
EDITORIAL

Council of Parliament of World Religions and Sikh History

The Council of Parliament of World Religions (CPWR) held its fourth conference at Melbourne, Australia on December 3-9, 2009. The theme of the conference was: ***Make a World of Difference: Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth.***

I remained quite busy throughout the year 2009 for preparing following projects for the conference to be held by Council of Parliament of World Religions (CPWR) at Melbourne, Australia on December 3-9, 2009:

Intra-religious Dialogue: *Originality and Uniqueness of Guru Nanak's Philosophy*
 Inter-religious Dialogue: *Making a World of Difference to Establish Peace: Sikh Perspective*

The first program was not approved by the review committee for reasons well known to the committee. Most probably some of the committee members, especially the Sikhs, could not understand the importance of this project. However this was clubbed with another program: *Interfaith Understanding in Sikh history and Theology*. Therefore, I discussed my paper to suite the theme of the program under the title: *Nanak: The Guru & His Philosophy*.

At the eleventh hour of the conference I was invited by the Reverend Dirk Ficca, Director of CPWR, for presentation of my views along with those of many others from various faiths on the following two projects:

Program: Ecological Wisdom: Towards a Sustainable and Peaceful Ecology.

Title of my paper: *“Healing the Earth with Care and Concern: Ecological Wisdom”*.

Program: Sacred Sites, Sacred Solidarity

I discussed the importance of preservation of sacred sites and solidarity among the religious leaders and governments to enforce preservation.

These two programs were arranged by Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, Chairperson of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ) of Birmingham, UK. These programs were most important and biggest

amongst all submitted by the Sikhs. These were the program, which were attended by people from other faiths. The other programs of the Sikhs were attended mostly by the Sikhs. Although the theme of the conference was on, ***Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth***, but very few non-Sikhs were seen attending the Programs presented by the Sikhs. So much so that one group of Sikhs were not seen attending the program of the other Sikh groups.

The current issue of *Understanding Sikhism – The Research Journal* contains four papers presented at the CPWR Conference: Prof Devinder Singh Chahal **discusses**, *Nanak the Guru & His Philosophy* and another paper, *Interfaith And World Peace – Sikh Perspective*; Dr Avtar Singh Dhaliwal presents, *Religious Responsibility Towards Peace - Sikh Perspective*; while Dr Balwant Singh Hansra is presenting his talk, *Interreligious Dialogue for Making a World of Difference to Establish Peace – Sikh Perspective*, in an extended Abstract form.

Prof Henry Francis B. Espiritu, University of Philippines, discusses, *Dalip Singh on Muslim-Sikh Relations in Mogul India: A Pluralist Appraisal*, This is the first time that a Muslim scholar has analyzed Sikh history in relation to basic philosophy of Islam and political policy of the Mogul Empire with the Sikhs and other non-Muslims.

It cannot be denied that there are many flaws in representation of Sikh history and there is great need to set the Sikh history right. Hopefully this paper of Prof Espiritu will be a starting point to work out the true nature of relations between the Muslims and the Sikhs and between the Hindus and the Sikhs.

In continuation of finding flaws in Sikh history Prof Devinder Singh Chahal explores, *Did Guru Nanak Meet Pir Dastgir and Pir Bahlol Dana?*

Prof Chahal’s discussions with Mr Tanvir Ahmed Qadri and Prof Espiritu indicate that there is no possibility of meeting of Guru Nanak with Pir Dastgir and Pir Bahlol Dana as reported by Dr Trilochan Singh since they breathed their last 303 years and 606 years before the birth of Guru Nanak.

DS Chahal, Editor
