



*Universal Spiritual Message
of
Sikh Holy Scripture
on the
300th Anniversary*

**Sikh Religion
And
Universalism**

“TRUTH” manifests in truthful living only.

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Prominent non-Sikh views

Dr. J.C. Archer, professor of comparative religion at Yale University Princeton U.S.A. said,

“The religion of Guru Granth is a universal and a practical religion. The world needs today its message of peace and love”.

Arnold Toynbee, a British scholar said,

“The Adi Granth is part of mankind’s common spiritual treasure. It is important that it should be brought within the direct contact reach of as many people as possible”.

Bertrand Russel, a British scholar (1872-1970), Russel was asked that he was talking about the third war, but is not this religion capable of guiding mankind before the third war. In reply Russel said,

“yes it has the capability, but Sikhs have not brought out in the broad daylight the splendid doctrines of this religion which has come into existence for the benefit of the entire mankind. This is their greatest sin and Sikhs cannot be freed of it”.

Forward

This is a universal spiritual message of the Sikh Holy Scripture, Siri Guru Granth Sahib on its 300th anniversary celebration. It is a humble tribute to Sri Guru Granth Sahib. It is published for distribution on the occasion of its Gur Gaddi Diwas.

Congratulations to all and everyone.

President,
Sikh Temple
West Sacramento, California

Sikh Religion

- ▶ Sikhism originated in the Punjab (India)
- ▶ It has 10 Gurus (prophets) who became Guru in succession
- ▶ The founder of Sikh religion, Guru Nanak Dev, was born in 1469.
- ▶ The tenth living Guru, Guru Gobind Singh enthroned the Holy Sikh Scripture Guru Granth Sahib in 1708, and made it the eternal Guru of the Sikhs.
- ▶ The Sikh religion is the worlds 5th largest religion and 3rd largest monotheism with 25 million followers.
- ▶ About 1 million Sikhs live in North America
- ▶ Approximately 150,000 Sikhs live in California and 40,000 in the greater Sacramento and central valley.

The Purpose of the Sikh Religion

The Sikh Gurus established the New Faith not for confrontation with any religion, but to bring all religions closer to one another in the spirit of moral and spiritual cooperation in Love of God. The Very first lesson Guru Nanak Dev preached to the people at large was that every person will be judged by God by ones deeds instead ones religion.

Universal Spiritualism in Practice

1. **The Sikh Gurus have prayed for the whole humanity**
“The world is on fire O! God, save it then in thy mercy. And through whichever door it may be saved save it that wise, we pray”
[page 853 Guru Granth Sahib Ji]

Moreover every Sikh prayer ends seeking God’s blessing for the entire humanity.

2. **The foundation stone of the Golden temple was laid down by a Muslim Saint, Pir Mian Mir.**
The fifth Guru, Guru Arjan Dev himself requested him.

3. **The Sikhs believe in the freedom of religion**
The ninth Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, sacrificed his very life for the sake of the Hindus of that time.

4. **The first Guru, Guru Nanak Dev, went to Mecca and there he was asked a question by Quazi Rukin Din “Who is better, Hindus or Muslims?”**
The Guru replied that both will cry if they did not have good deeds at their back. Sikhs and others also fall into the same category.

5. **At the time of the Tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, a battle was being fought between the Sikhs and the Muslims.**
A Sikh Bhai Ghaniya was distributing drinking water to all the injured including the enemy alike. a complaint was made to the Guru Ji of his act. However the Guru was pleased to know the kind act of Bhai Ghanya and also gave him ointment to apply to their injuries as well.

6. **Free food and free lodging are provided for a limited time to all vistors at every Sikh Temple without discrimination.**

Aim of Life

The Holy Guru Granth says:

*“Thou have obtained from thy God a human body,
Now alone is the time to attain to thy Lord”*

[page12 Guru Granth Sahib]

The Holy Bible says:

*“Let man understand that it is not the Father’s will that they
should perish but that they should have abundant life”*

[Mathew 18:14, John 10:10]

And that

“Be ye therefore perfect even as your heavenly Father is perfect”

[Mathew 5:48]

