



April 27, 2003



Peace from the Holy Spirit

On his birthday, February 20, Baba Virsa Singh said, Always look within. God is not outside. God dwells within us, closer than our hands and feet. When you speak with love, the animals that you pass will be healed. When you look at the earth with love, it too will be healed. The trees beneath which you are standing will also be healed.

There is only one thing in the entire universe that will bring peace and healing and love. It is the Holy Spirit that dwells within our minds. If only we will look toward that Spirit in meditation with love, it will begin to speak to us twenty-four hours a day. It will continually bring peace to our troubled minds. When you receive its love, you will not be able to describe it. The taste of that love is not found even in the greatest delicacies. Especially at this time, all people, the earth, the universe need love.

Never doubt that the Holy Spirit can work through you. The Holy Spirit will definitely work within you. If the angels came and began to preach, then people would be afraid and say, "They're not like us." If the blessings of the angels come, they will come through you. Whenever God chose to heal the world, God sent someone in human form to us. That person spoke in languages we could understand, walked like us, and ate with us. But that person also linked us to the Holy Spirit.

There is a story of Moses. He was going to receive the throne and marry the Pharaoh's daughter. But the Holy Spirit within him was very powerful. God said to Moses, "What are you going to do with the kingdom? What will you accomplish by marrying the princess? I want you to free the slaves." Moses replied, "But how can I free the slaves?"

God said, "I will work through you." Moses asked, "How can that be?" God replied, "Look at your hand," and his hand became white. Then it returned to its normal color. God said, "Throw down this staff," and it turned into a snake. "Pick it up." When Moses picked it up, it became a stick again. Why? Because God places great value on love. Then the Holy Spirit worked through Moses to free the slaves.

Especially today at this time, we must learn to find the Holy Spirit that resides within us, and to share with everyone the love of that Holy Spirit. The most joyous thing is that we will all become children before God. Then the Holy Spirit will clasp us to its chest. But if we try to show our knowledge and use our intellect to understand the Holy Spirit, then forget it, because you will never be able to attain the Holy Spirit through your intellect.

A mother's attention is always on her child. If the child is playing or starting to run, the mother is always focused on that child. Like a mother, the Holy Spirit will put all its attention on us, if only we will become child-like.

If faith and love would come together, then peace will spread throughout the world. Let me tell you a little story that contains a great truth, the essence of the power of the Holy Spirit. A woman disciple came and said to Jesus, "Master, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus asked, "You have so much faith in me that I could keep your brother alive?" "Absolutely," she said. So Jesus said, "Show me where your brother is." His mother said, "We have already buried his body." Jesus said, "Take me to him."

Jesus sat down before the tomb and began to pray. Then he called to the man, "Come out." The man came out and embraced him. Overcome with love, Jesus said, "Anyone who has faith in me will have eternal life. Even if he dies he will live again. Whenever a thought comes in my mind, this is what will happen." That is why we say that the Holy Spirit was within Jesus, because healing was in his gaze, his touch, his thoughts, and his words.

All people love and pray to someone. That messiah toward whom you look can actually be seen in all religions. The trees, the animals, and the earth are all kissing him. When you have this realization, it is an indication that the Holy Spirit has come forth within you. Priests always create walls between religions, and these walls are the source of conflict and war, whereas the prophets bring only love.

Seminar on Faith in Service of Humanity

From February 16th to 20th, the Gobind Sadan Institute for Advanced Studies in Comparative Religion held an extremely successful international seminar on the subject of "Faith in Service of Humanity." Many scholars, religious leaders, government servants, and social workers from India, United States, and Russia participated.

Opening the seminar, Swaranjit Singh, President of the Gobind Sadan Institute, pointed out that, as Babaji tirelessly teaches, all prophets say the same thing but religious authorities have misled the people and created boundaries within the human family. He concluded, "Let us concern ourselves in finding the common factor that will bind people of all religions of the world. This common factor, this strong magnet, is faith."

