

## 400th Anniversary of Sri Guru Granth Sahib: A Viewpoint

This year marks the 400th Birth anniversary of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. In the August 30, issue of *Times of India*, there was reference to a pointless controversy whether the Anniversary is of 'Adi Granth' which Guru Arjun Dev Ji installed in Darbar Sahib in 1604 A.D. or of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. I fail to see the utility of such a controversy.

The Holy Scripture, to my mind, was created in 1604 when Guru Arjun Dev Ji consolidated the *bani* of all the Gurus, including his own, and reverentially installed it in Darbar Sahib. Since that day the Granth Sahib continues to radiate its empyrean glory. At Damdama Sahib 1706, Guru Gobind Singh Ji added the hymns of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji in the Granth Sahib. **Then, in Nanded in the year 1708 he consecrated the Granth as the eternal *Shabad Guru* for Sikhs and all humanity. *Shabad Guru* was then created in 1604 and consecrated as the *Sublime Guru* in 1708 A.D.**

Let us imbibe in us the precepts of the Guru which, to my humble mind, is more important than dates. Such a controversy is a distraction.

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## Quoting Mahatma Gandhi: A Reader's Protest

I am a regular reader of *The Sikh Review*, I felt offended to read couple of lines by Mr. Gandhi in the SR: Sept. 2004. You have numerous ideas to quote from Gurbani, other religions and many thinkers who never spoke ill of our Tenth Nanak as Mr. Gandhi did. Prof. Puran Singh had to write about Gandhi's inability to understand Sikhism in "*Jin ke chole ratrhe*".. People wedded to non-violence and brahminist ideology cannot understand Guru Nanak when he rides on the blue stallion as Guru Gobind Singh ji.

Why give importance to a man who, without considering Sikh's feeling, dared to call Guru Gobind Singh "a misguided patriot?" *The Sikh Review* is avowedly bound to honour true Sikhs, unbiased thinkers and respect other religions. It should never ever give little space for biased people like Gandhi.

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*Editor's Note: The quote from Mahatma Gandhi at p. 77 was a random selection from a book of quotations used only as a filler. Guru Bani teaches us to be ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ - without rancour. Ideally, a Sikh has goodwill for all. Let us learn from Baba Farid the virtue of humility: ਫਰੀਦਾ ਜੋ ਤੇ ਮਾਰਨਿ ਮੁਕੀਆ ਤਿਨ੍ਹਾ ਨ ਮਾਰੇ ਘੁਮਿ ॥ ਆਪਨੜੈ ਘਰਿ ਜਾਈਐ ਪੈਰ ਤਿਨ੍ਹਾ ਦੇ ਚੁਮਿ ॥*

## Baba Banda Singh Bahadur: A Correction

This has reference to the 'Members' Forum' of September 2004 issue of ***The Sikh Review***. The email that I sent has been misquoted (pages 73-74). The text following the introductory paragraph has not originated by me. It is indeed the original text from Mr. Surain Singh Dhanoa's article on Banda Singh Bahadur [SR July 2004]\* I will be grateful if a correction is published in the next issue of ***The Sikh Review***.

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\* *The printing mix up is regretted. - Ed. SR.*

\* \* \* \* \*

In the June 2004 issue of ***The Sikh Review*** (p. 90), we published Sardar S.S. Majithia's letter deploring *The Hindustan Times'* insensitivity towards the Sikh community's sentiment by its publication of a joke. The HT has since published an apology which we reproduce below.

- Ed. SR

#### **A REGRET**

The mental agony caused to members of the Sardar community following publication of some jokes related to them in these columns in March (H.T. March 12, 2004) is deeply regretted.

There was not intention to hurt anyone's feelings. However, if anyone's sentiments were hurt, we apologise for it.