

## NEWS FROM GOBIND SADAN

January 1995

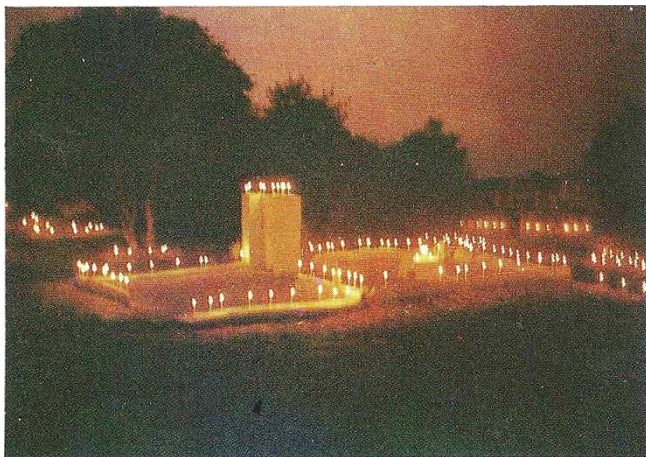
Gobind Sadan, Gadaipur, via Mehrauli, New Delhi 110030

### Christmas joy

Gobind Sadan celebrated Christmas with special joy this year. Everyone present said they had never experienced such happiness, such holiness at Christmas. All felt that amid the simple, deep devotion and lights of this sacred place they were truly in paradise, in God's kingdom on earth.

Lights were everywhere. The farm, paths, gardens, and devotional areas had been decorated with 20,000 candles and thousands of colored bulbs were strung through the trees.,

Over a thousand worshippers from all faiths carried lighted candles to "Jesus's Place." On that thorny plain near the cattle mangers, so reminiscent of Bethlehem, Jesus appeared to Baba Virsa Singh eleven years ago. Babaji recalls that Jesus stood with arms outstretched and face to the sky, giving blessings for healings at Gobind Sadan in a voice that seemed to reverberate throughout Creation. A simple stone shrine has been erected on the hallowed spot where he appeared. Jesus is being seen there in vision by an increasing number of people who continue to light candles nightly at "Jesus's Place." A bank of candles is also lit each night at the shrine to Lord Krishna which has been built against the rocky ridge nearby.



*jesus 's Place on Christmas night*

### *"Jesus is here," says Christian Bishop*

After the candles were placed with love at Jesus's Place and throughout Gobind Sadan's peaceful hillside garden and songs welcoming Jesus were offered in many languages, Bishop Paulos Mar Gregorios, Metropolitan in the Syrian



*Babaji's Christmas address, with Bishop Gregorios*

Orthodox Christian Church and past-President of the World Council of Churches, said: "Jesus is here. I feel His presence. I see Jesus most of all in Babaji. On his face, I can see the presence of Jesus. I see Jesus Christ also on the faces of all the children, with their happiness and their eyes glowing with the love of God. And all of us who are gathered together in peace and joy, I see Jesus in you. I see Jesus also not only in the candles but also in the plants and the trees. Jesus is present.

I want to say how deeply I appreciate and admire Babaji as the presence of God to me. To be in Babaji's presence is a great joy for me. The light that comes from him washes away all my darkness. I think we are fortunate and we must thank God that someone like Babaji is living in our midst today. In the past we had many great gurus, rishis, holy men. But today there are so few of these great souls in our midst. The presence of one holy soul is a great blessing to the whole world."

### *Why do we celebrate all holy days?*

As a multitude of Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims as well as Christians carried candles in love for Jesus, laughed in glee when 80-year-old Bhai Kirpal Singh made a surprise appearance as Santa Claus distributing sweets, and then sat together in a huge langar for the poor, Baba Virsa Singh affirmed the deep meaning of his celebrating the holy days of all the prophets:

*"As Guru Gobind Singh Ji says, all forms of worship are the same, all religious places are the same, and all of humanity should be considered as one race.*

Guru Nanak Dev Ji says, "There is one Father, and we are all His children." Guru Gobind Singh, Guru Nanak, and Jesus all call God Their Father. Despite differences in language and ways of worshipping, all the prophets have brought the same message. Jesus says to us, "Love my Father and love the people also, for my Father is Love. Don't hurt anyone's feelings, don't deprive anyone of their rights, speak truth, do justice, serve others." Abraham, Moses, Noah, and Hazrat Mohammad all say the same thing. Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavir say "Do no violence," for they see life in everything.

