

ARTICLE

Satguru Revealed: Exploring the Aad Guru Granth Sahib and the Connection to Jesus

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ABSTRACT

The term "Satguru" (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) appears approximately 2,577 times in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib, reflecting its profound significance in Sikh theology. Etymologically, "Satguru" (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) is the combination of "Sat" (ਸਤਿ), meaning "truth" or "eternal existence," and "Guru" (ਗੁਰ), meaning "light" or "enlightenment" found in the Commencing Verse, commonly but erroneously referred to as the Mool Mantra or Manglacharan. This paper explores the meanings and implications of "Satguru" within the Aad Guru Granth Sahib. It examines the assigning of the title Satguru to Jesus and its implications on Sikh theology.

Keywords: Bible, Christianity, Commencing Verse (ਅਰੰਭਿਕ ਵਾਕ in Punjabi), Enlightened, Enlightener, Eternal Enlightener, Eternal Entity ੴ, Gurbani, Hinduism, Interfaith Dialogue, Nanak, YAH-SHUA.

INTRODUCTION

The word "Satguru" is spelled as ਸਤਿਗੁਰ, ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ, ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ, and ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS). The basic word, Satguru (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ), in all its forms, occurred 2,577 times in the AGGS. However, it has been used 293 times by Guru Nanak, 0 times by Guru Angad, 652 times by Guru Amar Das, 687 times by Guru Ram Das, 415 times by Guru Arjun, and 0 times by Teg Bahadur. The words Guru (ਗੁਰ) and Satguru ((ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) are usually interpreted in English as "Guru" and "True Guru," respectively, by many Sikh and non-Sikh scholars and writers. This paper discloses the real meaning of "Guru" and "Satguru" found in the AGGS. Its etymological and theological analysis reinforces its unique significance. Recently, the title of "Satguru" has been assigned to Jesus. Although exploring the association of "Satguru" with Jesus offers intriguing possibilities for interfaith dialogue, the complexities surrounding this parallel warrant further exploration.

METHODOLOGY:

A textual analysis of the Aad Guru Granth Sahib was conducted to study the term "Satguru" in various spellings and contexts. The etymology and linguistic nuances of "Satguru" were analyzed, and theological interpretations were reviewed. The conceptual framework of associating "Satguru" with Jesus was also examined.

All phrases in the Gurmukhi script were taken from the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS), with their transliterations in the Roman alphabet, from Dr. Kulbir Singh Thind's website, srigranth.com. (Thind, n.d.) The English interpretations of all phrases are by the author unless otherwise the names of the other interpreters are identified. Each phrase is identified with the referencing system developed by Chahal. (Chahal, 1999) For example,

ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ ਹੈ ਪੁਰਾ ਮਿਲਿ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਮੁ ਧਿਆਇਆ ॥

Nānak gurū gurū hai pūrā mil satgur nām dhīāiā ॥

ਅਗਸ, ਮ4, ਪੰਨਾ 882.

Nanak is the enlightened person¹, completely³ enlightened person², on meeting him, we ponder⁷

upon the Laws of Nature/Universe⁶ of the Eternal Entity - ੴ⁵.

AGGS, M. 4, p. 882.

AGGS stands for the Aad Guru Granth, M. 1 stands for Mahla, number 1 represents Guru Nanak, M. 2 is Guru Angad, M. 3 is Guru Amar Das, and so on. Mahla number represents the succession number of each Guru to the House of Nanak. The phrase from JAP bani is represented as JAP # 3 (stanza number). p. represents the page number of the AGGS.

Some words in a Gurmukhi phrase were numbered, and the same numbers were used for their corresponding meanings in English.

Each phrase from the AGGS has been interpreted by examining the intrinsic meaning of certain words in various dictionaries on Dr. Kulbir Singh Thind's website, sigranth.com, and the meaning of words given by Prof Sahib Singh in the *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Darpan*. (S. Singh, 1972) Although each word has many meanings, like in English and other languages, only the most appropriate meaning befitting the theme of the phrase was used for interpretation.

ANALYSIS

The words ਸਤਿ (sat) and ਗੁਰੂ (guru) appeared for the first time in the Commencing Verse (ਅਰੰਭਿਕ ਵਾਕ in Punjabi). It is erroneously called 'Mool Mantra' or *Manglacharan*. The commencing verse appears in the AGGS at the beginning of the AGGS, before every major section of the AGGS, and in various abbreviated forms before the start of subsections. For example:

Complete form:

ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ ਅਕਾਲ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

Ek Oh Beant sat̃ nām kartā purakh̃ nirbh̃aṁ nirvair̃ akāl mūraṭ̃ ajūnī saibh̃āṅ gur parsād̃.

The One and Only (Singularity) - That is infinite, exists forever¹; Source of every creation; Without fear (not governed by any other); Without enmity; Timeless (without the effect of time); Takes neither birth nor dies; (never comes into an anthropomorphic form); Originated by Itself;² Enlightener/Enlightenment²; and Bounteous.

It appears 33 times in the AGGS.

Its Abridged forms are:

Form One:

ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

It appears 8 times in the AGGS,

Form Two:

ੴ ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

It appears two times in the AGGS.

Form Three:

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

It appears 523 times in the AGGS.

The importance of the words ਸਤਿ (sat) and ਗੁਰ (Guru) has been retained in its complete and all the abbreviated forms of the Commencing Verse. But in the most common abridged form, ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥ (Ek Oh beant, satgur parsad), where ਸਤਿ (sat) and ਗੁਰ (Guru) have been put together instead of keeping them apart. ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥, the last abbreviated form has been interpolated by somebody as ੴ ਸਤਿਨਾਮ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ॥ (Ek Oankar Satnam Vaheguru). I could not trace out from the available literature who interpolated the original form. Unfortunately, now ੴ ਸਤਿਨਾਮ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ॥ (as Ek Oankar Satnam Vaheguru) is chanted as *Gurmantra* instead of ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥ (Ek Oankar, Satgur Parsad) by most of the Sikhs. Moreover, the word ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ (Vaheguru) has never been used by any Sikh Guru in their Bani and is never recommended for chanting this word again and again. It is hard to understand why some Sikhs do such interpolations in the Bani, which are quickly adopted by most of the Sikhs.

The analytical analysis of the complete form of the Commencing Verse and the shortest abbreviated form (ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥) prove that all the forms of 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) are the compound words formed by joining two independent words, Sat (ਸਤਿ) and Guru (ਗੁਰ). Therefore, etymologically, 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) is composed of 'Sat' (ਸਤਿ), and 'Guru' (ਗੁਰ). The word ਗੁਰੂ (Guru) is spelled in the following four forms in the AGGS: (i) ਗੁਰ, ii) ਗੁਰੁ, iii) ਗੁਰੁ, and iv) ਗੁਰਿ. According to Bhai Kahn Singh (K. Singh, 1981) (K. Singh, 1996), all these forms are pronounced as ਗੁਰੂ (Guru). He explains that ਗੁ (GU) means 'darkness' and ਰੂ (RU) means 'light,' which devours darkness (ignorance). Thus, ਗੁਰੂ (Guru) is light that dispels darkness (ignorance); it means 'enlightened,' 'enlightener,' 'enlightening,' 'enlightenment,' or 'the enlightened person.' And 'Sat' (ਸਤਿ) means 'true,' 'exists,' 'exists forever,' or 'eternal.' Therefore, etymologically, the basic word, 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ), in all its four different spellings, means 'the truly enlightened person' or 'the truly enlightener.' Besides, Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) means 'The Ever-existing Enlightener,' 'The Eternal Enlightener,' or 'the Eternal Entity - ੴ.'

On the other hand, *The Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS) Gurmukhi/Hindi to Punjabi-English/Hindi Dictionary* defines ਸਤਿਗੁਰ (Satigur) as:

1. ਸਚਾ ਗੁਰੂ, ਚੰਗੀ ਸਿਖਿਆ ਦੇਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਗੁਰੂ।

2. ਪ੍ਰਭੂ, ਅਕਾਲਪੁਰਖ।

(1. true Guru and Guru that imparts good teachings.
2. God.)

