੁ ॥
Oche Kukeh Vada Gaveh Jodha Ka Vichar. Murakh Panddt Hikamat Hujat Sanjai Karehi Piyar.
ਧਰਮੀ ਧਰਮੁ ਕਰਹਿ ਗਾਵਾਵਹਿ ਮੰਗਹਿ ਮੋਖ ਦੁਆਰੁ ॥ਜਤੀ ਸਦਾਵਹਿ ਜੁਗਤਿ ਨ ਜਾਣਹਿ ਛਡਿ ਬਹਹਿ ਘਰ ਬਾਰੁ ॥
Dharami Dharam Kareh Gavaveh Mangeh Mokh Duar. Jati Sadhaveh Jugat N Janehi Chad Beheh Ghar Bar.

ਸਭੂ ਕੋ ਪੂਰਾ ਆਪੇ ਹੋਵੈ ਘਟਿ ਨ ਕੋਈ ਆਖੈ ॥ਪਤਿ ਪਰਵਾਣਾ ਪਿਛੈ ਪਾਈਐ ਤਾ ਨਾਨਕ ਤੋਲਿਆ ਜਾਪੈ ॥२॥

Sabh Ko Pura Apey Hovai Ghat N Koe Akhai.Pat Paravana Pichai Paiai Ta Nanak Tolia Japai. SGGS 469.

Greed and sin are the king and prime minister, and falsehood is the treasurer in our lives. Sexual desire, the chief advisor, is summoned and consulted; they all sit together and contemplate their plans. Their subjects (Giyan Indre) are blind without wisdom, and try to please the ardent desire of worldly passions (Maya). The so called spiritually wise adore themselves in different types of clothes and decorations, dance and play to the music which people want to hear. They shout out loud, and sing epic poems and heroic stories. The fools call themselves spiritual scholars, and by their clever tricks gather wealth, which is their main aim and target. The so called righteous (Dharmic) think it is right way but actually are wasting their effort and can't get salvation from Maya. Some call themselves celibate, and abandon their homes, but they do not know the true way of life. Everyone calls oneself perfect; none call themselves imperfect. If the weight of honour is placed on the scale, then, O Nanak, one sees their true weight. They are in fact still suffering in the greed, ardent sexual desire, falsehood and worldly temptations.

5. Some do Path and even memorize and recite Gurbani from memory.

ਪਾਠੁ ਪੜਿਓ ਅਰੁ ਬੇਦੁ ਬੀਚਾਰਿਓ ਨਿਵਲਿ ਭੁਅੰਗਮ ਸਾਧੇ ॥ ਪੰਚ ਜਨਾ ਸਿਊ ਸੰਗੁ ਨ ਛੁਟਕਿਓ ਅਧਿਕ ਅਹੰਬੁਧਿ ਬਾਧੇ ॥९॥ Path Parriou Ar Baed Bichariou Nival Bhuangam Sadhe. Panch Jna Sio Sang N Chutakiou Adhik Ahanbudh Badhe ਪਿਆਰੇ ਇਨ ਬਿਧਿ ਮਿਲਣੂ ਨ ਜਾਈ ਮੈ ਕੀਏ ਕਰਮ ਅਨੇਕਾ ॥ ਹਾਰਿ ਪਰਿਓ ਸੁਆਮੀ ਕੈ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਦੀਜੈ ਬੁਧਿ ਬਿਬੇਕਾ ॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥ Piayre Ein Bidh Milan N Jai Mai Kiye Karam Aneka. Har Pariou Suamee Kai Duarai Dijai Budh Bibeka. Rehao. SGGS 641.

Some read scriptures, and discuss the *Vedas* (Holy Scriptures); some practice the inner cleansing techniques of Yoga, and control of the breath. But they cannot escape from the company of the five passions and are increasingly bound to egotism. Some perform many religious rituals. This is not the way to meet the God. I have left the protection of all these and came to the refuge of the Guru to grant me a discerning intellect and wisdom how to merge with the God.

ਕਿਆ ਪੜੀਐ ਕਿਆ ਗੂਨੀਐ॥ ਕਿਆ ਬੇਦ ਪੁਰਾਨਾਂ ਸੂਨੀਐ॥ ਪੜੇ ਸੂਨੇ ਕਿਆ ਹੋਈ ॥ਜਊ ਸਹਜ ਨ ਮਿਲਿਓ ਸੋਈ॥੧॥

Kia Parreai Kia Guneai. Kia Bedh Purana Suneai. Parrae Sunae Kia Hoe. Jo Sehaj N Miliou Soe. SGGS 655 What use is it to read, and what use is it to study Vedas and the Puraanas? What use is reading and listening, if celestial peace is not attained? Vedas and Puranas mean all Holy Scriptures including Guru Granth Sahib.

ਪੜਿ ਪੜਿ ਗਡੀ ਲਦੀਅਹਿ ਪੜਿ ਪੜਿ ਭਰੀਅਹਿ ਸਾਥ ॥ ਪੜਿ ਪੜਿ ਬੇੜੀ ਪਾਈਐ ਪੜਿ ਪੜਿ ਗਡੀਅਹਿ ਖਾਤ ॥
Parr Parr Gaddee Ladheah Parr Parr Bhareah Sath. Parr Parr Berree Paeai Parr Parr Gadeah Khat.
ਪੜੀਅਹਿ ਜੇਤੇ ਬਰਸ ਬਰਸ ਪੜੀਅਹਿ ਜੇਤੇ ਮਾਸ ॥ ਪੜੀਐ ਜੇਤੀ ਆਰਜਾ ਪੜੀਅਹਿ ਜੇਤੇ ਸਾਸ ॥ ਨਾਨਕ ਲੇਖੈ ਇਕ ਗਲ ਹੋਰੁ
ਹਿੈਮੈ ਝਖਣਾ ਝਾਖ ॥੧॥

Parreah Jete Baras Baras Parreah Jete Mas. Parrea Jeti Arja Parreah Jatae Sas. Nanak Laekhai Ek Gal Hor Houmai Jhakhna Jhakh. SGGS 467.

We may read and read loads of books; we may read and study vast multitudes of books. We may read and read boat-loads of books; we may read and read and fill pits with them. We may read them year after year; we may read them as many months there are. We may read them all our life; we may read them with every breath.

Nanak says, only one thing is of any account; which is getting knowledge and wisdom from them; everything else is useless babbling and idle talk in ego.

ਪੰਜਿ ਨਿਵਾਜਾ ਵਖਤ ਪੰਜਿ ਪੰਜਾ ਪੰਜੇ ਨਾਉ ॥ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਚੁ ਹਲਾਲ ਦੁਇ ਤੀਜਾ ਖੈਰ ਖੁਦਾਇ ॥ ਚਉਥੀ ਨੀਅਤਿ ਰਾਸਿ ਮਨੁ ਪੰਜਵੀ ਸਿਫਤਿ ਸਨਾਇ ॥ ਕਰਣੀ ਕਲਮਾ ਆਖਿ ਕੈ ਤਾ ਮੁਸਲਮਾਣੁ ਸਦਾਇ ॥ ਨਾਨਕ ਜੇਤੇ ਕੁੜਿਆਰ ਕੁੜੈ ਕੁੜੀ ਪਾਇ ॥੩ੁ॥

Panj Nivaja Vakhat Panj Panja Panje Naao. Pehila Sach Halal Doe Tija Khair Khudae. Chouthi Neeat Raas Mann Panjavi Sifat Sanae. Karani Kalama Akh Kai Ta Musalaman Sadae.Nanak Jete Koorriar Koorrai Koorri Pae. SGGS 141

Guru directs this *Shabd* for all who do *Path* (*Nitnem*) ritually without understanding. There are five prayers and five times of day for prayer; the five have five names. Let the first be truthfulness, the second honest living, and the third charity in the Name of God. Let the fourth be good will to all, and the fifth the praise of the Virtues of the God. Repeat the prayer of good deeds, and then, you may call yourself a Muslim. O Nanak, the false obtain only the falsehood.

If our child goes to school and remembers everything taught and gets full marks in the exam and praise of everybody, but when it comes to put that to practice he cannot. What use is that knowledge?

ਮਤਿ ਵਿਚਿ ਰਤਨ ਜਵਾਹਰ ਮਾਣਿਕ ਜੇ ਇਕ ਗਰ ਕੀ ਸਿਖ ਸਣੀ ॥

Mat Vich Ratan Javahar Manik Jae Ek Gur Kee Sikh Sunee. SGGS 2 Internalization of even one message of the Guru makes spirituality priceless.

ਕਿਨਕਾ ਏਕ ਜਿਸ ਜੀਅ ਬਸਾਵੈ ॥ ਤਾ ਕੀ ਮਹਿਮਾ ਗਨੀ ਨ ਆਵੈ ॥

Kinka Ek Jis Jia Basavai. Ta Ki Mehima Gani N Aavai. SGGS 262.

Those who get in their mind (*Mann*) even an iota of Guru's teachings, the praises of their glory cannot be recounted. That's only possible if we contemplate on the *Shabd* rather doing Path quickly.

There is a need to get wisdom from the knowledge so that when we encounter problems in our life we can deal with them and put that knowledge and wisdom to use.

6. Some go to Gurdwara to ask for worldly possessions.

ਨਰ ਚਾਹਤ ਕਛੂ ਅਉਰ ਅਉਰੈ ਕੀ ਅਉਰੈ ਭਈ ॥ ਚਿਤਵਤ ਰਹਿਓ ਠਗਉਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਫਾਸੀ ਗਲਿ ਪਰੀ ॥੩੮॥

Nar Chahat Kach Aour Aourai Ki Aourai Bhee. Chitavat Rehiou Thagour Nanak Fasee Gal Pari. SGGS 1428. When we beg for worldly possessions in the Gurdwara, most of the time our wishes are not fulfilled. We wish for something, but something different happens. Nanak says we plot to deceive others, but place the noose around our own neck instead. We then start going to other so called religious places and get into a vicious circle to fulfill our demand for worldly materials.

ਵਿਣੂ ਤੁਧੂ ਹੋਰੂ ਜਿ ਮੰਗਣਾ, ਸਿਰਿ ਦੁਖਾ ਕੈ ਦੁਖ ॥ ਦੇਹਿ ਨਾਮੂ, ਸੰਤੋਖੀਆ, ਉਤਰੈ ਮਨ ਕੀ, ਭੁਖ ॥ AGGS 958

Vin Tudh Hor J Mangna Sir Dukha Kai Dukh. Deh Naam Santokhea Outarai Mann Ki Bhukh. SGGS 958

To ask for any other than You, God, is the most miserable of miseries. Please bless me with Your Name (Godly Virtues) and make me contented; may the hunger of my mind (Mann) be satisfied.

Conclusion: The Gurdwara is a place where we get spiritual knowledge and wisdom. Like our child who goes to school but does not get any knowledge from the teacher and fails in the exam, our going to the Gurdwara is meaningless if we don't get spiritual knowledge and wisdom to deal with our problems. *Bani* does not fulfill our desires for worldly materials but gives us spiritual knowledge and wisdom. We can get spiritual knowledge and wisdom by discussing *Bani* through social media, at home or in a park. All these become a Gurdwara, the gateway to Guru. That does not mean we don't need the Gurdwara building. It is a centre where most of us gather regularly. But we should go there for a meaningful purpose.

Guru Nanak's Life and Works: A Scientific Perspective

Dr. Devinder Pal Singh c4usikhism@gmail.com

Scientific methodology is defined as a mode of research in which a problem is identified, relevant data gathered, a hypothesis formulated and then empirically tested. Viewed in this light, Guru Nanak's life was a continuous process of scientific experimentation and statement. Guru Nanak's life and writings are rich in several such examples wherein his scientific approach to resolving several real-life situations with logic and rationality is evident.



Advocating Universal Egalitarianism. The division of people by means of caste and religion, and the social hierarchy that it involves, is one of the ugliest realities of a static socio-cultural system. Science and technology have helped eradicate these social evils to a great extent. The life of Guru Nanak was full of struggle against such social evils. He preached universal brotherhood and amity among communities and nations. He advocated the abolition of all distinctions based on caste and creed. He proclaimed: "Call everyone high, none is low; the only potter (One Lord) had fashioned all alike. And his light pervades all creation. (SGGS, p. 62)."

Guru Nanak strongly condemned the caste system and proclaimed that all castes were equal. To give practical shape to his teachings in this regard, at Kartarpur, he introduced the system of *langar* (community kitchen) and *pangat* (persons sitting together in rows to eat). Here he himself dined with people of all castes and classes, high and low, without any distinction of caste, creed, religion or social status. Everyone, from a prince to a pauper, was given the same treatment and was served the same food prepared in the same kitchen. A spirit of sacrifice, service and brotherhood was developed, and the *langar* became a symbol of equality, fraternity and brotherhood. These activities of Guru Nanak represent the hallmark of his scientific spirit.

Exposing Taboos and Shams. A true scientific spirit has no place for superstitions and sentimental beliefs. A custom introduced for whatever reason may, over a long period, become a superstition or a mere ritual. The life of Guru Nanak was a powerful protest against superstition and narrowness of all kinds. This is seen in his actions at Kurukshetra and Hardwar.

During his first *udasi* (journey), Guru Nanak and Mardana attended the fair in connection with the solar eclipse at Kurukshetra, made holy because of its association with the Mahabharata. On that day, Kurukshetra would attract many pilgrims, and Nanak did not want to miss the opportunity of exposing the taboos and shams introduced by 'the priests to increase the revenues to fill their coffers.

On reaching Kurukshetra, Guru Nanak made himself conspicuous by choice. Macauliffe says that Nanak actually cooked a deer, which a disciple had presented to him. When the Brahmans expressed horror at the cooking of flesh during the solar eclipse, Guru Nanak invited them for a discussion and asserted: "It was the custom of gods to kill the rhinoceros, roast them and feast upon them. They who forswear flesh and hold their noses when sitting near it devour men at night. Flesh is allowed in the Puranas; Flesh is allowed in the books of the Mussalmans; flesh hath been used in the four ages. Flesh adorneth sacrifice and marriage functions; flesh hath always been associated with them. (SGGS, p 1290)."

He explained that the earth, the sun, the moon and the stars were all suspended in space, ever moving and running on their natural course. The eclipses were nothing but natural shadows on the face of the sun and the moon. He emphasized that the custom of making offerings on occasion was nothing beyond a selfish invention of the priests to increase their own revenues. To point out the futility of wasting one's energy in foolish squabbles,

Nanak proclaimed; "Fools wrangle about flesh, but they possess no spiritual wisdom. They know not what is flesh, or what is vegetable or in what sin consisteth. (SGGS, p 1289)".

Explaining the origin of flesh, Guru Nanak elaborated, "You do not understand yourself, yet you instruct others; O religious scholar (Pandit)! What a learned person you are! O Pandit, you do not know from what flesh came forth. Corn, sugar cane, and cotton are produced from water, and from water, the three worlds are deemed to have sprung. Water saith, "I am good in many ways," Many are the modifications of water. If you abandon the relish of such things, you shall be a superman, saith Nanak. (SGGS, p 1290)".

Debunking Futile Rituals. From Kurukshetra, Guru Nanak left for Hardwar. Here he walked into the waters of the Ganges and, instead of throwing water towards the east as was the ritual, he began to throw water towards the west. When asked of his unusual behaviour, he replied that he was trying to send water to his fields at Talwandi – thus pointing out the futility and hollowness of the religious ritual of trying to propitiate the Sun god for the salvation of one's ancestors.

Confronting Vain Practices. As is in the ethos of science, a person of scientific vision has the capacity to challenge established customs and practices that conflict with the facts of life. During his stay at Puri, Guru Nanak spoke against the efficacy of the Padamasna (a cross-legged sitting posture in which the feet are placed on the opposing thighs.) to win over the Lord. He exposed the claim of the Brahman 'who kept his eyes and nose closed' and claimed that 'in that state, he with his mental eyes saw the secrets of the world. Guru Nanak hid the Brahman's lota (a round water pot, typically of polished brass) while he was in the asna (a particular sitting posture). When the Brahman, on opening his eyes, could not find the lota, Guru Nanak witted him on 'his fancy of omniscience' as; "You close off your nostrils with your fingers and claim to see the three worlds. But you cannot even see what is behind you. It is a thing of wonder. (SGGS, p. 662-63)".

