

# Discovering Spiritual Insights in Guru Granth Sahib

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The foremost thought that strikes the mind of a devout reader of holy Guru Granth is the image and identity of God, His major attributes and manifestations, the burden of His existence and His unmistakable role in the life of the cosmos and in our own lives, irrespective of our mood swings ranging from denial of His existence to the sudden epiphanic oneness with Him or His will in moments of crisis. God, as perceived and conceived by Guru Nanak Dev, his successor Gurus and eminent sages contribute their inspiring verses to the holy Granth - a Life Force, a force at once invisible and manifest, an undercurrent very much like an electric current charging and activating every object. Metaphor of electric energy, is so comprehensive and illustrative that it helps to elucidate majority of the attributes of the Godhead. God is the primal cause, the creator, preserver and destroyer of the created universe. He is self-willed, sovereign and independent of as well as involved in his creation:

ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ ਅਕਾਲ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੈ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥ [SGGS:1]

There is but one God. True is His name, creative His personality and immortal His form. He is without fear, sans enmity, unborn and self-illuminated. By the Guru's grace (He is obtained).

God has a design and calculations of His own which are beyond the grasp of human understanding and rational calculations. Centuries of human explorations and scientific research have revealed only a fraction of the design of His creation, the so called "Tip of the Iceberg". Vast invisible vistas of cosmic design still remain unknown. The more one explores this design the more it expands and looks infinite:

ਪਾਤਾਲਾ ਪਾਤਾਲ ਲਖ ਆਗਾਸਾ ਆਗਾਸ ॥

ਓੜਕ ਓੜਕ ਭਾਲਿ ਥਕੇ ਵੇਦ ਕਹਨਿ ਇਕ ਵਾਤ ॥

[SGGS: 5]

'Countless are the spheres in perpetual motion - Even as there is but One Creator,'

Our mental faculty, the major tool employed by man in this spiritual quest, suffers from systemic limitations. Its mental antennae cannot capture the full signification of His cosmic energy. In other words, human intellect is an inadequate tool to undertake this formidable task. How can a finite entity measure the infinite? The various linguistic epithets like omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent devised by man to describe the infinite, are vague, inadequate approximations of His eternity, infinity and primal resourcefulness. No human metaphor completely befits or matches His grandeur. These linguistic equivalents devised by man are imperfect as language itself is not a perfect medium to capture this experience. Gurbani compares this inadequacy of expression to the experience of a dumb person who fails to communicate the taste of sweetness after consuming sweets. Gurbani states that not only human tools of perception are inadequate but the full extent of His divinity is incommunicable due to the inadequacy of the human medium of expression. So Gurbani exhorts us to abandon this inadequate flawed mental approach **and adopt an approach of total surrender, faith and prayer**. These three tools, adopted and exercised as a way of life, can awaken the supra-intellect faculty, (call it soul, spirit, *Buddhi* or *Kundalini* - what you like) - which can give us a glimpse of His majestic design. This one glimpse or spec of

realization clears all the mental cobwebs and launches a devotee on a proper spiritual quest. He starts realizing that God, being the primal cause and creator of His grand design, does not suffer from any human weakness. He is bounteous, fearless and impartial in His dispensation of justice towards His creation since everything flows from His own Will. Every created object is equally eligible for His grace and benevolence irrespective of its genesis, size and location in space. His generosity and benevolence are like the bountiful rain which, when it falls from the skies, fills small pits, ponds, lakes, rivers and oceans alike. His presence is like the oxygen in nature which provides breath and life to the whole universe. He does not identify Himself with any species, class, religion and race and yet is one with every object and every specie. He energizes everything like an undercurrent of electric energy which flows invisibly through the various gadgets, yet is discernible and variable. His is an inexhaustible source of energy eternally creative. God's sovereignty extends beyond the dimensions of space and time. Human beings may attribute human cause-effect, rational, scientific reasons for the birth, death and extinction of species, continents, stars and galaxies, but one faithfully tuned to God's will, through the medium of Guru's word or Gurbani and meditation upon his Name, will realize that all births and deaths of species as well as continents and civilizations, including the cycle of seasons and march of time, are governed by God's supreme Will. He further realizes that all rational explanations and scientific theories also fit into His grand design. For example, death of human body due to decay and ageing is a rational cause-effect explanation, but all earthly bodies, including human body, being time-bound, is God's grand design as well. God alone is timeless, beyond death and decay.

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