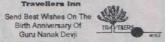
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# SIKHS Celebrate Birth Of GURU NANAK

## THE APOSTLE OF PEACE

### Guru Nanak - Sarbatt Da Bhalaa -

The whole of India was fragmented by petty kingdoms, from north to south, from east to west

RAJAS of these numerous kingdoms perennially fought against each other.

Expansionism was the norm of the day.

A weak RAJA would succumb to the atrocities of a powerful

And the common man knew nothing else than great suffering. Hardworking poor masses perished at the hands of these ruthless RAJAS.

Fifteenth century India was still ruled by these politicoreligious rulers

in the name of religion, masses were persecuted, misled industrinated in useless rituals.

Strident caste system

Inter-caste rivatries

banished all sense of peace and tranquillity.

Men of God like Namdev, Kabir and Ravidas were called Shudras (untouchables) and were

Division in a religious com-munity created mistrust, animosity and hatred amongst

This led members of each to install their own leaders- Jogis, Kazis,

The ignorant masses followed these Rishis and Kazis blindly and forgot the Creator.

Social and religious turmoil

i din

iordes.

This was the scenario when the apostle of peace - Guru Nanak - appeared on the scene n 1469.

Like a thoughtful doctor, Guru Nanak first sought to make a perfect diagnosis of the ills of the society and then prescribe the remedy

Malcom writes in the "Sketch Of The Sikhs" "Guru Nanak showed the path of human fulfilment by force of reason.

He kindled in the minds of the people the ultimate importance of remembering the Creator and the sense of brotherhood of

In "The Short History Of Sikhs", C. H. Pavne writes, "Guru Nanak

clearly understood what the other religious leaders of the time failed to grasp.

"Guru Nanak was practical in

"He insisted that people must not run away from themselves, they must look within to find God.

"He told the world not to run away from evil but face it head-on and defeat it."

Cunningham writes. "Guru Nanak saved the Sikhs from falling into the horrendous pitfalls of social evils that existed before his time and showed the true path of the aims of human life with easy, clear, independent and harmonious approach and formulated a concept of total peace and universal brother-

By: Sudarshan Singh Dadyalla

Honourary Secretary Siri Gwu Singh Sabha Mombasa

The entire religious philosophy of Guru Nanak could be expressed in four words:

Unity; Equality; Faith and

The First Two - Unity and Equality - concern the relation between God and Man

Briefly, Guru Nanak's message of peace could be construed

· Unity / Oneness Of God:

the first word of our Mool Mantar - Ik-On-Kar

(98: 9, 6, -)

i.e. one powers that continues Sarb Shaktiman - perpetual and indestructible - is all

This concept brings the whole

· Congregational Worship

human race under one umbrella implying Oneness Of God and Brotherhood of mankind.

Saadh Sangat Guru Nanak laid great emphasis on the idea of purpose of human life on earth.

The irm of human life is to see GOD within. Human life, in fact, is the reason to realise HIM

The other two help manifest

hood of mankind."

that relation.

way:

There are two ways to accomplish this.

One is Karam (Yog), the other s Knowledge (Gyan).

is knowledge (Gyan).

This could be realised in congregational worship, which again means that Saadh Sangat perpetuates the concept of universal brotherhood of mankind.

Guru: At the end of Mool Mantar, there is Gur-Prasaadh, which means that all awareness all knowledge is derived from Guru - all is bestowal of GOD through the Guru

Guru awakens your sleeping mind and leads you to Truth, Sacrifice and Worship.

Prakash (enlightenment)

ment of the purpose of human life. All other kinds of fulfilment are a

• Equality and Harmony: In order to co-exist in peace, in all its aspects and

harmony in purpose is essential Guru Nanak emphasised the

cultivation of sense of tolerance and contentment. Said Hell "All have the same flame

That has been kindled by Him' That is equality

And the grace of GOD brings

· Caste-System: Guru Nanak raised a strong and condemning voice against caste-system that plagued India for centuries before him

Sir Charles Guff wrote: divisions created by caste-system had blocked all progress

"Only Guru Nanak under-scored the importance of eliminating it."

In the eyes of GOD, all are

· Womenfolk: Guru Nanak not only condemned caste-system, inequality and dis-harmony in birth and body, but also talked about social stigmas pertaining to womenfolk.

The Western thought of the time proclaimed women as "an agreeable blunder". Aristotlatoo, claimed that a woman was an "erroneous development

In India poets like Tulsi Das

expressed the idea that a woman was half poison, half

Buddha said that women did

Guru Nanak however not only preached that the woman was an ornament for a man, but

"Why Say III Of Those Who Giveth Birth To Kings"

Oppression And Truth.
Moral, intellectual and spiritual oppression was an anathema to all human development.

Guera, Anna Company Company

Guru Nanak vehemently opposed all kind of oppression. He taught to absorb truth, say truth, live with truth, nurture truth:

"Truth Is The Highest, \*But Truthful Living Is

· Simplicity And Purity: Guru Nanak emphasised on a life lived in simplicity and purity of action and thought.

Payne commented: "Guru Nanak's religion was a practical

These faculties bring forth peace and tranquillity in mind and in body.

· His Travels: The apostle of peace, Guru Nanak, took his message of peace far and wide.

He travelled from 1507 to 1515 He travelled from 1507 to 1515 with Bala and Mardana, one Hindu and one Muslim, his life-long companions, not only all over India, but also to Sri Lanka (at that time known as Lanka) through Rameshvaram.

During 1517 and 1518, Guru Nanak travelled to Nepal, Sikkim, Tibet and through Yarkand to Kashmir And from 1518 to 1521, "Baba Then Went To Mecca"

Guru Nanak travelled to Mecca, Madina and Baghdad.

Wherever he went, he took with him abundance of flowers of peace, which he showered upon human beings, low or high, rich or poor, Hindu or Muslim.

Let us endeavour to imbibe Guru Nanak message of peace

Let us pick up a little petal of Guru Nanak's flower of peace and garnish our soul with it.

That would be the most beautiful act on our part on his birthday today.

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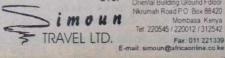
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