

RELEVANCE OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI'S PREACHING IN THE PRESENT TIME

Dr. M. A. Ansari*

ABSTRACT

This paper tries to focus not only on the teachings of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji but also what one can take away from his teachings and preachings. He played a significant role as He resisted the forced conversions of Kashmiri Pandits and non-Muslims to Islam though he was publicly beheaded in 1675 on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi for refusing to convert to Islam. So in real sense Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji's preachings and teachings are really influencing the people in the past, present and future. His teachings should be remembered forever because of his supreme sacrifice to uphold the value of righteousness, truth and freedom of faith and Guru Ji's teachings must be disseminated in every nook and corner of the world.

Keywords: Celebrations, Sacrifice, Significance, Teachings, Relevance, Preaching

Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, (April 1st 1621 — November 11th, 1675) the ninth of the ten Gurus of Sikhs, is known by Hindus as 'Hind-Di-Chadar'. A poet, a thinker and a warrior, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji promoted the revelation of the purity and divinity of Sri Guru Nanak Dev and his later Sikh Gurus. His martyrdom was a momentous unique event. Never in the history of humanity has the leader of one religion sacrifice his life for the religious freedom of others.

Relevance of Teachings and Preachings of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji

- **Master the Art of Self-Control:** In order to become a master of self-control one needs to pass the obstacles and channel one's own senses to better self-controlling practices. These obstacles might be due to lack of knowledge and insight about self-control, one's own discipline, one's own willpower, one's own desire to change and strong emotional outbursts, very fast and quick reactions to outside stimuli without considering and believing that self-control is something uncomfortable and unpleasant activity.

For example if a person wants to leave smoking or a habitual smoker (or a drug addict) than one needs to discipline self because in order to stop smoking one needs to take baby steps than only it is possible to leave smoking. For this purpose one needs to have will power and desire to change.

Another example in almost all the religion there is an important practice of keeping fast which is again based and tries to develop the art of self-control.

- **To Overcome Greed, Desire, Ego and Pain:** One of the most important teaching of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji is to overcome greed because due to greediness some people are always saying me, me, me with very little regard for the needs and feelings of others. Envy and greed are two sides of the same coin because greed is a desire for more and more possessions may be wealth and power. This greed and desire further creates ego and pain in one's life. For example in today's time one can see many examples of differences among two brothers or sisters, many a time they are not ready to talk to each other for number of years because of some minute differences between them.

- **Be Content with One's own Life:** A particular individual wants to lead a satisfied life and this is possible when one is happy and satisfied with one's own life. Many a time a particular individual tries to compare himself or herself with other person's individual materialistic achievements and keeping himself or herself disturbed about the same throughout his / her life. There is no peace of mind and life is full of hatred and frustration. So according to the teaching of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji one needs to learn the art of what one have needs to be satisfied with it. Always one needs to watch

* Associate Professor, Bombay Teachers' Training College

the person who are lower to him or her in socio economic status instead of looking people of high socio economic status. For example there are some people who have lots of wealth but are not content and some are even unable to meet both ends of life but still they are content with their life.

● **Material World is Perishable, Transitory and Illusory:** Another important teaching of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji is that the Material world is perishable, transitory and illusory but it is very hard to understand the truth. For example Alexander the Great who conquered many kingdoms in the world but unable to take anything with him. On the death bed he made three wishes:

1. His first wish was physicians alone must carry His coffin.
2. Second wish was when his coffin is being carried to the grave, the path leading to the graveyard be strewn with gold, silver and precious stones which he collected while conquering the kingdom.
3. The third and final wish he made was to keep both his hands hanging outside his coffin so the entire world can witness that even a great king like him could not carry even a single penny with him.

So through the above example one needs to understand the real truth of life and try to follow the path shown by Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji.

● **Protect the Ones who Need Protection even if it comes at the Cost of one's Own Life:** One thing is very important in everybody's life and the saying is we reap what we sow because each individual works hard to create personal wealth and wants to protect it. People normally do insurance in order to protect themselves as well as their family members from major financial loss. Thus, insurance is simply a promise or a kind of shield from the uncertainty which one gets in the form of reimbursement for a loss in return for a premium paid. Through this Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji is pointing towards the materialistic world where people need to share their hard earned money (may be just 0.05%) needs to donate to the poor because if each individual does this than automatically protection

of others will be taken care of. For example the concept of Langar is to provide everyone in need of food, irrespective of their caste, class, religion and gender and the person is always welcome as the Guru's guest.

