

## UNITY OF GURDWARAS AND SANGGAT

WHEREAS a Meeting of the MALAYSIAN GURDWARAS COUNCIL(MGC) PLUS RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE including representatives from religious organisations was held on 21-05-2016 at MGC Conference Room at Kuala Lumpur to deliberate on Sikh issues.

THE MEETING took note of the following :

1. After Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Jothi Joth in 1708 and Banda Singh Bahadur's demise, the Sikhs were in disarray and they were hunted by the Moghul's and bounty placed on their heads. Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, anti – Sikh groups most notable the Benares based and Bhramanical oriented Nirmalas, the Sri Chand followers called Udasis and self serving individuals called Mahants took control of a vast majority of Sikh Gurdwaras. Throughout the period of their control (1720 – 1920) many anti Gurmat practices were introduced by these groups into the Gurdwaras. Around 1920 the Sikh Panth got together and led by groups such as the Gurdwara Sudhar Leher (Gurdwara Reform Movement), the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee and the Akaal Takht after receiving numerous memorandum from organizations and individuals from all over the world and after considering the matter between 1932 and 1945 gave it's final approval in 1945 for this SIKH REHAT MARYADA to be implemented and to be the guide for all Sikhs and Gurdwaras.
2. The SIKH REHAT MARYADA has been accepted and followed by the Gurdwaras in Malaysia all this while. This had led to unity in the sanggat and the Code of Conduct and conventions in the Gurdwaras have thus been broadly standardised.
3. The SIKH REHAT MARYADA (SRM) clearly provides the “Nitnem dian Banian” that are to be recited daily and the Kirtan that can be done in the congregation (Sadh Sanggat), as follows (refer to pages 8,9 & 15 of SRM) :-
  - i)“Nitnem dian banian”
    - Amrit Vela : JAP, JAAP, and the Ten Sawayyas
    - Evening : SO DAR REHRAAS
    - Night : SOHELA
  - ii) In the congregation, Kirtan only of Gurbani and compositions of Bhai Gurdas and Bhai Nand Lal may be performed.
    - Gurbani (GUR + BANI) is by definition all that is contained within our Guru; and since our Guru is the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Gurbani is therefore all that is contained within the 1430 pages of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (SGGS)
  - iii) It is worth noting that the word used for the compositions of Bhai Gurdas Ji and Bhai Nand Lal Ji (even if allowed as Kirtan) is ਰਚਨਾ (Rachna). This means that the compositions of both these revered personalities is NOT to be considered Gurbani, It may be referred to as Bani.
  - iv) Katha of approved Panthik Pustaks and Historical text can be done which promotes Gurmat.

4. The MALAYSIAN GURDWARAS, amongst others, are required by Article 3.2 of the MGC Constitution to “provide service to the Panth as per the SIKH REHAT MARYADA and to pass MATAS on important issues after due consideration”. The member Gurdwaras are thus bound by MGC constitution to conduct their affairs in compliance with SRM.
5. In the long History of the Gurdwaras of more than 130 years no Semagam pertaining to “Dasam Granth” has been done or organized in a Gurdwara in Malaysia, except the recent 1<sup>st</sup> case at Gurdwara Sahib Titiwangsa from 22-04-2016 to 24-04-2016.

The Meeting further noted the following :-

1. Gurta Gaddi was only bestowed on Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (SGGS Ji) by Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, which is the Living Guru of the Sikhs. No other Granth or Pustak can be placed at the same level with SGGS Ji
2. **Sri Akaal Takht Sahib (Gurmata 1 dated 06-06-2008)**

" ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਦਾ ੩੦੦ ਸਾਲਾ ਗੁਰਤਾ ਗੱਦੀ ਦਿਵਸ" ਸਮੁੱਚੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਪੰਥ ਲਈ " ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ - ਗੁਰੂ ਪੰਥ ਦੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵਚਨਬੰਧਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸੁਨਹਿਰੀ ਮੌਕਾ ਹੈ। ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਅੰਤਮ ਹੁਕਮ " ਸਭ ਸਿੱਖਨ ਕੇ ਹੁਕਮ ਹੈ ਗੁਰੂ ਮਾਨਿਉ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ" ਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਅਮਲ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਹੋਇਆਂ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਹੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਜਾਗਤਿ ਜੋਤਿ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਸਵੀਕਾਰ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਦ੍ਰਿੜਤਾ ਸਹਿਤ ਪਹਿਰਾ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਆਇਆ ਹੈ। ਸਿੱਖ ਪੰਥ ਨੇ ਹਰ ਕੌਮੀ ਸੰਕਟ ਦੀ ਨਿਵ੍ਰਤੀ ਲਈ ਜੁਗੋ - ਜੁਗ ਅਟੱਲ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਤੋਂ ਰਹਿਨੁਮਾਈ ਗ੍ਰਹਿਣ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ॥..."