Denouncing Stereotypes. A stereotype is essentially a myth that gains creditability due to its acceptance on a socio-cultural level. During medieval times, several stereotypes such as 'a woman is a living picture of lust and sexual gratification,' 'the mind of a woman lies in her heels,' 'animals, beasts, *Shudhras* and women need constant censor,' and 'women may never be allowed in religious deliberations' were prevalent. Guru Nanak vehemently defended women against those who insisted on relegating them to an inferior position merely on the basis of their gender. He accorded the woman her rightful place in the domain of his path of salvation, by placing her at par with man, just as he placed the Shudhra at par with the Brahmin. In *Asa di Var*, he proclaims: "It is by woman, the condemned one, that we are conceived, and from her that we are born; it is with her that we are betrothed and married. It is a woman we befriend, and she keeps the race going. When one woman dies, another is sought; and it is with her that we get established in society. Why should we call her evil from whom great men are born? It is also from the woman that women are born; there is nobody who is not born of a woman. Nanak, only the one true God, is independent of woman' (SGGS, p. 473).

Guru Nanak thus played a vital role in opposing and weakening many rigidly held stereotypes of medieval society. The pragmatic response of Guru Nanak to the prevalent stereotypes confirms his scientific bent of mind. An eminent philosopher Eric Ashby had said, "The greatest single contribution which scientific thinking has made is to set man free from the despotic authority in intellectual matters.' Guru Nanak's life is full of such examples, which confirm his critical thought, intellectual attitude and revolt against despotic authority. Thus Guru Nanak exhibited a scientific spirit in his spiritual life as well as in his dealings with the world.

Dr Devinder Pal Singh is Director of the Center for Understanding Sikhism, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. www.c4usikhism.com

Sakhi Analysis

Sri Chand the Greatest Saint

Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD. dhillon99@gmail.com

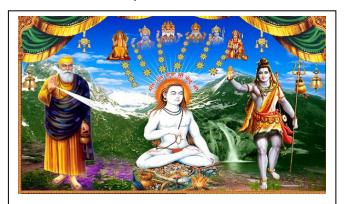
This two-part *sakhi* begins with the narrative of Emperor Jahangir asking Mian Mir, "Who is the greatest saint alive today?" Mian Mir is said to have replied: "At this time the elder son of Guru Nanak is the king of the saints."



The second part of this *sakhi* says that having accepted Mian Mir's assessment, Jahangir then sent his elephant to pick up Sri Chand. Before Sri Chand mounted the elephant, the udasi offered his blanket to the elephant. The elephant is said to have been unable to lift Sri Chand's miraculously heavy blanket. So Sri Chand simply walked over to Jahangir's court.

It is interesting to note that this *sakhi* – together with a great volume of similar tales that speak of the greatness of Sri Chand - are recorded with ardent flavor within Sikh literature composed by the *nirmlas*- most notably by *nirmla* Kavi Santokh Singh and *nirmla* Bhai Veer Singh. Such collaboration makes clear the common ground on which both the *udasis* and *nirmlas* have worked upon as well as their common goal of corrupting Sikhi.

Both parts of the *sakhi* have as many holes as a sieve, and thus hold just as much water. Mian Mir is depicted in the nirmla literature a Sikh of Guru Arjun. It is improbable that he was not aware of the passing of Guruship from Guru Nanak to Gurus Angad, Amardas, Ramdas and Arjun ji. Its further improbable that he was unaware of the out casting of Sri Chand from the Sikhi household by Guru Nanak himself. Why would he not consider Guru Arjun to be "the greatest saint alive?" In any case Mian Mir was not an *udasi* to have given that sort of honor to Sri Chand. The fakery of the tale is obvious.



Sri Chand the "Greatest Saint Alive". Empowered by all major other powers – including Guru Nanak, Shivji, Ramchander, Krishen, Hanuman and others.

To decipher the truth of the second part of the sakhi, all one needs to do is consider the dress code of Sri Chand. Apart from a *langoti* (loin cloth), there is no other garment that that Sri Chand – or the *udasis* – keep on them. So one wonders as to where his blanket came from. Even if a person is adorning a blanket or shawl due perhaps to the cold weather, why would one hand over either or both to an elephant prior to mounting it? To what end would one want to part with a blanket? One would be expected to mount the elephant with the blanket and or shawl on one's shoulders.

It is also interesting to note that there is no mention of what transpired during the meeting of "the greatest saint alive" with the "greatest emperor" then. One would think that a narrative of the meeting itself

would have been proper.

(Adapted with courtesy from Karminder Singh Dhillon, *The Hijacking of Sikhi (Revised Edition)*, KL: 2022 page 25-26). Book is available from https://sikhivicharforum.org/store/

Gurbani Verse Analysis

ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਕਹਰੂ ਮਤ ਝੂਠੇ ਝੂਠਾ ਜੋ ਨ ਬਿਚਾਰੈ

Beyd Kateb Kho Mat Jhuthay, Jhootha Jo Na Bicharaiy.

Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD. dhillon99@gmail.com

This verse is authored by Bhagat Kabir and is found on page 1350 of the SGGS. The common translation of the verse is: "Do not say that the Vedas are false. Those who do not contemplate them are false."



Two implications are drawn by Sikhs from such a (mis)translation. One, that this verse is proof that the Snatan texts are *recognized* in the SGGS. To say that "do not say that the Vedas are false" is to say that the "Vedas are true." Two, that Kabir is telling us Sikhs to "contemplate on the Vedas" because if we Sikhs, as readers of the SGGS, do not contemplate on the Vedas, then we are false too. These implications are proven false if we

- a) Consider the context of the discourse and the entire shabd.
- b) Ask ourselves as to who is making the claim of ਝੂਠੇ Jhuthay. In other words, who is the one claiming they are false. The common and wrong interpretation is that the claim is being made by "disbelievers" and that Kabeer is telling these "disbelievers of the Vedas" to not call the ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ Beyd Katebs as false. Based such a wrong, our clergy, translators and interpreters are warning us Sikhs to "not become disbelievers of these scriptures."
- c) Consider that in the phrase ਝੂਠਾ ਜੋ ਨ ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Jhootha Jo Na Bicharaiy* the core question is ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Bicharaiy* what? The common and wrong interpretation is that the ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Bichairaiy* reference is to the ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ *Beyd Kateb*. The common and wrong conclusion therefore is that Kabir is asking the "disbelievers" (including us) to ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Bichairaiy* the ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ *Beyd Kateb*.

Let's begin by attempting to find an answers to (b) above. It can be derived from the Rahao verse: ਮੁਲਾਂ ਕਹਰੁ ਨਿਆਉ ਖੁਦਾਈ ॥ ਤੇਰੇ ਮਨ ਕਾ ਭਰਮੁ ਨ ਜਾਈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥ *Mulla(n) Kho Niyao Khudayi. Tayray Mun Ka Bharm Na Jayee.* Meaning: O Mullah, You Speak of Divine Justice. But Misconceptions, Fallacies, and Erroneous Beliefs (ਭਰਮੁ *Bharm*) Remain in Your Mind.

The answer to c) above is thus to ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Bichairay* **"the following."** The call is *Not* to ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Bichairaiy* the ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ *Beyd.* By "the following" is meant ALL the verses of Kabir that follow. The call is to ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Bichairay* the remainder of the verses of the *shabd* to get to be able to remove the Misconceptions, Fallacies, Untruths and Erroneous Beliefs (ਭਰਮੂ *Bharm*) that are mentioned in the *Rahao* verse – and elaborated within the remaining verses. So the interpretation of the first verse is as follows:

ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਕਹਰੁ ਮਤ ਝੂਠੇ ਝੂਠਾ ਜੋ ਨ ਬਿਚਾਰੈ ॥

Beyd Kateb Kho Mat Jhuthay, Jhootha Jo Na Bicharaiy

O Mullah, Declare Not the Scriptures as Untrue, The Untruthful is One Who Does Not Deliberate on The Following Matters / Untruths.

Text in **Blue** is context from Rahao verse.

ਜਊ ਸਭ ਮਹਿ ਏਕੁ ਖੁਦਾਇ ਕਹਤ ਹਊ ਤਊ ਕਿਊ ਮੁਰਗੀ ਮਾਰੈ ॥੧॥

Jao Sabh Meh Eyk Khudaye Keht Hao(n) Tao Kio(n) Murgee Maraiy.

The Untruth Is to Claim the One Creator Is Within All, And Yet Take the Life of the Helpless.

Text in Blue is context from previous verse.

(Note ਮੁਰਗੀ *Murgee* literally means a female bird, but in the idiomatic sense it refers to a helpless being who is in the mercy of others. The next verse talks of "sacrifice." The mullah calls for the sacrifice of a lamb, goat or cattle only — never a female bird).

ਪਕਰਿ ਜੀਉ ਆਨਿਆ ਦੇਹ ਬਿਨਾਸੀ ਮਾਟੀ ਕਉ ਬਿਸਮਿਲਿ ਕੀਆ॥ ਜੋਤਿ ਸਰੂਪ ਅਨਾਹਤ ਲਾਗੀ ਕਹੁ ਹਲਾਲੁ ਕਿਆ ਕੀਆ ॥२॥ Pakr Jio

Aania Deh Binasi Matee Kao Bismil Keeya. Jyot Sroop Anahat Lagee Kho Hlal Kya Kiya.

The Untruth Is to Capture and Destroy Life, And Claim to Have Sanctified the Physical Body. Life is On Account of the Super Life – So Tell Me What Have You Really Sanctified (In Such Destruction)?

The next verse questions the awakening at dawn, ablution, bowing at the Mosque, and going for pilgrimage. ਕਿਆ ਉਜੂ ਪਾਕੁ ਕੀਆ ਮੁਹੁ ਧੋਇਆ ਕਿਆ ਮਸੀਤਿ ਸਿਰੁ ਲਾਇਆ ॥ Kya Uuj Paak Kiya Moh Dhoyeya Kya Mseet Ser Laya/.

The next Untruth is about Being Corrupt: ਜਉ ਦਿਲ ਮਹਿ ਕਪਟੁ ਨਿਵਾਜ ਗੁਜਾਰਹੁ ਕਿਆ ਹਜ ਕਾਬੈ ਜਾਇਆ ॥੩॥ Jao(n) Dil Meh Kapat Nivaj Guzareh Kya Haj Kabaiy Jaya.

The final verse talks about the Untruth of One's Own inner being (ਤੂੰ ਨਾਪਾਕੁ Tu Napaak) and its obstacle towards Realization of the Creator within. ਤੂੰ ਨਾਪਾਕੁ ਪਾਕੁ ਨਹੀ ਸੂਝਿਆ ਤਿਸ ਕਾ ਮਰਮੁ ਨ ਜਾਨਿਆ ॥ Tu Napaak Paak Nahi Sujheya Tis Ka Marm Na Janeya. ਕਹਿ ਕਬੀਰ ਭਿਸਤਿ ਤੇ ਚੂਕਾ ਦੋਜਕ ਸਿਉ ਮਨੁ ਮਾਨਿਆ ॥৪॥৪॥ Keh Kabir Bhist Tay Chuka Dojak Sio Mun Maneya.

The conclusion is that while believing that the acts described above (awakening at dawn, ablution, bowing at the Mosque, offering sacrifices, going for pilgrimage) are done in the name of escaping hell (ਕਹਿ ਕਬੀਰ ਭਿਸਤਿ ਤੇ ਚੂਕਾ *Keh Kabir Bhist Tay Chuka*); the Mind Has Made a Hell for Itself in the Here and Now (ਚੂਕਾ ਦੋਜਕ ਸਿਉ ਮਨੁ ਮਾਨਿਆ *Chuka Dojak Sio Mun Maneya*).

So the overall message is "Given so many untruths and falsities in our own conduct how can one claim the texts of others to be false. The untruth lies in contemplating (ਬਿਚਾਰੈ Bichairaiy) the untruths of one's own conduct.

It's worth noting that Kabir is NOT making a judgement on the truth or falsity of the texts — or their utility. The truth or otherwise of the ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ *Beyd Katebs* or their usefulness is NOT the issue of the *shabd*. He is pointing out the HYPOCRISY of labelling others false when our own actions are actually questionable and false.

For those readers who MUST know the utility of the ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ Beyd Katebs according to the SGGS — the following verses of Kabir may be of help. ਕਹਤ ਕਬੀਰ ਭਲੇ ਅਸਵਾਰਾ ॥ ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਤੇ ਰਹਹਿ ਨਿਰਾਰਾ ॥ ੩ ॥ Keht Kabir Bhalay Aswara. Beyd Kateb Tay Rahey Nirara. SSGS 329. Meaning: Kabir, My Means in My Journey Remain Distinct from the Veyds and Katebs. ਤਿਲੰਗ ਬਾਣੀ ਭਗਤਾ ਕੀ ਕਬੀਰ ਜੀ ॥ ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਇਫਤਰਾ ਭਾਈ ਦਿਲ ਕਾ ਫਿਕਰੁ ਨ ਜਾਇ ॥ Tilang Bani Bhagat Kabir Ji Ki. Beyd Kateb Iftra Bhai Dil Ka Fiker Na Jaye. SGGS 727. Meaning: The Veyds and Katebs Are of No Utility to Me, Because The Agony Within My Mind Remains.

Why then would Bhagat Kabir want us Sikhs to contemplate on the Veyds and Katebs?

Then there is this verse by Guru Arjun: ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਸਿਮ੍ਰਿਤਿ ਸਭਿ ਸਾਸਤ ਇਨ੍ ਪੜਿਆ ਮੁਕਤਿ ਨ ਹੋਈ ॥ *Beyd Kateb Simrat Sabh Sasat En Parrhiya Mukat Na Hoyee.* SGGS 747. Meaning: The Vedas, Katebs and All the Shahtras; Reading Them Does No Liberate Me.

Hopefully these three above verses put to rest the false claim by those Sikhs who say that the verse ਬੇਦ ਕਤੇਬ ਕਹਰੂ ਮਤ ਝੂਠੇ ਝੂਠਾ ਜੋ ਨ ਬਿਚਾਰੈ *Beyd Kateb Kho Mat Jhuthay, Jhootha Jo Na Bicharaiy* is proof that the Snatan and other Eastern texts are recognized in the SGGS as having spiritual utility for Sikhs.

A UK Star

Shines in Malaysia

For one week, a rising star from the UK shone its brightness on the shores of Malaysia. Bhai Harinder Singh and his Nirvair Kirtani Jatha performed Kirtan and Parchar to full house Gurdwara diwans for one week. Harinder was hosted for discussions and dialogue in scores of Sikh homes during his stay — activities which kept him occupied and on the go through out his stay here.

This is not the first time this UK Star has brightened the Skies of Malaysia. The Jatha has previously endeavored to enlighten Sikh sangats across Malaysia. The Jatha's previous tour in 2018 was especially focused on youth programs. But this time their tour was especially



meaningful given that they were invited to participate in the 100th Anniversary of a local Gurdwara. Their tour further coincided with the Malaysian sangat's celebrations of Guru Nanak's Parkash Diharra.



Given the high attendances at both Gurdwaras where Harinder Singh's Jatha performed, the Malaysian sangat's excitement and desire to want to listen to his jatha is plain. The sangat however remained aware of groups in the UK who desired to stop Malaysia from hosting this Jatha.

Prior to Nirvair Kirtani Jatha's arrival in Malaysia, a UK group put up a video that made its rounds on Malaysian sites. This video made some assertions and posed some questions. Judging from the comments that were made on those sites by Malaysian Sikhs, it is clear that the Malaysian sangat had some assertions and question of their own as follows. Assertions made in the UK video are in italics.

- 1. Harinder Singh and Ranjit Sinah Dhadreanwalla are hereby banned from doing any parchar in the presence of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji all over UK. Malaysian sangat: By what authority is such a ban put in place? By what authority do you claim to decide who can or cannot come in the presence of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib to do parchar?
- 2. We request that other countries also follow suit on this resolution. The Malaysian sangat has clearly decided not to. Both Bhai Harinder Singh and Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadreanwalla have come to Malaysia previously and will continue to be welcome.
- 3. He is someone who has been banned across various countries for their anti-Gurmat ideologies. Malaysian sangat: We heard his parchar before. There is nothing anti-Gurmat in what he said or did. Banning Sikhs from doing parchar in the presence of the SGGS is indeed anti-Gurmat.
- Why have they been allowed in Malaysia? Because 4. Malaysian Sikhs can see through the sham of selfinterests that are behind the UK banning group.



