

# The Sikh world-view As enunciated in Guru Granth Sahib

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According to Sikh World View despite being the creator, God is both transcendent and immanent. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent but He is not confined in any mundane or celestial place. He is formless but all forms are His (being His creation). He neither takes birth nor dies: He does not incarnate in any form whatsoever.

The visible and invisible universe and whatever happens in it is the creation of Almighty and is in the ambit of inexorable alone Divine law (Hukam). Nothing is free from the jurisdiction of the said law. The universe exists, pulsates, persists and exists at the pleasure of Him, whose sport it is. Although ephemeral by nature, the universe is real because it is the creation of God and depends upon the Lord, who is the Absolute Truth and resides in every pore of it. The Sikh World View does not despise the world as hindrance in God realization.

God, nature and man form an important triad in the Sikh World View. God is indisputed creator of both universe and the inanimate and animate things found in it. Universe is interalia, the abode of its creator. Man has two aspects, the body and soul. The body is product of earthly elements and soul is the Divine spark which animates this earthy cage. The human soul while living in the world strives to know not only about its surroundings but also about itself. This endeavor towards self knowledge and realization necessitates adoption of spiritual path leading to the goal of human existence which according to the Sikh World View is merger of human soul into Over soul. The Sikh world View underlines the importance of spiritual guide who must lead man towards the said goal. But at the same time the fact should not be winked at, that spiritual guide should be, realized soul himself : he should be God-like. That is why in Guru Granth Sahib, God Himself has been referred to as Guru. It is not the body of the Guru which is important. More important than the body is the spiritual instructions and guidance imparted by Guru.

Ritualism is the *bete noire* of the Sikh World View which advocates a through and through practical socio spiritual life stressing on the metaphysical foundation of human existence. Sikh World View converges on a life affirming holistic ideology which condemns defeatist view which encourages some to lead an ascetic life and in turn become parasites on society. In Sikh World View, woman is not considered to be maya incarnate. It approves neither of beggary nor the life of inactivity or passive existence. It advocates an active life of house holder who while actively executing all his worldly responsibilities does not lose sight of the ultimate goal of human existence. The ideal man here is the regal saint soldier.

In Gurbani, we find a rare integration of spiritual and temporal aspects of human life. This is one of the unique features of Sikh World view which distinguishes it from other spiritual traditions. The oneness of God so eloquently underscored in Gurbani is not a mere abstraction. It has a deep ethico-spiritual significance which can redeem the whole mankind.



