

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF-SIKHS AND CURRENT SIKH ISSUES

Chapter—2 (IV)

GURBANI :THE BEST DIVINE KNOWLEDGE-

"Gurbani is the Divine light in this world. Through God's grace does it come to dwell in the mind and the man meditates in the Name of God to obtain peace. By Eulogizing and earnest praise of the Lord, as contained therein He meets the man easily." GG 67.

"Without Gurbani Divine knowledge is not obtained, other relishes are poison." GG 61. "Without Gurbani Divine knowledge cannot be attained." GG 59. "Gurbani burns ego, dispels doubts and removes illusions" (GG 67).

"Without Gurbani doubt is not dispelled from the mind nor does ego departs from within" (GG 67)

"Gurbani burns Ego. Gurbani burns to ashes the doubt that there is another too, than the one god, the Creator." (GG 115)

Abiding Name of God Through Gurbani- " He in whose mind, the true one abides through Gurbani, gets absorbed in Name of Go" (GG145).

"Without True Guru no equipoise can be obtained. It is through Gurbani that poise proceeds and then God is obtained."

"By practicing the Name of God through Gurbani, God comes and abides in the mind." (GG67)

"Through Gurbani God is obtained and the tongue remains permeated with God's elixir." (GG66)

"Through Gurbani love of pure God's Name is received. (GG 59)

"Through Gurbani one recognizes his own self and the light of God's Name comes into him." (GG 85)

"Without Gurbani, the Name of God cannot be obtained. (GG 115)

"There is no higher consideration and thought than abiding of Name of God in one's mind. No honor can be acquired in God's court if He abides not in one's mind. The body where in abides the Name of God is said to be pure." GG 19)

"By means of Gurbani, the Name of God abides in the mind and the man gets salvation and unity with God." (GG122) "Those who meet God through Gurbani separate not again. They easily get absorbed in the True Lord" (GG 123)

"Whosoever abides God in his mind through Gurbani's love and devotion, would get deliverance." (GG 661)

"The God tuned, within whose mind, God abides, unite with God, through Gurbani" (GG21)

Supreme Lord abides in the minds of holy persons who understand and act upon the dictums of Gurbani. The mind is to continually meditate on the Name of god. The True worship is only then performed if God comes and abides in man's mind after its purification through Gurbani.

PURIFICATION OF MIND THROUGH GURBANI-

"If one sheds his mind's evils in the mind itself and banishes from it worldly love and self conceit through Gurbani, then does he recognize pervading soul and easily gets absorbed in god's Name, who would abide in the mind." (GG 39)

If the man practices true way of life in accordance with dictums of Gurbani, god's name easily abides in his mind. Exceedingly fortunate are they who have found God and easily remain absorbed in it. With the impure mind, God's meditation cannot be performed, nor is the Name obtained. By Guru's grace the filth of pride is destroyed and God abides in man's mind. As the igniting of lamp dispels the darkness, so does Gurbani dispels the spiritual darkness and enlightens the mind to meditate and always remember Name of God. Whosoever abides God in his mind by means of Gurbani, roots out the wheel, woe and entire worldly love by meditating on the blotless Lord and one washes off his faith. In Sikh religion thus, the Gurbani, the Sikh scripture, lays down the everlasting real Divine knowledge, procures the Name of God and attains salvation if one is to understand and earnestly act upon it. It purifies the mind and inculcates the virtues, eliminating all the vices leading the truthful living in way of God, under the will of God. It would naturally prompt the eminent scholars of world religions to remark:

"The other religions contain truth but Sikhism contains the fullness of truth. It is the faith of new space age capable to solve the problems of modern age. The Divine message of Sikhism of love and peace needs to be conveyed to the entire world,"

GRACE OF GOD-

In Sikhism it is the Grace of God that unites with Him and makes the man to meditate upon with His Name. That very devotee of God upon whom God showers his grace remains absorbed in the meditation in the Name of God. To whom God with His Grace makes to meditate His Name, he alone gets salvation. He, to whom God Himself makes to understated, gets the True Name of God. God unites with Him only those on whom He showers His grace and they meditate upon His Name and sing His praises. "It is due to the kindness, mercy and grace of God that one obtains the True Name, the treasure of excellence" (GG 53)." "Through Gurbani, one should praise God. By His grace then God is obtained and soul unites with Him (GG 67) By good actions, human birth is obtained. Salvation is obtained through God's grace." "Grace of God attracts to Gurbani- "God Himself is Sat Guru, Himself the Lord and Himself unites the man with Him. God with His grace attracts the man to Gurbani, whom He wants to unite with Him. In the world, God Himself is the life of the entire universe. Like water merging with water, the God tuned mind gets absorbed in God"(GG 41) When God showers His grace on a person to meditate in His Name, that person is attracted to Gurbani. Gurbani is the Divine light in this world. Through God's grace does it come to abide in the mind.