Jesus never told people to make boundaries. He says, "Love trees, animals, flowers — see me in the very earth." Jesus speaks of the kingdom of his Father, in which there is peace, justice, and truth. He calls it heaven and prays to his Father to bring this kingdom on earth. Guru Nanak refers to Sach Khand, the realm of truth where justice prevails, and he speaks of swarag, heaven on earth. Prophet Mohammad calls it bahisht.

There is only one eternal message of religion, and it has always come from the same Source. However, religious "authorities" have divided the prophets into different religions. The priests have made Jesus a Christian, Moses a Jew, Guru Nanak a Sikh, Krishna a Hindu. While praising their own prophets, they have defined them in small terms. The Master is so wide, but humans have made Him so small. They have made the Creator of all Creation just the leader of a sect. They speak of the God of Abraham, the Allah of Muslims. They say, "This temple is for Hindus only" if a Muslim comes to worship there. They say that Jesus is for Christians only; that Moses is for Jews. The priests have spoiled everyone's thinking; they have washed religion from the people's minds. This is not right. The prophets never said, "I am only for you." They all said, "Love everything." They all came to teach us love.

These exclusive ideas propagated by the religious authorities have been repeated so long that it will take some time for people to change their thinking. If you say that Guru Nanak Dev Ji is equal to Hazrat Mohammad, the Muslim will feel greatly affronted and will say, "How can it be?" But as people gradually learn to accept the truth that all prophets are equal, that God is one and God's message is one, our nervousness and angry conflicts between sects will cease and we will all recognize each other as brothers and sisters. The only ones who will lose will be the self-styled religious authorities. The public will lose nothing, and God will be happy.

God has never changed His message, nor have any of the prophets changed His message. They have all said, "God is One; love God, love God, love God."

If a person asks why Babaji celebrates Jesus's birthday, the answer is that Babaji has come from a place where there is neither friend nor enemy, where

there is no opposition. For us, Jesus is our life. Hazrat Mohammad is also our life, our love. I deeply love Jesus and all the prophets. I am not celebrating their holy days to please the people.

### **"The Prophets are one Family"**

It was a great day when Jesus appeared on earth. It was a great day when Hazrat Mohammad appeared on earth, when Guru Nanak appeared on earth. They came from God to bless us. We are trying to divide them, but God and the prophets are sitting quietly up there. That Family is so strong that they will never quarrel.

I think if you praise Jesus and criticize Mohammad, God will never open His door of blessings for you. If you criticize Jesus and praise Mohammad, God will never bless you.

Once people were fighting outside Mohammad's place. One said that Jesus was great, another said that no one compared with Moses, another proclaimed that no one compared with Mohammad. Mohammad called them and said, "Listen! Jesus was my brother. Moses was my elder. I, Mohammad, have come to give the message of God. Why are you quarreling?" When Mohammad's people were destroying idols in the Kaaba, they ran to Mohammad to tell him that there were pictures of Jesus and Mary therein. "Let them remain," he commanded, "for Jesus is a messenger of God and Mary is blessed."

One day women were dancing. Abu Bakr pointed out to Hazrat Mohammad that they were breaking the spiritual law. Hazrat Mohammad laughed and said, "Today is Jesus's Birthday, a day of great happiness. All of you should dance today!"

Religious sects have been created by humans. All of you should come out of them, rise above them, and remember one God Who is above all. Saying that these sects are separate, that they have different methods, is just a waste of time, by which you do not gain anything. God is one, and the prophets are one. All of you must clearly understand this.

### **"God's joy is boundless today"**

There are ideas inside us which have been developed by repetition over the years. You think Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus are different. But we are not different. We are one. You have emerged from one God and you will merge with one God.

In reality, what was Jesus? Understand that Jesus was light, born from the Light. What is the religion of the Light? What is the caste, the country of the Light? Light is illumination. It is present throughout the earth, in all animals, in all seas, in everything.

