

BANI OF GURU TEG BAHADUR JI: DIFFERENT ASPECTS

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ABSTRACT

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Guru of the Sikhs, is revered as the embodiment of compassion, sacrifice, and spiritual wisdom. His teachings emphasize the ideal of Sarbat da Bhala—the welfare of all—reflecting the essence of universal brotherhood and equality. Through his bani (divine hymns), Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji advocates for love, peace, tolerance, and respect for all religions and human beings, transcending barriers of caste, creed, and community. His supreme sacrifice for the protection of religious freedom stands as a timeless example of his belief in the unity and dignity of humankind. The Guru's message promotes harmony, moral courage, and selfless service, offering deep insights into building a just and compassionate society. This paper explores how Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's spiritual philosophy continues to inspire the principles of human unity and universal brotherhood in the modern world.

Keywords: Spiritualism, Detachment (Vairag), Impermanence of Life, Self-realization, Divine Love (Bhakti), Inner Discipline, Fearlessness, Moral Courage, Human Suffering, Universal Brotherhood, Ethical Values, Truth and Righteousness

INTRODUCTION:

Guru Teg Bahadur, the ninth Guru of the Sikhs, remembered as a supreme martyr, a spiritual guide and a defender of human rights. Teg Bahadur was the youngest and sixth child of the sixth Guru, Hargobind born in April 1, 1621 at Guru Ke Mahal at Amritsar. Guru Teg Bahadur contributed to spirituality, social equality and human rights which made him one of the greatest spiritual leaders in the world history. He was a true symbol of courage, sacrifice and spiritual wisdom. His teachings emphasized truth, humanity, compassion, and devotion to God. Guru Teg Bahadur spent about twenty years praying to the Almighty. He lived a real life and his personality blossomed into perfect light and freedom and reached its full height and glory.

UNIQUE SUPREME SACRIFICE:

As Guru Gobind Singh said in Bachittar Natak:

The lord protected their paste-mark and sacred thread and
performed Almighty deed in kal-Yug

This heroic deed he performed to protect dharma

Gave up his head but not his passion

Guru Teg Bahadur is the protector of the tilak and sacred thread of the Hindus. He performed a great act of sacrifice in this Dark Age to establish the righteousness. Guru's sacrifice is unique example in the world history where any guru sacrifices his life for the community of different ideology. By doing so he defended the rights of Hindus community to wear tilak and janju, which shows his respect for other religion and religious freedom. This act of sacrifice is the best example of secularism in its essence and practice. He believes in religious freedom and equality of all people and rejected the discrimination on the basis of caste and faith. He is remembered as Hind de Chadar. As AC Banners mentioned in his book, He sacrificed his life for the sake of dharma. And made himself a martyr in the defense of the right of every man-Hindu, Sikh, Muslim-to live his life in the manner sanctioned by the religious faith which he professed On November 11, 1675 the spirit of Guru Teg Bahadur left the body, passed into the infinite and merge with it, this was the emancipation or Mukti. The last sermon that he gives to the people was:

Enshrine the gods name in thy heart

Of which there is no peer

That all thy woes depart and thou see-est.

The presence of the lord O dear

Thus, it left a lesson for the persecuted how they should sacrifice their lives for righteousness, and protect their freedom of worship. In this way he made remarkable contributions in defense of religious rights.

Guru Teg Bahadur Ji's Bani focus on human suffering, the nature of life, the importance of detachment and the value of remembering God Naam. Bani of Guru Teg Bahadur ji teaches that worldly pleasures are temporary and the true peace comes through meditation, humility and living a truthful life. Guru Teg Bahadur was quite conscious of social, moral and spiritual degradation of the people and this moved him deeply. 59 padas and 57 shlokas of Guru Teg Bahadur are included in the holy Guru Granth His spiritual depth is seen in his bani, which reflects detachment, balanced and inner stability.

Rejection of Ascetic Life:

Guru Teg Bahadur emphasized balanced life in the world rather than renouncing it completely. He believes that true spirituality is not about abandoning family, society, or daily duties but about performing them with honesty, humility and remembrance of God's Naam. Guru Teg Bahadur instructed people not to move in forest to attain salvation but to search him within yourself as he said:

Why go to the forest in search of God

He is all pervading, yet he is ever detached

He is the divine spirit within everyone.

Just as fragrance is in flower.

Or image is in mirror, So the light of God is within us

Seek him, therefore. Within your soul

Thus, guru promoted a life of balance, where one can live in world, fulfill duties and remain spiritually connected through Naam and moral living, rather than seeking God only through isolation. Therefore, he discouraged idle renunciation that ignore social responsibilities

Importance of Naam Simran:

Guru Teg Bahadur ji repeatedly emphasizes Naam Simran as highest path to spiritual liberation. Repeating and meditating on God's name purifies mind and soul. Naam is a source of true peace and happiness. Worldly pleasures come and go but Naam gives eternal joy. He taught the message not to fall in love with this mortal clay, not to put their hearts in worldly joys and pleasures but to be ever ready to render the last account, he laid great stress on devotion to God and Naam Simran as:

O saint sing praise of God'

The priceless human life you have obtained

Why waste it in vain?