"The creator himself acts and causes to act and through Gurbani unites the man with himself." (GG 123)

TO WHOM GOD SHOWS HIS GRACE-

"God shows His grace unto him, whose soul is contented with truthfulness. Then his body of five elements gets dyed in the fear of the true one. True light shines within his mind. He forgets and forsakes sin and bad deeds and the Guru saves his honor (conducts himself in accordance with Gurbani." GG 19

"Who forgets not God's Name earns the grace of God. GG21.

"Who accepts the wish of God cheerfully as preordained wish and order of God is to be obeyed by one and all and as such follows the way of God, would earn the grace of God." GG 1

EVERYTHING IN MIND: NOTHING OUTSIDE-

Seekers of truth under the misguidance of several faiths and systems suffered self tortures and bodily pains; roamed about in mountains and forests whereby they obtained nothing for their enlightenment and salvation. Sikhism has provided a clear and correct Divine thought that all such exercises are futile and rather everything is in one's mind and nothing outside. The impurities of the mind flourish in the mind itself and can only be washed off in the mind. The purification of the mind can be done only by meditation in the Name of God and by making the mind to be abode of God. The name of God burns ego, eliminates vices and inculcates virtues to lead a truthful living under the will of God and in the way of God, which is the Sikh way of life. "There is no need to go to the forests in search of God, who lives in all and is yet distinct. He abides in everyone. As the fragrance remains in flower and reflection in the mirror, so does God, abide inside everything. Seek Him in your own heart." GG 684

"Everything is within the home (in the human mind). Not even one is outside. He who seeks outside is lost in doubt. By Guru's grace, he who has found the Lord God in his mind; he is comfortable within and without." GG 102.

"it is within the mind and soul that the stream of Nectar uniformly rains. The soul drinks, hears and reflects upon the Name of God. It rejoices and enjoys day and night and sports with God forever and ever." GG 102.

"If one understands even one instruction of Gurbani, he would realize that all the gems, jewels, rubies are contained in his mind itself." GG 2.

"The Name of God is the richest treasure in the world, the abode of which is in the human mind. Who except the Gurbani can explain that God, the king and emperor abide within man's mind." GG 61.

By his grace God washes off man's filth from his mind and then in his own body and mind he comes to realize the truth.

UNION WITH GOD IN LIFETIME-

In Sikhism, salvation and union with God is in lifetime itself unlike other faiths and systems, in which salvation is to be the merger with God after death. It is in fact liberation, from the worldly desires and material entanglements to be in tune with God, making the mind to be abode of God, thereby burning the Ego, eliminating the vices and acquiring virtues to lead the truthful living under the total submission and will of God and in the way of God. "After the unity with God, the liberated soul is to make efforts for others to achieve that goal." GG 294.

"He who in his heart loves God's ordinance and deems that what God puts in vogue is the proper way of liberating himself from all material entanglements accepts the wish of God in every sphere, gets salvation, emancipation, liberation while alive." GG 275

If mind and soul remain in tune with the Name of God, then the soul unites with the creator, God. The soul has to unite with the creator who created it.

"Man can unite with God, while laughing, playing, dressing, and eating, living in the normal life, when his soul and mind remain in tune with the name of God. World is the true abode of righteousness, created by God for right actions of the man in tune with God." GG 785.

The world is not to be discarded as it is creation of God, the only place for spiritual and moral functioning of man, wherein he can unite with his creator by living in the way of God, abiding the Name of God in his mind, doing pious deeds and to be in tune with God. for such a liberated soul, united with God. "As is the joy, so is the sorrow. As everlasting happiness and no separation from God; As is Gold, so is dust; As is nectar, so is sour poison; As is honor, so is dishonor; As is pauper, so is the King." GG 275.

