

# Concept of Saint-soldier: Its Relevance in the New Millennium

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SIKHISM IS THE NEWEST 'WORLD RELIGION' or 'Higher Religion' mankind has produced. Although, it appeared in a particular cultural milieu and historical conjuncture, but nonetheless the message of the Gurus remain universal. The one message which subsumes all other messages is the message of being a Saint-Soldier. 'Saint-Soldier' is the crown of all the concepts of Sikhism. Hence, once you know this concept, you know everything else.

*"Yesmin vigyate sarvavidham vigyatam bhavati"*

*(Jisko janne se sub kuch jana huya sa lagta hai)* – to know it, is to know all.

The sovereignty of the concept emerges from the fact of its syntheticity of the two *gunas* – *rajas* and *tamas* – of the two personalities – *kshatriya* and *Brahmin*. It is a concept constituted of the normative principles and the principles of action. In other words, it is indeed the concept of a 'Super-man'.

The relevance of Sikhism or the crown of the concepts – the 'Saint-Soldier' emerges from the fact that 'Western Enlightenment Project' has collapsed. Enlightenment project of separating the 'Temporal' from the 'Spiritual' has created an 'unidimensional' man whose entire life is geared towards material acquisition. The mad race of unlimited material accumulation has spiritually sapped the 'modern man'. The result is that this world is a world of *homo homini lupus* – man is a wolf to man. The world is full of sufferings, injustices.

Back home in India, 'Western Enlightenment Project' refused to take off. The whole of the fifty years of independent India is nothing but the continuation of the ancient structures sugarcoated with the 'Western Enlightenment Project'. The result is *stasis*, not progress. In other words, India is yet to find the ideology of regeneration, resurrection – *palingenesis* – so that it can recover its lost glory – *Temporal and 'Spiritual'*. In any case India does not need to look to the West for importing an ideology, but should make an attempt to rediscover a concept on its own land for its own people, created by its own people - that of *Miri* and *Piri* implemented by the Sixth Sikh Master - Guru Hargobind Sahib ji - and given a definite shape in the form of a Khalsa by the Tenth Master Guru Gobind Singh ji in 1699 A.D.

As in the case of physics and metaphysics, we look for the one to know the all, so should be the case in finding out that one single concept which is pregnant with resurrecting, regenerating India – the single concept which holds the possibility of enlightening the 'Area of Darkness', healing the 'Wounded Civilization', and muffling the 'Million Mutinies'. That single concept is *Miri-Piri* or of 'Soldier-Saint'. which once operationalized at the national level would be able to solve the majority of the problems this country is buffeted with. To paraphrase a *sloka* of Upanishad:

*"Yesmin krite sarvidham kritam bhavati"*

*(jisko karne se sab-kuch kiya huya sa lagta hai)*

The Gurus' message for the country was clear – go 'Saint-Soldier' if you want to save your skin. India failed to heed the message in the sixteenth century and the result was colonization by the Britishers and the French. Had India gone Sikh in 1699 and after, there was no reason why India should have got colonized. The only way of averting colonization was to go Sikh, which we did not. No body could have colonized India – India worshipping 'Sarabloh' – 'All Steel'. This was the master conception of God head which we failed to worship and therefore were condemned to remain enslaved for two hundred years more.

Once we accept that India committed a historical mistake by not going Sikh or 'Saint-Soldier', we know how that mistake can be corrected in the post colonial world which is not yet free from exploitation, injustices and sufferings. It is just that the mode of exploitation has changed. The new instruments of exploitation are 'technological rents' and 'debt peonage'. **Hence if at all India wants to avert the shackles of neo-imperialism, it will have to operationalize the Sikh concept of 'Saint-Soldier'**. Thus, there is an inexorable link between what is being called 'Late Capitalism' and Sikhism, or its concept 'Saint-Soldier'. Endowing the whole of India with the virtues of a 'Saint-Soldier' would make India strong enough to resist all attempts of neo-colonization. To make India safe and secure – economically and militarily for a millennium, operationalizing the concept of 'Saint-Soldier' is the Hobson's choice.

In order that the message of the Sikh Guru Gobind Singh reverberates in every nook and corner of the country and in order that his wishes are realized, we are embarking upon a project of raising an organization of 'Saint-Soldiers', who would be propagating the divine message of the Gurus. **In order that this concept is operationalized, what we need is an All-India political formation which will build consensus around 'a package' which will include the operationalisation of the concept of 'Soldier-Saint' at Plus Two in schools and degree level colleges. Substantializing every student with the twin virtues of a 'Soldier' and a 'Saint' would be able to give, us Indians, a national character, which we lack at the present moment.**

In order that such a cyclopean task is consummated, we need the moral and financial support of all and sundry – *tout le monde*. Please come forward and help this project in realizing its objective.

## **Guru Nanak is my Beau-ideal**

**BHAVNA GERA\***

*\* Courtesy: Hindustan Times, 9/2/2003 (as told in person by Panjabi pop-singer Daler Mehndi)*

WHILE MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE PART of my life as family and friends have helped me climb the ladder of success, I would like to give God the real credit for making me what I am today. My God is Guru Nanak, who has always been there to guide and protect me. As a mere human, I can never be like him, he is too good, but at least I can learn to be a better person by following his preachings.

When I felt absolutely lost and finished with no one to support me, it was only because of my faith in Guru Nanak that I managed to come out of all my bad days. He gave me courage and will when I needed it the most. The best part about Him is

that he is unselfish. Whether I ask him for help or not, he is always there for me. Wonder how many of my friends would have done this?

The credit for this belief in Him goes to my mother. She used to take all of us (my two brothers and me) to the gurdwara daily. Our early morning visits proved to be a real soothing experience. They helped us to face the challenges of the rest of the day. I still try to go to a nearby gurdwara whenever possible. If I fail to do so, I worship Him by chanting or listening to Gurbani. Guru Nanak is the driving force of my life. I can feel His presence around me all the time. I pay my respects to Him by giving due respect to every living creature. I strongly believe that human beings are dear to Him and one must not degrade them. After surrendering myself to Him, my life has changed for the better. There is nothing more I need. He has given me everything. His powers are inexplicable and can only be felt.