The inaugural address was given by the Union Minister for Human Resources Development, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. In his probing talk, he spoke of scientific research into higher stages of meditation, in which no matter what religion meditators practice, they all arrive at the same experience: a feeling "that I am part of something bigger, something greater. Either it is a big vacuum, or a big light, or it is the entire universe, in which I have merged myself. Or it is God, the Creator of this whole universe, which is within me and I am within Him. Whatever way you describe it, the ultimate result is this: that there is something superior, something higher, which I experience. In science we call it the Ultimate Thing. That Ultimate is responsible for giving us values, faith, confidence. The net result is, in whatever way you may practice this faith, you are one with humanity, you are one with the universe. So long as there are differences, differentiated understanding that I and you are separate, there is no feeling of service. When I feel that I and you are one, then I can't tolerate any harm to you. If faith divides us, then that faith is not real."

Among the other inaugural speakers was Reverend Charles White, first President of the North American Interfaith Network. He said, "If we accept that there is one Almighty, Who is sending us messages, giving us hope, giving us love—if people of the world would unite around this message, we need not resort to war. I believe that this is the impact that Gobind Sadan is having increasingly around the world. Gobind Sadan is having the impact that God would want it to have, because it is a God-filled mission. It is making known in very practical ways God's love for all people and for the whole world."

In three roundtable sessions, the delegates deliberated upon the dimensions of faith and of service and then looked at practical ways that the two can be linked in teaching about religions and in governance. In this process, some of the delegates spoke of the impact that Gobind Sadan had made on their lives.

Ralph Singh, for instance, spoke of coming to Gobind Sadan when he was a young man and being asked by Baba Virsa Singh when he was meditating after sunrise, "What are you doing here? Get out into the fields and work! Do you think you came here just to meditate?" Ralph concluded, "Meditation is only to empower your work. As we work, we are burning away our weaknesses that keep us away from God. This beautiful garden was a pile of manure only a few years ago. If there was a shortage of labour in the dairy, Babaji himself would milk the buffalos. You have to work, and the focus of your work should be to uplift humanity. Babaji himself was in the fields night and day. After seeing crops and gardens appear where previously there was nothing, one develops a confidence that there is no amount of suffering, injustice, or oppression that cannot be solved."

Father Bento Rodrigues, Rector of Father Agnel School and Ashram, where Values Education is an integral part of the curriculum, said, "Differences are beautiful, created by God. Not only do we have to accept differences, but we must enjoy differences. If we fill our children with violence, what will come out of the child will be violence. An orange, if you cut it, you squeeze it, you get orange juice out of it. You can't get any other thing. If we fill our children with love, concern, with respect for one another, then whatever happens to them—they may be cut, they may be squeezed—what will come out of them will be love."

Ranjit Kalha, a former ambassador who recently retired as the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of India, spoke of the great influence that Baba Virsa Singh had on him as a civil servant, in positions in which the personal power and thus potential for corruption is tremendous. He observed, "Any

normal human being would be completely bowled over by the kind of adulation which you get. To retain one's sense of balance, to retain one's sense of normalcy is something which one learns only when you come to a place like Gobind Sadan. By the very way that he interacts with you, that he talks with you, Babaji teaches you that no matter whom you are, how high you are, how much people think about you, do remember at the end of the day that you are a human being and that you have a definite lifespan. What will carry you beyond your present life is the kind of dedication which you pay to God, to the Almighty. Do remember that whatever happens, it is the Almighty who is the Creator and Doer who is going to influence your life."

Christmas Miracles

This year's Christmas celebration at Gobind Sadan was an extremely joyous and holy occasion. Babaji explained, Jesus belongs to the whole universe. Guru Gobind Singh is not the leader of a sect, but a teacher for the whole universe. If all holy places would celebrate the holy days of each others' prophets, then the walls separating humans from each other would all disappear and conflicts would cease.

On Christmas Eve, Babaji told 9-year-old Savar Jai Singh to go bow and pray before the statue of Jesus that has been erected at Jesus's Place, where Jesus appeared to Babaji in 1983, showering blessings. When Savar began to lift his head from the feet of Jesus, he and his mother were shocked to see a beautiful red rose lying there. There had been no roses anywhere in the area before. Savar says, "I think that Babaji and Jesus wanted to give me this rose as a Christmas present."

