

FALSE IS TAKEN TO BE TRUE

ਝੂਠੁ ਬਾਤ ਸਾ ਸਚੁ ਕਰਿ ਜਾਤੀ ॥... Guru Arjan

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ABSTRACT

During the 15th century Guru Nanak founded a scientific and logical religion in the world for the benefit of the humanity. In the past, Sikhism has been wrapped in a cocoon woven with the silken fibers of ancient writings where some false information was taken as true by the writers of that time. Now Sikhism is being interpreted by many scholars and preachers along the lines of these ancient writings without looking into their authenticity and validity according to Gurbani, science, and logic - the touchstones of truth.

INTRODUCTION

In the eyes of the Western researchers the Sikh Scriptures have something to present to the rest of the world. A world-renowned historian, Arnold Toynbee [7] remarked in 1973 about the future of the religions and the Sikh scripture as:

"Mankind's religious future may be obscure; yet one thing can be foreseen: the living higher religions are going to influence each other more than ever before. In these days of increasing communication between all parts of the world and all branches of the human race in this coming religious debate, the Sikh religion, and its scriptures the Adi Granth, will have something of special value to say to the rest of the world."

The first part of his observations is absolutely right because during the Science Age / Information Age, the religious beliefs that cannot stand the test of science and logic will not be accepted by the future generations of the third millennium. Therefore, the future of a religion that is based on unscientific and illogical principles is prone to be obscure in the scientific world.

The other part of Toynbee's observation is also correct that living religions are going to influence each other more than ever before. It is so because of improved means of travel and communication and migration by peoples belonging to various religions on account of political circumstances or in search of livelihood and settling at places other than the origin of their religions. The interaction of different religions at academic level is also taking place in universities and during the Interfaith Conferences being held throughout the world.

Now Sikhism is spreading throughout the world and is in direct contact with the other religions of the world.

Therefore, it is a good chance for the Sikhs to offer the special values of Sikhism and its scriptures the Adi Granth (*Aad Guru Granth Sahib*) to the rest of the world as remarked by Toynbee. On the other hand Sikhism is also under the microscopes of other religions. Therefore, it becomes more imperative than ever before for the Sikhs to represent Sikhism in its real perspective as formulated by Guru Nanak and the Gurus of the Nanakian School

During the 15th century Guru Nanak founded a scientific and logical religion in the world for the benefit of the humanity. The irony is that due to the writings of some Sikhs, Sikhism has been wrapped in a cocoon woven with the silken fibers of ancient writings such as: *Janam Sakhis* (biographies), *Hukmnamae* (edicts), *Rehit Namae* (code of conduct), and inauthentic writings in *Dasam Granth*, and Sikh literature of late 18th and 19th centuries - *Gurbilas Patshahi 6*, *Gurbilas Patshahi 10*, *Suraj Parkash*, *Mehma Parkash*, *Panth Parkash*, *Sarab Loh Granth*, *Bansawalinama*, *Bhagat Ratanawali*, etc. In these writings some false

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information has been presented as true. Consequently, Sikhism is being represented as a ritualistic and mythic religion. Even in the Science Age/Information Age, Sikhism is being

interpreted by many scholars and preachers along the lines of these ancient writings without looking into their authenticity and validity according to *Gurbani*, science, and logic - the touchstones of truth.

How did misrepresentation of Sikhism happen?

It happened so because in general people easily accept it to be true that is false, do something that is wrong, and follow the path that is crooked as explained by

Guru Arjan:

ਝੂਠੁ ਬਾਤ ਸਾ ਸਚੁ ਕਰਿ ਜਾਤੀ ॥ ਸਤਿ ਹੋਵਨੁ ਮਨਿ ਲਗੈ ਨ ਰਾਤੀ ॥
ਬਾਵੈ ਮਾਰਗੁ ਟੇਢਾ ਚਲਨਾ ॥ ਸੀਧਾ ਛੋਡਿ ਅਪੁਠਾ ਬੁਨਨਾ ॥

AGGS, M 5, P 185.

"The false is taken to be true .

When truth is told it is not accepted by the mind.

One (usually) takes the forbidden and crooked path.

And abandons the right path and accepts the wrong.

Because of the above-mentioned inherent weakness of humanity, the Sikhs at large took every information given in those ancient writings of Sikhs theologians and historians as true. Moreover, discontented and acquisitive people in general are more inclined to believe in mythical works coated with various allurements. Now the information given in such writings have been imprinted permanently in their minds. If any tradition, belief, or code, given in such writings, are challenged by some researchers then many devout Sikhs, *Sants, Babas, Raagis*, traditional preachers, Sikh theologians, and the Sikh authorities declare such action as a blasphemy of *Gurbani* and Sikhism.

Dr Amar Singh Dhaliwal, a member of the Editorial Board, puts this phenomenon as follows: *"Psychologically the primary difficulty with a living human being is that it is neither easy for him to get conditioned, nor to get de-conditioned. Previous learning happens to operate as WET BLANKET and 'New Learning' demands the tendencies for progression, which are rare and unique. However, it is damn easy to regress and retrogress, or to fall into ruts and thereby, to get degenerated."*

Some researchers [1, 2, 3, 6] accept that most of the information given in the ancient writings is contrary to the philosophy of Nanakian School. Nevertheless, they still refer to misinformation given in such writings without verifying their authenticity and validity for

construction of Sikhism for the modern Sikhs. However, Dr Gurbakhash Singh [5] blamed Brahmanism for the introduction of ancient writings, mythology and rituals in Sikhism.

The Sikh researchers must evaluate every information given in ancient writings with the touchstones of *Gurbani*, science and logic to find out that how much false or spurious information (ਝੂਠੁ) has been accepted as truth (ਸਚੁ ਕਰਿ ਜਾਤੀ) in such writings. It would be a great asset for representation of Sikhism in real perspective for the young Sikhs of the third millennium.

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***"Religion without science is blind.
Science without religion is lame."***

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)