

# **'Sacha Sauda': My experiment with the 'Bank of Guru Nanak'**

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@ As regards remittance of funds to India for the Punjab University Centre of Nathuwala West, the Revenue Department of Canada has given us a charity number. This means that anyone sending money will be entitled to a tax reduction.

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WAY BACK IN 2006, the idea of a Punjab University Centre in my village became a powerful motivation. I imagined the money for the Centre at Nathuwala West will come from the Bank of Guru Nanak® (unlimited)!

When I came back to Canada in March 2008, at the Winnipeg Airport I met with a person. He asked as to what was happening in Punjab. My instant reply was: "While in India, I met with 8 Devtas." His face did not betray any sign of disbelief nor marked sign of surprise. I told him by the term 'devtas' I did not mean the beings who live in Heaven. But the real persons who living on earth do some sort o work that we suppose the heavenly beings do for humans. I added, "Please do not ask me anything more on the subject. Wait and see what miracle is going to happen in our area."

The person referred to above happened to be a very religious person. He was so impressed that he pleaded I accept a ride on his car to my home. I resisted as I could. He forcibly took my baggage to his car. This was the first time that I had a free ride to my home from the Airport.

In October 2005 when I was about to leave Winnipeg for India, I phoned an individual living in Vancouver, BC, and congratulated him for establishing a Trust in the memory of his father in his village Nathuwala (which is just two km. away from my village). He asked me as to what had happened to my project of building a Girls College in Nathuwala. "The people of the village are apathetic. No one is helping. I had reached a dead-end of the road." Spontaneously, these words came out of his tongue: "If Nathuwala people do not help you, the people of my village will." I took his words no more than a kind of utterance of consolation.

At the time of my writing these words it was 10.00 A.M. The phone rang. It was the same S. Ranbir Singh Brar about whom I was writing to you. The phone conversation lasted for 20-25 minutes. It was 10.30 A.M. then, the time for my meals, which had no fixed hours. After that, I had to go to shop for groceries. This means that I won't be able to finish this letter today, which is Friday. Now, this letter will be mailed to you not before Monday, Sept 19, 2006, there being no mail service on Saturdays here.

I had hardly reached Nathuwala when to my utter surprise people started pouring in to my house. First, it was the cousin of S. Ranbir Singh of Vancouver (Nathewala). Then his another cousin S. Tejinder Singh and his wife. The former is an Assistant Circle Education Officer of Faridkot and latter District Education officer, Faridkot. In their second visit they were accompanied by the S.D.M. of Moga District, a Tehsildar, a Girls College Principal, Faridkot and a retired Bank Manager.

One thing has to be noted in this regard. Those people did not call me to their residences or offices. They came of their free will to my house.

What surprised and humbled me was the visit of the S.D.M. I had never seen an S.D.M. before. During the conversation to the S.D.M., I said: "Though I feel delighted to see you here I feel embarrassed as well. I ask you why did you not order me to come to your office, instead of taking the trouble of coming here."

Laughter. The laughter subsided.

In a moment of excitement, the following words came out of my mouth, "You eight persons, who have graced my home with your presence, are not ordinary beings. You are Devtas." In my eyes they truly are.

What surprised me was the way we were received and treated by Prof. K.N. Pathak, the Hon. Vice-Chancellor of P.U. Chandigarh and his P.A. Mr. S.K. Sharma, who wasted no time to come to Nathuwala to see the site, writing their recommendations to the Syndicate and getting it approved by the Senate of the University.

The names of these two gentlemen were added to the list of Devtas. In retrospect, the name of Mr. Ranbir Singh Brar of Vancouver was also included in the list.

In March 2005, two persons from Chandigarh made an unexpected visit to Nathuwala. At that time they were considered as VIPs. The true significance of their visit was not recognized then. They were indeed the precursors of all the historic events that occurred later. So, their status had to be raised to Devtas as well.

The total number of Devtas has come to 13, the number which has proved lucky in my case.

All this makes a fairy tale.

In March 2006, I reached back to Winnipeg. The foremost thought in my mind was, 'how to raise one crore rupees needed for the project.' The first thing I did was to call Mr. Lahora Singh Brar. He was the person who along with the writer had suffered the most in the process of building a Gurdwara in Winnipeg. But more than that we had learnt together that any loss suffered in doing a worthwhile job is always paid back by God.

I drew his attention to the statement of Guru Arjun Dev in Sukhmani.

ਜਿਸ ਕੀ ਬਸਤੁ ਤਿਸੁ ਆਗੈ ਰਾਖੈ ॥ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਕੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਮਾਨੈ ਮਾਥੈ ॥ ਉਸ ਤੇ ਚਉਗੁਨ ਕਰੈ ਨਿਹਾਲੁ ॥  
ਨਾਨਕ ਸਾਹਿਬੁ ਸਦਾ ਦਇਆਲੁ ॥

[SGGS: 268]

If you give back what belongs to Him,  
And whole heartedly accept His will.  
He will give you back four-fold.  
For says Nanak, the Master is ever beneficent.

I reminded Mr. L.S. Brar what he did not lose in the process of raising a temple and what he had gained since then.

