

A big No to 'Pothi Sahib'

Sir, This refers to my article Kalam of Muslim Saints in SGGS (SR March, 2009). There is a reference to Pothi Sahib (on p. 20). Of late, some scholars have started a rather unhealthy trend to describe Shri Aad Granth Sahib as Pothi Sahib, saying that Pothi Sahib was conferred 'Guruship' and, then onwards, it was called as "Sri Guru Granth Sahib". The fact is that the Granth Sahib is a collection of several *Pothis*, compiled in a single volume. One probable reason for this confusion is an unclear understanding of the following verse of Sri Guru Arjun Sahib (p. 1226) that, "Pothi (religious text) is the abode of God". It simply means that, by reading and understanding the *religious text*, a person can obtain *gyan* or knowledge about God.

poQI prmysr kw Qwnu]

sIR gurU Arjn swihb [SGGS:1226)

It does not mean that Guru Sahib has attributed that name to the volume. After compiling the holy scripture Guru Sahib specifically named it as "Aad Granth". Aad means Primal, i.e., God. Guru Sahib named it so because the entire text is about the Aad Purakh i.e., The God. How far is it appropriate to change the given title to "Pothi Sahib"? Does it make sense, or does it in any way, enhance the importance of the volume? Is it not sacrilege?

On page number 922, in the Bani of Anand Sahib, Sri Guru Amardas Ji says, "This Universe which you are seeing is the manifestation of God. It is an image of God. Visualize the presence of God in this Universe":

eyhu ivsu sMswru qum dyKdy,

eyhu hir kw rUpu hY,

hir rUpu ndrI AwieAw] (SGGS: 922)

God's attribute of Omnipresence has been repeatedly reiterated. It is improper to attempt to confine His Omnipresence to our Scripture or place of worship.

Generally speaking, three terms are frequently used to describe volumes of Gurbani. They are also used with similar meanings in other vernacular languages. The first *Gutka*: a small handy, pocket-size volume containing some *Shabads* and *Banis*. The second term is *Pothi*: a comparatively larger volume that contains more *Banis* than a *Gutka*. The third and the holiest volume is the Granth. All three terms are Sanskrit and are commonly used.

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