

# Unity among Sikhs: A New Year Resolve!

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IN THE CELEBRATION OF GURU GOBIND SINGH Ji's birth anniversary, the offering of a 'united Sikh nation' to Sri Dasmesh would be a profoundly meaningful gesture. One may then ask: what can we, Sikhs - individually and/or collectively - do to accomplish this objective? A humble plan is presented here, as to what we Sikhs should do to please the Tenth Master.

When we think of global Sikhism, the first thought that comes to mind, unfortunately, is the prevalent dissension and divisiveness which has plagued the Sikh people for decades. This is a cause of much distress and true sadness. The root cause of our conflicts, individually and/or collectively, is in our own state of mind. It is not uncommon to observe partisanship in Sikh organizations, religious, social and/or political, which often divides "us Sikhs" from "them Sikhs" and leads to a splintered community. The pettiness, and the anger resulting from partisanship are consuming time and energy of our leaders and our organizations. This must be changed in favor of equality, brotherhood and love. Love cannot thrive as long as there is a sense of 'me' or "I", the 'self' or 'ego'. A mind that is self-centered with its own ambition, agenda, and greed has no capacity to love.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji - in the best Gurmat tradition - advocated equality for all people - not superiority or victory for any one gender, individual, group, organization, section or sect. The equality, which our Gurus propagated has not been realized. Instead of building bridges to fill the gap of differences, we are creating more and more walls to make our conflicts more rigid. The situation is not really that hopeless, once we recognize the weakness of fragile human nature. The fact that this problem exists is sufficient to convince us to do something so we may have unity among all the Sikhs. We must begin with this goal in mind. Then we must persist until we accomplish it. "Easier said than done", most people would say. But we must remember that success is not always easy. Through divine blessings on a logical plan of action, we can make the difficult easier. Here, then is a simple, convenient and inspirational plan for thoughtful perusal and adoption of every Sikh.

**First**, invoke the presence of revered Guru Nanak Dev in your midst to create holy environment. Now earnestly offer a heart-felt prayer in deep humility to Guru Nanak so that he may show you the way and means to the right path, through Divine Grace. As advised in the hymns below:

ਕਰ ਜੋੜਿ ਗੁਰ ਪਹਿ ਕਰਿ ਬਿਨੰਤੀ

ਰਾਗੁ ਪਾਪਰੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਦਸੈ [SGGS: 766]

**Second**, visualize that you are in Anandpur in the majestic presence of the heroic Guru Gobind Singh ji. Now truthfully look deep inside yourself to examine - and critically evaluate - your daily lifestyle. This must be a true introspection and self-analysis of your thinking, feelings, behavior, attitude and doings in life.

**Third**, your earnest and humble prayer to Akal Purukh will surely bring a gradual and profound inner revelation as to where you are going wrong and what you need to do to

correct the situation. Now plead with the Singh divine spirit - manifest in Ten Jyots - most humbly and most earnestly - for an inner awakening as to how you can improve your lifestyle and become a true practicing Khalsa Sikh.

**Fourth**, the outcome will be that you will experience the Divine current and vibrations of the Divine spirit permeating in your mind, heart, and body. You will now feel the hand of the Guru guiding, directing and leading you to the right path. Follow this inner advice and you will be pleasantly amazed at the outcome. You will now start practicing (or continue practicing, in case you already are at this blessed state) the fundamental Sikh principles of truthful living, including but not limited to, gratitude, humility, sweet tongue, kindness, contentment, generosity, love and goodwill for all the people of the world. **You will now be a true Gursikh.**

May we, respectfully and humbly, request that let every Sikh go through this rejuvenating, life molding, and spiritually enlightening experience! This will inspire everyone to lead a truthful life as advocated in the Sikh Message. Through Guru Nanak's benevolent grace, and by simply following the methodology prescribed by Dasam Patshah, you will become a good person, a moral person, trustworthy and honest, contented and worthy role model for the Guru-panth. Initially, transformation of even some erring Sikhs will become a catalyst for others to follow.

This can then reach Sikh organizations - religious, social and political - where a more systematic and organized movement should arouse the enthusiasm of not only our leaders but also of the member of key organization. It would then be natural for all the Sikhs, first, to act in unison for a common cause of living a truthful life, and second, spreading the Guru-Khalsa's living spiritual message more effectively.

