

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Defensive Wars

Sr. Gurtej Singh's article [TSR: Oct. & Nov. 2009] exposes the inherent weakness of Indian state policy of bending over backwards. It was left to the US President Barrack Obama to drive home the point that Guru Gobind Singh Ji had conveyed to Aurangzeb in Zafar Nama. Mr Obama, in his Nobel acceptance speech, said: "the use of force is sometimes justified."

Guru Gobind Singh, had no empire, but challenged the Mughal emperor on how mistaken his policies had been. Now Mr Obama says: "I cannot be guided by Gandhi and Dr. King's examples alone."

Obama further states: "War is never glorious and must never trumped it as such" and let us connect to Tav Prasad Swaiyas of Patshahi 10.

In so far as these exhortations match & hark back to our 10th Master's (10th Lord) philosophy (1469-1708) that which resulted at later times in liberation of India & an end to foreign invasions from Afghanistan; and importantly the establishment of the Khalsa Raj in Punjab in 1799, the world needs to be made aware of the life & philosophy of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

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The Sikh Review: Oct. '09 issue

Sir: While going through the Oct,09 issue, I have noticed some misprints, the important ones are as follows:

1. On page 25, the title of the write-up is 'Bi-centenary of Baba Banda Bahadur' (author: Sr.Tarlochan Singh,MP). Baba Banda Singh Bahadur had defeated the Mughal Governor of Sirhind on 12th May,1710 and issued historic proclamation on 27th May,1710, as such next year we will be observing the tricentenary celebrations, not bicentenary celebrations.
2. On page 36, the scholarly article of Prof Gurtej Singh,'From Tagore & Gandhi to 1984!' carries Editor's Preface, which states that Rabindranath Tagore got the Nobel Prize in 1911. Actually, the year was 1913 and not 1911.
3. On page 47, Er Mohinder Singh has designated S.Simarjit Singh as Editor,'Panth Prakash'. In fact, S.Simarjit Singh is Editor of 'Gurmat Parkash', the religious monthly magazine of SGPC Amritsar. Whereas 'Panth Parkash' is the Sikh history book (in verse) authored by Giani Gian Singh.
4. In 'Book Review' section, the review of 'NITNAYM & OTHER BAANIS' (author: Dr. Harjinder Singh Dilgeer) has been published. To spell 'Nitnem' as 'Nitnaym' does not look nice. The Sikhs are currently facing numerous problems. The worthy scholars should try to ease the situation and minimize doubts and suspicions, instead of creating new ones!

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Sikhs in Kabul

Regarding Afghanistan perhaps you are aware that I did maximum for them and even visited Kabul and went to the Gurudwara. The people living there are in small number and they are very poor. I offered them that SGPC, Amritsar is willing to provide education free of charge in Amritsar for their children but they have not responded. I have already proposed to the Govt. of India to provide grant for upkeep of Gurudwaras. I have been able to get Visas for all the Afghan Sikhs living in India, UK & USA. I will further do my best in this regard.

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Worshipping Pictures/Idols is Taboo in Sikhism

Sir, - It is often seen that some leading Punjabi Journals publish imaginary pictures of Guru Sahiban either on title page, or inside along with articles. This is a complete contradiction of the *Gurmat* philosophy. The title page of *Amrit Kirtan*, Chandigarh, is no exception – publishing a (supposedly genuine) picture of Guru Tegh Bahadur. The basic teachings of Sikhism are to study, adopt and practice *gurbani* as enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib and not to worship Pictures/Idols, etc.

Like Sikhism, in Islam too depiction of pictures is taboo, In the recent past when a Demark Newspaper published pictures of Prophet Mohammed, the entire Muslim world were outraged and protested unitedly. On the other hand we Sikhs seems to blindly follow the Hindu habit of trivializing Avatars central to their religious practice.

Let us seriously ponder over it and get rid of this anti-*gurmat* practice and follow *gurbani* as an anchor to our thoughts and actions.

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