In most English interpretations and translations of Bani, 'Guru' is translated as 'Guru.' And 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ) is translated as 'Satguru,' 'True Guru,' or 'the Lord (God).'

After assigning 'Eternal Enlightener' based on the etymological meaning of 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ), I consulted AI (Artificial Intelligence through Copilot) to find out the meanings of 'Eternal Enlightener.' The AI came up with the following meanings based on its intelligence:

"An "Eternal Enlightener" suggests a being or force that continuously illuminates the path to wisdom and truth for eternity. In spiritual traditions, this could be a divine entity like the Buddha, who attained eternal enlightenment and guided others. Or it could be the concept of the divine itself in Hinduism, such as Brahman, the ultimate reality and source of all enlightenment. In a broader sense, it could be the pursuit of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that never truly ends—an eternal journey toward deeper truths."

Therefore, etymologically, Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ) means 'the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ', which is comparable to the explanation of the AI. In Sikhi, Guru Nanak's concept of God is in a logo as ੴ, a pantheistic God (the Eternal Entity - ੴ, which does not interfere in human affairs; in Sikhism, God is Panentheistic, Who controls every action of humans and is a source of enlightenment. (Chahal, 2021) (Chahal, 2018)

Nesbitt (n.d.) writes about 'Guru' and 'Satguru' as follows:

"Just as the word 'Sikh' means learner, so 'Guru' means teacher. Sikhs explain 'Guru' as meaning 'remover of darkness.'

The preeminent Guru (Nanak's Guru) is God, whose many names include 'Satguru' (the true Guru) and 'Waheguru' (a name which began as an exclamation of praise). And the pictures of Guru Nanak."

In his book, Basi (2022) quotes many phrases dealing with 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ) and claims that Jesus is 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ). It is discussed at the end of this paper.

DISCUSSION

WHO IS SATGURU IN HINDUISM?

Rampal Ji (n.d.) Defines 'Satguru' in its real sense as a True (Sat) Saint (Guru), one who is the incarnation of God and reveals the untold truth. He further says that the one who knows the Supreme Lord of Truth, i.e., Satpurush or the Param Akshar Purush, and the creator of the universe, is also a 'Satguru.' That 'Satguru' imparts the true path of worship, teaches everyone to renounce all evils, and leads them in the true and correct path of devotion to attain Salvation. Sat (ਸਤ੍) refers to "eternal, pure, and godly. It is used to describe the Absolute Truth. In the *Srimad-Bhagavad- Gita*, Krishna is the Absolute Truth and bona fide guru. On the other hand, in Vaishnava, Vishnu is worshipped as the supreme Lord. (Anonymous, n.d.)

It means Satguru is an incarnation of God like Krishan and Vishnu, who knew the Eternal God.

WHO IS GURU (ਗੁਰੂ) AND SATGURU (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ) IN THE AGGS?

Guru (ਗੁਰੂ) means 'enlightened,' 'enlightener,' 'enlightening,' 'enlightenment,' or 'the enlightened person,' and Satguru (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ) means 'the truly enlightened person' or 'the truly enlightener.' Besides, 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ) means 'The Ever-existing Enlightener,' 'The Eternal Enlightener,' or 'the Eternal Entity - ੴ' as discussed earlier.

The critical analysis of the bani of Sikh Gurus by Chahal (2004) and B. Singh (2003) Indicates that all the Sikh Gurus have accepted Nanak as 'Guru' and 'Satguru' in their bani as follows:

Guru Angad

Guru Angad was the first who recognized Nanak as "Guru" in his bani:

ਤਿਨ ਕਉ ਕਿਆ ਉਪਦੇਸੀਐ ਜਿਨ ਗੁਰੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਉ ॥੧॥

Tin ka'o ki'ā updesī'āi jin gur Nānak dē'o. ||1||

ਅਗਗਸ, ਮ: 2, ਪੰਨਾ 150.

What teachings can be imparted¹ to those² who have Nanak as their Guru (the enlightened person)?

AGGS, M. 2, p. 150.

Guru Amar Das

The next Guru, Amar Das, has also accepted Nanak as 'Satguru':

ਨਾਨਕ ਜਿਨ੍ਹ ਕਉ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਤਿਨ੍ਹ ਕਾ ਲੇਖਾ ਨਿਬੜਿਆ ॥

Nānak jinḥ ka'o satgur mili'ā ṭinḥ kā lekḥā nibṛi'ā. ||

ਅਗਗਸ, ਮ: 3, ਪੰਨਾ 435.

Those to whom Nanak, the truly enlightened person¹ has imparted his philosophy, their deeds² have been accounted³ for."

AGGS, M 3, p 435.

Guru Ram Das

Thereafter, Guru Ram Das, also accepted Nanak as "Guru":

ਧਨੁ ਧੰਨੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਨਾਨਕੁ ਸਮਦਰਸੀ ਜਿਨਿ ਨਿੰਦਾ ਉਸਤਤਿ ਤਰੀ ਤਰਾਂਤਿ ॥

Dhan dhan gurū Nānak samadrasī jin nindā ustāt tarī tarānt. |

ਅਗਗਸ, ਮ: 4, ਪੰਨਾ 1264.

Praise worthy¹ is Guru (the enlightened¹ person) Nanak, who treats everybody equally², and has overcome⁵ the character of slandering³ and praising⁴ others (for selfish purposes) and helps others to overcome⁶ this nature. 4.5.

AGGS, M. 4, p. 1264.

In the following phrase Guru Ram Das declared Nanak as "Guru" and "Complete Guru":

ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ ਹੈ ਪੂਰਾ ਮਿਲਿ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਾ ਨਾਮੁ ਧਿਆਇਆ ॥

Nānak gurū gurū hai pūrā mil satgur nām dhiāiā. |

ਅਗਗਸ, ਮ4, ਪੰਨਾ 882.

Nanak is the enlightened person¹, completely³ enlightened person², on meeting him, we ponder⁷ upon the Laws of Nature/Universe⁶ of the Eternal Entity - ੴ⁵.

AGGS, M. 4, p. 882.

Guru Arjun defines Satguru as 'the truly enlighteperson' as follows:

ਸਤਿ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਜਿਨਿ ਜਾਨਿਆ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਤਿਸ ਕਾ ਨਾਉ ॥

Sat purakh jin jāniā satgur tis kā nā. |

ਤਿਸ ਕੈ ਸੰਗਿ ਸਿਖੁ ਉਧਰੈ ਨਾਨਕ ਹਰਿ ਗੁਨਾ ਗਾਉ ॥੧॥

Tis kai sang sikh udhrai Nānak har gun gā. ||1||

The one, who understood³ 'the Eternal Entity - ੴ' is called⁵ Satguru (the truly enlightened person⁴).

Guru Arjun says:

In company⁷ of that⁶ (Satguru), the life of the Sikh is improved⁸.

And further advises that:

Let us sing (understand)⁹ the attributes¹⁰ of HARI⁹. 1

AGGS, M 5, p 286. (Sukhmani)

Note: It is hard to understand why Guru Arjun used Hari instead of Eternal Entity (ੴ) at the end of the second line.

Guru Arjun has defined Satguru based upon the following philosophy of Guru Nanak in his detailed wordings, whereas Guru Nanak composes his bani in very few words:

ਪੁਰਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਸੇਵਿ ਪੁਰਾ ਪਾਇਆ ॥

Pūrā satgur sev pūrā pāiā. |

AGGS, M 1, p 1286.

The one who followed the principles of the perfect¹ and the truly enlightened person² has discovered the perfect (the Eternal Entity - ੴ)⁴.

Note: Guru Nanak does not specify the name of the Eternal Entity - ੴ except saying ਪੁਰਾ (Perfect).

Guru Arjun

In the following phrase, Guru Arjun clearly confirms that Nanak is the "Guru":

ਗੁਰੁ ਨਾਨਕੁ ਜਿਨ ਸੁਣਿਆ ਖੋਖਿਆ ਸੇ ਫਿਰਿ ਗਰਭਾਸਿ ਨ ਪਰਿਆ ਰੇ ॥੪॥੨॥੧੩॥

Gur Nānak jin suniā pekhiā se fir garbhās na pariā re. ||4||2||13

ਅਗਗਸ, ਮ 5, ਪੰਨਾ 612.

