

SINDHI COMMUNITY & GURU GRANTH SAHIB: MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

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ABSTRACT

The Bantwa village is located in 44 km from Junagadh district in Gujarat. Sindhi are the followers of Guru Nanak. Approximately small and large 10 Guru Dwaras are there in Bantwa. Sindhi community is the follower of Guru Nanak and follow the teaching of Guru Granth Sahib. My entire family and all our neighbours used to visit Guru Dwaras regularly in our childhood and used to attend all such functions organised by Guru Dwara's. Many Sindhi Businessman first goes to Guru Dwara and take Guru's blessings before going to their shops and service. In my childhood, I had many Sindhi Sikh friends like Sujan Singh, Manohar Singh, Sheru Singh, Arjan Singh and many more. I used to visit Guru Dwara's regularly and was fond of reading Gurmukhi and used to read Guru Granth Saheb. Sindhi community and Sindhi Sikhs live in great harmony in Bantwa. Most of the Sindhis have visited Amritsar and Golden Temple of Punjab. There are many families visit Golden Temple every year. In our difficult times, my parents used to read Guru Granth Saheb and used to advise us to follow the same. He used to say, "You need not worry, guru pahinja kam paan kando." I always remember guru and his teachings, in all my reflections and do silent conversations with Guru, I have been always guided by Guru with the teachings... like don't fear, work hard and do your duties, do justice with everyone, respect all, you are part the community and live for your community.

Key Words: *Sindhi Community, Guru Granth Sahib, Childhood Memories, Cultural and spiritual rituals*

The Bantwa village is located in 44 km from Junagadh district in Gujarat. After partition, the majority of Sindhi community was settled in 1947 in a large population. From 1947 to 1990 Sindhi community had their own three Sindhi schools. Various sub casts of Sindhi Community like Uttaradi, Ladi, Bansari, Kutchhi, Duhen Babburwara, Brahmin, Sonara, has been living in Bantwa village with peace and harmony. Most of them are doing trading and small businesses in nearby cities and villages. Sindhi are the followers of Guru Nanak. Approximately small and large 10 Guru Dwaras are there in Bantwa. As on today, 400 families live in Bantwa with the population of Sindhi community is approximately 3000.

I was born in 1968 and brought up in Bantwa and studied till 1983 till 10th standard in Sindhi Medium School. In those years, the entire community was thriving with cultural and spiritual rituals and living in such an environment was a blessing. I consider those days as the golden days of my life.

My father was president of our Uttardi community and was a trustee of Sindhi Guru Dwara named Sant Garibdas Guru Dwara and few Dharamshalas. He always used to tell to read japji sahib and sukhmani sahib. My parents always used to say to us that we are the guru's sikha, the disciples of Guru.

My entire family and all our neighbours used to visit Guru Dwaras regularly in our childhood and used to attend all such functions organised by Guru Dwara's. Many Sindhi Businessman first goes to Guru Dwara and take Guru's blessings before going to their shops and service. There was a tradition in our community, if there is marriage in the family/while migrating to a new house and for house warming, we used to bring Guru Granth Saheb and do the Akhand Path for three days. When my grandfather expired we had Akhand Path for three days in our home and when sister and brother got married, we had akhand path for three days in our home. In our difficult times, my parents used to read Guru Granth Saheb and used to advise us to follow

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the same. He used to say, “You need not worry, guru pahinja kam paan kando.”

My parents used to read japji sahib early in the morning then used to start their daily chores. My elder sister and brothers also developed the same practices in the footsteps of my parents. In my childhood, I had many Sindhi Sikh friends like Sujan Singh, Manohar Singh, Sheru Singh, Arjan Singh and many more. I used to visit Guru Dwara’s regularly and was fond of reading Gurmukhi and used to read Guru Granth Sahib. Sindhi community and Sindhi Sikhs live in great harmony in Bantwa. Most of the Sindhis have visited Amritsar and Golden Temple of Punjab. There are many families visit Golden Temple every year.

The Sindhi community is a follower of Guru Nanak and Guru Granth Sahib.

The daily routine of the Sindhi Community is as follows:

Morning Routine.....

1. The followers of Guru Nanak get up early in the morning and do Guru Prakash at 4 and read Vachan/Hukumnama, they follow this hukumnama on that day. In some Guru Dwaras hukumnamas are written on Balckboards kept outside the Guru Dwara.
2. Asadivar Path takes place wherein 4 Shloks are read by Pathi. The Pathi’s of main Khalsa Gurudwara read paudis.
3. Every morning my younger brother Roshan Balani go to Sant Baba Garib Das Guru Dwara from 6 to 8 am and does Saheb Prakash... Asadivar Path... Bhajan/Kirtan for at least one hour followed by Kana Prasad and Anand Saheb with 6 paudis.... Ardas.

4. Kana Prasad is distributed to devotees takes place.
5. He does Sukhmani Path whenever he gets time. He also reads Japji Sahib every day at least 15 minutes each day.
6. He also recites Shlok Mahla 9 at least for 15 minutes everyday.
 - Rairas takes place in the evening from 7 to 8 pm. Which is done by the other regular members of the Guru Dwara on a rotation basis.
 - Katha Satsang is organised by the Ladies in the evening.
 - Late in the evening approximately at 9 pm Sahab Salayan process takes place with Kirtan Sohla.

Guru Nanak Dev’s birthday is celebrated in a big way. A day before Guru Nanak Dev’s birthday, all the community leaders used to prepare the food for langar for the entire night. As a child, I used to stay awake and used to be with them, from morning onwards we used to eat saibhaji and tahiri as prased/ langar. Baba Budha’s day is also celebrated with Langer approximately 8 days before Diwali. Gobind Singh, Guru Arjan Dev, Guru Tegh Bahadur’s birthdays are also celebrated with organization of Akhand path of 72 hours.

In difficult times, I always remember guru and his teachings, in all my reflections and silent conversations with Guru, I have been always guided by Guru with the teachings of like don’t fear, work hard and do your duties, do justice with everyone, respect all, you are part the community and live for your community.

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