



*Babaji with Father Paulos Mar Gregorios, Brother Wayne Teasdale, and John Stasio*

### ***Lights in the Darkness***

As winter brings the darkest part of the year in the northern hemisphere, Baba Virsa Singh is asserting that light will follow the darkness in society. "Just as spring always follows winter," he says, "these periods keep changing. This is just a period."

At Gobind Sadan's farm and devotional center in Delhi, a new havan (sacred ever-burning fire) has been started on a stone terrace on the hillside. Every evening small oil lamps are placed in niches in the surrounding walls. As devotees of God from various religions sit at the sacred fire in prayer and meditation, they experience the special peace and spiritual power with which God blesses Gobind Sadan. Nearby is the soothing splash of water in irrigation channels, and the soft recitation of the inspired songs of the Guru Granth Sahib, as Akhand Path continues around the clock.

Maaike Snel, a Christian girl from the Netherlands who is visiting Gobind Sadan, sits at the new havan in the evenings, reading her Bible as others are reciting Jaap Sahib (Guru Gobind Singh's hymn of God's praises). She says, "The most beautiful thoughts come to me at that time. What they are singing is not Dutch, I don't understand it, it's not Christian singing, it's not Psalms, and still it connects to me. We're all praising God, in any language, in any way."

Baba Virsa Singh explains, "At Gobind Sadan, there has never been any restriction on reading the holy books which have come through the prophets, as the Power of God spoke through them. They are the commandments of God, and these religious places have also been built by the command of God. But the point is not only to

## ***NEWS FROM GOBIND SADAN***

*Gobind Sadan, Gadaipur, via Mehrauli,  
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read the scriptures; the point is to put them into practice with love. When the teachings are not practiced, reading any scripture is just a ritual.

### ***Is there any hope?***

In a recent conversation with Baba Virsa Singh about the state of society, Shammi Narang, a national television broadcaster, asked, "Is there any hope?" Babaji answered, "Now everything in the world has become upside down, and only God can put it right. But it will be all right. All the prophets have promised that when times are very hard, peace will certainly follow. One cannot live forever under pressure. Change will come, and good people will come forward.

Now people are imitating bad examples. When someone imitates bad people, how can he become good? When you see a successful person, always ask yourself how he or she has become successful. Is it through honesty, good character, truthful speech, just actions? You must watch such a person. But if a person has become successful by grabbing what does not belong to him, never go near him, for he will always speak of contrary points.

Whenever goodness is suppressed, the Power of God starts bringing Light. What is going on now is a mere show, and it will not last for long. It is all temporary, with no foundation. It exists only in the air with no footing on the ground.

In all ages there are both goodness and evil. Guru Nanak says that this Kali Yuga (this Iron Age, considered the darkest, most corrupt of times) is actually a good time to live, because if you have faith in God, you will quickly become enlightened with inner wisdom. Why? Because in such times those people who are calling God are very few.

Guru Gobind Singh wrote in strict words that negative things beyond anyone's imagination would come to pass. One hundred percent of what he predicted is indeed now happening, Guru Nanak wrote that Kali Yuga is a chariot of fire, and falsehood is the horse pulling it.

However, there is an eternal rule that as a person does bad deeds, his power diminishes. Similarly, because this time in history has witnessed so much evil, the power and also the length of this period will

decrease. There is nothing to be discouraged about. It is a very dangerous period, but it is of limited duration, and everything will change."

#### ***Guidance to recent guests***

\*Father Paulos Mar Gregorios, Metropolitan of Syrian Orthodox Church of the East, past-President of The World Council of Churches, with Brother Wayne Teasdale, and John Stasio from the U.S. were greeted with great affection. Babaji said to them, "Whoever has the touch of God becomes Love himself. God is sitting and smiling inside you. Someone asked a saint why he was always happy. He said, 'My Friend is such that He looks at me and I look at Him, and He is always happy.' If you want to be happy, love Him."

