

Sikh Community in Malaysia

By Tan Sri Dato'Seri Darshan Singh Gill

Published by Gerak Sikh, MPH Group Pub. Sdn. Bhd., 5 Jalan Bersatu 13/4, 46200

Petaling Jaya Selangor. Malaysia

Pages: 270 (Coffeetable size photo album) Price: (not mentioned)

A Appreciation by Saran Singh

My Dear Sister Sita,

Many thanks for your letter dated 25 July, 09 that also brought a cheerful postscript from Jaspreet. She separately sent a fabulous (& expensive) colour album 'Sikh Community in Malaysia', by the eminent personage Tan Sri Dato Seri Darshan Singh Gill - all of 270 glossy pages, and gorgeous photographs that could cost some 2500 rupees in India!

We hope to display it in The Sikh Cultural Centre library - for visitors to enjoy this fabulous depiction that is a tribute to the enterprising and successful Sikh community in the Far East. There could be no better testimony of 'ਚੜ੍ਹਦੀ ਕਲਾ' with which Guru Gobind Singh Ji blessed the Khalsa. I must also think hard how to reciprocate!

The New Straits Times / New Sunday Times clips also make interesting reading, suitable for mention in The Sikh Review.

From what you mention about Jaideep / Satpal (and dear Jaspreet's note) it appears the medical studies are unending: 'MRCP, Super-speciality, Post-grad. Radiology,' etc. seem mind-boggling! Yet, there is a single source of all creation: As Guru Nanak said:

ਗੁਰ ਪਰਸਾਦੀ ਵਿਦਿਆ ਵੀਚਾਰੇ ਪੜਿ ਪੜਿ ਪਾਵੈ ਮਾਨੁ ॥ ਆਪਾ ਮਧੇ ਆਪੁ ਪਰਗਾਸਿਆ ਪਾਇਆ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਨਾਮੁ ॥

[SGGS: 1329]

Herein Calcutta, a Malaysian Sikh lady, Simran, an 'aenesthesia' expert, is married to a Bengali doctor! My daughter and she are great friends. She is a welcome guest at our place. I am also in touch - via email - with Gurmukh (London) & Dya Singh Ji (Australia) - both scholarly brothers, sons of a devout & renowned Malaysian. Their writings appear regularly in The Sikh Review.

So I have many reasons to rejoice, your family being the first! *The Sikh Review* has become a global medium of unity.

With affectionate regard,
Sincerely yours,
(Saran Singh)
Editor, *The Sikh Review*

(1) The Sikh Liturgical Hymns

(2) Sikh Faith of the Khalsa

(3) Guru Granth Sahib: 4th Centennial celebration

By Gurmit Singh, J.P.

Published (for free distribution) by The Sikh Khalsa Mission Inc.

The above noted "bouquet" of three titles has been compiled, published & disseminated by our distinguished - & devout - friend from NSW Australia's town of Quakers Hill.

In more ways than one the books are an expression of the writer's in-depth study of the Sikh Ethos. Indeed the book at (2) has gone into second edition.

The first - by far the more comprehensive - gives English rendering of Japji, so-dar Reharas and Sohila - the basic banis that every Sikh is expected to recite and ponder - on a daily basis.

The handbooks should be of great help to the new generation of Sikhs, whether in India or abroad, especially the latter.

- S.S.

Understanding Sri Guru Granth Sahib: The Living Guru

By Satjit Wadva

KW Publishers Pvt. Ltd. 4676/21 Ansari Road, Daryaganj 110002.

Pages: 192 (Art Paper) Price: (Hard Cover) Rs. 295 (US \$ 11.00)

This is in the nature of a celebrative volume, on art paper, best suited for presentation to those uninitiated into the spiritual and mystical charms of the original Gurbani. The special art paper, floral motifs and embellishments enhance the appeal of the imaginatively planned contents.

An illuminating Introduction by Jasjit Singh (ex-Air Comdre) is followed by the author's essays on "The Living Guru", the editing and 'contents' or format as well as the exposition as to why Guru Granth Sahib is "sheer poetry" - set to specific classical ragas.

Following these introduction, the more analytical section of the book explains in four short chapters, the moral and spiritual dimensions of how the Holy Granth - literally-guides humanity through life's multifarious challenges. The whole gamut of human behavioural psychology has been noted - as used by the Gurus and saints to ensure the happiness of every individual of harmony in the society and of peace on earth.

These are achievable goals because the text provides one with the vision of the ultimate Reality as well our approach to the Eternal Guru, - to the extent one can imbibe, and put into practise, the teachings of Guru Granth - on a daily basis.

The main section presents textual translation of selected Gurbani, in the customary format: Left hand-side giving the text of key - banis in Roman, while the right side page presents its rendering in English - in free verse.

The author has selected only three basic Banis: *Japuji*, *Asa-di-Var* and *Slok M Naunva* for translation into English which itself is a dauntig accomplishment. The more you are in tune, the more you benefit.

Panjab Moods: A Literary Adagio

By Satish Kumar Shukla

Published by Sanbun Publishers, A-78 Naraina Indl. Area, Phase-I, New Delhi. 110028.

This slim volume reveals the poet's intense love for Panjab. He writes with lyrical beauty - in blank verses - of its rivers, its myriad seasons, its well known folk dances and high-voltage festivals.

He has written tributes, in blank verses, to commemorate the martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur and Guru Arjun Dev. He writes with a heart full of sorrow - for the romantic city of Lahore and calls it "the real heart of Panjab".

In all his poems he speaks with an intense love for his beloved Panjab - its "legacy, culture, lore" and its splendrous "spritual endowment".

Smitten with nostalgia, he wants a 'united' Panjab once again and in this volume of poems he makes an earnest ple for the reunification of the people of Panjab. It should be read by all those who love Panjab and all the values it stands for.

- Manju Ahluwalia