Those, who have listened¹ to and analyzed² the philosophy of Guru (the enlightened person) Nanak, do not fall into ignorance³ again.

AGGS, M 5, p 12.

Guru Arjun further declared Nanak as "Satguru":

ਸਭਾ ਤੇ ਵਡਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਨਾਨਕੁ ਜਿਨਿ ਕਲ ਰਾਖੀ ਮੇਰੀ ॥੪॥੧੦॥੫੭॥

Sabh te vadā satgur Nānak jin kal rākhī merī. ||4||10||57||

It is interpreted by Badan Singh, Nirmala in Faridkot Vala Teeka of 1883 as follows:

Punjabi: ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਾਮਦਾਸ ਜੀ ਜਾਣਿਆਂ ਹੈ ਜਿਸਨੇ ਮੇਰੀ (ਕਲ) ਇਸਤ ਰੱਖ ਲਈ ਹੈ ॥੪॥੧੦॥੫੭॥

In English: Sri Guru Ram Das Ji has recognized Nanak Ji as Satguru who has protected my honor (in Kal Yuga).

Prof Sahib Singh:

Punjabi: ਪਰ (ਤੇਰੀ ਮੇਹਰ ਨਾਲ) ਮੈਨੂੰ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਵੱਡਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਮਿਲ ਪਿਆ, ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਮੇਰੀ ਲਾਜ ਰੱਖ ਲਈ (ਤੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਤੇਰੇ ਚਰਨਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਜੋੜ ਦਿੱਤਾ) ॥੪॥੧੦॥੫੭॥

In English: But (with the blessing of God) I met the Greatest of all Gurus, who has protected my honor. (he has attached me with Himself).

Manmohan Singh, SGPC:

English: The greatest of all is Satguru Nanak, who has saved my honour in this Dark age.

Punjabi: ਸਾਰਿਆਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਹਨ, ਮੇਰੇ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਕਾਲੇ ਯੁੱਗ ਅੰਦਰ ਮੇਰੀ ਇੱਜਤ ਆਬਰੂ ਰੱਖ ਲਈ ਹੈ।

Dr Sant Singh Khalsa:

Guru Nanak is the greatest of all; He saved my honor in this Dark Age of Kali Yuga. ||4||10||57||

In this phrase ਸਭਾ ਤੇ ਵਡਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਨਾਨਕੁ ਜਿਨਿ ਕਲ ਰਾਖੀ ਮੇਰੀ ॥ (Sabh te vadā satgur Nānak jin kal rākhī merī.)

Nanak is with *aunkar* on *Kaka* (ਕੁ), which means Nanak himself, not a pen name (Nom de plume), usually ignored by many Sikh theologians while interpreting this phrase. In the SGGG Gurmukhi-Gurmukhi

Dictionary (Thind, n.d.) "ਕਲਾ (Kal) is defined as ਕਲਾ (art, Capable). Therefore, this phrase is interpreted by the author as follows:

Nanak, the truly enlightened person (Satguru)³, is the greatest² of all¹ the Gurus, who⁴ has made me capable⁵ to understand⁶ myself⁷.

AGGS, M. 5, p. 750.

However, Dr. Gopal Singh (1987), Dr. Talib (1988), Prof. Sahib Singh (1972), and many others have interpreted it as follows:

Guru Nanak is the greatest of all who has protected my honor.

On the other hand, some theologians consider that Satguru is God and interpret that phrase by putting a comma (,) after ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ as follows:

Nanak says: "The God is greatest of all who has protected my honor."

They forget the definition of ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ (Satguru) explained by Guru Arjun earlier, and here again, he confirms that Nanak is Satguru (the truly enlightened person) but not God:

ਨਾਨਕ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਭੇਟਿਐ ਪੁਰੀ ਹੋਵੈ ਜੁਗਤਿ ॥

Nānak satgur bhēti᳚ai purī hovai jugat.

Those who have understood the philosophy² of Nanak, the truly enlightened persons, have found the perfect³ way of life⁴.

ਹਸੰਦਿਆ ਖੇਲੰਦਿਆ ਪੈਨੰਦਿਆ ਖਾਵੰਦਿਆ ਵਿਚੇ ਹੋਵੈ ਮੁਕਤਿ ॥੨॥

Hasandī᳚ā khelandī᳚ā painandī᳚ā khāvandī᳚ā viche hovai mukat. ||2||

One can get salvation⁹ by following the philosophy of Guru Nanak while laughing⁵ (being happy), playing⁶ (right games), dressing⁷ (proper dress - but not deceptive one) and eating⁸ (proper food).

AGGS, M. 5, p. 522.

More Phrases to Show Satguru Means "The Truly Enlightened Person"

Satguru is Guru (Teacher)

ਝੜੈ ਕਦੇ ਨ ਝੁਰਹਿ ਮੁੜੇ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਕਾ ਉਪਦੇਸੁ ਸੁਣਿ ਤੂੰ ਵਿਖਾ ॥

Jhājhai kaḍe na jhūrēh mūre satgur kā updes sun tūn vikhā.

Jhajha (a letter of the Gurmukhi alphabet) is used to start writing the message.

Oh, foolish! You will never regret or repent if you listen to and accept the teachings of Satguru (the truly enlightened person).

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਬਾਝਹੁ ਗੁਰ ਨਹੀ ਕੋਈ ਨਿਗੁਰੇ ਕਾ ਹੈ ਨਾਉ ਬੁਰਾ ॥੧੩॥

Satgur bājḥahu gur nahī koī nigure kā hai nā᳚o burā. ||13||

Without Satguru (the truly enlightened person), there is no other Guru (enlightened person) at all. One, who is without a such Guru, is called bad (unlucky) man.

AGGS, M. 3, p. 435.

Satguru (the truly enlightened person) discloses Naam as Hukm (The Laws of Nature/Universe):

Guru Nanak says that the Satguru disclosed that Naam means Hukm (ਹੁਕਮੁ) - Laws of Nature/Universe:

ਸਤਾ ਸੰਗਤਿ ਕੈਸੀ ਜਾਣੀਐ ॥

Satsangat᳚ kaisī jā᳚᳚ai.

ਜਿਥੈ ਏਕੈ ਨਾਮੁ ਵਖਾਣੀਐ ॥

Jithai Ek nām vakhā᳚᳚ai.

ਏਕੈ ਨਾਮੁ⁰ ਹੁਕਮੁ¹ ਹੈ ਨਾਨਕ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ² ਦੀਆ ਬੁਝਾਇ³ ਜੀਉ ॥੫॥

Ēko nām hukam hai Nānak satgur dī᳚ā bujhā᳚e jī᳚o.

||5||

Question:

How³ the true¹ congregation² of noble people can be recognized⁴?

Answer:

It is that congregation where⁵ only one⁶ naam (the Laws of Nature/Universe⁷) is discussed/explained⁸.

Nanak says:

The Satguru¹² (the truly enlightened person) discloses¹³ that there is only one⁹ Naam¹⁰, which means the Laws of Nature/Universe¹¹.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 72.

No One can find The Eternal Entity- ੴ without Satguru

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਬਾਝੁ ਨ ਪਾਇਓ ਸਭ ਮੋਹੀ ਮਾਇਆ ਜਾਲਿ ਜੀਉ ॥੩॥

Satgur bājḥ na pā᳚᳚o sabḥ mohī māi᳚ā jāl jī᳚o. ||3||

Without the Satguru (the truly enlightened person), no one can find the Eternal Entity- ੴ since all are enticed and entrapped in Maya (illusion). 3.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 71.

