

'Jin prem kiyo': Unconditional Devotion

Amrit Kaur*

* 9 Hazelwood Lane, Grand Island, N.Y. 14072. USA.

As a little girl in school, I was taught a song: "When you point a finger at your neighbor, there are three pointing at you." This means that when we stand in judgment against a person:

1. We may be more flawed and greater sinners than the person we are accusing, since three fingers are way more than one!
2. We are declaring ourselves to be superior and quite perfect as compared to this person.
3. We have lost that precious humility that our Gurus has stressed upon: "*Ho sabhna kee rainika. tao aah humaaray pass.*" Anytime we judge another we have raised ourselves to a higher position: in a court, the judge is put on a higher level as compared to those he or she judges. In daily life, that high position belongs only to God, who alone has the perfect wisdom.

Since God is purely love, judgement is its total opposite. If we have to judge somebody, start with ourselves. Then one will find such a sea of faults that judgment of others will gradually cease. *Hum nuhee chungay, buhra nuhee koay.*

If we are serious about doing God's work, first bring love for God into our hearts: this is the first and important step towards realization of God: *Aadh unth jo takhanhaar this siyu preeth nuh karay gavaar* (Sukhmani Sahib).

Loving God means ourselves, since we are very much a part of our Creator. Despite our faults and shortcoming, God loves us like a father and mother, like a brother and sister, like a parent and child. We must learn to love the purity and goodness of God that is ever present within us - we are a part of Him/Her (since God is beyond gender). It is only after we learn to love ourselves that we can truly love another human being.

Loving each other connects us to all humanity; becoming aware that each of us is slowly but surely making the effort towards union with God, whether one is a Sikh, Hindu, or Muslim or any religion. If we realize that each and every human being faces a daily struggle to stay on the right path, then we would be able to understand each other's pain and happiness. Once that connection is made, we would automatically cease to hurt another human being (start from your child, parent, friend, etc). whether mentally, verbally and physically. There would be no more conflicts, arguments or even wars - this would be a perfect world. So, consciously, we should try to make another person's day better, not worse.

All we need to do is change the way we see each other: bring love into our hearts, for God, for ourselves, and for all of humanity. Let us practice what our Gurus have taught us. We can change our attitude, and that will change the world into a 'kinder and gentler' place to live.

The Potato Prince

Ramesh Vinayak

His dapper demeanour and luxe lifestyle don't fit the stereotype of a dirt farmer. Yet,

39-year-old Jang Bahadur Singh Sangha is the poster boy for agricultural entrepreneurship. With over 6,000 acres under cultivation, Sangha runs a technology-driven operation of a scale and specialisation that even big-tag corporate farming projects are yet to achieve. With an annual production of 56,000 tonne - ten per cent of the seed potato market - Sangha is India's single-largest seed potato grower.

The agri-empire struck roots in the 1960s when his father, Hardev Singh, ventured into seed vegetable production on seven acres owned by the family near Jalandhar. Hardev then made a big investment sending Sanawar-educated Sangha to the prestigious Ivy League Cornell University in 1990 for a post-graduate degree in plant physiology and pathology. "My specialisation was programmed to introduce technology-based systems in our operations," says Sangha.

Back home in 1994, Sangha ploughed back into practice the cutting edge knowledge he had mastered abroad by setting up a well-equipped farm machine workshop.

