

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF-SIKHS AND CURRENT SIKH ISSUES

Chapter—11 (Part III)

Name of God Earns Grace of God and the Fourth State of His Communion- In Guru Granth Sahib, only the Name of God earns the grace of God and one reaches the fourth stage of communion with God and discovers the tenth secret gate in his own mind to unite with God, the Almighty, by imbibing the Name of God continually and permanently in his mind and always feeling the presence of God. "He who feels love to three qualities 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 Guru." GG 154 "With in the fortress, is the cave of tenth gate, the Lord's home place. By His order, the Lord of will, (God) has established nine apertures to the body house; the incomputable and infinite Lord abides in the tenth gate. God Himself reveals his Own Self." GG 1033 "Whosoever reaches the fearless Lord's Home, He ever hears the sweet and melodious celestial strain (music)" (GG 1033)

"To whomsoever, God shows mercy by Guru's grace, attains in to the fourth state and is emancipated." GG 1038 "The world moves in three modes while God abides in the home of fourth state." GG 1038 "The creator Lord has fixed nine doors to the every township of the body within the tenth gate, abides the detached and unequalled Lord. The inscrutable Lord himself makes one realize Him." GG 1039 "The mind is the King, the mind is propitiated (satisfied) through the mind itself and the desire is stilled (absorbed) in the very mind itself. The mind can unite with God and separated from him the mind is wasted away. By singing the praises of God, the mind is reformed." GG 1125

"He who shows the Lord's abode with in the man's mind, He alone is the omnipotent and omniscient True Guru. The God Lord is manifest in the tenth gate, where the celestial strain resounds to the accompaniment of the sound of the five musical instruments;" GG 1290

" Struck with the wonder, one sees all the Islands, universes, underworlds, continents, and spheres there. There one hears the resounding of strings of musical instruments; and sees the true throne of the Sovereign Lord." GG 1291

"Hearing, the music of the home of mental peace and attuned to the celestial stillness reflecting on the ineffable discourse of God, man's desire is dissolved in the very mind." GG 1291

"Turning away from the world, the heart lotus is filled with nectar and this mind then goes not any where. Merging in the primal Lord, man forgets not the mental meditation." (GG 1291)

This is the greatness and truthfulness of Sikh religion and its founder Guru Nanak who had his personal feelings and perceptions of the entire Truth under the direct communion with God, the Almighty, having the visualization of the entire universe, underworlds and continents and having this bliss of the celestial strain resounding the sound of five musical instruments as described in His hymns. There is no superstitions, no myths, no unbelievable unnatural stories but the truth only.

It naturally prompted, H.L. Bradshaw, the eminent American scholar of religions and the Christian missionary to remark that- "Though all the religions contain the Truth but Sikhism is full of Truth" Sikhis rejected the religions and faiths which are within the limits of three qualities of materialism only as the aim of a true religion is to take to the fourth stage of Grace of God and communion with Him. Similarly the mode of discovery of tenth gate beyond the nine apertures of the body-the place of the true Lord is the real essence of the religion as to enable the man to have his approach there.

Life is In Vain without the Name of God-

So much importance has been given to the Name of God in Sikh religion that life is held to be in vain without the Name of

God. It is the name of God that burns the ego, eliminates the vices and inculcates the virtues leading to the Truthful living and emancipation. Nothing else equals the Name of God. Divine Dictums of Guru Granth Sahib are- "He whose mind is imbued with the name of God tells the truth" (GG 422)

"Life can be of no avail without God's name and any other clever wisdom is detestable and accursed." (GG 422)

"Lust, wrath, deceit, avarice, greed and ego die away from the mind which contains Name of God and the man unites with God." (GG 436)

"The God tuned pious persons are imbued with God's name, obtain salvation and honor ." (GG 503)

"God has no form, no color and no features. It is manifest through the Name of God" (GG 697)

"It is with the Name of God that human mind wavers not, as the Name of God stops and restrains the mind's wavering." (GG 634)

"Chastity, Truth, and Self –control are enshrined in the mind by name of God and the man gets salvation." (GG 686)

"The Name of God enshrines True Love and then the creator of Himself unites him in His union." GG 938)

"The whole world is in distress. He who believes in the Name of God and abides it in his mind, becomes victorious. No other deed is of any account." GG 952 "Without the Name of God, man can not achieve Truth, purity and contentment." GG 1040

