

SINGAPORE SIKHS CELEBRATE 300TH GURGADDI DAY

10-23-2008

Thousands of Sikhs gathered at the various Gurdwaras of Singapore on the 18th and 19th of October in commemoration of 300 years establishment of the holy scripture and living Guru of the Sikhs, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (SGGS). The 10th Guru of the Sikhs, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji passed the *Gurgaddi* (guruship) to the SGGS at the location where today stands Takhat Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib, a Gurdwara on the banks of the Godavari in Maharashtra. A replica of the Gurdwara was created in the form of a float for the occasion, which was celebrated majestically by the *Sangat* (congregation) of Singapore.

“The idea of creating a fully scaled float replica of Takhat Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib was conceived in early March this year; and real work started in June. The design was done using photographs and videos of the actual Gurdwara and took about 2 weeks to create and the actual construction of the float took about 4 weeks to complete,” said Gurdip Singh, Chairman of the Silat Road Sikh Temple (a unit of the Central Sikh Gurdwara Board). The astounding creation was done by Richard Tang, a Chinese float designer and constructor. The float drew in crowds from all ages, ethnicities, and even religions. “Handicapped and other elderly believers all joined in the celebrations in getting a glimpse of the holy site,” said Singh.

Organized by the Central Sikh Gurdwara Board in conjunction with all Sikh Gurdwaras in Singapore, the float traveled on Oct 19 from the Silat Road Gurdwara to the all the seven Gurdwaras of Singapore, namely, Gurdwara Sahib Yishun Sahib, Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Khalsa Dharmak Sabha, Central Sikh Temple, Pardesi Khalsa, Gurdwara Katong and finally making its way back to the Silat Road Gurdwara.

The magnitude of respect shown towards their living Guru by the *Sangat* is immeasurable as they stood in long lines to enter the float, bowing their heads in respect and love for the SGGS, which was installed in the float. In anticipation of the float at the Gurdwaras, *sevadaars* (volunteers participating in selfless service) swept and washed the streets in preparation for the arrival of their Living Guru.

The Singapore Sikh Community also launched a book “Sikhi – A Way of Life” in conjunction with this auspicious occasion. The Guest of Honour at these celebrations was Prof S. Jayakumar, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore.

pdfMachine

Is a pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, if you can print from a windows application you can use pdfMachine.

Get yours now!

Guru Granth Sahib's Grace

I J Singh



Sikhs worldwide are celebrating the 300th anniversary of the installation of Guru Granth Sahib, Sikhism's living Guru and central holy text.

When I came to this country in 1960, perhaps 3 or 4 Sikhs lived in New York City. There were none in Oregon where I spent several years as a student. No major metropolitan area in North America is now without a sizable Sikh community.

Most Americans back then had never seen a Sikh, not many know about us even now. I conclude this from the post-9/11 reality when the bearded, turbaned visage of the Sikh is often mistaken on the street for a follower of Osama bin Laden, despite the fact Sikhs have nothing to do with Islam or with bin Laden. It gets us the most unwelcome attention.

When I came here I was a Sikh but with little feeling for Sikhism. My interest in it was driven largely by the fact that I lived in North America in an entirely non-Sikh milieu, and by the innumerable invitations to churches, synagogues and Bible study groups that came my way. And when non-Sikhs asked me questions, I had little to say that made sense to me, much less to others.

To me, Sikhism speaks of a reality that the senses cannot perceive and the intellect cannot fathom, but with which our inner self can commune. This reality transcends anything that science and technology can measure or formulate.

As in many other spiritual traditions, the "Word" is God. Our scripture - Guru Granth -- opens with an alphanumeric devised by the founder of the faith, Guru Nanak. "Ik Oankar" combines the first primal number "one" with "Oankar," a word that stands for Creator or Doer. Thus it postulates one God, -- not a partisan Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu or Sikh God, but one that embraces all creation.

If I can see the oneness in the creator and creation, there is then absolutely no room for distinctions in race, caste, creed, gender, color or national origin. Differences between "them" and "us" vanish. Equality, liberty, fraternity and justice are inherent in that oneness. And, then, as the Guru Granth says, "I see no stranger or enemy."

Guru Granth is both timeless and universal, so it speaks to me today as it did to countless Sikhs centuries ago. It deliberately shies away from historical events, and absolutely refrains from dispensing specific edicts on particular moral choices, such as abortion, reproductive rights or other bioethical issues.

The idea is not a God who micromanages our existence. In life, many dilemmas test us and new issues of life and death will demand our attention. Our response will evolve with time and technology in a changing world.