ਨਾਨਕ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਐਸਾ ਜਾਣੀਐ ਜੇ ਸਭਸੈ ਲਏ ਮਿਲਾਇ ਜੀਉ ॥੧੦॥

Nānak satgur aisā jā᳚᳚ai jo sabḥsai la᳚e milā᳚e jī᳚o. ||10||

Know that Nanak Satguru (the truly enlightened person) who unites people of all creeds with the Eternal Entity- ੴ¹⁰.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 72.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਬਾਝੁ ਨ ਪਾਇਓ ਸਭ ਥਕੀ ਕਰਮ ਕਮਾਇ ਜੀਉ ॥੧੩॥

Satgur bājḥ na pā᳚᳚o sabḥ thakī karam kamā᳚e jī᳚o. ||13||

Guru Nanak Says:

The Eternal Entity - ੴ is not found without the Satguru (the truly enlightened person) since all have grown weary by performing various religious rituals. 13.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 72.

ਆਦਿ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਅਪਰੰਪਰੁ ਪਿਆਰਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਅਲਖੁ ਲਖਾਇਆ ॥
 Ād purakh aprampar piārā satgur alakh lakhāiā.
 Satguru (the truly enlightened person) had revealed
 the Unseen and Infinite One, who existed even before
 time and space appeared.
 AGGS, M. 1, p. 436.

ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਕਿਨੈ ਨ ਪਾਇਓ ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਕਿਨੈ ਨ ਪਾਇਆ ॥
 Bin satgur kinai na pāiō bin satgur kinai na pāiā.
 Nobody has discovered the One (the Eternal Entity -
 ੴ) without the help of Satguru (the Truly Enlightened
 Person).
 AGGS, M. 1, p. 466.

ਨਾਨਕ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਬ੍ਰਹਮੁ ਦਿਖਾਇਆ ॥੫॥੨੦॥
 Nānak satgur brahm dikhāiā. ||5||20||
 Nanak says:
 Satguru (the truly enlightened person) made me know
 Brahman (the Eternal Entity - ੴ). 5. 20.
 AGGS, M. 1, p. 355.

Other Meanings of Satguru

Satguru is Boat and Sabd
 ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੈ ਬੋਹਿਥਾ ਸਬਦਿ ਲੰਘਾਵਣਹਾਰੁ ॥
 Satgurū hai bohithā sabaḍ langhāvaṇhār.
 Satguru (the truly enlightened person) is a boat, and
 his Sabd will carry us across (to that place.)
 ਤਿਥੈ ਪਵਣੁ ਨ ਪਾਵਕੋ ਨਾ ਜਲੁ ਨਾ ਆਕਾਰੁ ॥
 Tithai pavaṇ na pāvko nā jal nā ākār.
 Where there is neither wind nor fire nor water.
 ਤਿਥੈ ਸਚਾ ਸਚਿ ਨਾਇ ਭਵਜਲ ਤਾਰਣਹਾਰੁ ॥੨॥
 Tithai sachā sach nāi bhavjal tāraṇhār. ||2||
 Where there are eternal Laws of Nature/Universe of
 the Eternal Entity- ੴ, which are helpful to cross the
 dreadful sea of life.
 AGGS, M. 1, p. 1009.

ਪਤਣਿ ਕੁਕੇ ਪਾਤਣੀ ਵੰਦੁ ਯੁਕਿ ਵਿਲਾੜਿ ॥
 Paṭaṇ kūke pātṇī vaṇahu dhāruk vilār.
 At the shore, a ferryman announces, "O travelers hurry
 up to cross over."
 ਪਾਰਿ ਪਵੰਦੜੇ ਡਿਠੁ ਮੈ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਬੋਹਿਥਿ ਚਾੜਿ ॥੬॥
 Pār pavandṛe diṭh mai satgur bohith chār. ||6||
 I have seen them crossing over by boarding the boat
 of Satguru (the Truly Enlightened Person). 6.
 AGGS, M. 1, p. 1015.

Satguru dispels Ignorance
 ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਮਿਲੈ ਅੰਧੇਰਾ ਜਾਇ ॥
 Satgur milai andherā jāi.
 On meeting Satguru (the truly enlightened person),
 the darkness (ignorance) is dispelled.
 AGGS, M. 1, p. 939.

ਸਾਸਤ ਬੇਦ ਸਿਮ੍ਰਿਤਿ ਸਭਿ ਸੇਧੇ ਸਭ ਏਕਾ ਬਾਤ ਪੁਕਾਰੀ ॥
 Sāsaṭ beḍ simrit sabh soḍhe sabh ekā bāt pukārī.
 I have searched all the Shastras, the Vedas the Smritis,
 and they all affirm one thing:
 ਬਿਨੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਮੁਕਤਿ ਨ ਕੋਊ ਪਾਵੈ ਮਨਿ ਵੇਖਹੁ ਕਰਿ ਬੀਚਾਰੀ ॥੨॥
 Bin gur mukat na koū pavai man vekhu kar bīchārī.
 ||2||
 Mind has found after contemplation that no one can
 achieve liberation without the Guru (the enlightened
 person). 2.
 ਅਠਸਠਿ ਮਜਨੁ ਕਰਿ ਇਸਨਾਨਾ ਕ੍ਰਮਿ ਆਏ ਧਰ ਸਾਰੀ ॥
 Athsath majan kar isnānā bharam āe dhar sārī.
 Even after wondering the whole Planet, the Earth, and
 cleansing myself by bathing in 68 sacred shrines of
 pilgrimage,
 ਅਨਿਕ ਸੋਚ ਕਰਹਿ ਦਿਨ ਰਾਤੀ ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਅੰਧਿਆਰੀ ॥੩॥
 Anik soch karahi din rāṭī bin satgur andhiārī. ||3||
 And performing various rituals for purification. Even
 then, there is darkness (ignorance) without Satguru
 (the truly enlightened person). 3.
 AGGS, M. 5, p. 495.

Satguru puts us on the Right Way
 ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਬਾਟ ਨ ਪਾਵੈ ॥੧॥
 Bin satgur bāt na pavai. ||1||
 Without Satguru (the Truly Enlightened Person), one
 cannot find the (right) way.
 AGGS, M. 1, p. 1353 (Sehshsriti Sloka)

Satguru is a Savior
 ਅਗਨਿ ਸਾਗਰ ਬੁਢਤ ਸੰਸਾਰਾ ॥
 Agan sāgar būḍaṭ sansārā.
 The world is drowning in the ocean of fire (struggling
 with enormous problems in life).
 ਨਾਨਕ ਬਾਹੁ ਪਕਰਿ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਨਿਸਤਾਰਾ ॥੪॥੩॥੮॥
 Nānak bāh pakar satgur nistārā. ||4||3||8||
 Guru Arjun says:
 Satguru (the truly enlightened person) saves them by
 holding their arm (helping them resolve their
 problems).
 AGGS, M. 5, p. 804.

On meeting Satguru (the truly enlightened person),
 one's evil thinking is dispelled and start to
 contemplate knowledge. 4.
 AGGS, M. 3, p. 1016.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਬਚਨੀ ਏਕੇ ਜਾਤਾ ॥
 Satgur bachnī eko jāṭā.
 Through the teachings of Satguru (the truly
 enlightened person), I recognized the One and Only
 (the Eternal Entity - ੴ).
 ਨਾਨਕ ਰਾਮ ਨਾਮਿ ਮਨੁ ਰਾਤਾ ॥੧੦॥੭॥
 Nānak rām nām man rāṭā. ||10||7||
 But in the second line, Nanak says:

The name of Ram is imbued in my mind. 10. 7.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 415

Note: Guru Nanak refers to the One and Only (the Ever-existing Enlightener - Eternal Entity- **ੴ**) in the first line. Then why does he recommend Ram (**ਰਾਮ**) in the second line since Ram is an incarnation of Vishnu? Is Ram (**ਰਾਮ**) an interpolation?

Everything is in One (the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**)

ਏਕ ਮਹਿ ਸਰਬ ਸਰਬ ਮਹਿ ਏਕਾ ਏਹ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਦੇਖਿ ਦਿਖਾਈ ॥੫॥

Ēk mēh sarab sarab mēh ekā eh satgur dekḥ dikhāī. ||5||

Everything is in One*, and the One* is in everything. The Satguru (truly enlightened person) revealed this fact.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 907.

