

A GOD MADE TO ORDER

By GAJINDAR SINGH

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A Review by G.S. Makin*

THE TITLE LEAD WOULD one to think that the book will be full of humour and light reading, comprising some material of laughter and simple reading, sufficiently diverting to pass some moments of leisure only. But I found it to be just the opposite; the sober volume is full of wisdom, highly thought-provoking and a serious comparative study of various common religions of the world, giving insights into the sacred spaces of these religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam with a greater emphasis on Sikhism and the Guru's version of the Lord-Sublime. This makes one to think that the author has a vast knowledge of the world religions specially Islam and Christianity.

The book has been made so absorbing that one tends to read fully the chapters on various topics dealt therein, once you get under its spell. There is no dearth of quotations from *Gurbani* (Guru Granth Sahib) to illustrate Gurmat philosophy on all these aspects, apart from quotations from the Koran and the Bible. In fact, the quotations from these Semitic books prove beyond doubt, a comprehensive study by the author of all these religions. An attempt has been made by the author to bring out the philosophy of the Guru Granth Sahib in such a fascinating manner as compared to the other philosophies about the omnipotent and omniscient Supreme Power, that one appreciates the same values of life present in all the worldly religions; without any trace of narrow-minded or biased considerations.

One would wish, the author had gone into little more details of the 'Sabd Guru' in the fourth chapter on the 'Sabd-Word Divine,' to explain the Sikh point of view on 'Guru Granth Sahib', being the living Guru of the Sikhs.

The chapter on '*Karni and Kathni*' is really very well written, bringing out the virtues of all great Masters of the world including some relevant quotations from *Gurbani*. Then again, the chapter on 'One God Philosophy' is very thought provoking, bringing out the valid reality that God is not an illusion.

In fact, on the whole, the book is a learned treatise on various aspects of modern world religions, with many appropriate quotations from their literature, that one gains greater knowledge about other faiths, besides Sikhism.

Thus the book is a comprehensive study of comparative religions of the world, a 'must' for stocking in all the libraries in India and abroad.

I must congratulate S. Gajindar Singh for this wonderful attempt and recommend the book for study by all without any considerations of caste, creed or even age barriers.

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“A God Made to Order”

Overview by Editor, SR

The unfolding knowledge about science seems to be eroding faith in God, making men more sceptical and selfcentred. However, every now and then humanity is jolted into a re-awakening through the phenomenology of planetary system, more often taking the shape of natural disasters. Indeed Divinity - its all encompassing power and mystery - begins where science ends. Thinkers and holy men have continued to pour forth their experience in all climes and ages.

There has lately been a rash of books, some with intriguing titles, that detail personal reminiscences, predictions and philosophy. Then these are doomsday books about clash of civilizations. India, in particular, is awash with self-appointed saints who expound God's mystery, mainly argued for building up personal reputation. They keep the television channels abuzz and the masses usefully preoccupied.

The author of "A God Made to Order" makes a brisk, persuasive case for an all persuasive Divine principle, dwelling on the inner quest, the holy Word and wisdom, human emotions, the music of elements - all studded with quotations from Holy Guru Granth and cross references from theologies of other religions. Altogether, thought-provoking, laced with faith and optimism.

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