

SPEECHES FROM GURDWARA REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Kulbir Kaur Ahuja, President,
Gurdwara Sahib Quebec, Montreal

Dear Guests and friends,

Wahe Guru ji ka Khalsa, Wahe Guru ji ki fateh

It gives me great pleasure to be a part of the 2nd International Seminar -2002 being held here by the Institute of Understanding Sikhism.

Today we have amongst us *Gian Da Bhandhar*. Dr Harbans Lal, Prof Hardev Singh Virk, Dr Jarnail Singh Dr Manmohan Singh, Prof Pashaura Singh, Dr Avtar Singh Dhaliwal, Dr Sukhraj Singh Dhillon, are all visiting from all over north America along with Mr Baljit Singh Chadha, Dr Balbir Singh Sahini, Dr Harjit Singh Bhabra, Mr Prithipal Singh Saluja, Dr Parminder Singh Chahal and Dr Davinder Singh Chahal from Montreal. The knowledge that they bring to us is tremendous. This is an opportunity for us to learn from them.

Time has come when we all are realizing how important it is to have the researched view of Sikhism and that enables us to understand Sikhism in a logical and deeper way. We must have channels of discussions open to all and have them when ever possible. I feel that the more we have them, the more we learn from them. And learning about any thing in life is never enough. One very important aspect we must keep in our minds is that to disagree with any issue or view must not be taken negatively, we have to be able to listen to another point of view to learn further, and this is a basic learning practice.

We all have chosen our homes away from our native land. Our children need an environment, which includes our religion, Sikhism in it. Thus, it becomes our duty as parents and as friends to provide it to them, for which, we have to teach ourselves first as much as possible.

Many times when we tell our children that Sikhism is a unique religion, they comment that all religion claims the same. Being a Sikh, we have also different appearance. To be able to find logical answer to all their simple and complex questions, we must gain knowledge ourselves first. That is the only way to keep our children and youth in Sikhism. We must also make sure that the youth are proud of their appearance and carry themselves confidently. By sharing our views in seminars like today's seminar, we can exchange our experiences and learn more about how to handle these situations in the best way possible.

It gives me great pleasure to see you all here, being a part of this seminar, and to see some young faces here today is very encouraging and promising.

Gurdwara is a place where we gather to practice our religious in the form of *Sangat* (congregation), but Gurdwara is not everything. We have to start at the doors of Gurdwaras but keep going further than that. To do *Simran*, to do *Paath*, listen to *Kirtan*, listen to *Katha*, *Kavitas* are all very important part of Sikhism but to understand *Bani*, is more important in my opinion. We must also discourage myths and superstitions. All this can only be achieved by gaining knowledge in Sikhism.

Today I stand here as a student, to learn from you all and to listen to your point of view. I sincerely hope that by the end of this Seminar, I have learned many new concepts and am able to gain from your *Gian* (wisdom).

In the end, I on behalf of Gurdwara Sahib Quebec, thank you all for being here and a part of this seminar and hope we will have the honor of your presence and participation in sch seminars. Special thanks are due to all the organizers and the volunteers without whom these events are never possible.

Note: Speeches of other Gurdwara representatives were not received on time.