Cooperation and Co-existence

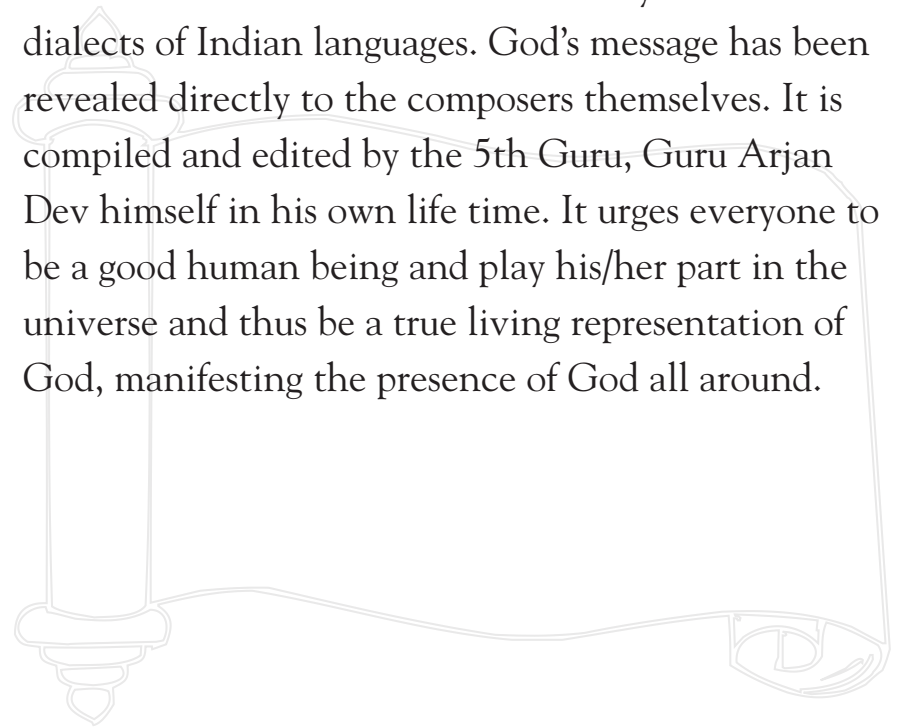
As God’s judgment of humans is based on good actions and deeds and not on rituals, ceremonies, etc., there is endless scope for cooperation and coexistence among the multi-faith people. Moreover with the development of means of Communications and transportation all over the world, the boundaries of the world have been narrowed and distances have been shortened. This has offered us the opportunity to live with multi-faith people from whom we have come to realize that every religion has good points in it. All religions have produced great men and women and that without the cooperation of each and every one there cannot be peace and happiness anywhere.

In 1893 Swami Vivekananda in his speech to the Chicago Parliament of World Religions said:

“It has been proved to the world that holiness; purity and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church in the world. Every system has produced men and women of most exalted character. In the face of this evidence, if anyone dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religions and the destruction of the others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance, Help and Not Fight, Assimilation and Not Destruction, Harmony and Peace and Not Dissension.”

Multi-Religious Sikh Holy Scripture

The Sikh Holy Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib has 1430 pages in all. They are in poetic form, and are written in 31 different meters. It is completely in praise of God without any narration of historical or biographical events. It is a multi-religious Holy Scripture that contains compositions of 6 Gurus and 17 saints of other faiths, Muslims and Hindus. It is written in more than one language, Punjabi, Persian and Sanskrit etc. with word vocabulary from various dialects of Indian languages. God’s message has been revealed directly to the composers themselves. It is compiled and edited by the 5th Guru, Guru Arjan Dev himself in his own life time. It urges everyone to be a good human being and play his/her part in the universe and thus be a true living representation of God, manifesting the presence of God all around.



The Philosophy

The creator and the sustainer of the whole Universe is the One and the same, thus we are all spiritually one.

God is residing in every human mind, feel the Truth of this in the mind and enjoy the fruits of the belief in practice. Only then we will be real brothers and sisters in love with one another.

All religions aim at achieving the same spiritual heights, but they are bound to be at different religious levels (due to different geographical conditions, cultures, habits, customs, etc.)

God does not accept any label of religion.

“He does not accept any undue recommendation. He judges mortals by their deeds”

Imbibe five spiritual divine qualities:

Truth, Contentment, Compassion, Righteousness, and Patience.

A life of restraint and discipline over physical desires like:

Lust, Anger, Greed, Attachment, and Pride, is a spiritual life devoid of ego.



Work Ethic of the Sikhs

- I. To earn one's livelihood through honest means
- II. To share the produce so earned among the needy, without any discrimination
- III. To remember God always and continuously

Definition of God

- ▶ One, The Enlightener, Eternal Truth (Being)
- ▶ Creative Being, Without Fear, Without Enmity.
- ▶ Immortal Form (Beyond time), Unborn, Self-illuminated.
- ▶ Manifest through Guru's Grace
- ▶ Remember (Meditate)
- ▶ True in the prime; True in the beginning of ages;
- ▶ True He is even now;
- ▶ True He, verify, shall be, O'Nanak || 1 ||



Manifestation of God and Creation

Firstly God created Light and from this Light, made all the mortals and the entire Universe, then who is good and who is bad? O'men my brethren, stray ye not in doubt; Creation is in the Creator and the Creator is in the Creation; He is fulfilling all places. [Pause]

[S.G.G.S]

“In the Great forever, in the beginningness of all things, God saw Light and He was Light. Out of this Light went forth the Beauty of living purpose and in Him was no darkness at all and nor could there be darkness there.”

[John 1:5] The Holy Bible