3. The Global Sikh Council (GSC) which held it's General Meeting at France from 18-03-2016 to 20-03-2016 of which Malaysia is a member, passed amongst others, the following 2 resolutions :-
  - i) "Putting all differences aside, individuals and organizations (political or otherwise) are requested to unite under the banner of ONE GRANTH ONE PANTH"
  - ii) "GSC supports all individuals and organizations who promote the teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib and the guidance of the 1945 REHAT MARYADA and no other Granth or Scripture"

The Meeting also noted the following about Dasam Granth

- i) According to Resolution No. 36672 passed by Shiromani Parbhandak Committee on August 3, 1973 "Chritro Pakhyan that is inscribed in Dasam Granth is not Dasmesh Bani. It is ancient Hindu mythology." The Chritro Pakhyan (erotic composition) appears between pages 808 to 1388 of Dasam Granth, covering 581 pages and constitutes more than 1/3 of Dasam Granth.

- ii) Jaap, Sawayyeh, Chaupai are included in the SRM as Banis to be recited in the morning (1<sup>st</sup> two) and the Chaupai which is included in Rehraas Sahib. The above are also found in the Dasam Granth and Panth has accepted and included them in the SRM. No other part of Dasam Granth has been so accepted by the Panth and included in the SRM. Therefore other than the above 3 banis in the Dasam Granth, the rest are not sanctioned as Kirtan and Katha to be done in a Gurdwara or in Sanggat.
- iii) Dasam Granth controversy is centred on the view of 3 groups: The supporters of Dasam Granth say that the entire volume consists of the writings of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. A second group rejects the granth in its entirety saying that if the tenth Master did compose any bani, he would have included it in the SGGS just as he included his father Guru Teg Bahadur Ji's Bani. A third group believes that small portions of Dasam Granth are acceptable and the majority of it is to be rejected on grounds that much of it is either "Pornographic", given the tales therein and the language used, or propagates Hindu myths of Devi, Devatas and Avatars that are rejected by SGGS; giving the appearance that Guru Gobind Singh was a believer of such mythology. However the pertinent question is : Even if we assume that the Dasam Granth contains writings of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the **UNDISPUTED FACT** remains that the Dasam Granth was never bestowed GurtaGaddi by the Tenth Guru.
- iv) Dasam Granth has always courted controversy and split the Sanggat as can be seen in the discussion taking place after the "Akaal Ustat" Semagam at Gurdwara Sahib Titiwangsa was done in April 2016. The controversy is still raging on until today. The MGC had written a letter dated 07-04-2016 to the President of Gurdwara Sahib Titiwangsa warning of a potential fallout if the Semagam was continued and that it would split the Sanggat and cause disunity. The MGC has now been proven right about it.

The MEETING after considering gravely the matter of the Dasam Granth advises as follows:-

1. All Gurdwaras and Sikhs must follow the 1945 SIKH REHAT MARYADA (SRM) and the teachings of SGGS Ji.
2. The Sikhs must continue to be guided by the SGGS Ji which has always guided and united the Sikhs in the past and taken them through various crisis from time to time.
3. The controversy surrounding the Dasam Granth must be left to the scholars, researchers to do their work and we should look towards our religious institution of supreme authority, the Akaal Takht, to give us final direction in the matter.
4. The only Banis to be read and sung as Kirtan in Gurdwaras should be Bani from SGGS Ji and its explanatory compositions of Bhai Gurdas Ji and Bhai Nand Lal Ji.

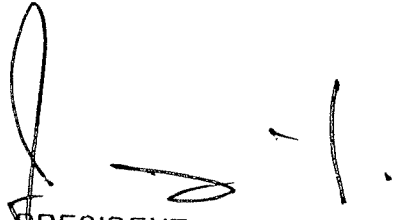
The following scriptural compositions to be recited everyday are JAP, JAAP and the Ten Sawayyas at Amrit Vela, SO DAR REHRAAS in the Evening and SOHELA at Night.

In addition, the Katha of approved Panthik Pustaks and Historical Text can be done which promotes Gurmat.

5. The Gurdwaras and Sangat must embrace "EK GRANTH, EK PANTH, EK REHAT MARYADA" for unity and solidarity based on Guru Granth Sahib Ji Bani "Eka Bani Eka Gur Eka Shabad Bichar" (pg. 646 SGGS Ji).
6. The MGC should take steps to ensure compliance with above.

The MEETING after considering gravely the above statements unanimously approved the same and hoped for an early action in the matter by the MGC Exco.


NOTE: The above resolution was unanimously passed by all those present at the above stated Meeting on 21-05-2016.

  
PRESIDENT / ~~SECRETARY~~  
MAJLIS GURDWARA MALAYSIA  
MALAYSIAN GURDWARAS COUNCIL  
No.7A Jalan Haji Salleh, Sentul  
51100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

24-05-2016

FURTHER NOTE:

The above resolution was considered by the MGC EXCO at its meeting held on 28-05-2016 and was unanimously approved without any amendment.

  
PRESIDENT / ~~SECRETARY~~  
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2-06-2016