THE GOD AND HIS CREATION-

Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikh religion, presented his own independent revelation of divine knowledge and reality of God, the Almighty in accordance with the commandments of God. He proclaimed that the religious scriptures of the ancient religions, Hinduism, neither reached nor preached the name of God and these only dealt with the three modes of materialistic life and not with the fourth stage of reality of God. Guru Nanak had audience with God and disclosed the reality of God. The Name of God, truth and pious deeds was the Divine message of Guru Nanak. He discarded the religions and religious preachers who neither understood the Name of God nor applied it to them and neither preached it. The divine Hymns of Guru Nanak Dev relate to the reality of God professing the meditation in the Name of God being the cure for all the ills. Japji Sahib of Guru Nanak Dev finds place in the very beginning of Guru Granth Sahib and is recited by the Sikhs regularly every morning. All of his divine hymns have a great divine significance. His divine hymns as to the creator and the creation provide the understanding of His Divine thought, ideology and of the religion founded by him. The Sikh religion founded by Guru Nanak has become one of the first five religions of the world within a period of five centuries. It is considered to be the universal religion for the present space age, capable to solve the problems of the modern man, containing nothing but truth. It contains not the myths and superstitions of the traditional Indian religions. It is also considered by the scholars of the world religions to teach the highest and the purest principles and the comprehensive higher moral and ethical values, besides the best divine knowledge and reality of the God, the Almighty.

Guru Nanak provided the concept of God to be:

"One and the only one God, true His Name and creative His personality, without fear and enmity, immortal, unborn, self-illuminated, His light dispelling darkness, being graceful and kind." GG 1

To be true in all stages, beginning past, present, and future. To be the Creator of the entire creation, its sustainer and destroyer and there being no one else than Him. The basic ideology of Hinduism that Brahma is the creator, Vishnu, the sustainer and Shiva, the destroyer, thus stands totally rejected as to these gods of Hinduism. Guru Nanak rejected the numerous gods, goddesses and incarnations of Gods of Hinduism. God of Guru Nanak is formless, unborn and self-illuminated, one and the only one. The Name of God, Truth and pious deeds is the divine message of Guru Nanak. The Name of God by continual remembrance to be made the abode of one's mind burns ego, eliminates vices, inculcates virtues, leading to truthful living is the proclamation of Guru Nanak. In this manner the man to unite with the creator with the worldly desire free mind and free from the materialistic entanglements in the life itself, while helping others to achieve this aim, is the sure guarantee of Guru Nanak. All other traditional rites, rituals and religious practices have been rejected by Guru Nanak, to be useless. "Union with

God is obtained not through other roles, nor is obtained through dirty dress. Nanak, union with the Lord is obtained under true Guru's instruction even while sitting in one's own home." (GG1420)

"A man may give gratifying feasts, make burnt offerings, offer alms, perform penance and worship and even endure bodily pain and suffering. But without the Name of God, he obtains no emancipation. The redeeming Name one gets from the Guru's grace." GG 1127

"Ascetic staff, begging bowl, haircut, sacred thread, loin cloth, pilgrimage to Holies, and excessive wanderings abroad bring no peace; without the Name of God, peace is obtained not. He who utters the name of God swims across." GG 1127.

"Though ascetic may weave his mated hair into a crown, apply ashes to his body and do fling his clothes, make his body raked, yet without the Name of God, he is satiated not. Bound to the pre natal deeds he assumes sectarian garb." GG 1127.

Guru Nanak discarded these religious practices of Hinduism, that these can carry the man nowhere. The Name of God only is the cure of all the ills and these rites and rituals have nothing to do with the "Name of God and His Reality. Guru Nanak also rejected the scriptures of Hinduism as such:

"All the four Vedas: Sam Ved, Yajar ved, Rig Ved, and Athar Ved, uttered by Brahma only speaking three qualities of Maya and materialism. None of these utter God's reality. As He makes one speak, so speaks he. The world moves in three modes, whilst God abides in the home of the fourth state." GG 1038. "It is through Gurbani in place of Athar Veda of Brahma, and good deeds that glory is obtained in this age." GG 903

"Through religious rites God cannot be won over. Through the recitation of religious texts, His worth cannot be ascertained. Eighteen Purans and four Vedas know not his secret, Nanak, the True Guru has shown me the Lord." GG 355 "He who hears love to three modes, continues coming and going. The four Vedas only describe the visible forms. They explain and expound the three mental states. The fourth state of communion with God is known through the Divine True God." (GG 154)

"Everyone tells of four cardinal vows. Twenty seven Samritis, six Shastras, and the Pandits speak of them as well. Without the True Guru's grace -Gurbani- none gets at their meaning and real significance. The wealth of salvation is obtained only by the devotional service of God. (Meditation in the Name of God)" GG 154 "Vedas speak of to interpret God, but know not His limits. Not through studying, but through understanding, God's secret is found. Six are the creeds of Shastras but no one merges in God through them." GG 148. Guru Nanak's Divine thought, totally relies upon the Name of God and Gurbani, which brings the everlasting feeling of the presence of God in one's mind. "The body wherein abides the true Name is said to be pure;" GG 19.

"He who reflects upon his own self is the knower of God." GG 151.