● **Omnipresence of the Almighty:** Sikhism follows and believes that there is only One God. Even Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji prefixed the numeral "IK" (one) to the syllable Onkar in order to stress the idea of only One God because God is the

- ❖ Creator
- ❖ Preserver&
- ❖ Destroyer

Thus Sikh thought begins with the One Almighty God and then universalizing him and finally coming down to the cosmic reality of all pervading Onkar.

Contemporary Significance of celebrations of birth anniversaries in Independent India

India is the only country in the entire world which is strong because diversity is its strength, being a multi-cultural and multi-religious society. People in India celebrate various holidays and festivals of different religions with zeal and enthusiasm. Almost all the great personalities emphasize on the values of empathy, sympathy, sacrifice, egalitarianism, non-discrimination, community service, sharing and participation. It is rightly said that when we celebrate the birthday of the great people like Ninth Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Swami Vivekananda, Guru Gobind Singh, Mahavir, Maharana Pratap, Guru Ghasidas etc. they were all great teachers of their time and whatever work done by them are still commendable. We all human beings who are the followers of some or the other religion and are the follower of those great personality. As they all tried to show a right path by guiding us in one way or the other. Their aim was to bring peace in the entire world for which they had shown how they all lead their own life in difficult times. When we are rejoicing the birthdays of the great people we all need to take some lesson from their life and disseminate their message to the coming generations. All the great personalities and their teaching always points towards certain values which one needs to imbibe and follow in their life.

What one can take from the Teachings of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji?

One needs to practice certain values which are important in one's life.

For example, firstly, empathy as the ability to sense other people's emotions which was rightly pointed by Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, he rightly sensed the problems of others thinking or feeling. We all need to follow the same path what he had shown to us. If we all follow the same path what he had shown to the world than the entire humanity would bear the fruit of happiness.

Secondly, sympathy is feeling bad for someone else because of something that has happened to them. Once again Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji through his actions tried to save the entire humanity. We all human being needs to follow the same path of sympathy which would definitely help the entire society of human beings.

Thirdly, sacrifice is one of the most important religious ceremony in which some or the other kind of object like cash, gold, silver, donations etc. is offered to spirituality in order to establish a better relationship of a human being to the sacred order. We all human being do some kind of sacrifice in the name of religion in the form of money, giving alms to the poor, giving shelter, doing big donations but sacrifice done by Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji of his own life for the betterment of others is highly commendable which no one can even think as well. This is the greatest lesson we all need to learn from the great person. If we all are going to follow the path of sacrifice what he did than we all can become very sure that even our own brother may never ever untie for any kind of problems that arises in one's life. Today we see people of the same family members are fighting among themselves for number of years for petty issues and are unable to remain united with each other. So sacrificing one's own life for the sake of others needs to be imbibe from Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji.

Fourthly, egalitarianism means believing that all people are equally important and should have the same rights and opportunities in life but is it so because we all are fighting in the name of religion, caste or sub caste, language, state and so on. We all

have forgotten that we all are children of the same almighty. Both rich and poor are the two eyes of the same god. God never discriminated among human beings but we human beings are unable to understand this common fact of unity.

Fifthly, community service which means service to man is service to god. We all help in one way or the other to help each other but the greatest service would if one community helps the other community that would be the biggest take away from the teachings of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Sixthly, sharing is one of the most important concept which practice in the form of langar. We all would have witness and seen langar either in gurudwara or dargahsharif, where people of any community or from any religion is most welcome. Last but not the least, participation in taking up such activity. Today everyone is busy in one way or the other way. We all human being understand the importance of teachings of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji than the entire human being.

Conclusions

Sacrifice is a part of life. It's supposed to be. It's not something to regret. It's something to aspire to. - Mitch Albom, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji played a significant role as he resisted the forced conversions of Kashmiri Pandits and non-Muslims to Islam though he was publicly beheaded in 1675 on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi for refusing to convert to Islam. So in real sense Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji's teachings are really influencing the people in the past, present and future. Even the coming generation needs to understand through the celebrations of his birthday and take a right step in life so that later there would be no regrets in leading right and proper life. The teachings of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadurji should be remembered forever because of his supreme sacrifice to uphold the value of righteousness, truth and freedom of faith and Guru Ji's teachings must be disseminated in every nook and corner of the world.

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WEB RESOURCES

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