

## 1. Sri Japu Ji Katha (Punjabi)

Commentary by Sant Sangat Singh Ji Kamalye-wale

Publisher: Sant Sangat Singh Memorial Trust, 76-B Model Town, Patiala. 147 001 (PB)

(Also available at: Sr. BT Singh, Advocate, A/28 Niti Bagh, New Delhi 110 049)

Pages 276. Price 40 (Token)

## 2. Katha Barah Maha (Punjabi)

Commentary by Sant Sangat Singh Ji Kamalye-wale

Publisher: Sant Sangat Singh Memorial Trust, 76-B Model Town, Patiala 147 001 (PB)

Pages 136. Price 30 (Token)

## 3. 'Naam na Visrey' (Punjabi)

Bhai Vir Singh's Memories: Comm. By Sant Kartar Singh Ji.

Publisher: Sant Sangat Singh Memorial Trust, 76-B Model Town, Patiala. 147 001 (PB)

Pages 86. Price 20 (Token)

These popular *Katha* series by (late) Sant Sangat Singh and his son Baba Kartar Singh Ji Kamalye-wale – long out of print – have now been published in handy Paper-backs, at subsidized price, for all seekers of truth.

The profoundly philosophical text of *Japu Ji* has been explained lovingly, in lyrical, spoken Punjabi, step by step. Essentially a layman's guide, the *Katha* style makes it easier for any earnest student to grasp the elemental truth which *Gurbani* embodies.

As in case of *Japu Ji*, Baba Kartar Singh follows his father's footsteps to explain the *Bara Maha* of Guru Arjun Devji in Rag Majh. By a sequential recital of seasonal changes, *Gurbani* offers guide-posts to progress on the path of *Bhagti*, or devotion, even as we are encouraged to lead a moral and spiritual life with the changing seasons.

The last hand book, dedicated to the incomparable Bhai Vir Singh ji, is a collection of 26 essays on aspects of *Gurbani* and their relation with our life style. Baba Kartar Singh employs simple idiom to illumine complex issues. The book is a folksy primer on moral life.

- Saran Singh

## JAPUJI AS I UNDERSTOOD

By Santokh Singh Johal

Published by Sanbun Publishers, New Delhi

Pages: 152. Price: Rs. 150.

As the bed-rock of Sikh faith, Guru Nanak's *Jap-ji* deserves to be revered as well as understood in all its profundity. At once a prayer, a benediction and a proclamation of the Divine Cause of Creation, its text - in terse, incisive Punjabi language – provides us with the basic understanding of the universe, the purpose of this wondrous creation and our own duties as human beings. It is a primer of how to cultivate goodness and virtue, and a guide towards moral and spiritual fulfillment.

It takes uncommon courage and commitment to bring out an exegesis of this sacred text unaided by philosophic insights. The commentary and interpretation in this volume doubtless have a tenor of rare sincerity and humility. Johal, a technocrat by profession, and public servant of long standing, explains that Jap-ji "is a fathomless ocean knowledge" which makes us aware of God's infinite grace and grandeur: 'He is ever sublime and *functional* without deviation and *deflection*'. God's HUKAM signifies the "divine will that is the cause of all creation".

The literal and plain translation of each *Pauri* is followed with an exegesis of the scriptural text, which ought to be helpful to every lay reader. In the ultimate analysis, both the comprehension of the text and its rendering (into English) are bound to bear the personal stamp of every translator.

Thus any translation of a philosophical treatise is beset with inherent limitations. This volume is no exception. To illustrate: *Pauri* 13 speaks of mMnY (*Manan*) which has been rendered as 'Acceptance' – and the theme as a 'galvanising effect' of Nam, wherein its 'faithful acceptance..... bestows.... wisdom..... reasoning and understanding." However a typical philosophical interpretation of 'mMnY' given by Sohan Singh in *The Seeker's Path* [Orient Longman] is the 'Process of Reflection' (on the Universal Spirit).' Such variations in translation of any sacred text are, arguably, a professional hazard. The treatise is nevertheless a welcome – and highly readable – addition to the scores of translations of this Seminal *Gurubani*.

- Saran Singh

## **BOOK RECEIVED**

### **UNIQUE MASTER: Stories from Lives & Times of Ten Gurus.**

By Jaidev Singh Kohli

Publisher: Athena Press, London (Reprint 2005)

Pages 180. Price (Not stated)

The octogenarian author of these five highly readable books currently lives in Canada. Born in Rawalpindi in 1927, he is a medical doctor who served in UK and Ghana, and later in Nigeria, where he achieved eminence as a doctor. The books are a testimony to his devotion and faith in his cultural heritage.

Insightful recitals from the stirring times of the great Gurus who founded Sikhism and blazed the glorious trail to purposeful life, touchingly dedicated to Author's wife and to young children everywhere.

### **ZAFARNAMA: Letter of Victory of Sri Guru Gobind Singh**

Original Text in Gurmukhi. (Tr. In Punjabi & English)

By Jaidev Singh Kohli

Publisher: Minerva Press, New Delhi, London, Mumbai

Pages 222, Price: Rs. 200/-

An extraordinary book of great significance, it embodies the Original Text, in FARSI, of Sri Guru Gobind Singh's poetical Message to Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, claiming moral victory in the long struggle for freedom of Faith. The rendering in Punjabi and English of the Persian text shows both skill and devotion.

**TWILIGHT PAGES: Down Memory Lane**

By Jaidev Singh Kohli

Publisher: Athena Press, London

Pages 320, Price: US\$ 19.95 Or UK£ 11.99

Close to 50 chapters of a colourful canvas that embody deeply affectionate and evocative memories of loved ones in a devoted family, this rather costly book traces a whole gamut of human relationships, in all its nostalgia and warmth, covering inter continental memorabilia.

**- S.S.**