With members of the sangat



In dialogue with Malaysian author Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD and local activist Pritam Singh.

Because the of Malaysia can for



Because the sangat of Malaysia is liberated from the shackles of pettiness and small-minded thinking. And because the sangat of

Malaysia cares for it youth - our future generation. And because Sikhi parchar in Malaysia are about expanding the space for it – not keeping it exclusive to outdated groups that employ outmoded methods. A SB Report.



With Harbhajan Singh of Asia Samachar and other local Sikhs

The Kursees That Need to Be Burnt

Jarnail Singh Arshi Gyani Email: <u>jsarshi@gmail.com</u>

Those who speak with forked tongues based on self-interests or self-promoting agendas cannot be trusted. All they do is to create controversies. Gurbani tells us:



ਆਪਨ ਸੁਆਇ ਕਰਹਿ ਬਹੁ ਬਾਤਾ, ਤਿਨਾ ਕਾ ਵਿਸਾਹ ਕਿਆ ਕੀਜੈ

Āpan su ā e karahi baho bātā tinā kā visāhu ki ā kījai. SGGS 1326. He talks excessively about his own interests. How can he be trusted?

The latest controversy to spring up in the Punjab is the rapid rise of Amritpal Singh, a scion of a trucking family with logistics interests in Dubai. A non-kesadhari and one who was not at all interested either in education or his family business had a born again moment upon returning to Punjab to take over the radical party named Waris Punjab De (The Heirs of Punjab). This party was founded by Deep Sidhu who was involved in the ill-fated raising of flags of his choice on the Red Fort during the Farmers Movement to repeal the Farm Laws that were introduced by the Modi Administration. Deep Sidhu was killed in a tragic Valentine's Day accident on a major highway from Delhi to Punjab.

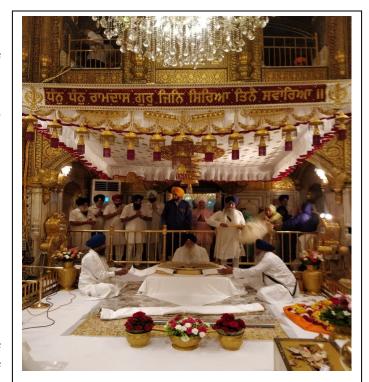
The newly minted heir returned form Dubai, donned the turban of honour bestowed by the Damdami Dera and began a so called *Khalsa Vaheer* (March of the Khalsa) to make his presence felt within the villages of Punjab. At a visit to a Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Kapurthala District, the followers of Amritpal focussed their attention at the Benches, sofas, and chairs placed along the walls of the Gurdwaras to facilitate the elderly sangat who have health issues that prevent them from sitting cross legged on the floor within a darbar where SGGS was installed on an elevated platform. The reasoning of the *Vaheer* was that these elderly folks were challenging the authority of the SGGS by being seated "higher" than other sangat when the only higher entity should be the SGGS. The *Vaheer* then proceeded to dismantle the benches, sofas and chairs. They were burnt in the Gurdwara compound on the reasoning that they were contaminated by sinners.

Such action obviously raised a storm as such sitting arrangements are common in all Gurdwaras and in the diaspora. The point to note is also that elderly Sikhs represent the larger proportion of Sikhs who attend Gurdwara programs. The following issues spring to mind.

1. The notion of "challenge to authority of the SGGS" and "disability based seating" needs to be logically addressed. The former is committed by a single person who *intends to usurp the* legitimate authority of the Guru. This was attempted by Khem Singh Bedi, who claimed to be a direct descendant of Guru Nanak and who insisted on being seated in front, next to the SGGS and at the same Level as SGGS on a cushion complete with a backrest. He was stopped by the Singh Sabha Movement whose leader Professor Gurmukh Singh was subsequently excommunicated - presumably as he upset those in authority. On the other hand, we have common members of the sangat who are allocated *common benches* attached to the side walls or at the back of darbar halls and who seat themselves there due to health disabilities. How could this motley group of unrelated persons be declared as "Challenging the Authority and Sanctity of SGGS?" I am sure this group would jump at the opportunity to join the regular cross-legged sangat if cured of their disability. "Preferred seating" is also provided for pregnant women and the disabled in public transport systems worldwide. And no one treats that as "privileged" or attempt to show they have "more authority" over the regular fare paying healthy passengers. In fact, many able persons actually *stand up* to give their seats to such "disabled" persons out of sheer courtesy and human kindness. And we are, as

Sikhs, claiming *Sarbat da Bhala* loudly but can't even practise human decency. Is the practice of kindness towards our own elderly out of the parameters of *Sarbat da Bhala*?

- 2. Guru Arjun Ji constructed the Darbar Sahib Amritsar and there is a gallery on the 1st Floor overlooking the Darbar where SGGS is installed at the floor level. i.e. at the same level as all the seated sangat and kirtanias. The gallery overlooking this actually has people seated, people walking, people standing and looking in the down direction at the SGGS and the sangat seated below. Are not all those on the gallery actually higher than the SGGS and sangat below? If Guru Arjun ji had no objections to Sikhs sitting one gallery above, what is the objection of Sikhs sitting a bench above?
- 3. Now we come to the *Kursees* or "seats" that we should be getting rid of. These are *kursees* of the powerful the Pardhans, the custodians of Gurdwara Golucks, the Takhats, the Management Committees who once allowed to sit on these *Kursees* go by the maxim of "till death do we part."



People Walking on the First Floor Gallery of Darbar Sahib



Gurdwara Sees Ganj Delhi also has a first floor gallery

These seats of corruption are the ones that ought to be removed and burnt. If we were to consult Gurbani, we will be advissed – in a brutally frank manner - that only those worthy of those *seats* should be allowed to occupy them.

ਰਾਜੇ ਸੀਹ ਮੁਕਦਮ ਕੁਤੇ ॥ ਜਾਇ ਜਗਾਇਨ੍ ਬੈਠੇ ਸੁਤੇ ॥

Rajjeh Sheehn Mukadam Kutay. Jaye Jgayay-an Baithaiy Sutay. SGGS 1288.

The Kings and Rulers are hungry lions and their officuals are rabid dogs who help the hungry lions to devoyur the weak citizens.

Now the million dollar question is this: Do the Waris Punjab De Heirs of Punjab, the so called *Vaheer* and Amritpal Singh target these hungry lions and rabid dogs occupiers of the Kursees of corruption? The Singh Sabha Movement in the beginning of the 20th century actually targetted those hungry lions and rabid dogs occupying the seats of authority meant for the SGGS. The result was that many Gurdwaras were cleansed of these

power hungry corrupt leaders and *mahants*. It is certainly time to begin a Singh Sabha Movement 2.0 to do that spring cleaning again and this task requires a hercules cleaning out the Augeon Stables - not a rabble rouser looking

for populist solutions. Certainly not one resorting to ridicolous ones such as in order for sangat to sit *lower* than the Guru, and that the sangat should sit in holes dug in the floor of Darbar Sahibs. One of his more outspoken followers at the burning of benches had suggested that the sangat should sit in a hole so as to be lower than the Guru.

3. A majority of Sikhs are unaware of the *real* agenda behind the Vaheer processions of Amritpal Singh into the villages of Punjab. Three events shine the spotlight on his real agendas. The first was at Village Bihareepur at Kapurthala where there is a huge *smadh* (grave) inside the Gurdwara where one of their babas is buried. This *smadh* went entirely unnoticed by Amritpal Singh and his gang. The second event was at Kalal Sanghiah Kapurthala, where a massive statue of Baba Kahan Singh stands right beside the SGGS and where the langgar of alcohol flows free for all. This also went unnoticed by Amritpal and his Vaheer.

But a third Gurdwara with low benches for the elderly sangat placed far away and hugging the side and back walls becomes very noticeable to Amritpal Singh and his *Vaheer*. So keen is his observation and so deep the anger that the chairs and benches are removed, destroyed with spears and *kirpans*, smashed violently and burnt as sinful objects.

The "maryada" at Gurdwaras one and two above has powerful backers. Hence the pigeon kept its eyes shut and its mouth sealed. As stated above, ਆਪਨ ਸੁਆਇ ਕਰਹਿ ਬਹੁ ਬਾਤਾ, ਤਿਨਾ ਕਾ ਵਿਸਾਹੁ ਕਿਆ ਕੀਜੈ Āpan su ā e karahi baho bātā tinā kā visāhu ki ā kījai. SGGS 1326. Only observations that suit the agenda are picked up and exaggerated. It would be foolish to trust such agendas and the people behind such agendas. It's intriguing why not a single word was uttered in Bihareepur and at Kahn Singh Gurdwaras where the Smadh and alcohol langgar clearly are major transgressions of the maryada and are acts of utter disrespect towards the SGGS. One wonders if the issue really was that these transgressions and disrespect was not by the ordinary sangat but by the custodians of those two places. ਹਾਜੇ ਸੀਹ ਮੁਕਦਮ ਕੁਤੇ ॥ Rajeh Sheehn Mukadam Kutay?



Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD (Boston) dissects the issue of chairs that Gurdwaras have put in place for elderly and disabled members of the sangat who are unable to sit cross legged on the floor.

https://youtu.be/jHwgLlJp39Y



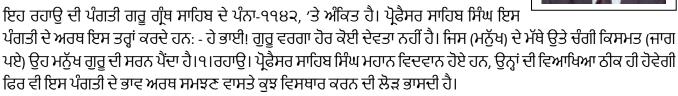
ਡਾ: ਕਰਮਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਬਜ਼ੁਰਗ ਅਤੇ ਅਪਾਹਜ ਸਿੱਖ, ਜੋ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਫਰਸ਼ ਤੇ ਚੌਕੜਾ ਮਾਰ ਕੇ ਨਹੀ ਬਹਿ ਸਕਦੇ, ਲਈ ਲਗਾਈਆਂ ਕੁਰਸੀਆਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਦੀ ਵੀਚਾਰ।

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5R-VactRu0

ਗੁਰ ਜੈਸਾ ਨਾਹੀ ਕੋ ਦੇਵ॥

ਐਡਵੋਕੇਟ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੰਵਰ E-mail- kanwar238@yahoo.com

ਗੁਰ ਜੈਸਾ ਨਾਹੀ ਕੋ ਦੇਵ॥ ਜਿਸੂ ਮਸਤਕਿ ਭਾਗੂ ਸੂ ਲਾਗਾ ਸੇਵ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ॥



ਜਦੋਂ ਇਸ ਪੰਗਤੀ ਦੇ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਦੇ ਭਾਵ ਅਰਥ ਸਮਝਣੇ ਹੋਣ ਤਾਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਸਮੁੱਚੇ ਫ਼ਲਸਫ਼ੇ ਨੂ ਧਿਆਨ ਵਿਚ ਰੱਖਣਾ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ।ਇਹ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਹਰ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਦੇ ਅਰਥ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੀ ਫ਼ਿਲਾਸਫ਼ੀ ਦੇ ਅਨਕੂਲ ਹੋਣ। ਦੂਸਰੇ ਇਕ ਸਚਾਈ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਇਕ ਪ੍ਰੈਕਟਕਿਲ, ਸਾਰਥਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਜੀਊਣ ਦਾ ਗਿਆਨ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਲਈ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਹਰ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਪੰਗਤੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਜੋ ਸਾਰਥਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਜੀਊਨ ਦਾ ਸੁਨੇਹਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਉਸ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਵਾ ਵੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਇਹ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਵਿਅਖਿਆ ਤਰਕ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਪੂਰੀ ਉਤਰੇ।

ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੁਕਤਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿਚ ਜੋ ਵੀ ਬਾਣੀ ਅੰਕਿਤ ਹੈ ਉਸ ਵਿਚ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਭ ਧਾਰਨਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਜ਼ਿਕਰ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਉਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿਚ ਪ੍ਰਚੱਲਤ ਸਨ। ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਦੇ ਅਧਿਐਨ ਤੋਂ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਤੱਖ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਭ ਪਰੰਪਰਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਖੰਡਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਬੇ-ਬੁਨਿਆਦ ਸਨ। ਐਸੀ ਹੀ ਇਕ ਧਾਰਨਾ ਦਾ ਵਰਨਣ ਇਸ ਪੰਗਤੀ ਵਿਚ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਜਦੋਂ ਇਸ ਹੱਥਲੀ ਪੰਗਤੀ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਬਦ "ਦੇਵ" ਦਾ ਜ਼ਿਕਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤਿਆਂ ਵਲ ਇਸ਼ਾਰਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ, ਹਰ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਪੂਜਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਜੋ ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ।

ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੇ ਇਹ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਮਤ ਨੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰੇ ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰ ਰੱਖੇ ਹਨ। ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂ ਕੋਈ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਜਾਂ ਮੁਸੀਬਤ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਪੂਜਾ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰ ਦਿੰਦਾ। ਇਹ ਸਮਝ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਸਭ ਕੰਮ ਸਵਾਰ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੀ ਭਾਰਤ ਮੁਲਕ ਗੁਲਾਮ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਜਦੋਂ ਮੁਗਲਾਂ ਨੇ ਹਮਲਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਤਾਂ ਲੋਕ ਮੰਦਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੜ ਕੇ ਪੂਜਾ ਕਰਨ ਲੱਗ ਗਏ ਸਨ। ਕਿਸੇ ਪਾਸ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਮੁਕਾਬਲਾ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਹੋਸਲਾ ਜਾਂ ਜੁਗਤੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ। ਇਸੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਹਮਲਾ-ਆਵਰ ਕਾਬਜ਼ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਤੇ ਮੁਲਕ ਗੁਲਾਮ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ। ਦੇਵਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਪੂਜਾ ਕੇਵਲ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿਚ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਸਗੋਂ ਜਦੋਂ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਪੂਜਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ, ਇਹ ਸਮਝ ਲਇਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਪੂਜਾ ਕਰਨ ਨਾਲ ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਸਭ ਕੰਮ ਕਰ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੇ ਐਸੀ ਧਾਰਨਾ ਦਾ ਹੀ ਖੰਡਣ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਸਮਝਾਇਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕੋਈ ਦੇਵਤਾ ਵੀ "ਗੁਰ" ਜੈਸਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ। ਭਾਵ 'ਗੁਰ' ਸਭ ਦੇਵਤਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਵੀ ਉਪਰ ਹੈ। 'ਗੁਰ' ਤੋਂ ਉਪਰ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਦੇਵਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਕਿਸੇ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਦੇ ਸਹਾਰੇ ਨਾਲੋ 'ਗੁਰ' ਦਾ ਸਹਾਰਾ ਉੱਤਮ ਹੈ।

ਹੁਣ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਸ਼ਬਦ 'ਗੁਰ' ਨੂ ਵੀ ਸਮਝ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ।ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੇ "ਸਬਦੁ ਗੁਰੂ" ਦਾ ਇਕ ਸਧਾਂਤ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਦੇਹ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ। ਸ਼ਬਦ ਭਾਵ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਲੋਂ ਜੋ ਗਿਆਨ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਉਹ ਗਿਆਨ ਹੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਗਿਆਨ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਹੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਦੇਹ ਨੂµ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਨਿਆ ਗਿਆ। ਮਨੁੱਖ ਦੀ ਦੇਹ ਦਾ 'ਤੇ ਅੰਤ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਗਿਆਨ ਸਦੀਵੀ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਅਧਾਰ 'ਤੇ 'ਗੁਰ' ਦੇ ਅਰਥ ਕੋਈ ਦੇਹ ਧਾਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੇ। 'ਗੁਰ' ਦੇ ਅਰਥ ਹਨ: ਗੁਰੂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਗਿਆਨ। ਗੁਰੂ ਗਿਆਨ ਤਾਂ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਬਹੁਤ ਵਾਰ ਐਸੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਵੀ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਜੋ ਐਸਾ ਗਿਆਨ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਜਿਸ ਨਾਲ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਭ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਮਨੁੱਖ ਇਨਸਾਨ ਤੋਂ ਹੈਵਾਨ ਬਣ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਲਈ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਸ਼ਰਬਦ ਗੁਰੂ ਦਾ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਪ੍ਰਸਤੁੳ ਕੀਤਾ 'ਤੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ "ਸੁਰਤਿ ਧੁਨਿ ਚੇਲਾ" ਆਖ ਕੇ ਸੁਰਤ ਨੂ ਕਾਮਿ ਰੱਖ ਕੇ ਚੇਤੰਨ ਰਹਿਣ ਦੀ ਹਦਾਇਤ ਵੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਭਾਵ ਇਹ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਹ ਤਾਕੀਦ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਦੋਂ ਗਿਆਨ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਕਰਨੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਸੁਰਤਿ ਭਾਵ ਆਪਣੇ ਹੋਸ਼ੋ-ਹਵਾਸ ਵੀ ਕਾਇਮ ਰੱਖਣੇ ਹਨ। ਜੋ ਗਿਆਨ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਬੁੱਧ ਨਾਲ ਪੜਚੋਲ ਵੀ ਕਰਨੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਭ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟ ਨਾ ਹੋਵੇ। ਇਸ

ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਚੇਤੰਨ ਰਹਿ ਕੇ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ, ਸੁਚੱਜੇ ਗਿਆਨ, ਰਾਹੀਂ ਮਿਲੀ, ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧੀ, ਸੋਝੀ, ਸਮਝ, ਸੂਝ-ਬੂਝ ਆਦਿ ਨੂµ ਹੀ 'ਗੁਰ' ਆਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਜਦੋਂ ਸ਼ਬਦ 'ਗੁਰ' ਦੇ ਅਰਥ ਸਮਝ ਆ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ ਤਾਂ "ਗੁਰ ਜੈਸਾ ਨਾਹੀ ਕੋ ਦੇਵ॥" ਦਾ ਭਾਵ ਸਮਝ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਆਪਣੀ ਸੁਮੱਤ, ਸਮਝ, ਸੋਝੀ, ਸੂਝ-ਬੂਝ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਗਿਆਨ ਜਾਂ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧ ਤੋਂ ਉਪਰ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਦੇਵਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ। ਭਾਵ ਆਪਣੀ ਸੁਚੱਜੀ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਨਾਲ ਉੱਚੀ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਵਕਤ ਜਾਂ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਦੀ ਪੂਜਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਸਗੋਂ ਲੋੜ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਆਪਣੇ ਗਿਆਨ, ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੂਝ-ਬੂਝ ਤੋਂ ਕੰਮ ਲੈਣ ਦੀ। ਇਹ ਹੀ ਇਕ ਸਾਰਥਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਜੀਊਣ ਦਾ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਹੈ।

ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਮਝਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ 'ਗੁਰ' ਭਾਵ ਆਪਣੀ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧ, ਸੋਝੀ ਤਾਂ ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਦਾ ਰੂਪ ਹੀ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਸ਼ਬਦ (ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਇਹ ਪੰਗਤੀ ਲਈ ਗਈ ਹੈ) ਦੇ ਆਖਰ ਵਿਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਫ਼ਰਮਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ:

ਨਾਨਕ ਸੋਧੇ ਸਿੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਿ ਬੇਦ ॥ਪਾਰਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਗੁਰ ਨਾਹੀ ਭੇਦ॥

ਭਾਵ ਇਹ ਕਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਹਰ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਗਿਆਨ ਦਾ ਅਧਿਐਨ ਕਰੇ ਇਹ ਸਿਟਾ ਨਿਕਲਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ: ਆਪਣੀ ਸੁਮੱਤ, ਸਮਝ, ਸੋਚ ਜਾਂ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਰਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਵਿਚ ਕੋੲ ਫਰਕ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦਾ। ਇਹ ਸੋਚ, ਸਮਝ ਜਾਂ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਹੀ ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਲਈ ਤਾਂ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਮੂਲ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਹੈ:

ਸਰਬ ਨਿਵਾਸੀ ਸਦਾ ਅਲੇਪਾ ਤੋਹੀ ਸੰਗਿ ਸਮਾਈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥ (ਗ: ਗ: ਸ: ਪੰਨਾ- ੬੮੪)

ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਸਭ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਹੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਵਾਲੇ ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਦਾ ਸਹਾਰਾ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਅੰਦਰ ਵਾਲਾ ਪਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਸਮਝ ਅਤੇ ਸੋਚ ਜਾਂ ਗਿਆਨ ਹੀ ਹੈ। ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਦਾ ਸਹਾਰਾ ਲੈਣਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਤੋਂ ਚੰਗਾ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਾਰਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਜੋ ਸੁਚੱਜੀ ਮਤ, ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਅੰਦਰ ਸਮੋਇਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ਉਸੇ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧੀ ਤੋਂ ਕੰਮ ਲਿਆ ਜਾਵੇ।

ਫਿਰ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਜਦੋਂ ਇਹ ਕਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ: "ਜਿਸੂ ਮਸਤਕਿ ਭਾਗੂ ਸੁ ਲਾਗਾ ਸੇਵ॥" ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਦਾ ਭਾਵ ਹੋਇਆ ਕਿ ਜੋ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਇਸ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੁਕਤੇ ਨੂµ ਸਮਝ ਲੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸਧਾਂਤ ਨੂµ ਅਪਣਾ ਲੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਜਿਸ ਨੂµ ਇਸ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਦੀ ਸਮਝ ਆ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ, ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤੀ ਦੀ ਪੂਜਾ ਕਰਨ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧ ਤੋਂ ਕੰਮ ਲੈਣਾ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਉੱਚਤ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਸਮਝੋ ਉਸ ਦੇ ਭਾਗ ਜਾਗ ਪੈਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਹ ਭਾਗਾਂ ਵਾਲਾ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਨੂµ ਇਹ ਸਮਝ ਆ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਸ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਕੰਮ ਆਪ ਹੀ ਸਵਾਰਨੇ ਹਨ, ਅਸਮਾਨ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਕੋਈ ਦੇਵਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਵੇਗਾ। ਇਹ ਹੈ ਇਕ ਸਾਰਥਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਜੀਊਣ ਦਾ ਨੁਕਸਾ। ਐਸਾ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਹਰ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਆਪ ਮਹਿਨਤ ਕਰੇਗਾ। ਇਹ ਹੈ ਸਫਲ ਜੀਵਨ ਜੀਊਣ ਦਾ ਭੇਦ। ਇਸੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਗਰਬਾਣੀ ਦਾ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਹੈ:

ਆਪਣ ਹਥੀ ਆਪਣਾ ਆਪੇ ਹੀ ਕਾਜੁ ਸਵਾਰੀਐ॥ (ਗ: ਗ: ਸ: ਪੰਨਾ-8੭8)

ਆਪਣਾ ਕੰਮ ਆਪਣੀ ਸੂਝ-ਬੂਝ, ਵਿਵੇਕ ਬੁੱਧ ਨਾਲ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ ਹੈ, ਨਾ ਕਿ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੇਵੀ ਦੇਵਤੇ ਦੀ ਪੂਜਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਨੂµ ਕਿਹਾ ਹੈ: ਕਿ ਰੱਬ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮਦੱਦ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਦੱਦ ਆਪ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ। (God helps those who help themselves) ਇਹ ਹੀ ਤਾਂ ਹੈ ਸਾਰਥਕ ਜੀਵਨ ਜੀਊਣ ਦਾ ਫ਼ਲਸਫ਼ਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਇਸ ਪੰਗਤੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਦਰਸਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

(ਧੰਨਵਾਦ ਸਹਿਤ, ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੰਵਰ ਐਡਵੋਕੇਟ ਦੀ ਪੁਸਤਕ - ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਸੁਖੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਦਾ ਫਲਸਫਾ - ਸੈਨਬਨ ਪਬਲਿਸ਼ਰ, ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ, ੨੦੨੨, ਸਫਾ ੩੩ -੩੬ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ)

ਸੰਪਾਦਕੀ ਪੱਤਰ

ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਵਿੱਚ 'ਜੇ' ਮਹਾਰਾਜਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਜਨਮ ਦਿਹਾੜੇ 'ਤੇ ਅਖਬਾਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੱਡੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਕਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਯਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਜਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਵੀ ਵਿਚਾਰਨ ਯੋਗ ਹੈ ਕਿ 'ਜੇ' ਮਹਰਾਜਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਤਾਂ ਹਿੰਦੁਸਤਾਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਜੋਕੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਹੋਂਦ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਉਂਦੀ? ਇਹ ਮਹਾਰਾਜਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਹੀ ਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਪੱਛਮ ਵਲੋਂ ਹਿੰਦੋਸਤਾਨ ਉਤੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਮਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਠੱਲ੍ਹ ਪਾਈ ਅਤੇ ਉਲਟਾ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਹਮਲਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਘਰ ਜਾ ਵੜੇ। ਸੋਚਣ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮਹਾਰਾਜਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਵਾਕਿਆ ਹੀ ਹਿੰਦੋਸਤਾਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਬਣਦਾ ਸਨਮਾਨਿਤ ਸਥਾਨ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਜਾਂ ਨਹੀਂ। ਅਗਰ ਹਾਂ ਤਾਂ ਆਮ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਕਿਉਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਅਤੇ ਅਗਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਤਾਂ ਅਖਬਾਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਨੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਸਿਰਫ ਵੋਟਾਂ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਹੀ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਵਰਤਿਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਗੱਲ ਸੋਚਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਹੈ। ਅਸ਼ੋਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਗੜੀਆਂ

ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਗਲ ਸ੍ਰਿਸਟ ਕੀ ਚਾਦਰ

ਗੁਰਚਰਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਜਿਉਣ ਵਾਲਾ brar_jiwanwala@hotmail.com

ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਿ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਿ ਰਾਇ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਗੱਦੀ ਨਸ਼ੀਨੀ ਇਹ ਦੱਸਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦੇ ਸਿਰਜਣਹਾਰੇ ਕਿੰਨੇ ਦੂਰ ਅੰਦੇਸ਼ ਸਨ। ਕੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਉਮਰ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਪੀਹੜੀ ਦਰ ਪੀਹੜੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਿ ਰਾਇ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਵੱਡੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਨ? ਜਦੋਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਿ ਰਾਇ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰ-ਗੱਦੀ ਸੌਂਪੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ ਕੀ ਉਦੋਂ 'ਤਿਆਗ ਮੱਲ' 12



ਸਾਲ ਦੀ ਉਮਰੇ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ, ਅੱਜ-ਕੱਲ੍ਹ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਕੌਲਿਜ ਵਾਲੀ ਥਾਂ, ਦੀ ਲੜਾਈ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਤਲਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਜੌਹਰ ਵਿਖਾ ਕੇ 'ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ' ਨਹੀਂ ਸੀ ਬਣ ਗਏ? ਕੀ ਉਸ ਵਕਤ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਬਣਨ ਦੇ ਯੋਗ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਨ?

ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਵਾਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਜਵਾਬ ਲੱਭਦਾ-ਲੱਭਦਾ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਸਿੱਟੇ ਤੇ ਪਹੁੰਚਿਆ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਅਰਜਨ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇਹ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਜੋ ਵੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਪਦਵੀ ਧਾਰਣ ਕਰੇਗਾ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਮੌਤ ਦਾ ਫਤਵਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਣਾ ਅਵੱਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੀ ਤਾਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਅਰਜਨ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਬਣਨ ਲਈ ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਿ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ। ਛੇਵੇਂ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਜੀ ਨੇ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਨੂੰ ਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਯੁੱਗ-ਪੁਰਸ਼ ਜਾਣ ਕੇ, ਦਿਲੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਜ਼ਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ, ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ ਦੌਰਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਰਹਿਣ ਦੀ ਹਦਾਇਤ ਕੀਤੀ। ਆਪਣੇ ਪਿਤਾ, ਹਰਿ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ, ਦੇ ਜਿਉਂਦਿਆਂ-ਜਿਉਂਦਿਆਂ ਹੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਕੀਰਤਪੁਰ, ਕਰਤਾਰਪਰ, ਗੁਰੂ ਕਾ ਚੱਕ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਬਾ ਬਕਾਲਾ ਵਿਚ ਕਥਾ-ਵਾਰਤਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਛੇਵੇਂ ਪਿਤਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਪੋਤਰੇ ਹਰਿ ਰਾਇ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰ-ਗੱਦੀ ਸੌਂਪ ਕੇ, ਸ਼ਾਂਤ ਰਹਿਣ ਜਾਂ ਮੁਗਲੀਆ ਸਲਤਨਤ ਨਾਲ ਲੜਾਈਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ ਰਹਿਣ ਦਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ ਦੇ ਕੇ, ਅਕਾਲ ਚਲਾਣਾ ਕਰ ਗਏ।

ਪਰ ਸਾਡੇ ਸਾਖੀਕਾਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਹਿਬਾਨ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸਾਖੀਆਂ ਘੜ ਕੇ ਉਪਮਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਬਜਾਏ ਨਿੰਦਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਖੰਡ ਵਿਚ ਲਪੇਟ ਕੇ ਜ਼ਹਿਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ, ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੱਗਿਆ ਪਰ ਨਿਗਲ ਗਏ, ਮਰੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਪਰ ਮਰਿਆਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਵੱਧ ਮੂਰਸ਼ਤ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਅਤੇ ਅੱਜ ਵੀ ਬੇਹੋਸ਼ੀ ਅਤੇ ਬੇਸਮਝੀ ਦੀ ਹਾਲਤ ਵਿਚ ਸਿਰ ਸੁੱਟੀ ਜਿੰਦਗੀ ਬਸਰ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਬੀਬੀ ਭਾਨੀ ਜੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਪਿਤਾ, ਤੀਸਰੇ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਜੀ, ਤੋਂ ਗੁਰ ਗੱਦੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਘਰ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਵਰ ਮੰਗਦੀ ਦਿਖਾ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਨੂੰ ਘੱਟੇ ਰੋਲਿਆ ਹੈ। ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖੀ ਵਿਚ ਨਾ ਵਰ ਨਾ ਸਰਾਪ। ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਪਿਤਾ ਜੀ ਬਾਬਾ ਲਹਿਣਾ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਰਖ-ਪਰਖ ਕਰਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ-ਗੱਦੀ ਸੌਂਪਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਪ੍ਰੰਪਰਾ ਅੱਗੇ ਤੋਂ ਅੱਗੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਵਿਆਕਤੀ ਨੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਤੋੜੀ।

ਗੁਰਿ ਚੇਲੇ ਰਹਰਾਸਿ ਕੀਈ ਨਾਨਕਿ ਸਲਾਮਤਿ ਥੀਵਦੈ ॥ ਸਹਿ ਟਿਕਾ ਦਿਤੋਸੁ ਜੀਵਦੈ ॥ ੧॥ {ਪੰਨਾ 966}

ਅਤੇ

ਸਿਖਾਂ ਪੁਤ੍ਰਾਂ ਘੋਖਿ ਕੈ ਸਭ ਉਮਤਿ ਵੇਖਹੁ ਜਿ ਕਿਓਨੁ ॥ ਜਾਂ ਸੁਧੋਸੁ ਤਾਂ ਲਹਣਾ ਟਿਕਿਓਨੁ ॥**੪॥** {ਪੰਨਾ 967}