Note: * "One" means the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**.

SATGURU (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) MEANS THE ETERNAL ENLIGHTENER OR THE ETERNAL ENTITY - ੴ

The following phrases indicate Satguru (**ਸਤਿਗੁਰ**) as the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**:

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਵੇਪਰਵਾਹੁ ਸਿਰੰਦਾ ॥

Satgur veparvāhu sirandā.

Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**) is Independent and Carefree.

ਨਾ ਜਮ ਕਾਣਿ ਨ ਛੰਦਾ ਬੰਦਾ ॥

Nā jam kāṇ na chḥandā bandā.

He (Satguru - (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**) does not fear the angle of Death and is not dependent on any mortal men.

ਜੋ ਤਿਸੁ ਸੇਵੇ ਸੋ ਅਭਿਨਾਸੀ ਨਾ ਤਿਸੁ ਕਾਲੁ ਸੰਤਾਈ ਹੇ ॥੧੪॥

Jo ṭis seve so abhināsī nā ṭis kāl santāī he. ||14||

Whosoever serves Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**) becomes immortal, Imperishable, and will not be tortured by angle of death. 14.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 1024.

ਏਕੋ ਰਵਿ ਰਹਿਆ ਨਿਰਬਾਨੀ ॥੭॥

Ēko rav rahiā nirbānī. ||7||

One and Only (the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**) permeates and pervades everywhere in Nirvana.

Nirvana: A state of perfect calm, freedom, and highest happiness, as well as liberation from attachment and worldly suffering.)

AGGS, M. 1, p. 904.

Sabd is Guru and Sat Guru Mat Vela is The Period of Enlightenment (17th to 18th centuries)

ਕਵਣ ਮੁਲਾ ਕਵਣ ਮਤਿ ਵੇਲਾ ॥

ਤੇਰਾ ਕਵਣ ਗੁਰੁ ਜਿਸ ਕਾ ਤੂ ਚੇਲਾ ॥

Kavaṇ mūl kavaṇ maṭ velā.

Ṭerā kavaṇ gurū jis kā ṭū chelā.

Question by Siddhas:

What is the source of beginning¹, and which type of wisdom² is this time³? *

Who is that Guru, and to whom are you, his disciples? AGGS, M. 1, p. 943.

Note: *Time³ represents periods, e.g., the Stone Age, the Copper Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, and the Middle Ages (1066 -1485). Thus, the Siddhas questioned what Age we are passing through.

Answer by Nanak:

ਪਵਨ ਅਰੰਭੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਮਤਿ ਵੇਲਾ ॥

ਸਬਦੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਸੁਰਤਿ ਧੁਨਿ^੦ ਚੇਲਾ^੦ ॥

Pavan arambḥ saṭ gur maṭ velā.

Sabad gurū suraṭ ḍhun chelā.

The air¹ is the beginning² of every life, and this is the Period⁵ of everlasting enlightening³ philosophy⁴. (Period of Enlightenment).

The Sabd⁶ is the Guru⁷ (enlightenment), and my keen⁹ consciousness⁸ is its disciple⁹.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 943.

The 'Enlightenment' described in 'Definitions from Oxford Languages' is as follows:

Enlightenment (noun)

The action of enlightening or the state of being enlightened.

A European intellectual movement of the late 17th and 18th centuries emphasizing reason and individualism rather than tradition was heavily influenced by 17th-century philosophers such as Descartes, Locke, and Newton. Its prominent exponents include Kant, Goethe, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Adam Smith.

The above phrase indicates that Guru Nanak pioneered the period of Enlightenment in India in the 15th century, about two centuries before it started in Europe in the 17th century. (Chahal, 2020)

Without Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) Jog is not Achieved

ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਸੇਵੇ ਜੋਗੁ ਨ ਹੋਈ ॥

Bin satgur seve jog na hoī.

Yoga is not achieved without serving the Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity **ੴ**).

ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਤੇਟੇ ਮੁਕਤਿ ਨ ਕੋਈ ॥

Bin satgur bḥete mukaṭ na koī.

without meeting the Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**), no one is liberated.

ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਤੇਟੇ ਨਾਮੁ ਪਾਇਆ ਨ ਜਾਇ ॥

Bin satgur bḥete nām pāīā na jāī.

Without meeting the Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - **ੴ**), the Naam (the Laws of Nature/Universe) cannot be understood.

ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਤੇਟੇ ਮਹਾ ਦੁਖੁ ਪਾਇ ॥

Bin satgur bhete mahā dukh pāe.
Without meeting the Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ), one is entangled in serious troubles/hardships.

ਬਿਨੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਭੇਟੇ ਮਹਾ ਗਰਬਿ ਗੁਬਾਰਿ ॥

Bin satgur bhete mahā garab gubār.
Without meeting the Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ), one remains engulfed in pitch darkness (great ignorance) and egoistic pride.

ਨਾਨਕ ਬਿਨੁ ਗੁਰ ਮੁਆ ਜਨਮੁ ਹਾਰਿ ॥੭੦॥

Nānak bin gur muā janam hār. ||70||

Nanak says:

Without Guru (enlightenment), one dies after losing to win (attain) anything in one's life. 70.

AGGS, M 1, p. 946.

Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) grants everything

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਤ ਸਰਧਾ ਪੂਰੀਐ ॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal t̄a saradhā pūrīai.
When Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, our desires are fulfilled.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਨ ਕਬਹੂੰ ਝੁਰੀਐ ॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal na kabahūn̄ jhūrīai.
When Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, we will never grieve.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਤਾ ਦੁਖੁ ਨ ਜਾਣੀਐ ॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal t̄a dukh na jāṇīai.
When the Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, we will not feel pain.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਤਾ ਹਰਿ ਰੰਗੁ ਮਾਣੀਐ ॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal t̄a har rang māṇīai.
When Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, we will enjoy the love of the Hari (the Supreme God).

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਤਾ ਜਮ ਕਾ ਡਰੁ ਕੇਹਾ ॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal t̄a jam kā dar kehā.
When Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, we will not fear the angel of death.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਤਾ ਸਦ ਹੀ ਸੁਖੁ ਦੇਹਾ ॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal t̄a sad hī sukh dehā.
When Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, the body is always at peace.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਤਾ ਨਵ ਨਿਧਿ ਪਾਈਐ ॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal t̄a nav nidh̄ pāīai.
When Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, we receive nine treasures.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੋਇ ਦਇਆਲੁ ਤ ਸਚਿ ਸਮਾਈਐ ॥੨੫॥

Satgur hoē dāiāal t̄a sach̄ samāīai. ||25||
When the Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is merciful, one understands the Ever-existing Eternal Entity. 25.

AGGS, M 1. p. 149.

Satguru is a Sabd

ਆਪੇ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਸਬਦੁ ਹੈ ਆਪੇ ॥

Āpe satgur sabaḍ hai āpe.
God Itself is Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ) and sabd.

ਨਾਨਕ ਆਖਿ ਸੁਣਾਏ ਆਪੇ ॥੪॥੨॥ ||4||2||

Nānak ākh̄ suṇāē āpe.

Nanak says:

The Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ Itself speaks and teaches (Its sabd). 4. 2.

AGGS, M. 3, p. 797.

Satguru is a physician

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਬਾਝਹੁ ਵੈਦੁ ਨ ਕੋਈ ॥

Satgur bājhahu vaiḍ na koī.
There is no physician like Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ).

ਆਪੇ ਆਪਿ ਨਿਰੰਜਨੁ ਸੋਈ ॥

Āpe āp niranjan soī.
He himself is immaculate (means free from any disease).

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਮਿਲਿਐ ਮਰੈ ਮੰਦਾ ਹੋਵੈ ਗਿਆਨ ਬੀਚਾਰੀ ਜੀਉ ॥੪॥

Satgur miliāi marai mandā hovai giān bīchārī jīo. ||4||

On meeting Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ), one's evil thinking is dispelled, and one starts to contemplate knowledge. 4.

AGGS, M. 3, p. 1016.

