

Japji

– An Interpretation for the Young

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Guru Granth Sahib begins with Japuji Sahib which is a statement of the philosophy of life. Guru Nanak raises a spiritual question in the beginning of Japuji Sahib:

"How can we lead a truthful life? How can we break the wall of falsehood?" In other words, how can we dispel illusions about Truth?

And then Satguru begins to describe beautiful images of different forms in which Truth appears in all elegance and, that too, crisply, in the language of common man. Then, in the last part, how to attain that Truth in both mind and body. However, Guru Nanak is keenly aware of the problem that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

At the outset, we must acknowledge the fact there are no physical regions or *Khand*. Guru Nanak identifies five parts / stages /stepping stones to discover that immortal Truth. These stages form the basis of the truthful conduct of a Sikh in life. These are described below:

1. Drm KMf kw eyho Drmu] or Awareness of Dharma, i.e. a moral sense. These are moral values to be practiced. Only Dharma helps us to decide what is right or wrong.

2. igAwn KMf mih igAwnu prcMfu] The next stage is to acquire knowledge which is a great power.

3. krm KMf kl bwxl joru] But the knowledge is not power unless propelled by action. This is a step for wise decisions. Here we use knowledge for resolving the conflicts of life.

4. srm KMf kl bwxl rUpu jiqQY GwViq GVIAY bhuqu AnUpu] The action implies hard work. Indeed, in this stage we digest knowledge to reach excellence in building things. The step is for creative thinking.

5. sc KMif vsY inrMkwru] The final stage is where Truth or Nam resides. Here we have the capacity, ability to use the powers of mind to help keep us on the path of truth in life. Here we have mind and body acting together truthfully, without fear of life or favour.

We are convinced, spiritually as well as intellectually, that hymns of different saints and Gurus enshrined in the Guru Granth Sahib speak volumes of these g facts loudly in a clarion voice.

Guru Nanak lights up benignly the True Path. mUq pllql kpVu hoie]dy swbUx lelAY Ehu Doie] BrIAY miq pwpw kY sMig] Ehu DopY nwwY kY rMig] We can wash the dirt of our clothes clean with soap. But how can we rid the dirt off our mind? We can wash it only by living the Truth. Your words must match actions. The sound mind helps you keep calm.

Elsewhere, Guru Nanak says the whole world loves you if you follow the path of truth.

scy mwrig clidAW ausqiq kry jhwn

The key is: understanding of hymns which if interpreted free from myths/prejudices, are incomparably, the best guide to achieve a harmonious cohesive society. The singing of hymns with heart and soul keeps you calm. **We can comfortably live a cheerful, benevolent and peaceful life in the diverse society, free from fear or hatred.**



Inspiration: Prabhjit Singh

Ms. Rupashree Singh

Not many would choose supply chain management as a career - especially after graduating from Indian Institute of Management - Lucknow (IIM-L) where students are handpicked by the best in the industry but Prabhjit Singh has his own tale to tell.

"I was very clear that no matter what I did later on in my career, in order to be effective, I had to know the supply chain pretty well. The hardware and manufacturing process may differ from case to case, but the overall principles of supply chain planning are universally applicable. While this is very apparent for brick and mortar companies, the connection is not very apparent for service firms."

That is precisely what drew him to operations. Also, being a Mechanical Engineer from Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi and having worked as a Maintenance and Projects Engineer at Tata Cummins, Jamshedpur, he found the quantitative tools and techniques that were used in operations very simple to understand. "Since I had two years shop floor work experience, I suddenly found that many batch-mates looked to me to get the 'lowdown' on operations issues - I guess that made me feel really good!" quips this gold medalist from IIM-L.

Though he disliked working on cost reduction and felt he was stagnating during the initial years when he had joined Accenture as an Analyst and moved onto become a Consultant, the experience provided him with a good launch pad for his next project. He was appointed Project Manager which meant he was responsible for the effective planning and improvement of sales.

Now the Dupont, for the past two years, Prabhjit feels it has been a refreshing change because of a number of reasons. "As a Senior Consultant - Corporate Marketing for Asia Pacific, my mandate is to look at businesses in India very closely and focus on top line growth and marketing capability enhancement projects." A profile, which he feels, is very close to that of a business leader!

Apart from the usual qualities like being a quick learner, team player, innovative, curious, he states that it is the ability to apply standard tools and frameworks innovatively to real situations that is critical.

"The absence of good understanding of tools and concepts places you at a disadvantage, while the inability to apply theory to real life situations makes you very bookish," says this 34-year-old. "Project work usually involves working with client team members, many of whom are very experienced, but are constrained by a typical line of thought. When one of my colleagues (rather rudely) asked a team member whether he had 15 years of experience in his area of work, or, one year's experience 15 times over! Come to think of it, I ask myself the same question pretty frequently," says Prabhjit smiling.

So where does he see himself five years down the line? "Getting one

year's experience five times over!" he laughs. And finally some words of advice to aspirants: "Take the bad with the good. A 50 per cent strike rate is good going. A good grounding is essential. But above all, you need to be clear about why you are in this area and whether you want to remain here or move on."

[Courtesy: Hindustan Times]