"The Name of God, imbued in the mind creates good conduct, self discipline and worship. " GG 1113 "The man with Name of God imbues God in his mind and his debase is eradicated." GG 1127 "He alone is learned, he alone is scholar, who practices Name of God " GG 1288 "The Name of God alone and nothing else is the cure of all the ills." GG 1291 It is indeed the Divine message of the Name of God, Truth and pious deeds for the present space age. The Name of God, when imbued in the mind washes out the impurities of the mind which flourish in the mind itself and enables a man to lead a truthful and virtuous living leading to the unity with God, the Creator. Sikhism has provided its own truthful concept of God and methodology of His worship. The Concept of God in Guru Granth Sahib-

"There is one and the only one God; True is His Name;

creative is His personality; He is without fears and sans enmity;

Immortal, unborn and self-illuminated; His light dispels darkness; He is graceful and kind." GG 1 "God cannot be described by man. Those who continually utter His greatness and praises remain absorbed in Him" GG 5. It is through Gurbani, the divine

hymns of Sikh Gurus as contained in Guru Granth Sahib, that God is realized to be all pervading and always remembered; as Gurbani is the Divine word conveying the Divine knowledge, through Sikh Gurus. "God is True in all the ages in the prime, past, present and future." GG1 "There is only one, supreme being and no other. Every one is subject to God's wish and order and none is exempt from His order" GG 1 "God's light is in every one, which brighten all" (GG13)

Name of God is the nucleus of Sikh religion God is both Transcendent and Immanent- "God is both in the universe and outside it. To think of God as transcendent before universe was created is to enter the wondrous realm and that even at that time and stage of void, He permeated that void." GG 940. "There was only the formless one Himself without any creation and He did what he desired and there was no other than Him" GG 509.

"The same God is Sargun and Nirgun. Nirankar and self absorbed. He has done everything and created the entire creation to meditate upon His Name ." GG 290. It is the transcendent God, who is everywhere in His every creation and the all around interest and activities in the moral, ethical and spiritualistic values in the entire universe. These are not the separate stages or phases of the creator. The same is the god of creation, attributes, will and grace for the entire creation, whose Name is to abide in every mind. As to Immanent aspect of God, "God pervades the body, and is yet detached" (GG 514)

"God is the creator of the universe and permeated it all through His light" GG 930 "God lives in everything; God dwells in every heart; yet he is not blended with anything. He is separate" GG 700 "God lives in all and is yet ever distant. He abides with every one." GG 684. "God with His mercy unites man in His union. Then the man gets merits through Gurbani, burns his demerits and obtains His name wealth." GG 220. " There is only one bestower for the entire humanity." (GG2). " God created the entire creation. Entire creation was created by God, the creator with His one word, whereby millions of rivers came in to existence. God created air which produced water from water many forms of life originated. He is in everyone." GG 19 "Never forget God, the creator. One lives the real life only if he remembers and utters the Name of God, dies when one forgets His name" GG 9 "Let one forget everything but forget not the God." (GG 43.)

"It is good day when one remembers God, while that day is bad when one forgets Him." GG 31.

"One's mind should continually remember God and seek His shelter. If Gurbani abides in the mind, then one would never forget God." GG 31.

"They who forget the Name of God are attached with worldly pursuits; duality and the fire of worldly desires burns them." GG 19.

"one is in hell if he forgets the name of God and is in heaven if he loves praises and remembers God. It is by the grace of God itself that one is attracted to the devotion of God." GG 749.

"As long as there are life and breath meditate on the name of God." GG 422

"Of what avail is the life without the Name of God. Detestable and accursed is any other clever wisdom." GG 422.

Sikh religion advocates that he alone is learned and he alone is scholar, who practices the Name of God. The basis thought is thus the Name of God ; never to be forgotten even for a moment. Realization of God: Self Realization Comprehends God- Ordinarily the mind, which contains the light of God is to have the full devotion to God and His continuance remembrance and the desire to come closer to Him. But due to Ego and worldly desires and materialistic entanglements, a false wall stands created in between, which makes it unable to see that divine light. So the mind is to recognize and realize its own inner self to dispel that false wall by burning the ego. "The God and soul live together, with a false wall of ego in between." GG 1263. "He who recognizes his own self comprehends God. God abides with in the minds and hearts of all. Only the God tuned through Gurbani know of it. By name of God one receives honor and through Gurbani he recognizes God with his own self realization." GG 68.

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

"Gurbani burns the ego." GG 67.