Guru Ram Das says Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is his wise friend, and the enlightened person has helped him to understand the Eternal Entity - ੴ

ਸਜਣਾ ਮੇਰਾ ਏਕੁ ਤੂੰ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਸੁਜਾਣਾ ॥

Sajaṇ merā ek tūn̄ kartā purakh̄ sujāṇ.

Guru Ram Das says:

The One (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is my wise⁴ friend¹, who is the source of evolution of everything³.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਮੀਤਿ ਮਿਲਾਇਆ ਮੈ ਸਦਾ ਸਦਾ ਤੇਰਾ ਤਾਣਾ ॥੧੨॥

Satgur miṭ̄ milāiā mai sadā sadā t̄erā t̄āṇ. ||12||

The truly enlightened person⁵ has helped me to understand⁷ the Eternal Entity - ੴ who is my strength⁹ forever⁸. 12.

AGGS, M. 4, p. 759.

Satguru Saves from Ocean of Fire (Problems)

ਅਗਨਿ ਸਾਗਰ ਬੁਢਤ ਸੰਸਾਰਾ ॥

Agan sāgar būḍat̄ sansārā.

The world is drowning in the ocean of fire (struggling with enormous problems in life).

ਨਾਨਕ ਬਾਹ ਪਕਰਿ ਸਤਿਗੁਰਿ ਨਿਸਤਾਰਾ ॥੪॥੩॥੮॥

Nānak bāh pakar̄ satgur̄ nistārā. ||4||3||8||

Guru Arjun says:

Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) saves them by holding their arm (helping them to resolve their problems). AGGS, M. 5, p. 804.

No One is Greater than Satguru

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਜੇਵਡ ਅਵਰ ਨ ਕੋਇ ॥

Satgur jevad avar na ko'e.

No one is as great as Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) ਗੁਰੁ ਪਾਰਬ੍ਰਹਮੁ ਪਰਮੇਸਰੁ ਸੋਇ ॥

Gur pārbarahm pamesar so'e.

ਜਨਮ ਮਰਣ ਦੁਖ ਤੇ ਰਾਖੈ ॥

Janam maraṇ ḍūkh ṭe rākḥai.

Guru is the Supreme God (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) who protects us from childhood to death.

ਮਾਇਆ ਬਿਖੁ ਫਿਰਿ ਬਹੁੜਿ ਨ ਚਾਖੈ ॥੨॥

Mā'iā bikh fir bahuṛ na chākḥai. ||2||

Then we do not get involved in poisonous (destructive) illusion (Maya) again. 2.

AGGS, M. 5, p. 1271.

Satguru is Supreme God

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਪਰਮੇਸਰੁ ਮੇਰਾ ॥

Satgur pamesar merā.

My Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is the Supreme God.

ਅਨਿਕ ਰਾਜ ਭੋਗ ਰਸ ਮਾਣੀ ਨਾਉ ਜਪੀ ਭਰਵਾਸਾ ਤੇਰਾ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Anik rāj bhog ras māṇī nā'o japī bḥarvāsā ṭerā. ||1|| rahā'o.

I enjoyed the power of being a king and many of the pleasures of life just by chanting Your Name and having complete faith in You.

AGGS, M 5, p 884.

Satguru Helps Everybody to Cross the Dreadful Sea of Life

ਪਾਰਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਪਰਮੇਸਰ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਸਭਨਾ ਕਰਤ ਉਧਾਰਾ ॥

Pārbarahm pamesur satgur sabḥnā karaṭ udhārā.

Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is the Supreme God who helps all to cross (the dreadful sea of life).

ਕਹੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰ ਬਿਨੁ ਨਹੀ ਤਰੀਐ ਇਹੁ ਪੁਰਨ ਤਤੁ ਬੀਚਾਰਾ ॥੪॥੯॥

Kaho Nānak gur bin nahī ṭarī'ai ih pūran ṭaṭ bīchārā.

||4||9||

Nanak says:

However, without enlightenment (Guru), no one can cross (the dreadful sea of life) since it has been discovered that it is the essence of all contemplation.

AGGS, M. 5, p. 611.

Satguru is a Savior

ਮੇਰਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਰਖਵਾਲਾ ਹੋਆ ॥

Merā satgur rakḥvālā ho'ā.

My Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) is my Savior and Protector.

ਧਰਿ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਹਾਥ ਦੇ ਰਾਖਿਆ ਹਰਿ ਗੋਵਿੰਦੁ ਨਵਾ ਨਿਰੋਆ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Dhār kirpā parabh hāth ḍe rākhi'ā har govind navā niro'ā. ||1|| rahā'o.

By the mercy of Satguru (the Eternal Enlightener), with its hand, saved Har Gobind. Now Har Gobind is fresh and perfectly healthy. 1. Pause

AGGS, M. 5, p. 620.

Who is Har Gobind here?

Prof Sahib Singh's following interpretation appears to be referring to Har Gobind as if he is the son of Guru Arjun:

(ਗੁਰੁ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਰਨ ਦੀ ਬਰਕਤਿ ਨਾਲ) ਪ੍ਰਭੁ ਨੇ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰ ਕੇ (ਆਪਣੇ)

ਹੱਥ ਦੇ ਕੇ (ਬਾਲਕ ਹਰਿ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਨੂੰ) ਬਚਾ ਲਿਆ ਹੈ, (ਹੁਣ ਬਾਲਕ)

ਹਰਿ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਬਿਲਕੁਲ ਰਾਜੀ-ਬਾਜੀ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Copilot (AI) reports that Har Gobind is the sixth Guru in Sikhism. But in Hindu philosophy, Har and Gobind are two different words:

Har: This is the name of Lord Shiva, one of the principal deities in Hinduism, symbolizing destruction and transformation.

Gobind (or Govind): This is another name for Lord Krishna, revered as a supreme deity in Hinduism, symbolizing divine joy and love.

ਪਾਰਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਪਰਮੇਸਰ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਸਭਨਾ ਕਰਤ ਉਧਾਰਾ ॥

Pārbarahm pamesur satgur sabḥnā karaṭ udhārā.

The Supreme God is Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ), Who helps all to cross (the dreadful sea of life).

ਕਹੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰ ਬਿਨੁ ਨਹੀ ਤਰੀਐ ਇਹੁ ਪੁਰਨ ਤਤੁ ਬੀਚਾਰਾ ॥੪॥੯॥

Kaho Nānak gur bin nahī ṭarī'ai ih pūran ṭaṭ bīchārā.

||4||9||

Nanak says:

However, without enlightenment (Guru), no one can cross (the dreadful sea of life) since it has been discovered it is the essence of all contemplation.

AGGS, M. 5, p. 611.

Guru Ram Das declared Satguru as the Eternal Entity - ੴ

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਮੇਰਾ ਸਦਾ ਸਦਾ ਨਾ ਆਵੈ ਨਾ ਜਾਇ ॥

Satgur merā sadā sadā nā āvai na jā'e.

My Satguru (the Eternal Entity - ੴ) neither is born nor dies.

ਓਹੁ ਅਬਿਨਾਸੀ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਹੈ ਸਭ ਮਹਿ ਰਹਿਆ ਸਮਾਇ ॥੧੩॥

Oh abhināsī purakh hai sabḥ meh rahi'ā samā'e. ||13||

That is an Imperishable Entity and is permeating and pervading in everything.

AGGS, M. 4, p. 759.

The above discussion indicates that Nanak is the 'Guru', an 'enlightened person,' and 'Satguru,' 'the truly enlightened person.' Nanak is 'Satguru,' who has recognized 'the Ever-existing Enlightener or the

Eternal Entity - ੴ Besides, 'Satguru' means 'the Ever-existing Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ'

IS JESUS SATGURU

Basi (p. 77-89) has extensively quoted phrases from the AGGS and declared as follows:

"We see without a doubt that the Satguru is personal Guru distinct from the Transcendent Primal God, but definitely not the ten Gurus."

Basi's above statement does not clarify what he means. After extensive study of phrases of all the first five gurus, including those mentioned by Basi it becomes evident from this study that there are three types of "Satguru:"

Satguru is "the truly enlightened person." Satguru is, who has recognized "the Ever-existing Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ"

Satguru is "the Ever-existing Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ," which means God (Lord).