When we lovingly celebrate Jesus's Birthday, God's joy has no limits. When we celebrate Guru Nanak's Birthday and love him, when we lovingly celebrate Hazrat Mohammad's day, God will be so

happy that there will be no bounds to God's joy. God selected all of them, blessed them, spoke through them, and worked through them. They blessed the people with God's Light. God's love will automatically accrue to those who love them. Whosoever will happily celebrate their holy days and will love them, God will create a treasure of love in their hearts.

Today you have come with love on Jesus's Birthday, and Jesus has blessed you all. Jesus's Father is also very happy. If you love someone's son, the father is extremely happy. God's joy therefore is limitless today, for God sees, "They love my Child so much."

#### **"Jesus appeared here"**

During the Christmas festivities, Baba Virsa Singh described one of his visions of Jesus: *Eleven years ago, I saw Jesus standing in the place where you went with candles. This is not imaginary — He was actually standing there for a long time with his arms outstretched, saying "Blesssssed."*

Now we celebrate Jesus' birthday because we are welcoming him. My inner feeling is, "That ground where you stood, where I saw you — I cannot describe that experience. All I can do is light divas and candles at that hallowed place, sing your praises at that sacred place." Many churches are constructed in the name of the Messiah, but the importance of that place is that I saw Jesus standing there.

That place where he stood was no palace. It was very dirty. But Jesus's blessing thrust down clear to the lower world, and now there is light for miles and miles around here — light, light, light, light.

#### **"The path to God is always open to those who love"**

From childhood I have never believed in theory. I have believed in practical things. I truly understand from the depth of my heart that all the prophets and messiahs have come from the one love of God. Then why should we not love them? God will be happy with us only when we love them. A person who hates, who quarrels, who deprives others of their rights, shall never go near God. For the loving person, the path to God is always open. To them, God says, "You can come and go as you like." Love has such a great position in the world that it is always victorious, whereas pressure and oppression will always bring rebellion.

Understand this well: God is all-pervading, and through the prophets and messiahs, we could see Him. "Oh Father, You have sent Jesus as a human like us. He talked like us, and we were able to understand him. Had You sent him in any other form, neither could we have followed him nor could he have understood us."

#### **The healing blessings of God**

Many questions arise regarding miracles and healings. I say to you that where there is the merciful blessing of God, it heals the earth, the animals, the trees, the flowers, the very air. This is not a matter of mere talking. It is a practical reality.

About two years ago at our biggest farm, Shiv Sadan, we planted young trees on both sides of the road to the Pir's Dargah; I wanted them to give cooling shade for the road. But they subsequently dried up because they were not watered sufficiently. I have full faith that trees and crops speak, so I asked the trees, "How can you come back to life?" They directed, "Bring ashes and water from that place where you all meditate and chant Nam day and night. Place that on the roots, and all will come back to life, for He who is Destroyer is also the Creator." Now you can go and see: There were hundreds of trees that had dried up, and now they have become green and have sprouted new branches."

#### **"Take God's blessings with you"**

What will happen when you believe in God? Light will come, and we will all be pardoned and blessed. I have firm faith that wherever the sight of these prophets and messiahs falls, the whole earth beneath is blessed to the core.

Today you feel as if there is a great festival of light. This is due to His blessing, His kindness, His Light, His Love, showering like rain upon the whole earth. His merciful gaze is very powerful — come beneath that gaze. His Love is very powerful — come beneath that Love. God is healing the whole Creation, giving Light to the whole cosmos, giving Love to the whole cosmos.

Just to praise Him requires many lives. We cannot praise Him in one life. One hour or two hours of worship are nothing. Rise early in the morning and meditate. Thank Him who has given you sleep, who has given you food, who has given you clothes, who has given you a brain, who has given you love. After thanking Him, after receiving His blessings, take Him with you on your journey from morning to evening. When you take Him with you, then you will go and come back home with happiness,"

#### **Guru Gobind Singh's Gurburab**

By the time that Guru Gobind Singh's birthday was celebrated on January 8th, Gobind Sadan was decorated with a fantastic light show of 12,000 colored bulbs. The lights twinkled from hundreds of trees, danced around buildings, traveled in waves to the very top of Nishan Sahib. Joy and love flowed abundantly, with bhangra dancing, Qawwali singers, devotional kirtan, 10 Akhand Paths, and huge langars.

