

Guru - The Holy Teacher

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Guru means spiritual adviser who helps to shape and monitor our own concept of who and what God is and in what way He is related to us.

Guru helps us to understand the importance of SIKH WAY OF LIFE and significance of Sikh Rehat-Maryada and the Nankian Philosophy of Life.

GURU IS SABD AND SABD IS GURU.

This has been put forth in one of the Verses of Guru Granth Sahib Ji as.....

ਭਬਾਣੀ ਗੁਰੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਹੈ ਬਾਣੀ ਵਿਚਿ ਬਾਣੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਸਾਰੇ ॥

[SGGS: 982]

Meaning: The Word is the Guru and the Guru is the Word. Within the Bani (*Granth*) are the sweet and immortalizing words as Nectar (*Amrit*)

The above verse really attempts to reveal the form and status of the Holy Sikh Scriptures known as Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Guru Granth Sahib Ji is the Embodiment of Divine light (*Jot*). When Nanak conferred Guruship on Bhai Lehna, the *Jot* was passed on and Bhai Lehna became Guru Angad. After confirmation only by Guru Nanak, Guru Angad became the embodiment of *Jot*. In the same way we can say that all the succeeding Gurus were the embodiments of *Jot*. Guru Gobind Singh accorded the status of Guruship to Granth Sahib in order to accomplish the experience....

“*Bani Guru Guru Hai Bani*”, i.e., Holy verses are the embodiment of Guru and Guru himself is the symbol of Holy verses. Guru Gobind Singh also dictated and ordered that the verses of the Gurus i.e., Granth Sahib will be the Eternal Guru of the entire Sikh Community for all times to come and no human being or Sant or Baba or Sage or Seer will be treated as Guru. The contrary is happening now-a-days. We have totally lost faith in the Nankian philosophy of life.

ਕਰਤੂਤਿ ਪਸੁ ਕੀ ਮਾਨਸ ਜਾਤਿ ॥ [SGGS: 267] has been proved beyond doubt by our fellow brothers and sisters. Sant *deras* and ‘Baba Kutirs’ are operating round the globe without well documented research on various topics from Gurbani and clarity of the Sikh tenets. While circulating lot of literature without due approval from the appropriate authorities they are thus exploiting devotees’ ignorance.

The younger generation is uninterested in listening to Shabad Kirtan and Verses from Guru Granth Sahib Ji. They hesitate to go to Gurudwara for want of wisdom and intellectuality. Who is responsible for the decadance of Sikhi in our society..... needs an answer.

Guru Granth Sahib Ji is a collection of Sabds uttered by our Holy Gurus and Bhagtas who have dedicated the whole of their lives to the cause of humanity.

So GRANTH IS SABD. But Sabd is Guru. So our Holy Granth as per Guru Gobind Singh Ji is GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI.

“As God is to the Universe,
Mind is to the human body,
So is NAAM to Granth Sahib”

When Sabd was uttered by the Gurus, it had the inner source of information i.e., knowledge. It also contained the details of the prevailing universe in the Cosmos. So the source of all knowledge is Sabd but Sabd is contained in Granth Sahib. So ultimately the source of knowledge is GURU Granth Sahib.

Once the Granth is vested with all the sources of wisdom through the words of the Gurus, it has become THE LIVING ICON OF WAHEGURU and has to be treated as Guru for all the ages to come.

Guru Nanak attributed all his knowledge, understanding and worldly experience to God through one of his verses recorded in Guru Granth Sahib Ji as follows...

ਆਪਿ ਬੁਝਾਏ ਸੋਈ ਬੂਝੈ ॥ ਜਿਸੁ ਆਪਿ ਸੁਝਾਏ ਤਿਸੁ ਸਭੁ ਕਿਛੁ ਸੂਝੈ ॥ [SGGS: 150]

All our Gurus through their *Banies* have glorified WAHEGURU, the True One (*SACH*). So the word of God is *Sach* and this *Sach* is fully depicted in Granth Sahib Ji. So our true and only Guru is Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Waheguru never wants us to suffer. We all are suffering because of our own actions. If we want to eliminate suffering from our lives then the word of Guru Granth Sahib is to be respected in letter and spirit. Devote yourself in the love and service to humanity. Then only one can differentiate between right and wrong.

This is called liberation, salvation or realization. Without the help of the Guru it is very difficult to unfold the mysteries of nature. Following the Guru with unquestioned total submission is the path towards self-realization and becoming a *Jiwan Mukta*. No wonder the Guru occupies an important place in Sikhism.

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