\* Tim and Barbara Cook, ministers of the Church of Conscious Harmony in Austin, Texas have two photographs of Babaji in their church from Tim's first visit to Gobind Sadan in 1979. They said to Babaji, "We have been so blessed since that time." Babaji replied: "These things happen to you because your love is so great. Always think of Him who gives you all happiness, who is Owner of everything. There is nothing He cannot give you. This is the difference between God and the human. The human has nothing to give, but when one looks toward God, everything comes. Those are blessed who have love, compassion, thoughts of service, who talk of love when anyone is in trouble, who help those in pain.

Tim related, "In 1979, Maharaj said, 'Your problems will all be solved, you will have all success, and things will happen that you can't even imagine in dream.' There is so much love in my life since you have blessed me, Maharaj. And we feel so welcome and so loved here at Gobind Sadan. It always feels like we have come home."

\*Druze from Israel, a group of non-Muslim Arabs from an ancient faith in the Middle East, visited Gobind Sadan for the second time with Professor and Mrs. M. L. Sondhi. Among them were Assad Asaad, an MP of the Israeli Knesset, who has been instrumental in the peace process in that region. They told Baba Virsa Singh that the Druze believe that God pervades everywhere and has no form. Babaji concurred, saying, "From childhood, I have learned that God is an eternal Light which has always existed. It is hidden but it can be felt from inside. The whole universe is inside you, but to know it you have to go within yourself. Then you get the inner feeling that everything speaks, including trees and stars, and that it is possible to talk with them. As we farmed, questions arose about what nutrients and cultivation practices to use, and the crops and trees told us."

Dr. Hasoun of the Druze group asked, "Will or has God ever appeared in human form?" Babaji replied, "God is both subtle and concrete. Sometimes people stop

listening to the subtle voice of God because of the accumulated effect of evil actions. At that time, the subtle speaks through a material form, as the Power of God comes in a Prophet to explain to the world. Then the people become good. The time came and God selected Moses. The time came again and Jesus came on earth. The time came again and Mohammed was called. At other times, Guru Nanak, Guru Gobind Singh, Lord Krishna were chosen. The Power of God was made manifest through them."

\*Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, organizer of the Chicago Parliament of the World's Religions, returned to Gobind Sadan seeking guidance for his new project. Babaji said to him, "The only way to stay happy is to fix your goal and move toward it slowly. Be prepared for obstacles and jungles. Don't get upset; just carry on. Recognize that the public is such that they will oppose a person-- they even crucified Jesus. If you accept that the public is like this, you can sleep comfortably and relax as you slowly move on your own path. But if you look toward the peak immediately, you'll get a sore back."

\*Udita Panconcelli is a doctor from Czechoslovakia who had witnessed years of oppression of her Christian faith. To her, Babaji said, "The struggle between goodness and evil has always been going on. Whenever we turn our thoughts to God, He gives us His Light, and Satan can't enter that aura. Truth always wins. Doesn't darkness flee when the sun arises? Look at the example Jesus set: They crucified him, and yet he came back. And whenever anybody remembers him, he stands before them and begins to heal them. Can you imagine how powerful those rays are? No matter how much rain or snow falls, we sit beneath a roof — the protection of God's Light."



*Babaji takes hukam for the head priest of Dewa Sharif and his son, Mohammed Shariq Rafiq Warsi, with Rai Singh, Secretary of Social Welfare, U.P. Government*

\*Mohammed Shariq Rafiq Warsi from Medina, another frequent guest, told Babaji that both his daughter and his father were healed by Babaji's blessings and visionary guidance. For the daughter, the order came to recite the opening Sura of the Qur'an over her; the mother says she also saw a tall figure in white near the daughter's bedside in the hospital in Medina. The order for the father came to Babaji in vision as a list of eight very specific things for him to do in Dewa Sharif, his famous pir's tomb in Barabanki, near Lucknow. When the order was conveyed to him, the father was stunned, for these detailed instructions were exactly the same things that the pir himself had ordered before he died.