On the night of December 25, as thousands of Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians gathered at Jesus's Place to light thousands of candles and say the Lord's Prayer, Dr. Raj Wadhwa, Principal Emeritus of Vivekananda College, saw rose petals being showered upon Jesus from above. She thought perhaps the flower decorations were coming apart, but later she was shocked to notice that there were no rose decorations.

After a program in the auditorium, Babaji told the congregation to immediately return to Jesus's Place because Jesus was standing there along with the Apostle Peter. Babaji saw angels and light coming down all around them, and reported that great blessings were being bestowed there. He also said that arti—worship with lights—should be done before Jesus, including praise of Jesus's mother and father. Joginder Kaur had composed a special song for Jesus, so she and the congregation sang it and waved lights before the statue of Jesus far into the night.

Afterward, at least 1300 people ate a special dinner in the [Langar](#) (free kitchen). They kept coming until 2 a.m., and never did the food run out, even though only enough food for 500 people had been prepared. The next morning, buckets of food were still left over. Babaji had seen in vision that a great light was blessing the langar.

Christmas 2002 at Gobind Sadan, "God's House without walls," was a very memorable and miraculous reminder of the close presence and great power of God, Whose prophets came for all of us.

OISCA Award

On January 4, Baba Virsa Singh was presented the prestigious OISCA Award by the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice V. N. Khare. This award was made to eight outstanding people in various fields for their great contributions to the peace and progress of the country.

The citation read in honouring Babaji included these words: "His Holiness Baba Virsa Singh has been recognized as a spiritual figure of the highest magnitude since he was a child living in a mudbrick village in Punjab. Referring all credit to God rather than himself, he has dedicated his entire life to the practical upliftment and inner development of suffering humanity and to promotion of harmony among people of all religions. Under his inspiration, his self-supporting communities celebrate all prophets' holy days with sincere love and joy, and his farms demonstrate the practical value of faith in God."

Letters from Jail

Gobind Sadan USA has been corresponding lovingly with the teenage boys who were arrested and incarcerated for having set fire to Gobind Sadan's interfaith temple. The young men have been very touched by Gobind Sadan's spirit of forgiveness. William Reeves sent the following letter: "I would like to start this letter by giving my full apology to my ignorant and foolish act. My actions were totally uncalled for. I didn't realize the damage I had caused until it was done. I know my apologizing doesn't take back or replace what I had done but I am asking for forgiveness. I want you to know I am not racist or negative toward others' cultures and beliefs. It was pure emotions running high against what had happened September 11, 2001. I can't believe the mistake I made."

"I was able to obtain the floor plan of the new temple. I am currently building a model temple in a class I am attending. I am hoping this will help me deal with what I have done wrong.... I look forward to visiting your new temple and getting to know the people in your community. I am extremely sorry for the pain and suffering I have caused. As hard as it is for me to stay focused I do believe out of all this will come good. I am thankful for my healthy son Jayden and for Cassie [peripherally involved in the fire] and her family's support. The kindness your community has shown to Cassie and Jayden reassures me that we are all brothers and sisters of God's family."

Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday

Braving biting cold happily, thousands of admirers of Guru Gobind Singh from north India and abroad celebrated the Tenth Sikh Guru's birthday with great enthusiasm at Gobind Sadan. Nine Akhand Paths (continuous reading of the Sikh scripture) were carried on starting January 7th. On January 9th, the celebration culminated with [Kirtan](#), a huge free langar, dazzling lighting displays throughout the community, poetry readings, fireworks, and a major address by Baba Virsa Singh.

Babaji said, Guru Gobind Singh is the Light that has existed from time immemorial. He is very humble, always helping others. Babaji exhorted the audience to mend their ways, start meditating, and live according to Guru Gobind Singh's orders: There cannot be lies on the tongue of a follower of Guru Gobind Singh. There cannot be corruption in his mind. In his thoughts there is no possibility of evil intentions toward any woman. Khalsa means a God-realized person. It does not mean that you can keep your hair long and tie a turban and yet tell hundreds of lies and still call yourself Khalsa. One who acts this way cannot be even the shadow of Khalsa. When the Guru's blessing affects your mind, nothing else will affect it. You will only be aware of God's presence, in each and every leaf, in every breath, in your mind, throughout the cosmos.

