Celestial Gems from the Sikh Legacy Prof. Harpreet Kaur

Celestial Gems from the Sikh Legacy

Prof. Harpreet Kaur

MANPREET PRAKASHAN Delhi

International Publisher for the publication of Indian and Foreign Books



Representative Offices:

Minnie Grewal, 5 Sylvid Court, Loretto, ONT. LOG. CANADA Balbir Kaur Sanghera, 1266 Roper Dr. Milton ONT. L9T 6E6 CANADA Ajaib Singh Chatha, 45 Ray Lawson Blvd. Brampton. ON. L6Y 3L4 CANADA

Celestial Gems from the Sikh Legacy

by

Prof. Harpreet Kaur © G-18, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110001 Mobile : 9811700465

ISBN: 81-87654-02-3

Price: 880/-

2020

Publication : Manpreet Prakashan

16/16 Ist Floor, Geeta Colony, Delhi-31

Mobile: 93122 71252, E-mail: manpreet1948@gmail.com

Q8441,6NHA

Printer: Balaji Offset, Delhi

All rights reserved

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior written consent in any form of binding or cover other than in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser and without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photo copying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of both the copyright owner and the publisher of this book.

FOREWORD

A few reasons and happenings embedded in the historical circumstances of the medieval times were directly and indirectly instrumental in establishing the lineage of the Gurus and creation of the Sikh faith. The Sikh Faith emerged due to exigencies of the time and plight of the common man at the hands of political and religious heads, was prominent amongst these. The purpose and teachings were discreet and simple challenging the religious dogma and futile practices. Guru Nanak enunciated the basic principles of the faith including the belief in One God and endorsed that duty towards one's family and fellow-beings is paramount, which would lead one to spiritual salvation. The aim of one's life is to be engaged in the social pursuits sticking to values inculcated by the Gurus and doing divine meditation. Guru Nanak's vision laid grounds for a religious upheaval that continued in the times of the succeeding Gurus. The values taught by him continued to be a part and parcel of the community who revere the Gurus and try to preserve the rich Sikh heritage for the posterity.

The Gurdwaras in Pakistan are related to events in the life of Baba Nanak from his birth till the time he left for the heavenly abode. Being an Islamic state, the policies of Government of Pakistan are illiberal, which makes the visit to these holy places very difficult. This also made it tough to allay the demands and concerns of the community in a country that has meagre Sikh population. However, one such long-standing demand of the community was met with the

with emphasis on waging holy warfare- a righteous war. Taking the blessings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Banda Singh Bahadur, laid the foundation of a Sovereign State. The same spirit was continued in the Khalsa even in the later years.

The present book, 'Celestial Gems from the Sikh Legacy' traces the Sikh legacy with a very different approach and a personal touch. The book contains articles pened down by me from time to time. The objective of the book has been to cover the times from Guru Nanak Dev Ji to Banda Singh Bahadur. Although the topics are varied but I have made an attempt to present these in a rudimentary sequential order with a touch of personal experiences, wherever possible. The Sikh philosophy is so intense, variegated and deep that even an iota of the spirit might not be contained in the book but definitely, these topics have been explored with an objective of understanding the history, heritage, traditions, practices and legacy of the Great Gurus and their adherents.

With the core of my heart, I thank Dr. Harbans Kaur Sagoo, Prof. Rawail Singh and Dr. Jagjit Kaur for their support and association. I thank my publisher, Manpreet Prakashan for doing the job painstakingly.

Prof. Harpreet Kaur PrincipalMata Sundri College for Women
University of Delhi



Prof. Harpreet Kaur, currently Principal of Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi has also previously worked as Vice Principal of Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi where she started her career in 1990. Apart from writing more than two dozen books on Political Science, she has authored many books, book chapters, essays and commentaries on Sikhs and Sikhism, many

of which were published in The Sikh Review, newspapers and other journals. She regularly writes on topics covering social, religious and political matters. Prof. Harpreet Kaur has written a number of editorials, forewords of books and translated a few books from Punjabi to English. She has reviewed a number of books on Sikhism and her book reviews have been published in international as well as national journals. She has a passion for public speaking.

This book namely, 'Celestial Gems from the Sikh Legacy' contains articles on Guru Nanak's life, times and philosophy and the legacy beyond his times. Her in-depth articles contained in this book were read in many national and international conferences held especially during the 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Apart from participating in many conferences and seminars held in the country and abroad, she herself has organized conferences and seminars on Sikh issues, religion, culture and history. Prof. Harpreet Kaur is recipient of various distinctions and awards from DSGMC and other religious institutions.

I convey my best wishes for the publication of this book. I am sure that anyone who reads the book will find it of a great value. I congratulate Prof. Harpreet Kaur for her efforts and valuable contribution to the existing literature. I hope she will pursue more such endeavours in the future that would inculcate interest in the youth to make them aware about our glorious history, heritage and culture.

Dr. Harbans Kaur Sagoo