On the occasion, Baba Virsa Singh made a special statement for the press about the mission of Guru Gobind Singh. In part, he said,

*"The meaning of Guru Gobind Singh's coming on earth is this: That whenever there is fear, casteism, self-interest, crime, and corruption rampant in the world, a great being like Guru Gobind Singh takes birth to give strength to the people and empower justice.*

*Guru Gobind Singh defined religion as character. He says that the one who has faith in God will have the power to do justice, will love people, and will believe in hard work. He stressed that in God's mission no one should remain idle and no one should take alms. Instead of trying to establish oneself between the people and God, one should unite people with God. One should serve the people, annihilate one's ego, and always preach the love of God.*

*Guru Gobind Singh's message was the need of the day from the beginning of time. It remains relevant today, and it will continue to be relevant lakhs of years into the future. His message is always the same: love people, think about the development of your country, society, and home and be faithful to them. Love God as you work, and be as brothers and sisters to each other.*

*He taught that in the family of God there is no caste, no high or low, no sect. The only caste is that of humanity. He stressed that in humans there is both strength and fear, both light and darkness. He taught that God is not theoretical — that God's strength and wisdom lie within one's own being.*

*Guru Gobind Singh defined religions as a very practical thing — not a matter of books, meetings, or ritual bowing at holy places. It is a matter of love, of vision, of revelation. He said, "Practice religion in your own life. Experience the temple, the gurdwara, the mosque within yourself, because there is a holy Force lying within you."*

#### **Rai Singh: "The mission is the same"**

Among the illustrious guests of Gobind Sadan celebrating Guru Gobind Singh's birthday was Rai Singh, I.A.S., Secretary of Social Welfare, Uttar Pradesh Government. He affirmed, "I do not find any difference between the mission of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Baba Virsa Singh Ji, because the Khalsa Panth which was expounded by Guru Gobind Singh Ji is being practiced here in Gobind Sadan and everywhere Babaji goes. I think in the present day of crisis facing the country, the teachings of Babaji are very relevant. Casteism, religious intolerance, and economic inequalities are prevalent in the country. If Babaji's teachings are practiced, we will definitely reduce the agony being caused by these problems. Religion does not divide a society, if religion is understood in real terms. It creates love, affection, sense of social justice, sacrifice, hard work, and truth. I think religion as preached by Babaji will definitely usher in a new era of peace, prosperity, and development in this country.

#### **Condolences**

Our sincere sympathies are with the family of Syed Rais Shah Warsi, who had been the Head Priest of renowned Dewa Sharif in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. When he came to Baba Virsa Singh on May 26, 1994 to take his blessings and share information about the depths of Islam, he wrote in our diary, "Love is God and God is Love. Ya Waris, Ya Waris."

Mohammad Shariq Warsi, son of the late priest, has written to us from Medina: "Two days before my father's death, I have seen in dream the Holy Highness Maharaj Ji hold me in his arms, place his spiritual hand on my head, and give so many blessings and love. Then he asked me to sit on a very beautiful and impressive chair placed beside him. Please convey my heart feelings toward Holy Highness and thanks for his kind attention and love to us. I have no words to say how lucky we are to have Holy Highness around us."

May the departed soul rest in the peace of Allah in paradise, and may his family be blessed with God's loving embrace.

#### **25th anniversary**

On December 12, 1994, Swaranjit and Prem Singh celebrated the anniversary of their magical first meeting with Maharaj 25 years ago. Swaranjit is President of the Gobind Sadan Institute of Comparative Religion. By Maharaj's grace, Prem has been a medical miracle throughout this period, surviving intense pain and otherwise fatal physical problems without being able to take any medications or anesthesia or eat normal food. During the most unbearable times, she has seen him beside her. She says, "For all the past 25 years that I have been with Maharaj Ji, my feeling is that was the purpose for which I was born on this earth, to receive all that he has given to us in these 25 years, and I hope till the end of our days that Maharaj Ji will keep us at his feet always."

*Gobind Sadan is a programme of spiritual and social uplift for people of all faiths and all walks of life, supported by the transformation of barren wastelands into extraordinarily productive farms. Baba Virsa Singh Ji's communities in India and the USA are also informal schools for training the mind toward love of and faith in God. People from all over the world come to these spiritual places as volunteers and as worshippers of the one God.*