

## A Pilgrim's Progress

Sir, Dr. Jogishwar Singh's two-part travelogue was most enjoyable. As a reader of *The Sikh Review* for the last fifty years, I marvel at the many facets of Sikhism.

Dr. Jogishwar Singh evidently commands a mastery over language as well as knowledge of Sikh history, the holy shrines, as also vignettes of his family roots and his friends.

I request him - through your magazine - to contribute more articles based on his experience - of Switzerland and other places visited by him. His narrative style is very informative and enjoyable.

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## Righteous Utilisation of the Daswand

Sir: Sikhs happens to be one of the better-off communities of the world - like all people, one could classify the Sikhs into three basic categories: viz. the rich, the middle class and the poor. While the middle class manages its affairs fairly well in all affairs, a yawning gap that exists - between the rich and the poor, has resulted in many major problems, that are currently being faced by our community. To focus on utilisation of Daswand issue, we are omitting elaboration of major problems being caused due to the excessive gap between the rich and the poor Sikh classes.

Such imbalance, in our community existed even during Guru Nanak's time. Deeply concerned about this, our great Guru, instituted the tradition of Daswand and its utilization. He advised that 50 Percent of Daswand be utilised for upliftment of the poor and the balance be spent on all other issue/requirements.

It indeed is heartening to observe that Sikhs, all over the globe are voluntarily contributing their Daswand to various institutions and organisations. However, the utilisation of these funds is not taking place as Guru Nanak Sahib has suggested. This issue warrants our urgent attention and action.

To set the ball rolling, it is suggested that the frontline Sikh magazines and periodicals may seek articles from reputed intellectuals on the subject - utilisation of Daswand. The intellectuals may cover the subject from all angles and aspects and give practical views on enforcing of their recommendations. All such articles be published in a special volume and distributed free to all Gurdwaras, Sikh schools, colleges, universities and libraries. If required, such an effort may be repeated to achieve the aim.

*The Sikh Review's* member subscribers are spread across all the continents of the world. They are best suited to lead the campaign. I am confident that they would do the needful.

As regards the financial aspect of the campaign, hopefully, there would be many individuals and organisations (Danis) to support the big effort, which is truly noble and in the best interest of the Panth. We would have to seek financial support. The leading Sikh magazines and periodicals do fully know how to do this.

To conclude, from the foregoing, it may seem that I am assigning a tough task on to the editors of our reputed magazines and periodicals. More humbly, I say, this is not the case. For many years now, I read all our reputed magazines and periodicals. While this subject does not get some coverage, but a full scale campaign, has perhaps never been mounted, as has been suggested now. I sincerely feel very strongly on this issue. My personal efforts over a prolonged time have not produced results. Every institution, every Gurdwara sticks to spending Daswand as they like/as it suits them best, in disregard to the teachings of our Gurus.

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### **The Endowed Chairs for Sikh Studies**

Sir: This refers to the editor's reply to Dr Harjinder Singh Dilgeer in the November 2009 issue reg. the Sikh Chairs.

After the events of 1984, the **Endowed Sikh Chairs** were, in fact, created in North American universities with the financial support of the members of the Sikh community and The Sikh Foundation of California, who felt that these chairs would give Sikhism an academic status in universities and would attract students to study Sikhism. If the Sikh community becomes unable to provide financial support, what will happen to these Sikh Chairs? Will the universities continue funding these chairs from their own budget? In UK Universities, these chairs will disappear if the financial support ceases.

In my view, if Sikhism was introduced as a university teaching programme in North American universities, it is because of the efforts of the North American Sikhs - not the Late Professor McLeod - and the credit should therefore go to them.

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### **Article 25 - Constitution of India - and the Sikhs**

Sir, - Your Editorial of January, 2010 is both appropriate and timely, in bringing out gross anomalies in the ARTICLE 25 of our Constitution. Whether a deliberate omission or omission by Constitution Drafting Committee, clubbing the Sikhs, Buddhism and Jains with Hindu, amounts to gross injustice, heart burning and alienation. In particular, the experience by the Sikh community has been bitter - thanks to this false and irresponsible clubbing of religions. The Hindu fundamentalists exploit the SIKH SARUP from time to time and make confusion worse confounded for our intelligentsia and youth.

In order to rectify this anomaly (with other changes required in the Constitution) the Union Government had appointed a National Commission to review the Constitution, headed by former Chief Justice Of India, Sri Venketachalaiah, along with 3 Supreme

Court/High Court judges and seven prominent personalities on 22nd April, 2000 for recommending changes/Amendments to the Constitution. The National Commission submitted its Report/Recommendations on 31st March, 2002 in TWO Volumes, Where in Recommendation number 19 of the commission was to omit the Explanation II of clause B of Article 25 of the Constitution of India, and inspite of repeated requests, the recommendations which have not been implemented till date are lying in government cold storage.

Having exhausted all courses of action and the government being insensitive, Sr. Joginder Singh Sethi, Chief Co-ordinator UNITED SARBAT KHALSA.Com has filed a PIL-IN Person in Supreme Court of India on 22nd Oct 2009 for seeking justice under Article 32, challenging some of the provisions under Hindu Acts and asking Explanation for the delay in implementation of the recommendation of the commission, from the Government, PIL numbered as 559/09 has been accepted, and first hearing had been fixed for 18th Jan, 2010.

Sr. J.S.Sethi must be congratulated for this initiative. He deserves the whole hearted support of all major Sikh Organisations/Institutions like SGPC, DSGMC.

Let us join hands and pray to Almighty God for success of our Common Mission in seeing that SIKH Faith stands out maintaining its independent and distinct identity, freedom of Religion in maintaining Secular image of India as enshrined in our Constitution, the issue now raised by "***The Sikh Review***".

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