ਬਾਬਾ ਬੁੱਢਾ ਜੀ ਮਾਤਾ ਗੰਗਾ ਨੂੰ ਵਰ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਮੁਗਲਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਿਰ ਭੰਨਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਯੋਧਾ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਘਰ ਪੈਦਾ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਵਰ-ਸਰਾਪ ਦੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ, ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ: "ਜੈਸੇ ਮਾਤ ਪਿਤਾ ਬਿਨੁ ਬਾਲੁ ਨ ਹੋਈ" ਵੀ ਝੂਠੀ ਹੈ। ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਿ ਰਾਇ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ ਦੇ ਯੋਗ ਸਮਝ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਖੀ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਗਲ ਸਾਮਰਾਜ ਦੀਆ ਨਜ਼ਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਵੀ ਦੂਰ ਰਹਿਣ ਦਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਪੂਰਬ ਵੱਲ ਨੂੰ ਤੋਰ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸਦੇ ਸਬੂਤ 'ਭੱਟ ਵਹੀ ਤਲਾਉਂਡਾ, ਪਰਗਣਾ ਜੀਂਦ' ਵਿਚੋਂ ਮਿਲਦੇ ਹਨ ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਬਦੌਲਤ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਹਜ਼ਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਤੈਦਾਦ ਵਿਚ ਲੋਕ ਹਥਿਆਰ-ਬੰਦ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਅਨੰਦਪੁਰ ਵੱਲ ਵਹੀਰਾਂ ਘੱਤ ਕੇ ਆਏ। ਇਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੀ ਦਸਵੇਂ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ, ਬਾਈਧਾਰ ਦੇ ਪਹਾੜੀ ਰਾਜਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ, ਜੋ ਸਿੱਖ ਲਹਿਰ ਤੋਂ ਖਫਾ ਸਨ, ਅਨੰਦਪਰ ਅਤੇ ਆਸ-ਪਾਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਜੰਗਾਂ ਲੜ ਸਕੇ।

ਜਿਸ ਸਿੱਖ-ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਨੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਖੁੱਡਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੜੇ ਸਿੱਧਾਂ, ਜੋਗੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਪੀਰਾਂ ਫਕੀਰਾਂ, ਡਾਕੂਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਲੁਟੇਰਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਬਾਹਰ ਕੱਢਕੇ ਲੋਕ-ਭਲਾਈ ਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਲਾਇਆ ਅੱਜ ਅਸੀਂ ਉਸੇ ਲਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਮੋਢੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਭੋਰਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਤਪ ਕਰਦੇ ਦਿਖਾ ਕੇ ਫਖਰ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ 'ਜਪ ਅਤੇ ਤਪ' ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖੀ ਵਿਚ ਕੋਈ ਥਾਂ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ। ਜਿਵੇ:

ਕਿਆ ਜਪੁ ਕਿਆ ਤਪੁ ਕਿਆ ਬ੍ਰਤ ਪੂਜਾ ॥ ਜਾ ਕੈ ਰਿਦੈ ਭਾਉ ਹੈ ਦੂਜਾ ॥**੧॥** ਪੰਨਾ 324॥

ਕਿਸੇ ਲਿਖਾਰੀ ਨੇ 22 ਸਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ 25-26 ਸਾਲ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਭੋਰੇ ਵਿਚ ਤਪ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਵਾੜ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਜੋ ਸਰਾ-ਸਰ ਗਲਤ ਅਤੇ ਮਨਘੜਤ ਹੈ। ਭੋਰਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਬੈਠਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਕੌਮਾਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਿਰਜ ਸਕਦੇ, ਸਮਾਜ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਲਈ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੀਚੀ ਦੇ ਨਹੁੰ ਤੇ ਝਰੀਟ ਵੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਹਾਰ ਸਕਦੇ, ਕੌਮ ਦੀ ਖਾਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਮੂਹਰੀ ਹੱਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਬਲੀਦਾਨ ਦੇਣਾ ਤਾਂ ਦੂਰ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ। ਅੱਜ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਾਧੜੇ ਨੂੰ ਦੇਖ ਲਓ। ਇਸ ਦੀ ਮਸਾਲ ਅੱਜ ਢੱਢਰੀਆਂ ਵਾਲਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਹਰ ਰੋਜ਼ ਲੱਖ ਕੁ ਰੁਪੈ ਦੀ ਬਰਦੀ ਬਦਲਦਾ ਹੈ ਆਪਣੇ ਮੂਰਖ ਚੇਲਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ 500-500 ਡਾਲਰ ਮੱਥਾ ਟੇਕਣ ਲਈ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਲੋਕ ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਅੱਤਿਆਚਾਰ ਕਰਕੇ ਤੜਫ ਰਹੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਪਰ ਬਾਬਾ ਜੀ 'ਵਾਹਿ ਗੁਰੂ' ਦਾ ਜਾਪ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਕਰਕੇ ਪੱਲਾ ਝਾੜ ਕੇ ਤੁਰਦੇ ਬਣਦੇ ਹਨ। ਲੋਕੋ। ਚਾਹੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਗੱਲ 1984 ਦੀ ਕਰੋ ਤੇ ਚਾਹੇ ਅੱਜ, "ਕਰੋਨਾ ਵਾਇਰਸ" ਦੀ, ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦਿਆਂ ਟੁਕੜਿਆਂ ਤੇ ਪਲਣ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਕਦੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਮੱਦਦ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ। ਢੱਢਰੀਆਂ ਵਾਲਾ ਤਾਂ ਸਗੋਂ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਅੰਦੋਲਨ ਦੇ ਉਲਟ ਹੀ ਭੁਗਤ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਕੀ ਇਸ ਨੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਕੱਪ ਚਾਹ ਦਾ ਪਿਲਾਇਆ ਹੈ? ਨਹੀਂ।

-ਦੂਸਰੇ ਪਾਸੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਜੀ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਕਰਨਾ ਸਿਖਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਹਥਿਆਰ ਰੱਖਣੇ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਮਨਾਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਵਜ੍ਹਾ ਕਰਕੇ 1665 ਈ: ਵਿਚ ਗਰੂ ਜੀ ਧਮਤਾਨ ਦੇ ਅਸਥਾਨ ਤੋਂ ਗ੍ਰਿਫਤਾਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਰ ਜੈਪਰੀਏ ਰਾਜੇ, ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਹ, ਦੀ ਸ਼ਿਫਾਰਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਛੱਡ ਦਿਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ 1670 ਵਿਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਪੂਰਬੀ ਇਲਾਕਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਪਚਾਰ ਕਰਕੇ ਵਾਪਸ ਆ ਰਹੇ ਸਨ ਤਾਂ ਆਗਰੇ ਤੋਂ ਗ੍ਰਿਫਤਾਰ ਕਰ ਲਏ ਗਏ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਵੀ ਜੈਪੂਰੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਮੱਦਦ ਨਾਲ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਰਿਹਾ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਪਰ 1675 ਈ: ਵਿਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਔਰੰਗਜੇਬ ਜ਼ਬਰਨ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਬਣਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਤਾਂ ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰੀ ਪੰਡਿਤਾਂ ਨੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੋਲ 25 ਮਈ 1675 ਈ: ਨੂੰ ਅਨੰਦਪੁਰ ਆ ਕੇ ਫਰਿਆਦ, " ਸਾਨੂੰ ਬਚਾਓ, ਸਾਡੀ ਮੱਦਦ ਕਰੋ, ਸਾਡੀ ਬਾਂਹ ਪਕੜੋ " ਕੀਤੀ। ਇਸ ਵਕਤ ਔਰੰਗਜੇਬ ਦੱਖਣ ਦੀ ਮੁਹਿੰਮ ਤੇ ਗਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। ਪਰ ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰ ਦੇ ਸੂਬੇਦਾਰ ਨੇ ਸੁਹੀਏ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਇਹ ਖਬਰ ਦਿੱਲੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਪਹੁੰਚਦੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੂੰ ਗਿਫਤਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਹਕਮ ਵੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੋ ਗਏ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਕਿ ਮਗਲ ਹਕੂਮਤ ਦੇ ਕਰਿੰਦੇ ਗਰੂ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਆ ਕੇ ਪਕੜਦੇ ਗਰੂ ਜੀ ਆਪ ਹੀ 10 ਜਲਾਈ 1675 ਈ: ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਲੀ ਵੱਲ ਨੂੰ ਚੱਲ ਪਏ ਅਤੇ ਅਗਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਮਲਕਪਰ ਰੰਘੜਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਮੋਰਿੰਡੇ ਦੀ ਪਲਸ ਨੇ ਗਿਫਤਾਰ ਕਰ ਲਿਆ। ਮੋਰਿੰਡੇ ਦੇ ਥਾਣੇਦਾਰ ਨੂਰ ਮਹੰਮਦ ਹਸਨ ਨੇ ਭਾਈ ਮਤੀ ਦਾਸ, ਭਾਈ ਸਤੀ ਦਾਸ, ਭਾਈ ਦਿਆਲਾ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਤ ਗਰੂ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਗਿੰਫਤਾਰ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੂਬਾ ਸਰਹਿੰਦ ਦੇ ਹਕਮ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਬੱਸੀ ਪਠਾਣਾਂ ਦੇ ਕਿਲੇ ਵਿਚ ਬੰਦ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਨਕਸ਼ਬੰਦੀ ਫਿਰਕੇ ਦੇ ਸਰਹਿੰਦ ਦੇ ਕਾਜ਼ੀ, "ਸ਼ੈਖ ਸੈਫ-ਉਦ-ਦੀਨ" ਵਾਰਤਾਲਾਪ ਕਰਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਸਲਮਾਨ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਵਿਚ ਜਦੋਂ ਨਾਕਾਮਯਾਬ ਰਹੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਨੇ ਦਿੱਲੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਕਿ ਗਰੂ ਜੀ ਗੱਲਾਂ-ਬਾਤਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਮਸਲਮਾਨ ਧਰਮ ਕਬੂਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਨਗੇ। ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਤਲਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਡਰ ਨਾਲ ਮਨਾਏ ਜਾ ਸਕਣ। ਕਾਫੀ ਲੰਮੀ ਚਰਚਾ-ਵਾਰਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਤਸੀਹੇ ਦੇਣ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ 3 ਨਵੰਬਰ 1675 ਈ: ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ, ਭਾਈ ਮਤੀ ਦਾਸ, ਭਾਈ ਸਤੀ ਦਾਸ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਈ ਦਿਆਲਾ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਲੀ ਕੋਤਵਾਲੀ ਵਿਚ ਬੰਦ ਕਰ ਦਿਤਾ ਗਿਆ। 11 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਅੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਭਾਈ ਦਿਆਲਾ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਚਾਂਦਨੀ ਚੌਕ ਵਿਚ, ਪਾਣੀ ਨਾਲ ਭਰੀ ਵੱਡੀ ਦੇਗ ਵਿਚ ਬੰਨ ਕੇ, ਉਬਾਲ ਕੇ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਮਗਰੋਂ ਭਾਈ ਮਤੀ ਦਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਦੋ ਲੱਕੜਾਂ ਦੇ ਸ਼ਿਕੰਜੇ ਵਿਚ ਬੰਨ ਕੇ ਆਰੇ ਨਾਲ ਚੀਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਈ ਸਤੀ ਦਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਰੂੰ ਵਿਚ ਲਪੇਟ ਕੇ ਮੌਤ ਦੇ ਘਾਟ ਉਤਾਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਸ਼ਾਮ ਦੇ ਵਕਤ ਕਾਜ਼ੀ ਦੇ ਆਖਰੀ ਫਤਵੇ ਮਗਰੋਂ ਜੱਲਾਦ, ਜਲਾਲ-ੳਦ-ਦੀਨ, (ਸਮਾਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ) ਨੇ ਗਰੂ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਤਲਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਇਕੋ ਝਟਕੇ ਨਾਲ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਕਰ ਦਿਤਾ।

ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਨੂੰ 'ਸਿਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਸੋਭਾ' ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਦਾ ਲਿਖਾਰੀ, ਕਵੀ ਸੈਨਾਪਤਿ ਜਾਂ ਸੈਣਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਆਪਣੇ ਲਫਜਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਇੰਜ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ:

ਪ੍ਰਗਟ ਭਏ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ। ਸਗਲ ਸ੍ਰਿਸਟ ਪੈ ਜਾਕੀ ਚਾਦਰ। ਕਰਮ ਧਰਮ ਕੀ ਜਿਨਿ ਪਤਿ ਰਾਖੀ। ਅਟਲ ਕਰੀ ਕਲਿਯੁਗ ਮੈਂ ਸ੍ਵਾਖੀ॥ 14॥ ਪੰਨਾ 10॥

ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰ ਪੰਥ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਾ ਲਿਖਾਰੀ ਇਉਂ ਲਿਖਦਾ ਹੈ:

ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਫਿਰ ਗੁਰ ਭਯੋ ਪਰਸਵਾਰਥ ਹਿਤਿ ਜਿਨਿ ਸਿਰ ਦਯੋ॥ ਕਲਯੁਗ ਮੈ ਬਡ ਸਾਕਾ ਕੀਯਾ ਧਰਮ ਕਰਮ ਰਖ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਲੀਯਾ॥

ਇਹ ਵੀ ਗਲਤ ਹੈ। ਸਿਰਫ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਧਰਮ ਲਈ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਦੇਣੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਨੂੰ ਛੁਟਿਆਉਣਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਨਿਰਮਲੇ ਕਵੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਚਾਲ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਅਸੀਂ ਸਮਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕੇ। ਪਰ ਬਚਿਤ੍ਰ ਨਾਟਿਕ ਦੇ ਲਿਖਾਰੀ ਕਵੀ ਸਿਯਾਮ ਨੇ ਤਾਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਨੂੰ ਮਿੱਟੀ-ਘੱਟੇ ਹੀ ਰੋਲ ਦਿਤਾ। ਜਿਵੇ:

> ਤਿਲਕ ਜੰਞੂ ਰਾਖਾ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਤਾਕਾ॥ ਕੀਨੋ ਬਡੋ ਕਲੂ ਮਹਿ ਸਾਕਾ॥ ਸਾਧਨ ਹੇਤਿ ਇਤੀ ਜਿਨਿ ਕਰੀ॥ ਸੀਸੁ ਦੀਆ ਪਰੁ ਸੀ ਨ ਉਚਰੀ॥ ਦ. ਗ੍ਰ. ਪੰਨਾ 54॥

ਜਿਸ ਤਿਲਕ-ਜੰਞੂ ਨਾਲ ਸਿੱਖ ਲਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਦੇ ਵੇਲੇ ਤੋਂ ਕੋਈ ਸਬੰਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਖਾਤਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਕੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੇ ਕੁਰਬਾਨੀਆ ਕਿਉਂ ਦੇਣੀਆਂ ਸਨ ? ਸਭ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੱਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਲੜਨ ਮਰਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਿੱਖ-ਲਹਿਰ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਇਕ ਧਰਮ ਦੀ ਰਾਖੀ ਲਈ ਜਾਨਾਂ ਕੁਰਬਾਨ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਦਿਖਾਉਣਾ ਇਕ ਸਾਜਿਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖ-ਲਹਿਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਲੱਖਾਂ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤਾਂ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੱਕਾਂ ਅਤੇ 'ਸੱਚ ਧਰਮ' ਨੂੰ ਬਹਾਲ ਕਰਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਦਿੱਤੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਹਨ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਅਸੀਂ ਅੱਜ ਭੁੱਲ ਚੁੱਕੇ ਹਾਂ।

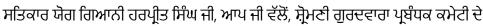
ਭੈ ਕਾਹੁ ਕਉ ਦੇਤ ਨਹਿ ਨਹਿ ਭੈ ਮਾਨਤ ਆਨ ॥ ਪੰਨਾ 1427॥

ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਜੀ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਪੱਤਰ

ਸਰਵਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੈਕਰਾਮੈਂਟੋ

sarbjits@gmail.com

ਵਿਸ਼ਾ: ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ।





ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਪੱਤਰ ਅਖ਼ਬਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੁਰਖੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਿੰਗਾਰ ਬਣਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ। ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਚਿੰਤਾ ਦਾ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਛੋਟੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ, ਜੋ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 13 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ 14 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਆ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਹਫ਼ਤੇ ਵਿੱਚ, ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜੇ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੱਢੇ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੇ। ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਚਿੰਤਾ ਜਾਇਜ਼ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਨੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਗੁਰਦਵਾਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖ ਕੇ ਆਦੇਸ਼ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਿਦਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਰਾਏ ਨਾਲ ਇਸ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਦਾ ਹੱਲ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ।

ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਜੀ, ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਧਿਆਨ ਹਿੱਤ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਿਹੜੀ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਅੱਜ ਆਈ ਹੈ ਇਹ ਅਤੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਅਜੇਹੀਆਂ ਹੋਰ ਸਮੱਸਿਆਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਹੱਲ ਤਾਂ ਵਿਦਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੇ 2003 ਈ: ਵਿੱਚ ਹੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ। ਪਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਗੁਰਦਵਾਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਧਿਰ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਤ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੁੱਖ ਰੱਖ ਕੇ 2010 ਈ: ਵਿੱਚ, ਦੋ ਮੈਂਬਰੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਿਫ਼ਾਰਿਸ਼ਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਮੰਨਦੇ ਹੋਏ, ਬਿਕ੍ਰਮੀ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਲਾਗੂ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ। ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਕਿਸੇ-ਨਾ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਮੱਸਿਆਵਾਂ ਲਈ ਖ਼ੁਦ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਹੀ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੈ। ਕੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਇਸ ਸਵਾਲ ਦਾ ਜਵਾਬ ਦੇਵੇਗੀ ਕਿ ਜੇ ਛੋਟੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 8 ਪੋਹ ਅਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 13 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਉਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ?

ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਜੀ, ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਮਤ 546 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ (2014 ਈ:) ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਅਜੇਹੀ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਪਿਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸ ਸਾਲ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 13 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਆਇਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸ ਵੇਲੇ ਵੀ ਇਸ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਤੇ ਕਾਫੀ ਚਰਚਾ ਹੋਈ ਸੀ। ਸੰਮਤ 549 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ (2017 ਈ:) ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਹਫ਼ਤੇ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਭਾਵ 11 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਆਇਆ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 14 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਆ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਅਜੇ ਵੀ ਕੋਈ ਪੱਕਾ ਹੱਲ ਨਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਤਾਂ ਸੰਮਤ 557 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ (2025 ਈ:) ਵਿੱਚ ਫੇਰ ਇਸੇ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਕਰਨਾ ਪਵੇਗਾ। ਉਸ ਸਾਲ ਗਰੂ

ਸੰਮਤ ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ	ਈ: ਸਾਲ	ਵੱਡੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ	ਛੋਟੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ	ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ
554	2022	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	14 ਪੋਹ
557	2025	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ
560	2028	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	9 ਪੋਹ
562	2030	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	15 ਪੋਹ
565	2033	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	14 ਪੋਹ
568	2036	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	11 ਪੋਰ
573	2041	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	15 ਪੋਹ
576	2044	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	12 ਪੋਹ
579	2047	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	8 ਪੋਰ
584	2052	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਰ	14 ਪੋਰ

ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 13 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਆਵੇਗਾ। ਸੰਮਤ 560 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ (2028 ਈ:) ਵਿੱਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼

ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਹਫ਼ਤੇ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਭਾਵ 9 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਆਵੇਗਾ। ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਸਿਲਸਿਲਾ ਅੱਗੋਂ ਵੀ ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਰਹੇਗਾ। ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਟੇਬਲ ਵੇਖੋ

ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਜੀ, ਆਪ ਜੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੰਗੇ ਗਏ ਸੁਝਾਓ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਵੀ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਪ੍ਰਵਿਸ਼ਟਿਆਂ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ, 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇ। ਇਹ ਹੀ ਇਸ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਦਾ ਸਦੀਵੀ ਹੱਲ ਹੈ। ਵੱਡੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 8 ਪੋਹ, ਛੋਟੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 13 ਪੋਹ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇ, ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਦੇ ਵੀ ਅਜੇਹੀ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਨਾ ਪਵੇਗਾ। ਆਸ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਇਸ ਸਝਾਓ ਤੇ ਗੌਰ ਕਰੋਗੇ।

ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਸਹਿਤ

ਸਰਵਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੈਕਰਾਮੈਂਟੋ

10 ਮੱਘਰ, ਸੰਮਤ 554 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ (23 ਨਵੰਬਰ 2022)

ਸ. ਹਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਧਾਮੀ ਜੀ, ਨਿਮਰਤਾ ਸਹਿਤ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ;

ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਜਨਮ, ਆਪਣੇ ਦੇਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਚਲਿਤ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ, ਚੰਦਰ-ਸੂਰਜੀ ਬਿਕ੍ਰਮੀ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ (ਸੂਰਜੀ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ) ਮੁਤਾਬਕ 23 ਪੋਹ, ਪੋਹ ਸੁਦੀ 7, ਸੰਮਤ 1723 ਬਿਕ੍ਰਮੀ ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ਨਿਚਰਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਗੁਰਦਵਾਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਵੈਬ ਸਾਈਟ ਉਪਰ ਵੀ ਇਹੋ ਤਾਰੀਖ ਹੀ ਦਰਜ ਹੈ। The tenth and the last Guru or Prophet-teacher of the Sikh faith, was born Gobind Rai Sodhi on Poh Sudi 7th, 23rd Poh 1723 Bikrami Samvat (22 December 1666) at Patna." (sgpc.net) ਇਸ ਤਾਰੀਖ ਬਾਰੇ ਕੋਈ ਮੱਤ-ਭੇਦ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ `ਚ ਇਕ ਤਾਰੀਖ 23

ਸੰਮਤ ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ	ਵੈਸਾਖੀ	ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ	ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ	ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ
		ਛੋਟੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦੇ	ਛੋਟੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦੇ	ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
552 (20-21 ਈ:)	1 ਵੈਸਾਖ	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	7 ਮੁੱਘਰ
553 (21-22 ਈ:)	1 ਵੈਸਾਖ	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	26 ਪੋਹ
554 (22-23 ਈ:)	1 ਵੈਸਾਖ	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	14 ਪੋਹ
555 (23-24 ਈ:)	1 ਵੈਸਾਖ	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	4 ਮੱਘਰ
556 (24-25 ਈ:)	1 ਵੈਸਾਖ	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	23 ਪੋਹ
557 (25-26 ਈ:)	1 ਵੈਸਾਖ	8 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ	13 ਪੋਹ

ਪੋਹ, ਸੂਰਜੀ ਬਿਕ੍ਰਮੀ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਦੀ ਤਾਰੀਖ ਹੈ। ਧਰਤੀ ਸੂਰਜ ਦੁਵਾਲੇ 365 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਕ ਚੱਕਰ ਪੂਰਾ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਲ ਕਿਹਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੂਰਜੀ ਕੈਲੰਡਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ 365 ਦਿਨ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਗੁਰਦਵਾਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਛਾਪਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਵੀ ਸੂਰਜੀ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਹੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਸ ਦੇ 365 ਦਿਨ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਹ ਹੀ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੈ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ, ਹਰ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਮੁੜ ਉਸੇ ਪ੍ਰਵਿਸ਼ਟੇ ਨੂੰ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜਿਵੇ ਵੈਸਾਖੀ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 1 ਵੈਸਾਖ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਦੂਜੀ ਤਾਰੀਖ ਪੋਹ ਸੂਦੀ 7, ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਦੀ ਤਾਰੀਖ ਹੈ। ਚੰਦ ਧਰਤੀ ਦੁਵਾਲੇ 29.53 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਕ ਚੱਕਰ ਪੂਰਾ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਦ ਦਾ ਇਕ ਮਹੀਨਾ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਸਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ 12 ਮਹੀਨੇ (ਚੇਤ ਤੋਂ ਫੱਗਣ) ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਸਾਲ ਦੀ ਲੰਬਾਈ 354 ਦਿਨ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਚੰਦ ਦਾ ਸਾਲ ਸੂਰਜੀ ਸਾਲ ਤੋਂ 11 ਦਿਨ ਛੋਟਾ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਰਜੀ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ ਨੇੜੇ-ਤੇੜੇ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਹਰ ਤੀਜੇ-ਚੌਥੇ ਸਾਲ ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਕ ਹੋਰ ਮਹੀਨਾ (ਮਲਮਾਸ) ਜੋੜ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਮਤ 2080 ਬਿਕ੍ਰਮੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਸਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ 13 ਮਹੀਨੇ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਸਾਵਣ ਦਾ ਮਹੀਨਾ ਦੋ ਵਾਰ ਆਵੇਗਾ। ਇਕ ਸ਼ੁਧ ਸਾਵਣ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਜਾ ਅਸ਼ੁੱਧ ਸਾਵਣ। ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਸਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ 385 ਦਿਨ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਅਜੇਹਾ 19 ਸਾਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ 7 ਵਾਰ ਕਰਨਾ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਾਰਨ, ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਮਨਾਏ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਦਿਨ ਤਿਉਹਾਰ, ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਨਾਲੋਂ 11 ਦਿਨ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਜਾਂ 18-19 ਦਿਨ ਪਛੜ ਕੇ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਅੱਜ ਸਾਡੀ ਸਮੱਸਿਆ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਤਾਰੀਖਾਂ `ਚ ਕਿਹੜੀ ਤਾਰੀਖ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇ? ਜੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਤਾਂ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਹ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਆਵੇਗਾ। ਜਿਵੇ ਵੈਸਾਖੀ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਕ ਵੈਸਾਖ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਵੱਡੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 8 ਪੋਹ ਅਤੇ ਛੋਟੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 13 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਆਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸੇ ਤਰਾਂ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਆਵੇਗਾ। ਜੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਪੋਹ ਸੁਦੀ 7 ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਮਨਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਤਾਂ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਛਾਪੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਮਤ 552 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 7 ਮੱਘਰ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਮਤ 553 ਵਿੱਚ 26 ਪੋਹ ਦਰਜ ਸੀ। ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਛਾਪੇ ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ (ਸੰਮਤ 554 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ) ਵਿੱਚ ਇਹ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 14 ਪੋਹ ਦਾ ਦਰਜ ਹੈ। ਅਗਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ 385 ਦਿਨ ਹੋ ਜਾਣਗੇ। ਇਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ (ਸੰਮਤ 555) ਵਿੱਚ 4 ਮੱਘਰ ਨੂੰ ਆਵੇਗਾ। ਸੰਮਤ 556 ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਚੰਦ ਦੇ ਸਾਲ ਦੇ 354 ਦਿਨ ਹੋਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਇਹ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਆਵੇਗਾ।

ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਯੋਗ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਜੀ, ਦੇਸ-ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਨਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ ਕਿ, ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਉਣ ਨਾਲ ਗੁਰਮਤਿ ਦੇ ਕਿਹੜੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਦੀ ਅਵੱਗਿਆ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ? ਜੇ ਸੰਮਤ 1756 ਬਿਕ੍ਰਮੀ ਦੀ 1 ਵੈਸਾਖ ਅੱਜ ਵੀ ਇਕ ਵੈਸਾਖ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਨਹੀਂ ਵਿਗੜਿਆ, ਤਾਂ ਉਸੇ ਕੈਲੰਡਰ ਦੀ ਉਸ ਤੋਂ 33 ਸਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਦੀ 23 ਪੋਹ (ਸੰਮਤ 1723), ਅੱਜ 23 ਪੋਹ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਹ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 23 ਪੋਹ ਨੂੰ ਕਿਉ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ?

ਉਸਾਰੂ ਸੇਧਾਂ ਦੀ ਉਡੀਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਸਹਿਤ ਸਰਵਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੈਕਰਾਮੈਂਟੋ

ਫ਼ੇਸਬੂਕੀ ਗੱਪਾਂ

ਡਾ: ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਿਲਗੀਰ

ਅਜ-ਕਲ੍ਹ ਫ਼ੇਸ ਬੁਕ 'ਤੇ ਨਵੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਨਵੀਆਂ ਗੱਪਾਂ ਆ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਕੋਈ ਵੇਲਾ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਅਖ਼ਬਾਰ ਰਿਸਾਲੇ ਵਿਚ ਇਕ ਅੱਧ ਗੱਪ ਛਪ ਜਾਇਆ ਕਰਦੀ ਸੀ। ਹੁਣ ਤਾਂ ਫ਼ੇਸਬੁਕ ਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਝੂਠੀ ਅਖ਼ਬਾਰ 'ਤੇ ਹਰ ਰਜ਼ ਨਵੀਂ ਗੱਪ ਨਸ਼ਰ ਹੰਦੀ ਹੈ



