



SHAHEED BHAI MANI SINGH JI GATKA AKHARA

Gurbani

Every religion has its own sacred text, which the followers regard as their 'holy book'. The sacred texts have been written as a guide for the followers should they need to seek answers. Each religion considers their text as sacred, spiritual and as the word of God. However, for Sikhs the word of God is seen as much more than just ink on a page, bound together and called a sacred text. The word of God – is God.

It is a difficult concept to understand and grasp, but Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is the everlasting leader of the Sikh religion. They (Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji) should not be regarded as a mere book of knowledge, but in fact the physical embodiment of God Himself.

It all started from Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who when asked about His spiritual teacher claimed that it was the Shabad (the word) that is the ultimate teacher, and the conscientiousness is the student/disciple. Guru Nanak Dev Ji was adamant that the followers of Sikhi should follow and have full faith in Gurbani. Guru Ji created a unique language that was made compulsory for every Sikh to learn – Gurmukhi.

The language Gurmukhi formed the basis of Gurbani and whenever Guru Nanak Dev Ji would recite Gurbani it would always be in this language – the language itself contains different dialects from Hindi, Punjabi and Persian.

Each Guru showed respect, love and adoration for Gurbani and treated Gurbani with the utmost respect. Guru Arjan Dev Ji showed this by sleeping on the floor and placing Gurbani Pothia on their bed. This level of Satkaar (respect) was shown so that we as Gursikhs could follow our Guru's example and continue to show that respect throughout the ages.

In 1604, Guru Arjan Dev Ji gathered the Gurbani recited and written by the first four Guru's and of some Muslim and Hindu saints and compiled Sri Aad Granth. Sri Aad Granth Sahib Ji was then seated on the takhat in Sri Darbar Sahib (Amritsar).

104 years later, Guru Gobind Singh Ji completed the compilation of Gurbani written by the Gurus and gave the Guruship to Sri Aad Granth Sahib Ji making them Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Since 1708 every Sikh has been taught and told that they must follow the words of Guru Sahib and recognise Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as the everlasting light of the 10 Gurus. However, the level of respect shown towards Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and Gurbani has deteriorated dramatically. Gurbani is being exploited and disrespected in newspapers, posters, flyers, wedding cards and even clothing. This must stop. The same Gurbani that Guru Nanak Dev Ji received from Akaal Purakh sits in our Gurdwaray, homes and even shops and are constantly disrespected by Sikhs and non-Sikhs. It is the duty for every Sikh to uphold the level of respect that our Gurus taught.

Have a look at your own homes if you have a Gutka Sahib or Pothi Sahib that contains Gurbani or Gurmukhi are they kept in a clean place, high above the floor, in a clean Rumala? Are they being used or are they just left to gather dust? How many wedding cards have you received that have a line of Gurbani or an Ik Oankaar inside – what happens to these after the wedding? Are they treated with respect? These questions need to be asked to yourself, to your friends and to your families. It's not just the responsibility of the Gurdwara and Sevadaars to uphold the respect for Guru Granth Sahib Ji. It is the duty of everyone who believes they are a Sikh of the Guru