Take refuge in God who is the purifier of sinners and is the friend of the helpless

Similarly, he rejected worldly pleasures and possession and urges man to devote himself to the Naam and thus attain goal of life.

O mind, why have you become so stupid?

You don't realize that your life decreases day and night

And you are losing your worth through greed.

Your body and your beautiful housewife which you are considering as your own,

None of these is really yours when you think deep about it

You have lost the jewel of your life.

You have not realized the way to God

Falsity of World:

Guru Teg Bahadur mentioned in his Bani that everyone in this world is deeply involved in worldly pleasures and forget God's name but man should realize that nothing in this universe remain forever. It is not going to be stay forever. It will disappear very soon. Pleasure and suffering both are short lived. Man is running after desires and become slave of it. Guru ji teaches us to live in the world but stay detached from it.

In this world love has been observed to be a false one

Everyone is after his own interest.....

He has created the maya (illusion)himself and he himself the observer

He takes on several forms of several hues and yet remain aloof from all.

Countless, boundless unknowable, without the trace of maya is he who has created this illusion

Of the world

Similarly, he said: In this world one has seen no friend

The whole world is after its own good and no one keeps company in time of trouble.

Wife, friends, sons and relatives are all looking towards the money of a person.

As soon as they see a person devoid of money, they all run away shunning his company

How shall I explain to this stupid mind that it has attached itself to them and has forgotten the praise of God who is the destroyer of all fear and helper of the helpless?

In this way guru advised the people not to involve in worldly pleasures and motivated to love with God which is the ultimate destination;

O mind love god with all your heart

Hear with your ears the praise of God and sing his songs with your tongue

Therefore, Guru ji instructed the people to renounce evil thinking as man already lost many lives wandering in illusion and not obtained real wisdom. Everything in this world like wealth, beauty, relationships, youth, status changes with time. Nothing remains forever here.it is worthless to think that world is real. Understanding the falsity of the world brings inner freedom and calmness. The guru teaches that the world is temporary and full of distractions. But God's name gives stability and purity of heart. Naam of God gives spiritual strength and inner peace.

O mind what evil thinking hast thou adopted?

You are indulging in the pleasure of others women and speaking ill of others and you are not doing meditation of God.

you have not learned the way to salvation and are all the time running after amassing wealth.

Nothing keeps company at the end: you have bound yourself to the world in vain.

Further Guru himself questions and answer that what kind of duties and deeds should be performed in Dark Age and what kind of education should be taken to get emancipation guru answered that it is possible only with the Naam of God;

In this age of kal-Yug there is only one thing,

the name of God-the ocean of mercy-by the practicing the remembrance of which a man can get salvation.

Motivation to live a balanced life:

Guru Teg Bahadur ji taught that a truly spiritual life is not found in renunciation of the world not in blind indulgence. Instead, he emphasized a harmonious balance between spiritual growth, ethical living and worldly responsibilities. Guru ji's slokes explain that one should stay calm in happiness and sorrow. Remain humble even in success and accept difficulties with patience.

A man who is not perturbed by troubles or adversity and

is not in love with comfort or prosperity and knows no fear and deems gold as dust

He who does not Slader or flatter and has no greed nor pride nor attachment and unaffected by pleasure or sorrow, respect or disrespect

God is full of Mercy:

According to Guru God is infinitely merciful, compassionate, and forgiving. God never punishes even when human beings make mistakes. God's grace is always available to those who remember him with sincerity. The mercy of God protects the weak, supports the helpless and gives peace to the troubled heart. God listens to the crises of the humble and uplifts those who seek him with devotion.

Save me my lord I have sought shelter in thy infinite mercy, as the fear of yama has filled my heart I am a vile sinner, stupid and greedy and I am now weary of sin

The fear of death is hunting me and this anxiety has burnt my body in my efforts for salvation. I have been running in all directions.....

I have no good deeds or qualities to my credit and

What deeds shall I do know?

According to Guru Teg Bahadur God name is a perennial source of solace:

O mind thinks of the refuge of God

By whose remembrance a sinner like prostitute was liberated

By his name Ajamil a sinner known all over the world was liberated in an instant

By whose remembrance Guru obtained a lasting existence and achieved a state of fearlessness

In concluding we can say that Guru Teg Bahadur ji teaches us to live a detached life because everything in this world like wealth, relations and life itself is temporary so one should not be inclined in it. Focus of mind should be on Naam only while doing household duties. Similarly, he stood as defender of the oppressed and choose martyrdom rather than allow injustice to prevail. Bani of Guru encourages people to remain fearless in difficult times, to accept God's will and to stay firm in righteousness. The slokes of Guru Teg Bahadur are famous for their clarity, simplicity and powerful message about the realities of life. Through his bani he guides humanity to live a moral life with spiritual strength and a peaceful mind. His writings continue to inspire people to rise above fear, ego, attachment and walk on the path of truth.

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