- 1. ਇੰਗਲੈਂਡ ਵਿਚ ਕਾਵੈਂਟਰੀ ਦੇ ਚੰਨਣ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੰਨ ਨੇ ਦੋ ਗੱਪਾਂ ਬੜੀਆਂ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਰ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਸਨ: (ੳ) ਪਾਕਿਸਤਾਨ ਤੋਂ 100 ਰੁਪੈ ਵਿਚ ਇਕ ਘੋੜੇ ਦੀ ਪੁਰਾਣੀ ਕਲਗੀ ਲਿਆ ਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਕਲਗੀ ਬਣਾ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਸੀ। (ਅ) ਦੋ ਅਫ਼ਗ਼ਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਮਹਾਰਾਜਾ ਰਣਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਤੇ ਹਰੀ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਲਵਾ ਦੀਆਂ ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ ਬਣਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਚੋਖਾ ਚਿਰ ਮਗਰੋਂ ਕੋਈ ਵੱਡੀ ਗੱਪ ਨਹੀਂ ਨਿਕਲੀ ਸੀ।
- 2. ਕੁਝ ਸਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੇ ਫ਼ਤਹਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿਚ ਇਕ ਪੁਰਾਣੀ ਮੁਗ਼ਲੀਆਂ ਇਮਾਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਟੋਡਰ ਮੱਲ ਦੀ ਜਹਾਜ਼ੀ ਹਵੇਲੀ ਬਣਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ। ਹਣ ਤਾਂ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਇਸ ਗੱਪ ਇਮਾਰਤ ਦੀ "ਕਾਰ (ਬੇਕਾਰ) ਸੇਵਾ" ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰ ਰਹੀਹੈ। ਤੌਬਾ!
- 3. 1970 ਦੇ ਦੁਆਲੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਕਾਲਪਨਿਕ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਮੋਤੀ ਰਾਮ ਮਹਿਰਾ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਦਸੰਬਰ 1705 ਵਿਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਿਬਜ਼ਾਦਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੁੱਧ ਪਿਆਉਣ ਦੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਵਿਤਾ ਲਿਖੀ ਸੀ। ਮੂਰਖਾਂ ਨੇ ਉਸ ਕਾਲਪਨਿਕ ਮੋਤੀ ਰਾਮ ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਬਣਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਕੈਪਟਨ ਅਮਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਹੋਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ ਉਸ ਨੇ ਫ਼ਤਹਿਗੜ੍ਹ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਇਕ ਗੇਟ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਮੋਤੀ ਰਾਮ ਮਹਿਰਾ ਗੇਟ ਰਖ ਦਿੱਤਾ।
- 4. ਚਾਰ ਪੰਜ ਸਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੇ 13 ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ 1978 ਦੇ ਦਿਨ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਵਿਚ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਹੱਥੋਂ ਮਾਰੇ ਗਏ 13 ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਸਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਸਸਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਬਣਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ।
- 5. ਹੁਣ ਇਕ ਨਵੀਂ ਗੱਪ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਕਿ "ਜਦੋਂ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ 'ਭੁੱਲੜ ਦੇਸ਼ ਭਗਤ' ਕਿਹਾ ਤਾਂ ਇਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਨੇ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਥੱਪੜ ਮਾਰਿਆ ਸੀ।" 10000% ਖ਼ਾਲਸ ਗੱਪ। ਹੁਣ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਦੀ ਫ਼ੋਟੋ ਵੀ ਪਾ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੈ "ਅਖੇ ਇਹ ਉਹ ਸਿੱਖ ਹੈ"। ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਕਾਲਪਨਿਕ ਥੱਪੜ ਮਾਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਸੀਪਲ ਗੰਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਕ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਚਲਦਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਸੀ। ਇਹ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਨਿਰੀ ਗੱਪ ਹੈ।
- 6. ਕਪੂਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਤਾਬ "ਸਾਚੀ ਸਾਖੀ" ਵਿਚ ਤਾਂ ਗੱਪਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਰਮਾਰ ਕਰ ਛੱਡੀ ਸੀ। ਸਾਈਮਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਦੀਆਂ ਲਾਠੀਆਂ ਚਲਦੀਆਂ ਵੀ ਮੈਂ ਵੇਖੀਆਂ ਸਨ। ਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਫ਼ਾਂਸੀ ਦੇਣ ਸਮੇਂ ਵੀ ਮੈਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਸੀ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਗਵਰਨਰ ਨੇ "ਸਿੱਖ ਇਕ ਜਰਾਇਮ ਪੇਸ਼ਾ ਕੌਮ ਹਨ" ਵਾਲਾ ਸਰਕੁਲਰ ਕੱਢਿਆ ਸੀ। ਕਪੂਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਕਿਤਾਬ ਤਾਂ 50% ਤੋਂ 75% "ਝੂਠੀ ਸਾਖੀ" ਹੈ। ਜਿਹੜੇ ਲੋਕ ਕਪੂਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਸਾਚੀ ਸਾਖੀ ਦੀ ਤਾਰੀਫ਼ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ, ਜਾਪਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਉਹ ਪੜ੍ਹੀ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ। ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਵਾਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਛਾਪਿਆ ਸੀ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਵਿਚ ਰੱਜ ਕੇ ਲਿਖੈ ਝੂਠ ਕਾਰਨ ਛਾਪਣ 'ਤੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਲਾ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਸੀ।
- 7. ਸੁਖਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਊਦੋਕੇ ਨੇ ਸਰਹੰਦ ਦੇ ਫ਼ੌਜਦਾਰ ਵਜ਼ੀਰ ਖ਼ਾਨ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਰੋਸ ਵਜੋਂ ਉਸ ਦੀ ਬੇਗ਼ਮ ਦੀ ਖ਼ੁਦਕੁਸ਼ੀ ਦੀ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਪਰਚਾਰਿਆ ਸੀ (ਇਸ ਕਹਾਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਨਿਰਮਲੇ ਲੇਖਕ ਭਾਈ ਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਘੜਿਆ ਸੀ) । ਵਿਦਵਾਨ ਸੁਖਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਊਦੋਕੇ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕੀਵੀਂ ਸਦੀ ਦਾ ਸੰਤੋਖ ਸਿੰਘ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਹ ਇਹ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਣਦੇ ਕਿ ਸੁਖਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਊਦੋਕੇ ਇਕ ਥਰਡ ਏਜੰਸੀ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਨਵੀਆਂ ਨਵੀਆਂ ਗੱਪਾਂ ਘੜ ਕੇ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਗੰਧਲਾ ਕਰ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਫ਼ੇਸਬੁਕ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਹਾਲ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਹੁਣ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਗੌਸਿਪ ਬੁੱਕ (ਗੱਪ ਕਿਤਾਬ) ਕਹਿਣਾ ਸਹੀ ਹੈ। ਫ਼ੇਸਬੁਕ = ਗੌਸਿਪ ਬੁੱਕ (ਗੱਪ ਕਿਤਾਬ)।



Editor's Pick Video

Guru Teg Bahadur Ji –
Martyrdom of Punishment
for his sins?

9 ਮਹਿਨੇ 9 ਦਿਨ 9 ਘੜੀਆ

ਪ੍ਰੋ ਮਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੋਹੀ।

ਦਮਦਮੀ ਟਕਸਾਲ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਸਾਬੋ ਕੀ ਤਲਵੰਡੀ ਵਿਖੇ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਨੂੰ ਲਿਖਾਉਣ ਵਿੱਚ 9 ਮਹਿਨੇ 9 ਦਿਨ 9 ਘੜੀਆ ਦਾ ਸਮਾਂ ਲੱਗਿਆਂ ਸੀ।

ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਜਾਣਦੇ ਹੋ ਕਿ ਇਸ (9) ਨਾਏ ਦੇ ਪਿਛੇ ਮੂੰਹ ਛੁਪਾਈ ਕੌਣ ਬੈਠਾ ਹੈ?

ਨੌਜਵਾਨੋਂ! ਧਿਆਨ ਨਾਲ ਪੜ੍ਹ ਲਿਉ ਇਹ ਸਤਰਾਂ ਕਿ ਇਸ 9 ਦੇ ਪਿਛੇ ਛੁਪਿਆ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ, ਬਿਪਰ ਪੁਜਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਉਸਦੀਆਂ ਮਾਨਤਾਵਾਂ। ਅਜਿਹੇ ਅੰਕੜੇ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ ਦੇ ਪੱਕੇ ਸਬੂਤ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਟਕਸਾਲਾ ਸੰਪ੍ਰਦਾਵਾ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਬਿਪਰ ਪੁਜਾਰੀ ਨੇ ਹੀ ਖੜਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਹੈ ਨਾ ਕਿ ਕਿਸੇ ਮਹਾਨ ਸਿੱਖ ਸਖਸ਼ੀਅਤ ਨੇ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਖੜ੍ਹਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ।