I may add that Guru Angad, Guru Amar Das, Guru Ram Das, and Guru Arjun have declared Nanak as the "Guru," which means "enlightened person," and "Satguru," which means "the truly enlightened person," as described by Guru Arjun. Guru Arjun further declared that Nanak is Satguru, the truly enlightened person who has recognized God but not God. Moreover, I have described many phrases that indicate that Satguru means the truly enlightened person and the Ever-existing Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ, the God (Lord), depending upon the context of the phrase or stanza.

On page 89 Basi starts writing the phrases from the AGGS and from other sources to compare the similarities with that in the Bible and declares that "Satguru" is strictly used for God alone:

ਜੇ ਹਮ ਕੇ ਪਰਮੇਸਰ ਉਚਰਿ ਹੈ॥
ਤੇ ਸਭ ਨਰਕਿ ਕੁਨੰਡ ਮਹਿ ਪਰਿ ਹੈ॥
ਮੇ ਕੇ ਦਾਸ ਤਵਨ ਹਾਨੇ॥
ਯਾ ਮੈ ਭੈਦ ਨ ਰੰਚ ਪਛਾਨੇ॥

Jo ham ko pamesar uchre.
Sabh narak kund nein pare hen.
Mo ko das tawan ka jano.
Ya mai bhed n rench pachanio.
Whoever calls me Lord God (Satguru) shall fall into hell.

Consider me as His servant. In this, do not have any doubt.
(Dasam Granth, page 57 Akal Purukh Baach Chaupi 32.)

Comments: Guru Gobind Singh has not used the name of 'Satguru'; instead, he uses Parmeshar (the Lord - God) in the above chaupi.

He further quotes a phrase from Bhatt Gayand from the AGGS as follows:

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਗੁਬੰਦ ਜੀਉ ॥...

ਨਾਮੁ ਸਾਰੁ ਹੀਏ ਧਾਰੁ ਤਜੁ ਬਿਕਾਰੁ ਮਨੁ ਗਯੰਦ ਸਿਰੀ ਗੁਰੁ ਸਿਰੀ ਗੁਰੁ
ਸਿਰੀ ਗੁਰੁ ਸਤਿ ਜੀਉ ॥੫॥੧੦॥

Enshrine this most excellent Name within your heart, and renounce the wickedness of the mind, O Gayand. The TRUE GURU, the TRUE GURU, the TRUE GURU is THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE Himself.

AGGS, Gayand, p. 1403.

After the above Bani from Dasam Granth and Bhatt Gyand, Basi compares Satguru from the AGGS and the Bible as follows:

In Gurbani

Guru is a Laddar:

ਹੇਕੋ ਪਾਧਰੁ ਹੇਕੁ ਦਰੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਪਉੜੀ ਨਿਜ ਥਾਨੁ ॥

Heko pādhar hek dar gur pa°oṛī nij thān.

There is ONE PATH (WAY) and ONE DOOR. The Guru is the ladder to reach one's own place.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 1279.

Comments: The above phrase does not contain the word 'Satguru' but simply 'Guru' (enlightened person). However, we have quoted some phrases about 'Satguru' as a ladder earlier.

In The Bible

The Holy Bible says:

ਕਿਉ ਜੇ ਪਰਮੇਸਰ ਹੈ। ਇਕ ਹੈ ਅਰ ਪਰਮੇਸਰ ਅਤੇ ਮਨੁਕੱਖਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਇਕੋ
ਵਿਚੋਲਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਆਪ ਮਨੱਖ ਹੈ ਅਰਥਾਥ ਮਸਹਿ ਯਸੂ ।

For there I one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (Timothy 2:5)

In Gurbani

Guru is Laddar and Boat

(ਮੂਲੁ ਰਹੈ ਗੁਰੁ ਸੇਵਿਐ) ਗੁਰੁ ਪਉੜੀ ਬੋਹਿਥੁ ॥

(Mūl rahai gur sevi°ai) gur pa°oṛī bohith.

...The Guru is the ladder (mediator) and the boat (of salvation.)

AGGS, M. 3, p. 1279.

Comments: The above phrase uses 'Guru', which means 'enlightened person,' but the word 'Satguru' is missing.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਹੈ ਬੋਹਿਥਾ ਵਿਰਲੈ ਕਿਨੈ ਵੀਚਾਰਿਆ ॥

Satgurū hai bohithā virilai kinai vīchāri°ā.

ਕਰਿ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਪਾਰਿ ਉਤਾਰਿਆ ॥੧੩॥

Kar kirpā pār uṭāri°ā. ||13||

The TRUE GURU (SATGURU) is the boat (mediator), but few are those who realize this, Granting His Grace. He carries them cross.

AGGS, M. 1, p. 470.

Comments: Here, "Satguru" means 'the truly enlightened person' as discussed earlier.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਤੁਠੈ ਪਾਇਆ ਨਾਨਕ ਸਚਾ ਨਾਉ ॥੯॥੧॥੨੬॥
Satgur tuthai pāiā Nānak sachā nāo. ||9||1||26||
O Nanak, only by His Grace, you find Him, The TRUE
GURU (SATGURU), whose name is TRUTH.
AGGS, M. 5, p 71.

ਗੁਰੁ ਪਉੜੀ ਬੇੜੀ ਗੁਰੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਤੁਲਹਾ ਹਰਿ ਨਾਉ ॥
Gur paorī beī gurū gur tūlhā har nāo.
The GURU is the ladder, the Guru is the Boat, and the
GURU is the raft to take me to the Lord's name.
AGGS, M. 1, p. 71.
Comments: Here, 'Satguru' means 'the truly
enlightened person,' and Guru means 'enlightened
person,' as discussed earlier.

ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਬੋਹਿਥੁ ਪਾਵੈ ਪਾਰਿ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥
Satgur bohith pāvai pār. ||1|| rahāo.
The TRUE GURU (SATGURU) is the boat to carry us
across.
AGGS, M. 5, p 801.
Comments: Here again, 'Satguru' means the truly
enlightened person.

The Bible

Jesus Christ says:

ਜਿਸੁ ਨੇ ਉਹਨੂੰ ਆਖਿਆ, ਰਾਹ ਅਤੇ ਸਚਿਆਈ ਅਤੇ ਜੀਉਣ ਮੈਂ ਹਾਂ ।
ਕੋਈ ਮੇਰੇ ਵਸੀਲੇ ਬਿਨਾ ਪਿਤਾ ਦੇ ਕੋਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਇਦਾ ।
I am the (one and only) way and the (one and only)
truth and (one and only) source of life. No one comes
to the Father except through me.
(Joh 14:6)
Jesus also says:
ਉਹ ਬੁਰਾ ਮੈਂ ਹਾਂ । ਮੇਰੇ ਥਾਣ ਜੋ ਕੋਈ ਵੜੇ ਤਾ ਉਹ ਬਚਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ
ਅਤੇ ਚਾਰਾ ਪਾਵੇਗਾ ।
I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be
saved (attain salvation).

Finally, Basi concludes the discussion on 'Satguru' as follows:
Thus, we have a description or definition of the Mediator. He is the Guru, specifically the Satguru or Perfect Guru, whose name is Truth.
Comments: We agree that 'Satguru' (the truly enlightened person) is a mediator who helps us to meet the God/Lord (the Ever-existing Enlightener or the Eternal Entity, ੴ).

MEANING OF JESUS

After describing Jesus as the 'Satguru,' Basi (p.92) describes the meanings of Jesus as follows:
"The Hebrew for Jesus is YAH-SHUA. Yah stands for He is God, Shua means Savior. Therefore, Jesus means 'God who saves.' God the Father gave this name to Him. This name was announced to Mary, the

mother of Jesus, by an angel sent by God the Father before Jesus was born."
It appears as if Basi is trying to equate 'Satguru Jesus' with God.