Spiritual Discipleship

When members of the Raduga community in Ryazan, Russia, came to seek Babaji's blessings, he cautioned them against spiritual egotism. He explained, God has made this system: Whenever He works, He works through a person. But that Power does not belong to any person. And when God's person comes, he selects some disciples. Jesus, for instance, chose twelve disciples. It was not that they themselves were especially capable or spiritual.

As it is written in the Guru Granth Sahib, "He grasps the arms of his disciples and pulls them out of the darkness." When there is great darkness, when things are not going right in the world, The Guru appears and collects all his disciples. Then he passes his enlightenment through them. Jesus passed his enlightenment through the twelve apostles. It is not that they themselves were so powerful. With the teaching and healing power of Jesus, the disciples became spiritual and began to bless people. Dharam [righteousness, spirituality] exists inside, but when prophets come, they re-establish it and make it manifest.

When Jesus first climbed into Peter's fishing boat, Peter was completely opposed to him. He shoved the Master and said, "Don't get into my boat." The Master knew that his student was very capable, but the

student did not know anything. Jesus said, "Don't mind. I will just sit. Perhaps there are no other people, but there may be many fish." Peter had not yet been blessed, and he was hungry because his nets had long been empty. The tax collector was after him because he had not paid his taxes. So Jesus took him to a place where there were many fish, and told them to jump into the net. Peter's boat was soon filled with fish. Great acclaim arose that a Master had come to Peter, and people crowded around to see Jesus.

There is a trend to search for a Guru, but you cannot identify the Guru. In our Guru Granth Sahib, the Third Guru writes, "How can a blind person recognize a diamond?"

He is not a jeweler." The sparkle of a diamond can be recognized only by a jeweler. If someone is not a jeweler, when he sees a diamond he will say it is a stone.

Thus you can never find the Guru by searching. The Guru will find you. He knows where his disciples are. Guru Gobind Singh knew that the Panj Piaras, the first five members of the Khalsa, were to be created. It is not that those Panj Piaras recognized him. Nobody recognizes the Guru. Guru Gobind Singh knew which five men were to be taken from the great crowd that had gathered to celebrate a festival. One by one they stood up in answer to the call of his sword, five men from all castes and regions. Guru Gobind Singh knew that by his choosing them, all caste distinctions, all social distinctions between high and low would end. This is not the case of only one master. Whenever and wherever the Guru appears, he brings his disciples with him. He then calls forth God's power and manifests it within them.

Passing of Giani Ji

One of Baba Virsa Singh's best-known disciples, Giani Gurdev Singh, passed away suddenly on April 3. Several days earlier, he said that Ik Onkar was telling him that his work was finished and it was time to return.

Giani Ji had been given the gift of inner vision by Babaji decades ago, and had offered that gift lovingly night and day to all who asked him for help. At Giani Ji's last rites, Babaji quoted from the Guru Granth Sahib, "Why are you weeping over the passing of a saint? He is going to his home." His home is "Sach Khand, the realm of the Formless One, from which he is watching you and bestowing blessings." When Saint Nam Dev was asked what home he had, he replied, "The place where there is no illness, no shock, no depression. In the home of the Lord's devotees, there is always bliss."

Therefore, we should all learn from Giani Ji's life, for he went with great blessings. There is great love and affection in my heart for Giani Ji. When you become a devotee, the power of God begins to work. When you meditate, the qualities of the Guru begin to manifest in you until, as Guru Gobind Singh said, "There is no difference between the Guru and his Sikh [student]. They become one." So always love God. When you love Him, He is so kind and merciful that He always helps you here in this world and also in the House of God. As no worldly father wants his child to be second, the heavenly Father always wants His child to be victorious here and also in the hereafter. He will never allow you to become poor, and if you look at another person, his poverty will also go away. Guru Gobind Singh has said that the person who recites Nam will become a kingmaker. Whatever he says is imbued with the great power of Nam.

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