

Executive Summary of Minor Research Project

The research project titled: Bani of Kabir in the Guru Granth Sahib is undertaken by Dr. MeenakshiRajan from the Dept. of History, S.K Somaiya College of Arts, Science and Commerce.

The researcher's interest in this topic is drawn from the unique and inclusive nature of Sikhism. She has gained knowledge of the compositions of the God-intoxicated Kabir and his Bani in the Guru Granth Sahib and the wisdom that has sustained and nurtured generations. The information was gleaned from writings and texts of the era and from the study of *Adi-Granth* as well as relevant writings on the Guru Granth Sahib in journals and books.

At a time in history when Indian society was fragmented and divided at many levels Sikhism arrived charting a new path with its inclusive nature. Inclusivity, which is defined as an intention or policy of including people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, was the corner stone of Sikhism. This is clear as the Guru Granth Sahib contains the compositions of the holy preceptors or the Sikh Gurus, and of the 15 great saints belonging to different states and religions. All were highly Self-realized and worshippers of the Unmanifest Lord. Sant Jaidev was from Bengal; sants Namdev and Trilochan were from Maharashtra. Sants Ramanand, Kabir and Ravidas were from Kashi now in Uttar Pradesh. Sant Pipa and Dhanna were from the Rajasthan. Shaikh Farid was from Pakpattan now in Pakistan. As they belonged to different states and times; the language used by them is a mixture of different languages and dialects.

The compositions included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib have a universal approach. Their teachings are global and for all ages i.e. past, present and future. The logic is simple. Since the Creator is Eternal and of the whole universe, teachings about Him i.e. "**BrahmGyan**" or "**Divine Knowledge**" have naturally to be universal and eternal.

As we go through the poetry, beliefs and dohas of Kabir we get a very clear picture of his character. He was a true idealist, always looking for the hint of good in even the worst of people and events, while searching for ways to make things better. His inner flame and passion truly shined through his work.

This study has helped the researcher discern the extent to which Kabir helped in the emancipation of society. In today's troubled times we need the guidance of the teachings of saints of yesteryears especially that of Kabir as his words remain relevant even today, if not more so. It is the need of the hour to introduce Kabir's message of peace and brotherhood to school and college students. His ability to simplify deep abstract philosophical truths makes this easy. Our country and especially our youth need to be constantly exposed to his poetry, which is beyond the barriers of religion, caste and geography. Moreover his poetry remains relevant to this day. His work teaches us the difference between being true to one and how to base our criticism on honesty and maturity as opposed to being maliciously provocative.

Kabir's bani in the Guru Granth Sahib will go a long way to lead the younger generation towards peace and harmony.

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