

VIEWS OF A YOUNG SIKH

Vaishali Bhandhari

263 Tait, St Laurant, Quebec, Canada

Sikh Religion declares: "*pat bin Puja*" (No respect No worship). The first principle of our, is respect. That is what a person wants. Respect ...Recognition. Its main aim is "*Lok Sukhi, Parlok Suheley*". It makes us happy in this life and in the after life. Then, why is the New Generation going far from religion, which helps them in both the Worlds? In olden days, there used to be a 'Generation Gap' but in this Computer Era, it has become more than that. We have to use the electronic media, to learn how our religion helps to achieve this aim. We have to remember the time limit set by Bhagat Kabir. "*A quarter of a Ghari*" that is, only six minutes are sufficient to reach our station. Perhaps he was predicting the New Generation would not have much free time.

Our Gurus preached in such a way that they became the Gurus of the Hindus and Peers of the Muslims. If old is gold, then, we have to revive the oodasees (Journeys) of Guru Nanak, Rabab of Bhai Mardana and Sitar of Guru Gobind Singh. We have to ponder, why the Gurus employed the Muslims to perform Kirtan in their Courts? This will bring others, especially the *Sehjdharis* again in our ranks.

We have a glorious History. Let us correlate the foreign invasion on India with the Sikhs who stopped them forever. The destruction of Somnath Temple, and the Return of the Somnath Gate after many centuries, to the Sikh Ruler, is another example of, how we can learn our History. Construction of Monuments at Mithai, Tees Hazari and Mori Gate, will help us to know our History and to show our Glory to others in Delhi. We can easily

comprehend the history of the New World, by just saying, that Guru Nanak was the contemporary of Columbus.

We can compare the philosophy of Khalsa Raj with the philosopher King of Plato, Kingdom of Heaven of Jesus Christ, and Ram Raj of Balmeek, eulogized by Mahatma Gandhi. Our *ੴ (Ek Oh Beant)* has no alternative in all the Religions. An American made it a slightly popular throughout the world. We can build upon it. It will also take care of our Routs in Punjab where thousands of Sikhs are worshipping unknown graves left behind by unknown people, in their houses and in their fields. We can proudly say that our Script is *Gurmukhi*. It should have the same status, which it had before in Delhi. A sign Board in Gurmukhi at Indira Gandhi Airport will do wonders to popularize it. It will serve the purpose of the saying: A picture is worth a thousand words. Let us start with the first lesson, which we want to learn. There are four Symbols- Insignias (*Khandas*) of the Sikhs, which are commonly used in the Sikh literature. Which one of them is correct and why? We can easily learn it now by starting a campaign, to put the other three in the Sikh Museums.

Devinder Uncle! Thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to put my assignment before the respected scholars. Now I feel that I must thank my Dad who asked me to type his Lectures, which indirectly taught me about the Sikhs and Sikhism. Thank you.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEMINAR

1. Today's deliberations dealt with some fundamental aspects of Gurbani contained in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS), which was completed and installed in the Golden Temple in 1604. The next year being the 400th Anniversary of this monumental event, we propose that a Conference on the AGGS be held during September 2004. Since IUS has been involved in a scientific study and research into Gurbani, we propose that this Landmark Conference be held in Montreal under the banner of IUS with sponsorship from other interested organizations. Since Comparative Study of Theology and Mysticism is the best way to understand religion, we propose that we also invite one scholar from each of the other major World Religions (Islam, Christianity and Hinduism) to present a gist of their scriptures.
2. During the deliberation of today it was felt that there is a need to hold regular discussions, especially, for the Young Sikhs, to understand Gurbani and Sikhism in their real perspective. Mr Ajay Pal Singh offered his services to organize such discussions.