ਹਿੰਦੂ ਮਤ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਪਰ ਦੀ ਜੋਤਿਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ 9 ਦੀ ਬਹੁਤ ਵੱਡੀ ਮਹਾਨਤਾ ਹੈ। ਉਹ ਮੰਨਦੇ ਹਨ 9 ਇਕ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਅੰਕ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਬਣਾਈ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਥ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰ ਦਮਦਮੀ ਟਕਸਾਲ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਗ੍ਰੰਥਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕਥਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ 9 ਨਾਂਏ ਦੇ ਅਲੰਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਵਰਤਕੇ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਦਮਦਮੀ ਟਕਸਾਲ ਵਾਲੀ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਰਹਿਤ ਮਰਿਯਾਦਾ ਦੇ ਸਫਾ 120 ਉਪਰ ਨਾਂਏ-ਦੇ-ਪਹਾੜੇ ਦੀ ਉਦਾਹਰਣ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਧ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ 9 ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਇਮ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ:

```
9×1=9

9×2=18. (1+8) =9

9×3=27. (2+7) =9

----= (36) 3+6=9, (45) 4+5=9, (54) 5+4=9, (63) 6+3=9, (72) 7+2=9, 8+1=9, (9+0) =9
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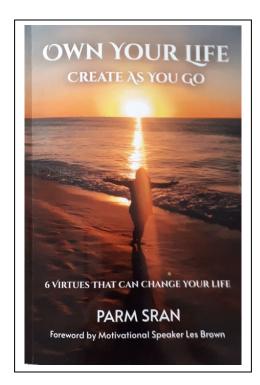
ਹਿੰਦੂ ਸਵਾਮੀ, ਗੁਰੂਆ, ਸੰਤਾ ਵਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ 108 (1+0+8) =9 ਦੇ ਪਿਛੇ ਵੀ ਇਹੀ ਮਾਨਤਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਿਵੇਂ 9 ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਆਪਣੀ ਹੋਂਦ ਬਰਕਰਾਰ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਹ ਸੰਤ ਸਵਾਮੀ ਵੀ ਜਨਮ ਮਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਬਿਪਰ ਦਾ ਮੰਨਣਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਵੀ 9 ਵਾਂਗ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਇਕ ਰਸ ਬਣੇ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਹੁਣ ਤਾਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਅਖਵਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਬਾਬੇ ਵੀ 108 ਲਿਖਣ ਲੱਗ ਗਏ ਹਨ

ਹੇਠਾ ਪੇਸ਼ ਹਨ ਬਿਪਰ ਦੇ ਗ੍ਰੰਥਾਂ ਦੇ ਉਹ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਅੰਕੜੇ ਜਿੰਨਾ ਦਾ ਕੇਂਦਰ 9 ਹੀ ਹੈ:

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ਸਤਯੁੱਗ ਦੀ ਉਮਰ 17,28,000= (1+7+2+8+0+0+0) =18 = (1+8) =9
ਤਰੇਤਾ 12,96,000= (1+2+9+6+0+0+0) =18= (1+8) =9
ਦੁਆਪਰ 8,64,000= (8+6+4+0+0+0) =18 (1+8) =9
ਕਲਯੁਗ 4,32,000 (4+3+2+0+0+0) =9
ਮਹਾਭਾਰਤ ਵਿੱਚ 18 ਖੂਹਣੀਆਂ ਫੌਜ ਦਾ ਜਿਕਰ ਹੈ। ਭਾਵ 1+8=9
ਇਕ ਖੂਹਣੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅੰਕੜਿਆਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਫੌਜੀ ਦਸਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ
ਰੱਥ =21870 (2+1+8+7+0) =18 (1+8) =9
ਹਾਥੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵੀ 21870 ਹੀ ਹੈ।
ਘੋੜੇ 65610= (6+5+6+1+0) =18(1+8) =9
ਪੈਦਲ ਫੌਜ 1,09350= (1+0+9+3+5+0) =18(1+8) =9
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ਮਹਾਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਅੰਕੜਿਆਂ ਮੁਤਾਬਿਕ ਰਾਜਾ ਨਗਨਜਿੱਤ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਧੀ ਸਤਯਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਆਹ ਸਮੇਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਨ ਨੂੰ 9 ਅਰਬ ਸੇਵਕ, 9 ਕਰੋੜ ਘੋੜੇ, 9 ਲੱਖ ਰੱਥ, 9 ਹਜਾਰ ਹਾਥੀ ਦਹੇਜ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਹਨ।

ਕੀ ਉਪ੍ਰੋਕਤ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥਾਂ ਦੇ ਵੇਰਵੇ ਟਕਸਾਲ ਦੀ 9 ਮਹਿਨੇ 9 ਦਿਨ 9 ਘੜੀਆ ਦੀ ਮਾਨਤਾ ਉਪਰ ਆਪਣੀ ਮੋਹਰ ਛਾਪ ਲਾ ਕੇ ਸਿੱਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਕਿ ਅਖੌਤੀ ਸੰਪ੍ਰਦਾਵਾ ਤੇ ਟਕਸਾਲਾ ਦੀਆਂ ਜੜ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਹੀ ਸਗੋਂ ਬਿਪਰ ਪੁਜਾਰੀ ਹੀ ਮੂੰਹ ਛੁਪਾਈ ਬੈਠਾ ਹੈ?



BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: Own Your Life: Create as You Go

6 Virtues that can change your life

Author: Parm Sran

Publisher: Amazon.ca, Bolton, Ontario, Canada

Year of Publication: 2021

Pages: 100

Reviewer: Dr. Devinder Pal Singh, Director, Center for Understanding Sikhism, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

drdpsn@gmail.com

Parm Sran is a multifaceted personality. She is a Mental Health nurse, a Well-Being Coach, an Inspirational Speaker, and a YouTuber. Now she is an author too. During her more than two decades of a professional career in Nursing, she has helped numerous people from diverse communities to overcome their mental health challenges. Furthermore, being a noted speaker at various International Conferences and Seminars on Women's Empowerment

& Mental Health, she regularly participates in various TV shows to make people aware of coping with life's challenges.

Parm Sran opines that we are spiritual beings having the power to change and create new realities. She points out that people we meet, places we go, and books we read change our mindsets. To have better mental health, healthier relationships, and worthwhile life, we must take care of our inner worlds before we start sorting out the outer world. The external world starts changing automatically as we start making changes within ourselves. This fact comes out very prominently in her works.

"Own Your Life: Create as You Go" outlines Parm Sran's journey of life transformation. From a person suffering from clinical depression, in constant denial of her condition, suffering from self-limiting beliefs, past regrets, anger, guilt and relationship conflicts to her transformation into a person full of positive energy, enthusiasm, optimism and leading an exemplary life full of joy and peace, is quite a journey, worth knowing.

Tonny Robbins, her mentor, helped her see life from an alternative viewpoint. It helped her to change her way of life. Then, as a student at Power Voice Academy, she met Les Brown, a Motivational Speaker, who encouraged her to put her voice into words so that it can help others. Finally, Eric Lofholm, a Best-selling author, and Entrepreneur enabled her to bring this book to life. In his Foreword to the book, Les Brown points out that Parm has not only described her skills and methods to overcome depression but also ably portrayed her journey to win against self-limiting beliefs, relationship conflicts, and bullying.

"Own Your Life: Create as You Go" delineates six virtues that can change your life. The book is divided into four parts. In the Introduction (Part 1), the book's purpose has been stated as twofold. Firstly, based on the author's life-changing experiences, it is authored to help those facing life challenges such as mental illness, relationship strife, financial difficulties, or feeling trapped. Secondly, it is penned to raise awareness on the connection between mind, body and spirit, methods to better one's mental health and how to start living life to its fullest.

She points out that confidence is the foundation of one's persona and the central pillar for success in one's life. It can enhance or diminish via the way one is interacted with. Based on her childhood experiences (e.g., bullied

for being short-statured), the author felt not good enough. This lack of self-confidence led to her having low self-esteem and ultimately made her prone to making wrong choices in life.

Elaborating on "regaining self-confidence," she asserts that we can certainly change whatever we acquire. She recommends that we must start each day with positive affirmations. Remind yourself that you are worthy of all the success that you desire. Be assertive, share your opinion politely, and don't let others' opinions affect you. Use more words with positive emotions, e.g., Rather than saying 'I am going nuts," you should say "I am thrilled /excited." Find one belief that marred your confidence and self-esteem; change it. Happiness is a state of mind. Be happy the way you are. You don't have to be like everyone else to be happy. Be grateful for the good things in your life.



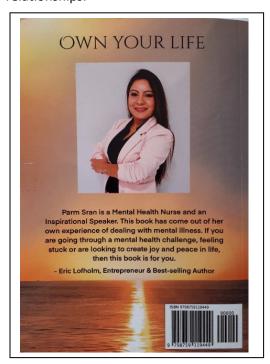
Dr. Devinder Pal Singh

She asserts that trust is a considerable aspect of life. The feeling that you cannot trust others arise from your lack of self-trust, which is a breeding ground

for fear. She recommends that parents can enable their children to create their own identities by nurturing positive beliefs, thoughts, actions, and virtues in them.

Deliberating on relationships, she opines that the quality of every relationship depends on the quality of your relationship with yourself. To have better relationships, you must understand yourself. She asserts that when there is no way out of any relationship conflict, there is always a way in. Avoid mental abuse, as it is a silent killer in any relationship. Professional help can provide a soothing effect in such a situation.

In part 2 of the book, Parm proclaims that we are spiritual beings and have the power to change and create new realities. She affirms that the first step on the journey to creating new realities is to stop blaming others and start taking responsibility for our actions. Self-exploration, understanding and self-development (by replacing negative thoughts and feelings with positive ones) can make us more assertive and confident in our relationships.



The author reports that limiting beliefs keeps us from doing what we want to do to make progress in life. Such ideas lead to low self-esteem and low self-confidence in us. Everything is created twice, first in our mind and then in reality. To change our situation (e.g., financial difficulties), we must change our beliefs (e.g., about money).

Parm opines that low self-esteem may turn a person into a people pleaser. Such a person is often reluctant to say no to avoid confronting others. To enhance your mental peace, learn to say no to what you don't want or like. Stay away from what doesn't match your core values.

On the journey to self-awareness, avoid comparing yourself with others. Quoting the law of attraction, the author reports that one pushes away one's success by being jealous of others' success. Instead, create the virtue of accepting others' success.

Part 3 of the book focuses on 'Our Inner World Affects Our Outer World.' The author points out that the mind is our ability to create thoughts, feel emotions and visualize. Mindset is a process of everyday choices. To develop a positive, solid, and unshakable

mindset, we must adapt (i) An attitude of gratitude, (ii) Practice mindfulness during each moment of life (iii) Abstain from multitasking to enhance our focus on the task at hand. (iv) As emotions are the language of the mind, acknowledge them, name them, and never numb them. To experience positive emotions, one must live in the present moment and avoid reliving the hurtful past. (v) Thoughts create emotions, emotions affect our actions, and our actions form our behavior. Repetitive behavior becomes habits, and habits create our destiny. So, by changing our thoughts, we can change our destiny. Create and nurture good thoughts to create your promising future.

Parm emphasizes character building. To build a positive character, she asserts that we must practice virtues of love, acceptance, non-judgmental, detachment, forgiveness, letting go, faith, commitment, and wisdom. In addition, Parm urges us to be committed to making appropriate changes in our lives to achieve our dreams. To do so, she suggests (i) Exercising (ii) Feeding the mind with positivity, (iii) Avoiding procrastination, (iv) Staying committed to giving, (v) Keeping honest and transparent communication, (vi) Staying joyful and being consistent.

The last section (Part 4) of the book describes methods to stay positive and grateful, achieve personal goals and meditate. In the last chapter, 'Bus stop to the Airport,' she outlines her journey across the continents, her emigration hardships and struggles to reach her current status. She ends her story on a positive note: "if someone tells you that you can't do something, do it twice! There is always a way if you are committed enough to find it." Through her personal success story of realizing her dreams by consistent dedication to them, she inspires us to stay 100% committed to what we are doing and assure us that the universe will move things around us to accommodate our hope and desires.

Parm's partly autobiographical book is quite fascinating and engaging. Once you start, it is tough to put it down without reading it till the end. She has a great mastery of presenting her life experiences in a lucid and authentic style. The whole content is replete with open and honest reflections. She is unstintingly honest and unafraid as she excavates her motivations and reservations, fantasies, and the implications of her choices. Insightful, discreet, and fearlessly frank, Pram attracts readers with her warmth, wit, and wisdom.

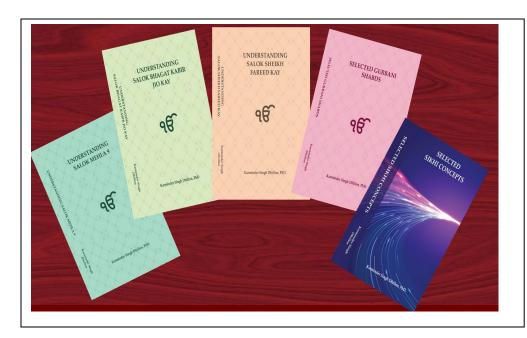
Despite numerous challenges and obstacles in her life, the author has presented a great zest for life in her book. Stylistically it is an excellent book to inspire and delight readers everywhere. Moreover, the whole book is easy to read and comprehend. En passant, I am truly amazed how Parm Sran has shared all the information so meticulously.

Pram Sran is a shining example of a Mental Health Nurse who portrays an interrelationship between mental health, wellbeing, worthwhile life, relationships, literary activities, rationality, and spirituality. In addition, she exemplifies the underlying unity of these diverse fields of human thought and action.

"Own Your Life: Create as You Go" passes on to us much of the wisdom of Parm's extraordinary personal journey. Believe it or not, all this makes for an excellent and glorious adventure in reading. Even if you are not in any difficult life situation, this is an enjoyable read. "Own Your Life: Create as You Go" has the potential to inspire countless readers/learners around the world and give them a unique insight to face the challenges of life with confidence. It is a timeless book to be rightly treasured by all learners and well-being seekers.

Dr. D. P Singh, M.Sc., Ph.D., PES. I (Ex.) is a Physicist by training, a teacher by profession and a writer by choice. He has published about two dozen books and over 1000 articles; and appeared in over 75 TV/YouTube presentations on science, religion, and the environment. Currently, he is working as Director, Center for Understanding Sikhism, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Web link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D. P. Singh: drdpsinghauthor.wordpress.com.



Reviewer: Asoc Prof Hardev Kaur, University Putra Malaysia. hardevkaur@upm.edu.my

Book Review.

Titles: Set of 5 Books. Titles as mentioned

below.

Author: Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD. Year of Publication:

2022

Pages: From 112 to 522 pages depending on

Title.

Subject Matter: Gurbani and Sikh philosophy.

Just two years after releasing his first set of five books, Karminder Singh Dhillon, PhD has released his second set of five books. Launched in early November 2022, they are:

- 1. Understanding Salok Mehla 9.
- 2. Understanding Salok Kabir.
- 3. Understanding Salok Farid.
- 4. Selected Gurbani Shabads.
- 5. Selected Sikhi Concepts.

The contents of the first three books above (*Understanding Salok Mehla 9, Understanding Salok Kabir* and *Understanding Salok Farid*) are obvious from their titles. All 3 are translations and interpretations of the respective *banis*.

The fourth book *Selected Gurbani Shabds* contains 41 *shabds* that are purposively selected from within the Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The selection is done to fit in the following categories: A) *shabds* that are commonly sung in our Kirtan process but the messages within them have been mis-interpreted or mis-translated. B) *shabds* that are commonly recited by our clergy but whose messages are presented wrongly. C) *shabds* that contain mention of afterlife concepts whose messages have been presented by our clergy to our *sangats* in vedic and yogic slants. D) *shabds* from Bhagat bani. E) *shabds* are those whose messages are often distorted to fit into concocted narratives concerning our Gurus, support rituals imported from the pre-1469 belief systems. This book also contains four compositions that are taken from the writings of Bhai Gurdas ji which are often used by our clergy to make false claims of miraculous deeds performed by Guru Nanak.

The final book *Selected Sikhi Concepts* develops the position of Gurbani pertaining to ten after-life concepts. The author's basic assertion is that "mere mention of any of these pre 1468 concepts in Gurbani does not equal to advocacy." His primary thesis that Guru Nanak re-defined these concepts to fit his canvas of spirituality in the here and now. This book also contains 9 essays on topic such as End of Life Dreams, May the Soul Rest at Your Feet and What Did the Hukumnama Say? These essays are eye-openers indeed.

There is no denying that interpreting Gurbani is Dr. Karminder's forte. His translations are refreshing, novel and unique. This is because he uses a 10-step methodology that he created himself and calls the "Gurbani Framework." His methodology is outlined in a complete chapter within all his books that deal with Gurbani. If one could use just one word to describe his interpretations of Gurbani - it would be "original." His translations truly stand out as strikingly different from the many that have been done by others.

The one thing that comes across when reading his interpretations is that Gurbani composers come across as spiritualists who presented logical, reason based and coherent arguments.

The other thing that stands out in his translations is the notion of Context. This is the third principle of his methodology. When applied together with the second and fourth – namely the *Rahao* Principle and Inner Consistency – the composers of Gurbani come across as writing narratives that have flow, consistency and continuity. Gurbani verses no longer appear to be presented in a haphazard and disjointed manner – whereby the verses within the same *shabd* appear to have no connection with each other. This "dis-jointedness" – which Dr Karminder attributes as a defect – not of the composers, but the translators – has been adequately remedied in his books.

Another thing that stands out is the application of the principle of First Person Interpretation in his methodology. He writes:

"A vast majority of translations and interpretations of Gurbani take the view that it is written as advice to the reader and that the illustrations



Asoc. Professor Hardev Kaur, PhD.

and examples are derived by its composers from observations of happenings out there. This is the primary reason why these interpretations – be they presented orally by our clergy or in writing by translators – are presented as second or third person accounts.

The truth of the matter is that Gurbani is mostly composed in first person terms and is thus, in essence, a narrative of the experiences, processes, choices, consequences and outcomes for the writers themselves. We know that Guru Nanak himself walked the journey of realization that is Sikhi. His narrative in Gurbani is therefore an experiential narrative from the spiritual depths of his own inner experiences. It is a first person account derived empirically from first hand and personal experiences."

Dr Karminder provides an example of how a translation changes drastically when the First Person Interpretation rule is applied. He writes:

"As an illustration, the following verse from the 7th shabd within Sodar makes this point clear.

ਜਿਨਿ ਹਰਿ ਸੇਵਿਆ ਤਿਨਿ ਸੁਖੁ ਪਾਇਆ ॥ ਸਹਜੇ ਹੀ ਹਰਿ ਨਾਮਿ ਮਾਇਆ ॥ ३ ॥ Jin Har Sayvea Tin Sukh Paiya. Sehjey Hi Har Nam Smayea.

Sant Singh MD translates the verse as: "They alone understand, whom You inspire to understand; they continually chant and repeat the Lord's Praises. Those who serve You find peace." The primary critique is that such a translation is the result of accepting that Gurbani is about happenings out there for people out there — as evident from the use of they, those, whom etc.

Should we elect to accept the notion that Gurbani is for me, about me, addressed to me, then the meaning changes to something that is practical within my life. The individual meanings of the words and concepts become as follows.

Jin - Which moments, instances of my life. Har Sayvea - Remember the Omnipresent Creator. Tin - Moments during which. Sukh Paiya – Obtained / realized spiritual joys. Sehjey - Natural, Permanent, Enduring. Har Nam – Divine Virtues. Smayea – Immerses, inculcate, realize.

The translation would now become:

Moments of Your Remembrance Are Moments of My Spiritual Joys; I have Obtained Enduring Realization of Divine Virtues."

There are other marvelous principles that the author has employed. There isn't enough space in this review to comment on all his 10 principles. But Principle 7 within - Spirituality of the *Shabd* is worth mentioning. Dr Karminder writes:

"The definitive, decisive and ultimate answer regarding *shabd* Guru comes from within the pages of Gurbani in that the *shabd* has been the Guru from the point of conception of Sikhi. It is crystal clear that within the spirituality of Sikhi, the *shabd* is the essence. The entirety of Sikhi is therefore pivoted on the *shabd*.

Within Gurbani the terminology for the Spirituality of the Shabd is ਗੁਰਮੁਖਿ Gurmukh — (with sihari). This word appears 1612 times across the 1429 pages. On the average it works out to a mention that is more than once per page. Its literal translation is ਗੁਰੂ ਦੇ ਮੁਖ ਵਿਚੋਂ Guru day mukh vicho(n) - from within the Guru's command; in reference to messages that emanated from the Guru. The Guru being the shabd; the translation of the word would be "messages from within the shabd." Since these messages are the determinants of the direction of our spiritual journey — the derived meaning of ਗੁਰਮੁਖਿ Gurmukh would be "Spirituality of shabd." By this is meant that the direction, instruction, method, goal and objective of our spirituality is derived from the messages contained within the shabd.

A vast number of exiting translations have translated this very crucial word ਗੁਰਮੁਖਿ *Gurmukh* (with a sihari) as referring to a specific kind of human being. For instance, the verse on page 943 of the SGGS:

ਗੁਰਮੁਖਿ ਹਉਮੈ ਅਗਨਿ ਨਿਵਾਰੀ ॥ Gurmukh Haumai Agun Nivari

This verse is translated by Sant Singh MD as: "The Gurmukh puts out the fire of egotism." Beyond being a wrong translation on the basis of Gurbani grammar (the *sihari* makes clear the word is not a noun); such a translation robs the reader of the most crucial and pivotal concept within Gurbani – that pertaining to the centrality of the *shabd* and the spirituality of shabd being the root of Sikhi. The correct translation of ਗੁਰਮੁਖਿ ਹਉਮੈ ਅਗਨਿ ਨਿਵਾਰੀ ॥ *Gurmukh Haumai Agun Nivari* is therefore: "The Spirituality of the *Shabd* Eliminates the Root of My Vices."

As said above, even if all 10 principles of Dr Karminder's methodology cannot be elaborated it, this review would be incomplete if his 10th Principle Using Gurbani to Understand Gurbani is not mentioned. Regarding this principle, the author writes:

"The basic premise of this principle is as follows. The SGGS is a voluminous text. Its subject matter is devoted towards revolutionizing mankind's spiritual quest. Such an effort required the extensive use of spiritual concepts, beliefs, idioms, metaphors, similes etc that were already within use as well as within the psyche of spiritual seekers of the time – but with new meanings and understandings. The re-defining of the existing concepts is to be found within the voluminous text that is the SGGS; not outside."

The result of applying this principle is that meanings of words, concepts and phrases are discovered from within the 1429 pages of the SGGS. The final outcome is an interpretation that is consistent with the rest of the 1429 pages and in line with the overall messages of Gurbani and Gurmat.

The foreword by Gyani Jarnail Singh Arshi captures the worth of Dr Karminder Singh's books. In *Understanding Salok Mehla 9*, he writes:

Dr Karminder Singh's contribution towards creating an understanding of Gurbani stands out in that his approach is innovative, creates fresh insights, and is deeply original. It is totally free from the kind of slants that have plagued many other translations. Where necessary, he provides ample critique of the slanted translations, taking pains to explain why those interpretations are either wrong or defective. In short, his translations of Gurbani are like none other.

In Selected Sikhi Concepts, he writes:

This book is a refreshing addition to the demands our younger generation to present Sikhi in ways that are in line with the parameters of the 21st century. Such readers will appreciate the use of logic, reason and justification that runs across the pages of this book.

We have for too long been misled by our clergy whose intent was aimed at feeding our minds with the pre-1469 belief systems. We have been given literal meaning of the *shabds*. We have not attempted to seek and understand the innovative philosophy of our Gurus who inspired us to tear away from these predated beliefs and move into a universal message that transcends time and space. These books open the eyes and minds of those who seek simplicity of knowledge. As a Sikh academician, I truly welcome these books. We profess to be educated and knowledgeable because of having attained degrees and expertise in our respective fields, but our understanding of Gurbani and Sikhi has always been overshadowed by our clergy's mindset whose aim is to indoctrinate the masses through ignorance and fear. These books will help to liberate us from our long held archaic beliefs.

In a nutshell then, Dr Karminder's books ought to be part of every Sikh home that aspires to gain an authentic understanding of Gurbani. These books are especially recommended for Sikhs yearning for interpretations of Gurbani based on logic, reason and justification. His books can be obtained from https://sikhivicharforum.org/store/.

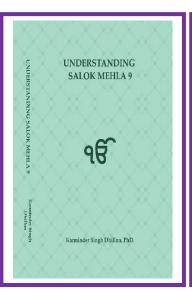
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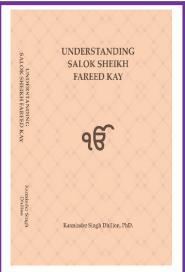
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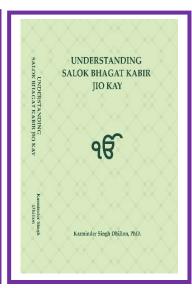


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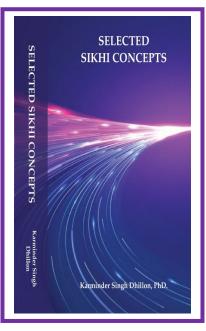
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Understanding Salok Bhagat Kabir Jio Kay. Hardcover. 272 pages.

Selected Gurbani Shabds. Hardcover. 522 pages.

Selected Sikhi Concepts. Hardcover. 315 pages.

Note to Contributors

The Sikh Bulletin invites articles on matters relating to *Sikhi*. Essays that adopt CRITICAL approaches towards Sikh matters and issues are given priority for publication. Articles devoted towards exploring the messages of Gurbani as contained within the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS) are particularly welcome.

Manuscripts must be in English or Gurmukhi and must begin with a title page that includes the names, e-mail addresses, and affiliations of all authors. References must be properly cited.

Manuscripts need to be submitted online to editor@sikhbulletin.com or dhillon99@gmail.com and must be in Microsoft Word (.doc). The preferred font for English characters is Calibri font size 11. Gurbani and Gurmukhi characters must be in Unicode (Nirmla UI).

The maximum length for each article in a regular issue is 5,000 words.

Note on Use of Gurbani Verses and Translations by Authors

When quoting Gurbani in their articles, authors are required to provide the Gurmukhi version of the full verse and a <u>romanised</u> version. Mention musts be made of the page where it is to be found in the AGGS. In line with the aspirations of *The Sikh Bulletin*, authors must provide translations of Gurbani verses that break from the mould of vedantic, yogic and literal slants prevalent in orthrodox translations. Articles relying solely on Gurbani translations as provided by Sant Singh Khalsa MD's English Translation will NOT be published.

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