Self realization comes forth which comprehends God. After the self realization, the mind is awakened and enlightened and it feels the realization of God. It feels hungry for the meditation in the Name of God. The first stages are the singing and hearing the praises of God and His greatness. Which are contained in Gurbani, in Guru Granth Sahib, the word of God. Then comes the stage of Believing, the acceptance in mind , when it has to lead to the continuous remembrance and to keep the Name of God in heart and soul, so as to make it a matter of habit. It would then manifest to one's own self and to everyone else as well. The thought and actions are purified, virtues are inculcated while the vices are eradicated leading to a practical thoughtful living. Singing and hearing the praises and greatness of God start their virtuous effects automatically and with love in God remove all the pains and bring the happiness and peace of mind. "By hearing God's Name, Truthfulness, contentment and Divine knowledge are obtained ;" GG 3 " By hearing God's name meditation in His Name is easily procured." GG 3-p 279

"By truly `believing' in God's Name Divine comprehension enters the mind and understanding and knowledge of all the spheres is acquired." (GG3).

"The Truthful believer of God obtains salvation, and reforms his kith and kin." (GG3)

"Such is the Name of god, that if someone believes and obeys Him, then only he can understand and feel the bliss thereof in his very mind." (GG3)

The Name of God washes sins and impurities of mind. The mind would be free from all the worldly desires, when purity comes in it, while living in the world itself. The desires would be controlling the mind when fully tuned with the Name of God. The mind would remain detached from the world, though living therein. "The mind would be enlightened through Gurbani and practice righteousness, self-mortification and virtuous actions." GG 26

"Through Guru's word, who remember God's Name and dispel the praise of self from within are pure from within and without and merge in the Truest of the True. Through Gurbani man easily obtains the wealth of the `Name of God. Without Guru Virtues shine not, without virtues mediation in the Name of God cannot be performed."

(GG 67)

"Fourth Stage –God Tuned" In the three, temperament is the attachment and wealth. The Guru word attains the fourth stage of celestial beatitude. God by His grace unites with Himself those with in whose mind God's Name enters and requires an abode. It should be the stage when the Name of God, would be in each and every component of the body mind and soul and he would become a true holy person, God tuned (Gurmukh) capable to earn the grace of God, the Creator to unite with Him. The soul emerges from where immersed. The soul is united with the Supreme Being when mind and body are in tune with the Name of God. The soul is engulfed in that very creator from whom it emerges. "Five Realms to Unite with the Creator"- First is the Realm of Righteousness.

DHARAM KHAND',

when the human mind develops the understanding that Truth is above everything; getting rid of ego and other vices, while cultivating virtues. Second is the realm of Divine knowledge "Gian Khand" where in the human mind develops the knowledge of Divine spheres, All the illusions and dualities then vanish and the realization of one's own self attained and divine knowledge achieved. Third is the Realm of Spiritual Efforts.

SARAM KHAND

Beauty is the language of this realm. At this stage mind becomes pure. Wisdom and consciousness attain higher values, manifesting the Truthful living in the way of God. Fourth is the Realm of Grace. KARAM KHAND. The mind gets spiritual strength. Evils and vices can not attract the mind. Mind is free from ego and worldly desires and is full of virtues. The grace of God is earned as mind, body and soul are the abode of God, in tune with the Name of God and following the way of God. Fifth is the realm of Truth-SACH KHAND wherein the soul unites with the Creator, from where it had emerged, attaining the salvation liberation.- GG 7 Such a liberated soul helps others to attain liberation. "Such a person who has known the mystery of God, who is pervading all the beasts, is himself the manifestation of the primal immaculate and bright love, who is induced with His immaculate Name in his mind, body and soul." (GG 943)

"The man who realizes God in fourth state, the vices and virtues effect him not." (as these operate in the first three stages only) (GG943)

"To whomsoever, God shows merely by His grace, attains unto the fourth stage and is emancipated. The world moves in three modes whilst God abides in the house of the fourth stage." (GG1038)

" He, who burns his ego, worldly love and greed is released of nine doors and obtains a seat in the tenth Gate (in the fourth stage) by the grace of God." (GG 1040)

DIVINE KNOWLEDGE: SALVATION: THROUGH GURBANI-

Divine Hymns of Sikh Gurus as contained in `Guru Granth Sahib, being the revealed word of God, provides the best Divine knowledge, the Name of God and salvation. It burns the ego, eradicates the vices and inculcates the virtues for a truthful living. The best meditation is procured through Gurbani. "whosoever imbibes the Gurbani in his mind, the pure is his Divine knowledge and extremely pure his meditation." 9GG 121

"Pure is the Gurbani , where in God's praises are contained. By meditating on God, one washes off his filth-whoever meditates on god through Gurbani is pleasing to God." (GG 122)

"Whosoever praises God and His greatness through Gurbani is the best devotion to God and meditation." (GG 122)

"Through Gurbani, the wealth of God's name is earned and it is the best meditation and devotion." (GG 140)

"Through Gurbani meditation in the Name of God can be performed and not without it." (GG 64)

Through Gurbani the supreme Lord is meditated and His Name abides in the mind and one feels the presence of God continuously.