Basi further compares Satguru in Gurbani and the Bible

In the Gurbani

ਪਤਿਤ ਉਧਾਰਣੁ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਮੇਰਾ ਮੋਹਿ ਤਿਸ ਕਾ ਭਰਵਾਸਾ ॥
Patit udhāraṇ satgur merā mohi tis kā bhārvāsā.
ਬਖਸਿ ਲਏ ਸਭਿ ਸਚੈ ਸਾਹਿਬਿ ਸੁਣਿ ਨਾਨਕ ਕੀ ਅਰਦਾਸਾ
॥੨॥੧੭॥੪੫॥
Bakhas lae sabh sachai sāhib suṇ Nānak kī arḍāsā.
||2||17||45||

MY TRUE GURU is the SAVIOR of sinners; I have placed my trust and faith in Him.
The TRUE LORD has heard Nanak's prayer, and He has pardoned all his sins. ||2||17||45||
AGGS, M. 5, p. 620.
Comments: I agree here, 'Satguru' means the Eternal Enlightener or the Eternal Entity - ੴ

In the Bible

ਅਤੇ ਤੁ ਉਹ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਜਿਸੁ ਰਖੀ ਕਿਉਂ ਜੋ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਾਪਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਚਾਵੇਗਾ ।
And you are to give the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
(Mathew 1:21)

ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੀਆਂ ਹੋਰ ਵੀ ਭੇਡਾਂ ਹਨ ਜਿਹੜੀਆਂ ਇਸ ਥਾੜੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਨਹੀਂ ।
ਮੈਨੂੰ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਲਿਆਵਾਂ ਅਰ ਓਹ ਮੇਰੀ ਆਵਾਜ਼ ਸੁਣਨਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਇਕੋ ਅਯਾਲੀ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ।
And I have other sheep* that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.
(John 10:16)

*'Other sheep' refers to all those who are not Jews.

Finally, Basi Describes Jesus

"Some say Jesus was a great moral teacher. Others say He was a good man. Jesus claimed to be the unique, sinless, divine Son of God, as God in the flesh. He died sacrificially for the sins of all humanity. Because He was sinless when He died, He was not paying the penalty for His own sins but for the sins of humanity. He was crucified, died, and was buried in a tomb. He was not merely human, and because He was also God the Son, the second person of the Triune God. He arose from the dead on the third day, as had predicted many times."

Basi quotes some bani from the AGGS and external sources other than the AGGS to prove that Jesus is

the SATGURU (the truly enlightened son of God - the Father), whereas there is no Sikh Guru who is a SATGURU. I have proved earlier that Guru Amar Das and Guru Arjun have declared NANAK as GURU (enlightenment or enlightened person) and as SATGURU (the truly enlightened person), who has recognized God.

IMPLICATIONS OF CALLING JESUS "SATGURU" IN SIKHISM

Basi refuted earlier that in Sikhism, no Sikh Guru has been assigned the title of 'Satguru,' which is reserved only for God. However, he failed to understand that Guru Arjun has first defined the term 'Satguru' who recognized God as discussed earlier:

ਸਤਿ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਜਿਨਿ ਜਾਨਿਆ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਤਿਸ ਕਾ ਨਾਉ ॥

Sat purakh jin jāniā satgur tis kā nāo.

The one, who understood³ the Eternal Entity - ੴ is called⁵ Satguru (the truly enlightened person⁴.)

AGGS, M 5, p 286. (Sukhmani)

Thereafter, Guru Arjun emphatically assigned this title, 'Satguru' onto Nanak as described earlier:

ਸਭ ਤੇ ਵਡਾ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਨਾਨਕੁ ਜਿਨਿ ਕਲ ਰਾਖੀ ਮੇਰੀ ॥੪॥੧੦॥੫੭॥

Sabh te vadā satgur Nānak jin kal rākhī merī. ॥4॥10॥57॥

Nanak, the truly enlightened person (Satguru)³, is the greatest² of all¹ the Gurus, who⁴ has made me capable⁵ to understand⁶ myself⁷.

AGGS, M. 5, p. 750.

Now, Basi has assigned the title of 'Satguru' to Jesus, who has recognized God and is God himself. The use of the title 'Satguru' for Jesus would have many implications for Sikhism since this term will help convert Sikhs to Christianity.

Now the quest is:

Does the philosophy in the AGGS allow Sikh intelligentsia and the so-called Sikh authorities to pursue Basi to stop the use of the title 'Satguru' for Jesus?

Or

Does using the Sikh term 'Satguru' for Jesus encourage interfaith dialogue?

CONCLUSIONS

The study underscores the centrality of "Guru" and "Satguru" in Sikh scripture as a concept of eternal truth and guidance.

The word "Satguru" (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) appears about 2,577 times in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib; Etymologically, it is a compound word made by joining two independent word, "Sat" (ਸਤਿ) and "Guru" (ਗੁਰ) as they occur in the Commencing Verse (ਅਰੰਭਿਕ ਵਾਕ in Punjabi). It is erroneously called Mool Mantra: ੴ

ਸਤਿ ਨਾਮੁ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਿਰਭਉ ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ ਅਕਾਲ ਮੂਰਤਿ ਅਜੂਨੀ ਸੈਭੰ ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥ Ek Oh Beant sat nām kartā purakh nirbhāo nirvair akāl mūrati ajūnī saibhān gur parsād. In the most abbreviated form of the Commencing Verse "Sat" (ਸਤਿ) and 'Guru' (ਗੁਰ) have been joined to gather to make "Satguru" (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) as ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥ (Ek Oh Beant Satgur Parsad). This form of Commencing Verse has been interpolated by somebody as ੴ ਸਤਿਨਾਮ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ॥ (Ek Oakar Satnām Vaheguru).

The word 'Sat' (ਸਤਿ) means 'true,' 'exists,' 'exists forever,' and 'eternal,' and the word ਗੁਰ(Guru) is light that dispels darkness (ignorance); it means 'enlightened,' 'enlightener,' 'enlightening,' or 'Enlightenment.' Therefore, etymologically, 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) in all its four different spellings means the truly enlightened person and the Ever-existing Enlightener or Eternal Entity - ੴ. Guru Angad, Guru Amar Das, Guru Ram Das, and Guru Arjun have declared Nanak as Guru (the enlightened person); however, Guru Arjun has accepted Nanak as 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ), the truly enlightened person. On the other hand, Guru Amardas, Guru Ram Das, and Guru Arjun also accept 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) means the Ever-existing Enlightener or Eternal Entity - ੴ (God/Lord). These interpretations highlight the term's theological depth and significance as a representation of eternal truth and enlightenment in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib.

When 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰ) means 'the truly enlightened person,' then he is the one who discloses that Naam is the Hukm (Laws of Nature/Universe), is a boat and sabd to help people to cross the dreadful sea of life, ladder, physician, and teacher,

Satguru (the truly enlightened person) helped to discover the One (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ).

Only One (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ) permeates and pervades everywhere.

Everything is in the One (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ) and that One is in everything.

Satguru (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ) is independent and carefree.

Without Satguru (the Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ) Jog is not achieved.

Nanak says Sabd is Guru (enlightened or enlightenment), and Satguru mat Vela is the same as the Period of Enlightenment (the 17th–18th centuries).

God Itself is Satguru (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ) and Sabd.

Satguru (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity ੴ) is a savior and protector who saves people by holding their arms from drowning in the Ocean of Fire (which means struggling with enormous problems).

No one is greater than Satguru (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ), who saves people from childhood to death.

Satguru (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ) is a Supreme God.

Guru Arjun prayed to Satguru (The Ever-existing Enlightener or The Eternal Entity - ੴ), and he saved (his) sick child, Har Gobind.

Basi, after quoting several phrases from the AGGS and some from other sources and comparing them with those from the Bible, claims that Jesus is 'Satguru' (ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ), from which it appeared that Jesus is Satguru, which means the truly enlightened person who knew the God, Father.

Assigning the title of 'Satguru' to Jesus may open an interdisciplinary dialogue but also raises critical theological and cultural considerations and many implications for Sikhism. Because Jesus as 'Satguru' will significantly help convert Sikhs to Christianity. Further research is needed on the effect of the use of Sikh terms and practices in Christianity and diminishing the originality of Sikhi and Sikhism.

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