Babaji observed, "Everything is the Nur, the all-pervading Light of God. In Mohammad there were no boundaries. If you remember God, He will always bless and heal you. Always remember that God is always merciful, is always blessing and healing the whole creation."

### ***Shiv Seeds***

During the past year, much of the land at Shiv Sadan, Gobind Sadan's big farm on the banks of the Ganges, has been devoted to production of seeds for grains and vegetables. This scientifically demanding work has been carried out under the supervision of seed specialist, P. K. Dabas, in conjunction with major agricultural universities and with government certification. The intention has been to test and make available high-quality varieties and hybrids for Indian farmers. The results have been very successful, and now Gobind Sadan is distributing the improved seeds to farmers from its new warehouse and office in Meerut, U.P. The stock includes nineteen forms of wheat, fourteen kinds of rice, five kinds of mustard, five kinds of maize, three peas, two pulses, two sunflowers, oats, peas, cauliflower, spinach, carrots, radishes, brinjal, bhindi, tomato, capsicum, chilis, and tinda.

### ***Baba Siri Chand's 500th birthday***

Renewed respect is being paid to Baba Siri Chand, elder son of Guru Nanak and spiritual guide of Baba Virsa Singh. According to a survey conducted during the reign of Shah Jahan, Baba Siri Chand was at that time the most revered saint in all of India. However, his memory was obscured by inaccuracies in written histories. Baba Virsa Singh has sponsored two seminars inviting top Sikh scholars to uncover the truths of Baba Siri Chand's life and work, and in September Gobind Sadan celebrated Baba Siri Chand's 500th Birth Anniversary. When the national television company interviewed Baba Virsa Singh for a documentary on Baba Siri Chand, his talk included these points:

### ***God is one ocean***

"One thing we should be very proud to say of Baba Siri Chand is that he was not of any one religion or ethnic group. Everyone felt that Babaji was their respected elder. Whoever came to see him, whether Muslim or Hindu or of any caste, Babaji always reiterated that God is one. One Prophet said, 'Do ibadat' ('Muslim' devotions), another said, 'Do puja' ('Hindu' worship), another said, 'Pray.' But Baba Siri Chand said, 'The point is the same.' The meaning of puja is to always think of God and describe Him. Ibadat means to always thank God. To pray also means to ever think of God, ever love God. Babaji often did arti ('Hindu' worship with lights). Some people objected, telling him to do ibadat instead. He replied with love to help them understand: 'Arti is ibadat, and arti is also puja.'

Those who were rigid fundamentalists, confined within small circles, never remained so after being with Baba Siri Chand. Instead of remaining narrow-minded, they entered a great ocean — that which we call God, the Formless One Who is always within each person, Who is many and also One."

### ***Who is an Udasi?***

"In the past, scholars did not carry out full research as to who Baba Siri Chand was. They always confined him to a limited circle, pigeonholing him as an Udasi (member of a particular ascetic sect which combines meditation with practical work). He was indeed within the Udasi circle, but as he taught, who is an Udasi? '*Gurmukh maya vich udasi* — The holy saint is always detached within mundane existence.' (Bhai Gurdas 10/5) Whosoever remains detached whilst living in the world is an Udasi. As Gurbani says, '*Brahmgiani sada nirlep, Jaise jal maih kamal alep* — As the lotus remains undefiled by the water, the Brahmngiani is undefiled whilst living within the world." (GGs 272) Why? He knows that this world is ephemeral."

### ***Babaji connected people with God***

"Baba Siri Chand never said, 'Follow me.' He always said, 'There is one God; love Him.' He did not claim the status of a guru or a prophet. He was always praising Guru Nanak, always speaking about Guru Nanak's teachings, always bowing before Guru Nanak who had trained him in worship of the Formless God.

Likewise, Guru Nanak never asked anyone to follow him. Rather, he linked people directly with God. His teaching was to love God, for God is Timeless, Eternal, the One who gives you Light, who gives you Love. His teaching was to love God and always work hard and from your earnings share with others, but never with self-conscious pride. The teaching was to just do good and then forget it."