Then, I put before him the real issue that we need one crore rupees for building a University Centre. I need his support. What could he contribute for this? Without much thought, he said, "Eight thousand dollars."

“If you could make it 10 thousand dollars it would be four lakh rupees in Indian currency. You will still be giving eight thousand dollars, since you will be getting back much more than 2000 dollars by way of tax-reduction.”

He agreed.

“Now go back home and consult about this offer with Bibi Gurbachan Kaur.”

Reaching back home, he conveyed to me his wife’s words, “Tell Bai Ji, we will pay \$12,000 rather than 10,000.”

This offer was declined with thanks.

Next, I asked Mr. Brar to talk about this matter to Mr. Sudarshan S. Kaila who hails from Jagraon, Ludhiana Dist.

Mr. Kaila too agreed to pay as much as Mr. Brar had promised.

For me, it was a good beginning. After talking to those individuals I became 90% sure that the dreams of raising the required money would be fulfilled.

Here, I want to inform you that I came to know of Mr. Brar and Mr. Kaila only after coming here to Winnipeg.

Mr. Brar holds an Engineering Degree from a University in California, US. He was an employee of the Government of Canada. Side by his side, he was running a small mill, producing flour.

In the process of raising the temple, he incurred a loss of about \$25,000. Most of it was due to a libel case filed against him by a person who had failed to become a President of the Sikh Society of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Because the case he had filed against Mr. Brar had little merit, he did not bring it to its conclusion. Still, he later had to pay heavy fees to his lawyers.

After the loss suffered by Mr. Brar in the eighties of the last century, by Guru’s Grace, his fortunes took an upward swing.

Now, he lives in a decent house by the side of a lake. Besides, he runs one million dollar worth mill in Winnipeg, Manitoba and another of the same size in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Recently, he purchased a lot of six acres in the suburbs of Winnipeg city.

## **Mr. Sudarshan S Kaila**

Mr. Kaila started his career in Winnipeg as an unskilled worker. He collected funds for the Winnipeg Gurdwara from Ontario, Canada and some cities of United Kingdom. For his work he did not take expenses incurred by him for the journey to these places.

You will be aware that in the western world almost in every case there are two groups. One of these wants to build a Gurdwara at a particular spot, while the other opposing it, which groups succeeds depends upon the physical might of a group.

Mr. Kaila is not only a good English speaker and orator, but a possessor of muscular power as well. Where he is standing, no one dares to challenge him.

Besides, he is a great PR man. He can impress the officials at the level of City and Provincial Governments. Early this year, when the premier of Manitoba came to visit India, he was one of the group accompanying him.

God has rewarded him in many ways:

- a. His daughter has become an M.D.
- b. One of his sons is a chiropractor
- c. He lives in a posh Tuxedo locality inhabited by the richest people of the city
- d. In partnership with his relatives he owns a hotel, and two petrol pumps. Recently, he and his partners have built a four-storey apartment building and a small mall where drug stores and other shops are located.

The great virtue of these two persons is, besides being millionaires in term of money, they are 'millionaires in their minds', as well.

One may ask what about me? God has given me two allies always ready to open their purses for me. Think, what would have been the fate of the University Project at my village without the help of these two gentlemen?

Besides, God has given me a bit of 'peace of mind.'

The Almighty has amply rewarded three of us according to what we sought.

## **100% Confidence**

Nov. 29.2006

As stated earlier, on reaching Winnipeg, after meeting with Mr. I Brar and Mr. S. Kaila my confidence level had increased to 90%.

There were moments, however when my mind showed signs of weakness. One crore was not a small amount.

On the night of July 18, 2006, in the morning hours, a strange thing happened. What could all this mean? The idea that came to my mind was: "I need not worry, the Almighty has put the funds in the Bank of Guru Nanak for my use."

I had little doubt in my mind that it was indeed a divine message for me. [It is beside the point, whether my interpretation was right or wrong.]

It was 5.00 A.M. in Winnipeg, according to Indian time 3.30 P.M. I phoned my contact man at Nathuwala, to tell the people to cheer up. God had put adequate funds in the Bank of Guru Nanak.

The same message I conveyed to Mr. L.S. Brar who was in Abbotsford, BC (Canada) at that time. Both individuals were pleased to hear my words.

The above experience raised my confidence to 100%. Since then, I never waived and knew that the project at Nathuwala will be completed by the Lord's Grace.

Help Starts pouring in. It is to be noted that we have not yet started the process of fund raising. The reason being that people from Punjab come here and get money for various projects. But as soon as they reach back to Punjab, they forget to tell the donors where or whether the money was used. There had been cases of fraud as well.

We have thought it is proper to start construction of the buildings and take their photographs and videos. These will be displayed in Canada. Only after this, we will start the campaign of raising funds.

To be on the safe side we will not accept any cash. Rather, we will ask the prospective donors to get bank drafts in the name of the Registrar, Punjab University, leaving it to them to send the same either directly to the university, or hand it to one of us.

The money we have received so far for the construction of the building is from the individuals sympathetic to the cause.

In the end, I want to write that money is flowing towards Nathuwala naturally, as do the rivers and rivulets flow towards the ocean. All through the Grace of the Almighty!