Guru Granth does not provide me a sin quotient for every infraction committed or contemplated. It gives me not cut-and-dried solutions as in a catechism or an easily-swallowed pill, but an ethical framework rooted in spiritual values within which to navigate my way. This places all responsibility and accountability squarely on the follower.

pdfMachine

Is a pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, if you can print from a windows application you can use pdfMachine.

Get yours now!

To me, Guru Granth has moral clarity and the vocabulary to express it without maudlin oversimplification or self-righteous hubris. It gives life an inner centering, reverence, reason, hope, and calmness in action.

Even though the best prayer is honest self-effort, the results are pure grace (nadar), like manna from heaven.

Faith, to some, is panacea; to others it is placebo. To me, it is embracing the uncertainty that is life, while knowing in the gut a visceral universal presence and oneness. This, then, becomes walking in the shadow of God, or a life in "hukam".

Sikhism asks of us a productive family life of honest effort and sharing its rewards with others, while holding on always to an awareness of the Infinite within us.

Much of the Guru Granth is in verse that is sung to the strains of classical Indian musicology. The poetry remains some of the most romantic, and speaks of a reality that transcends our puny existence.

My faith and engagement with the Guru in the Granth remains everlasting. Sikhism is now inseparably integrated into everything I think, do or feel -- at work or at play.

After almost half a century of living in America, I see that just as it is possible to be a good Jew or a good Christian and a good American at the same time; it is similarly possible to be a good Sikh and a good American. Despite some disquieting post 9/11 experiences, the two ideas are not mutually exclusive.

I.J. Singh is a professor of anatomical sciences at New York University. He is the author of four collections of essays on his journey as a Sikh in North America: Sikhs and Sikhism: A View With a Bias (1994, 1998); The Sikh Way: A Pilgrim's Progress (2001); Being & Becoming a Sikh (2003); The World According to Sikhi (2006)

Tri-centenary Gurta Gaddi Diwas of Shri Guru Granth Sahib organised

Srinagar, Oct 23 (NAK): A prestigious function to commemorate Tri-centenary Gurta Gaddi Diwas of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji was today organized by State Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and JK Punjabi Sahit Saba, Srinagar here in the conference Hall of the Academy.

The function was presided over by M Yousuf Teing, Former Director General Culture while Punjabi Writers Professor Sewa Singh, Dr. G. S. Gulshan and Ajit Singh Mastana ,

pdfMachine

Is a pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, if you can print from a windows application you can use pdfMachine.

Get yours now!

and Zaffar Iqbal Manhas , Secretary Cultural Academy were also in the presidium.

In his speech Professor Sewa Singh said that Guru Gobind Singh the tenth Guru in Sikh tradition affirmed the sacred text Adi Granth as his successor, terminating the line of human Gurus, and elevating the text to Guru Granth Sahib. He said from that point on, the text remained not only the holy scripture of the Sikhs.

Zaffar Iqbal Manhas in his address said that the role of Guru Granth Sahib, as a source or guide of prayer, is pivotal in worship in Sikhism. He added that the message of Guru Granth Sahib is relevant today and for all times to come.

Prof. Prem Singh and Kanwal Kashmiri in their respective paper on the Subject revealed that the Adi Granth was first compiled by the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev from hymns of the first five Sikh Gurus and other great saints of the Hindu and Muslim traditions. The original scribe of the Adi Granth was Bhai Gurdas and later Bhai Mani Singh. After the demise of the tenth Sikh Guru many handwritten copies were prepared for distribution by Baba Deep Singh.

According to paper readers the 'Guru Granth Sahib' is a voluminous text of 1430 pages, compiled and composed during the period of Sikh Gurus, from 1469 to 1708. Written in the Gurmukhi script, the compositions in Sri Guru Granth Sahib are a melange of various dialects, often coalesced under the generic title of Sant Bhasha. The languages used include Lehndi dialect of Punjabi, regional Prakrits, Apabhramsa, Sanskrit, Hindi languages Brajhasha, Old Hindi, Awadhi Sindhi, and Persian.

Mohammad Yousuf Teing in his presidential address stated that Guru Granth Shaib is one of the greater holy books ever written which has given us the message of love brotherhood and peace

pdfMachine

Is a pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, if you can print from a windows application you can use pdfMachine.

Get yours now!

.

pdfMachine

Is a pdf writer that produces quality PDF files with ease!

Produce quality PDF files in seconds and preserve the integrity of your original documents. Compatible across nearly all Windows platforms, if you can print from a windows application you can use pdfMachine.

Get yours now!