### ***He is a great power***

"Baba Siri Chand is not limited to one sect, one religion. He is above all these distinctions. The Gurus say that a God-realized person is like God — '*Har ka chihan soi har jan ka*' (GGS 1269).

If we try to understand and speak about Baba Siri Chand, we can say that he is love, that he is a very great power. Those who follow him would work very hard, would not take any intoxicants, would love all people from all walks of life, from all ethnic groups, all countries, all religions. The Sikh Gurus, Muslim kings and Nawabs went to him because there was so much love between them. People from all over India brought their difficulties, their worries to Baba Siri Chand, and he blessed them all and took away their problems. "

### ***Miracles of faith***

"People exclaimed to him, 'Maharaj, endless miracles are happening around you.' Babaji would laugh and say, 'What you are calling miracles are natural. Wherever you light a fire, there will naturally be heat. Wherever God's praise and worship and prayers are going on, if a childless couple comes, they will be blessed with a child. If sick people come, they will be cured. If a person is lost, he will be enlightened. It is not that I am performing miracles, as someone would perform a magic trick simply to get people to follow him, for his own self-interest. A miracle is something that happens automatically; it is not something that we do.'

At a place where one recites Nam, has faith in God, always worships and praises God, people will get everything, for God will shower blessings, forgiveness, and peace there. The greatest thing is that although people have ego within them, when they come into that atmosphere, kindness will overwhelm them."

### ***Babaji 's practical life***

"Baba Siri Chand's life was one of meditation, love, work, and directing people's thoughts to God, dispelling their hatred, and saving them from their conflicts. At all times, he stressed that we should look at God within everything, love God, and do violence to none. All these teachings were given to help us become better people, to link us with God, to teach us to love God. Baba Siri Chand didn't just say these things. He practiced them day and night, and whatever he spoke actually happened. No one ever went away disappointed. Everyone left with their bags full.

To come closer to Baba Siri Chand you must meditate. It is not that in order to follow Baba Siri Chand we have to adopt a different religion. If we follow Baba Siri Chand's teachings, God will be happy with us, and all the Prophets will be happy with us, because Babaji respected all Prophets. He cemented people's link with their own Prophet. He was not separate from society, from any guru or pir. He always remained linked with God and respected God in everything."

### ***More Celebrations***

In November, Gobind Sadan celebrated Diwali and Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday with lights and fireworks. Christmas will be celebrated December 27th, with a candlelit procession from "Jesus's Place," where Jesus appeared years ago in vision to Baba Virsa Singh, showering blessings on Gobind Sadan. A large langar will be served to the poor afterward. Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday will be celebrated on January 8th, with kirtan, langar, and an address by Babaji.

### ***New Publications***

In addition to new printings of the daily Sikh prayers and Jaap Sahib, two new publications on Baba Siri Chand have been released by The Gobind Sadan Institute of Advanced Studies in Comparative Religions: Seminar Papers on Baba Sri Chand Ji and Living by the Example of Baba Siri Chand.

A collection of Baba Virsa Singh's central teachings, previously published in English as Loving God; is now available in Punjabi as Rab da Sahi Suneha.

Professor A. N. Shamatov, Head of the Philology Department at Tashkent University, has written a tribute in Urdu entitled Babaji: What he is to me, describing Baba Virsa Singh's visit to Uzbekistan in 1989. It is now available in English, Punjabi, and Hindi translations.

Professor Shamatov writes, in part, "An emotionally charged atmosphere was created wherever Babaji set his feet, while a strong empathy between him and the audience was clearly discernible. Babaji's profound wisdom and warmth brought solace to the troubled, relief to the ailing and encouragement to the others. All those who met Babaji shared the opinion that the brightness in his eyes and the glow on his face radiated compassion and love, showering everyone with a kind of blessing beyond explanation."



*Babaji blesses the hands of John Stasio, massage therapist*