

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF-SIKHS AND CURRENT SIKH ISSUES

Chapter—11 (Part1)

Guru Granth Sahib-Divine Revelation For The Present Age 1. Divine Teachings Of Guru Granth Sahib- Guru Granth Sahib is the latest religious scripture with the Divine status of being the Eternal Guru in Sikh religion,containing the Divine spirit of Sikh Gurus.It contains the Divin Hymns of first five Sikh Gurus and the ninth Sikh Guru besides some Hymns of thirty other Bhagats,Bhatts and Saints,being akin to Divine thought of Sikh religion,though they belonged to other faiths and religions. Fifth Sikh Guru,Guru Arjan Dev compiled it as Adi Granth and instilled it in Harmander Sahib Amritsar in 1604 AD.Tenth Sikh Guru,Guru Gobind Singh,just before his heavenly abode in 1708 AD, declared it to be the Eternal Sikh Guru,to be his successor instead of any other living Guru and ordained all the Sikhs to accept it as their Guru in perpetuity,as it being the Divine Spirit of all the Sikh Gurus, and to act upon the Divine teachings as contained there in by its understanding with purity of heart. The Divine teachings-Gurbani, as contained in Guru Granth Sahib is considered to be the word of God,conveyed to the humanity through Sikh Gurus,as proclaimed by them.The scholars of world religions concede now that Guru Granth Sahib is the universal Divine guidance for humanity for this present age.The eminent American scholar H.L.Bradshaw has gone to the extent that all the religions were good in their days,but we are now living in the dispensation of Guru Nanak,founder of Sikh religion. The word Guru-Sat Guru, has has been refered to in Gurbani in different contexts,as to God,Sikh Gurus and Gurbani.Its literal meaning being to enlighten with Divine light-knowledge and disperse the darkness of ignorance. Guru Nanak Dev in his divine Hymns, clarified without the scope of any doubt that God , the Almighty had revealed the Gurbani, which he utters and there is nothing of his own. So did proclaim the other Sikh Gurus. Guru Nanak proclaimed:

"What the Almighty God, commands him to utter, he utters the divine word." GG 772.

Guru Amar Dass, third Sikh Guru proclaimed: "I speak as and when God makes him to speak. My utterance is directed by Him." GG 39. Guru Ram Dass , fourth Sikh Guru proclaimed: "The creator makes me utter, Himself by my mouth." GG 308. Guru Arjan Dev, fifth Sikh Guru proclaimed: "The servant of God, while conveying the Divine word speaks, as the God directs him." GG 629 Guru Teg Bahadur, Ninth Guru proclaimed: "Whatever, the God has instructed me to utter the Divine word, hear O my brother." GG 727. Guru Gobind Singh , the tenth Sikh Guru proclaimed: "O God, whatever I have uttered, the divine word, it is by your grace. In fact all that is spoken by you.." (Sawayas Rehras) It is thus obvious from these disclosures of Sikh Gurus that Gurbani, the divine hymns of Sikh Gurus as contained in Guru Granth Sahib, is the word of God; revealed to the entire mankind in this present age. "O the disciples of Sikh Gurus sing the Gurbani of Truth. Gurbani of Sikh Gurus is supreme and other scriptures are not Truthful knowing not secrets." Sat Guru in Sikh religion is-

"Sat Guru, is he who has got the understanding of God, the Almighty; Sikhs would get salvation through his divine words by singing the praises and greatness of God.

(GG 286)

GURBANI IS NAAM-

" Gurbani is Naam itself as Gurbani abides the Name of god in the mind." GG 1239. Gurbani is Guru- "Gurbani is Guru and the Guru is Bani. It contains all the Nectars." GG 982. Guru is Nirankar "Gurbani is Nirankar, formless life God itself and none else is equal to it.." GG 515 No one should be mistaken that there is some contradiction in referring to Gurbani, as Guru as `Nam' and as `Nirankar'. The divine Hymns of Sikh Gurus as referred to above, made the disclosures that Gurbani is the `word of God', the Divine revelations having been uttered at the commandments of God the Almighty. They were all in tune with God and had audience with Him as proclaimed by them. Gurbani is Naam, as it brings the permanent presence of God in one's inner conscience. It contains the praises and greatness of God, through which the mind becomes abode of god and lives the life in the way of God, submitting totally to the will of god. Naam-the meditation in the Name of God is ensured by Gurbani and His permanent presence in the mind . So it has been termed as Naam. Gurbani provides the best divine knowledge. It is the light which dispels the darkness of ignorance. It is the word of God to enlighten the mankind. So it is termed as Guru, the light to dispel the darkness in reality. Gurbani provides the attributes of God, the way of god and the way to sing the praises and greatness of god as to abide God in the mind, body and soul. It unites with God. The God is formless and the soul is to unite with Him . Gurbani ensures it. So it has been termed as Nirankar. Guru Granth Sahib is the complete Divine code,containing the Divine teachings as to the higher spiritual aspect and the practical truthful living as to enable the individual soul to get united with the Supreme soul,with Name of God as the nucleus,to inculcate the virtues and eliminate the vices and to earn the grace of God to attain the Divine goal,discarding all the useless rites and rituals and the temporary worldly attachments and entanglements,to be of no avail.