

RELEVANCE OF GURU NANAK'S PREACHING IN MODERN ERA

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ABSTRACT

The most famous teachings attributed to Guru Nanak Dev ji are that is only one god and that all human beings can have direct access to God with no need of rituals or priests. His most radical social teachings denounced the caste system and taught that everyone is equal, regardless of caste or gender. Guru Nanak teachings are an all encompassing philosophy of life's aspects-from spiritual and mystical to socio-economic and administrative. I am examining certain of his thematic from the combined vantage point of both the human and social sciences. When accounting for today's sociological and cultural advances cum complexity. Emphasis is placed on Guru Nanak and Sabd Guru's philosophies with other socio-religious ingredients and their applicability in today's global human relations and their trajectories for the future.

Keywords: *Guru Nanak Preaching, Modern Era*

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One God: Guru Nanak ji said "I am neither Hindu nor Muslim, I am a follower of God" Which actually spoke about his belief in one God. In Sikhism, the God is omnipresent, shapeless, timeless and sightless.

No Discrimination: Guru Nanak dev ji was strongly against all artificially created divisions and all discrimination, both in word and deed. He said that the caste of a person is based on what he does. More so like what you sow, so shall you reap, the actions decide the true worth of a man.

Stay Away: Guru Nanak Dev ji asked his followers to shun five evils *EGO, ANGER, GREED, ATTACHMENT and LUST*. They lead to illusion which eventually acts as roadblock towards the attainment of salvation. In today's times, these five evils or bad habits as we may term prevent us from attaining our true self which is capable of miraculous feats otherwise.

Importance of Guru: Guru Nanak Dev ji laid great emphasis on having the importance guru in one's life. He preached that salvation occurs not

from pilgrimage, superstitions or rites etc. But through heart, spirit and soul. In other words, to attain knowledge we seek guru, likewise on show humans the right path and to attain righteousness, one must seek the voice of god.

Sewa: Sewa is the key of humanity. Help the needy and we shall be helped by the almighty in our times of crisis. Never hesitate to help others and welcome them in your company. Friends, family become one in our nuclear times only with some warm efforts and an attitude towards sewa.

Contemporary Situation

Guru Nanak Dev ji depicted the situation ruthlessly but picturesquely in order to awaken people. He stated "False, immature and shallow is all others intellect." He further clarifies, "In the age of darkness, men have faces like dogs and carrion is their food. They bark, they utter falsehood and they are devoid of righteous and pious thoughts." (AGGS, M1, P1242) Guru Nanak Dev ji articulates, "The Dark Age is the scalpel, the kings are the butchers, and righteousness has vanished. In the dark night of falsehood the moon of truth cannot be seen anywhere" (AGGS, M1, P145). Is this applicable to present day scams, black money,

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encroachment and illegal money in foreign banks.

Former Chief Justice of India, J.S Verma stated that, “Lawyers are judged by the value of their cars and judged are making news for wrong reasons. Where is all this going to lead us”? Guru Nanak Dev ji exposes corrupt system in these words “Taking bribe, he does injustice. If someone asks him, then he quotes and reads out some aphorisms” (AGGS, M1, P85).

Discrimination and Inequality

Guru Nanak Dev ji judgments, teachings and philosophy are as appropriate and relevant today as they were five hundred years ago. He advises us to consider the holiness of life and deem the body as “the temple of God.” Everybody has the fundamental right to possess all human rights and if need be, to assert and strive to eradicate invidious distinctions, female feticide, pluralism, unjust divisions,

discrimination and inequities (whether caste system, economic class system, racism, female subjugation, nationality, color, language and belief system). Spiritual salvation will come along with righteous deeds performed in this world. Guru Nanak Dev ji’s teachings were radically transformative for he denounced the prevailing values.

Thus we conclude that Guru ji’s teachings are immensely beneficial, to all human beings because those teachings embodying all facets of society and life transcend social, religious, color, creed, ethnic and national barriers and demarcations. He did not permit himself to be labeled or denominated and nor did he allow his Bani to become the channel and agency of a dominant and prevailing denomination.

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