

Current Sikh Issues-Sikh Historical Perspective

chapter 4 -12

Sikh Gurdawaras managements must be committed to Sikh way of life and to preach Sikh religion- The foremost Sikh religious institution is of Sikh Gurdawaras to learn,practise and preach Sikh religion.Daily holy Sikh congregations are held in the Gurdawaras regularly for this purpose.The managements of the Gurdawaras have to play the significant role in this regard.It can be made effective to achieve the real aim to preach Sikh religion in the Sikhs and others in its real sense if the management committees consist of the true Sikhs,living in Sikh code of conduct and Sikh way of life.

The first are historical Sikh Gurdawaras,for which there are statutory management committees,just as SGPC in punjab,Delhi SGMC,and the management committees of Takhats at Hazur Sahib in Nander- Maharashtra and of Patna Sahib in Bihar.The voters to elect these committees are to be Sikhs who believe in Sikh religion and no other religion,following Sikh rites and practices and do not cut their hairs and nor take lcoholic drinks or any other intoxicants as forbidden in Sikh religion. In pakistan also Sikh gurdawaras management committee has been constituted as there are several historical Gurdawaras there,which were under SGPC earlier to the partition of India in 1947. There are thousands of Sikh Gurdawaras through out the world as Sikhs are now world spread over and they have set up the Sikh Gurdawaras in the areas of their residence under their own local management committees.In all these Gurdawaras their members elect or select the management committees under their bye laws and constitutions.Practically all follow the same Sikh rehat maryada in the Gurdawaras,being the traditional and collective Sikh decision under the Divine guidance of Guru Granth Sahib. Sikh religion believes in, Fatherhood of God, Brotherhood of mankind and Truthful living. Concept of God is, one and only one, creator of the entire creation, its sustainer and destroyer, without any incarnation, unborn and self illuminated, whose light shines in all. Only His Name is to be meditated to abide in the mind, which burns ego, eliminates vices, inculcates virtues to lead a truthful living in Sikh way of life, obeying the Will of God, the Almighty, awaiting His grace to unite with Him. Truth, Name of God and Pious deeds is the Divine message of Sikhism to convert the human mind from self narrow egoistic tendencies to God tuned of higher consciousness to be activated in all the socio-political affairs throughout the span of life. Divine knowledge is to be obtained from the Divine teachings of Sikhism but it is not the end of the matter as these are to be acted upon in the practical Sikh way of life. It automatically leads to truthful living in Sikh way of life, which is infect way of God.

Fatherhood of God automatically leads to Brotherhood of Mankind, as the same is the creator of the entire creation, the same is His light which shines in all. The Divine message of Sikhism is that human race is one, without any distinctions or discriminations on any ground whatsoever. The religions, faiths, systems, which created divisions and discriminations in mankind were out rightly rejected in Sikhism and effective steps were taken to establish equality in mankind. Sikhism teaches love between man and man as love between man and God and the selfless service to

humanity. The eminent scholars of world religions and history have appreciated it. Suffice it to quote, Max Arther Macauliff, British eminent scholar, author of, The Sikh Religion,

" It would be difficult to point to a religion of greater originality or to a more comprehensive ethical system than Sikh religion. The Sikh Scriptures contain sublime truths, the study of which cannot but elevate the reader spiritually, morally and socially. There is no tinge of sectarianism in them. They teach the highest and purest principles that serve to bind the man to man and inspire the believer with an ambition to serve his fellow men, to sacrifice all and to die for their sake " John Clark Archer, the eminent British scholar,

" Sikhism, indeed itself reveals something of what in the last analysis religion is. It is an independent and conspicuous order of its own. The world today needs its message of Peace and Love"

Who is to deliver such a message? Only, the Sikhs, the followers of Sikh religion, who are rather duty bound to bring to the notice of world, the Divine teachings of their religion, which has been commented by some scholars of world religions to be, the religion of the present age; capable to solve the problems of the modern man. However the Sikhs will themselves have to get the full understanding of their religion, and act upon it. They have to become and act as Sikhs by taking the Sikh initiation and observing the Sikh code of conduct as prescribed by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, being mandatory for all the Sikhs. They will have to also ensure it for their younger Sikh generation. One uniform Sikh code of conduct inwardly and outwardly is a must for all the Sikhs, having its own significance. Sikh Gurdawaras, being the prime Sikh institutions to preach Sikh religion, must be managed by the true Sikhs, strictly observing the Sikh initiation, Sikh code of conduct and Sikh way of life. Their mental aptitude must be religious and they should be committed to preach Sikh religion. They should be above narrow temporary allurements and the political or any other type of party factionalism besides having the understanding of Sikh religion and acting upon its dictums. However it is a matter of great concern for the Sikhs that at present even the management committees of historical Sikh Gurdawaras have the question marks in this respect and there is the lack of the suitable true Sikhs there, free from party factionalism and totally above vested interests. The consequences are visible as most of the Sikhs and particularly younger Sikh generation is drifting away from Sikh code of conduct and Sikh way of life, what to say of preaching Sikh religion in the world. Sikhs should select or elect the management committees of Sikh Gurdawaras of true Sikhs living in Sikh way of life, enjoying high reputation of honesty, integrity, capability and devoted to Sikh religion and its preaching. Gurdawaras should be made dispute free without any litigation in courts wherein Sikh finances are being wasted at several places at present. Gurdawaras should be utilised for Sunday Gurdawara schools to impart the education of Sikh religion, Sikh history and Punjabi language to Sikh students to enable them to live in Sikh way of life, as no such opportunity to study it is available to the younger Sikh generation living abroad. There should also be the co-ordination of all the Sikh Gurdawaras of a country and then world over which will facilitate the uniform preaching of Sikh religion to the Sikhs and in the world and also to easily solve the problems faced by the Sikhs, which are the same every where. It would also lead to the formation of the

representative body of Sikhs world over to take the decision on the Sikh issues relating to all the Sikhs.