

# SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB - AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

By Dr. Darshan Singh

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*A Review by Harjinder Singh Dilgeer \**

Not every scholar can translate the transcendent Gurbani. Rendering it in English is even more of a Herculean task. It is not only because of the gigantic volume, or the multiplicity of languages of the verses of Guru Granth Sahib, but because of great philosophic thought of Gurus and other celebrated Bhakta poets. One needs great command over Punjabi and English languages as well as deep understanding of the Sikh philosophy, history and ethos. The magnitude, complexity and depth of the fourteen hundred and thirty pages of the verse of Divine love/wisdom, humanism, spiritualism, polity, sociology, psychology, astronomy and other genres of knowledge could not have been grasped without Divine blessing. Only a creative, mystic philosopher could have accomplished this fete.

Guru Granth Sahib is the Spiritual Manifesto of the world. It is Scripture of scriptures. It is the epitome of the wisdom of the sages, the social reformers, devotees and steadfasts from different walks of life, linguistic and geographical backgrounds. It has been - and is - the code of conduct for millenniums. It is a synthesis of noble traditions of the sacred world. This spiritual heritage is the quintessence of all 'Gospels'.

In a world which is suffering from hatred, jealousy, terrorism, inhumanism and above all paganism, Guru Granth Sahib has a message of Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of Man. It is the only hope for an oppressed globe, which can dispel darkness and bring an end to fanaticism, racism, war and destruction.

Dr Darshan Singh's erudition, genius, zeal, devotion and command over languages and philosophy, blessed by Divine benediction has granted him the honour of accomplishing this commendable project. It is honour for me to welcome and present this great work by writing an Introduction/preface.

## **Some special features of this translation are:**

- \* In the present work the translation of Gurbani is line-to-line.
- \* The original text is given in Roman script also. This makes the text easy to read and understand.
- \* This translation serves the purpose of *Teeka* also, because, through this translation reader can understand the meaning of the original text.
- \* The meaning of the Word (*Shabad*) and ethos of Sikhism is the primary concern of the translator. This has been successfully maintained.
- \* In the present work Biblical terminology has been avoided so as to retain the indigeneous flavour of Gurbani.
- \* The choice of the words to be used is made in such a way as to create a lyrical base in each line independently. It is to make easy for reading and singing, so that it can capture and enrapture the soul of the readers.
- \* Simplicity is the central to this translation.
- \* Complete set in Five volumes and 3000 pages.

I hope that the intelligentsia as well as general readers will experience a unique feeling of learning from this translation. There are some more English renderings of the Guru Granth Sahib (by Gopal Singh, Gurbachan Singh Talib, Manmohan Singh and Pritam Singh Chahal) and more than four in Punjabi (Nirmala/Faridkoti rendering, Principal Sahib Singh's,

Giani Mani Singh's and Harbans Singh Nirnaykaar's) two in Hindi, and one in French. I don't want to compare Dr Darshan Singh's excellence with the other works. I leave it to readers to pay tribute to Dr Darshan Singh whom scholars rightly call the 'doyen of the Sikh philosophy.'

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