

## EDITORIAL

# INSTITUTE FOR UNDERSTANDING SIKHISM ON THE ROAD OF RENAISSANCE OF SIKHISM

**W**ith the current issue the *UNDERSTANDING SIKHISM - The Research Journal* is completing its fourth year of publication. Now it is the time to apprise the readers and the sponsors (including Sikh institutes, patrons and individual sponsors) of the Journal of our achievements during the last four years of service to Sikhism. It gives me a great pleasure to report that Institute has attained its fame at the international level now. The Institute is being accepted in the world as the center for dissemination of Gurbani and Sikhism scientifically and logically. Inquiries about Sikhism are coming from almost every corner of the world, like, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, UK, Europe, Malaysia, Papua Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Greece, India, etc. The Journal is being acclaimed as the research journal on Sikhism in the academic field. Many researchers are consulting this Journal as an authentic source of information on interpretation of Gurbani and representation of Sikhism.

During this period, the Institute on the road of renaissance of Sikhism has presented many articles to portray Gurbani and Sikhism in their real perspective and for its dissemination scientifically and logically to the humanity of Science Age. To achieve this mission we need precise and specific terms to explain Gurbani and Sikhism in their real perspective. The only authenticated source of philosophy of the Gurus is available in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS). The irony is that only 20% of Sikhism taught in the past and being taught now is based on philosophy of the Gurus incorporated in the AGGS while 80% is taken from the old unauthentic writings extraneous to the AGGS. The Institute takes the philosophy of Sikh Gurus from the AGGS as a major source of authentic information and only that information from other sources, which can pass the test of Gurbani, science, and logic – the touchstones of truth, for construction of Sikhism.

The QUADRICENTENNIAL OF COMPILATION OF THE AAD GURU GRANTH SAHIB, which falls in 2004, is approaching very fast but very little enthusiasm about its celebration has been noticed except that one conference was held at the Guru Nanak Dev University at Amritsar on the initiative of Dr Bhai Harbans Lal of Guru Granth Academy in 2001 and the proceedings of

which have not been published as yet. Publication of a *Research Journal on Sikhism* was also announced on this conference, which is still to be printed. In this series, however, a Seminar, **GURDWARA – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**, was held at Montreal, Canada by the *Institute for Understanding Sikhism* (IUS) on September 15, 2001 and its proceedings were published within three months, in January 2002. The Second IUS International Seminar on **SABD GURU, CONSCIENCE, AND CONSCIOUSNESS** will be held on September 21, 2002 (See announcement at page 36). This series of seminars by IUS will continue till 2004 in which a number of misconceptions around the Aad Guru Granth Sahib and Gurbani will be clarified before the celebration of Quadricentennial of Compilation of the Aad Guru Granth sahib in 2004. Beside two books, *JAP: Scientific and Logical Interpretation*, and *AAD GURU GRANTH SAHIB: Scientific and Logical Representation* will be published before 2004.

**The current issue of the Journal carries articles on some important issues, which needed immediate clarification and justification. Most of these articles have been written by me to make the readers aware of the fact that there is a need of precise and specific terms to represent Sikhism in the academic field and to the humanity of the Science Age. Other articles received have been kept for the next issues.**

The first article is on *Concept of God in Nanakian Philosophy* to make the people aware that the concept of God in Nanakian Philosophy may be easily accepted by scientists, contemporary philosophers and by many persons interested to know about God. The next article defines the new precise and specific term, *Nanakian Philosophy*. It is a pity that there is no standardized title for Sikh Holy Granth and Sikh scholars and the Sikh theologians have been using different titles for their own preference since its compilation, about 400 years ago. Moreover there is also no standardized system of referencing Bani from the Holy Granth. Here again every scholar is using his/her own system of referencing Bani. Sometimes the same scholar uses more than three different systems of referencing Bani in the same article. Therefore, there is an article, *How to Address the Holy Granth of the Sikhs* in the current

issue. An article on *System of Referencing Bani from the Granth, The Holy Scriptures* has already been published in the very first volume and first number of the Journal. There is a very common question often asked by the Sikhs themselves as well as by the non-Sikhs. That question is: *Who is a Sikh?* Therefore, an article, *Defining a Sikh*, has been written which is based on the Nanakian Philosophy incorporated in the AGGS. This article has been published in other journals also for its wide publicity.

There is a series on *Misinterpretation of Gurbani and Misrepresentation of Sikhism* in this Journal. In this issue Dr Baldev Singh has carried this torch further to clarify some *Misinterpretation of Gurbani by Dr McLeod*. In the Section of NEWS & VIEWS Ms Anju Kaur writes against the irrational and contrary traditions -*Bipreets* (ਬਿਪ੍ਰੀਤ – Customs contrary to Nanakian Philosophy) in Sikhism in her article, *Sikh Matrimonial Circumambulations (Laavan)*. Still another article on *Astrology* is there to make the Sikhs and persons of all other religions aware of the fact that

the stars have no effect on the development of a person's personality and any of his/her affairs in any respect.

In addition to my above services to the Institute I have recently written the following invited articles for various journals and chapters for various books:

1. *Sikh Perspective of Bioethics. Annals of Bioethics*. Center for Bioethics, Pain Management and Medicine, Des Moines, Iowa, USA (Submitted)
2. *Religion, Science, and World Peace. Religious Profiling: Sikhs as the Victims of Mistaken Identity*. Nova Science Publishers, New York, USA. (Submitted)
3. *Guru Nanak's Philosophy: Are we ignoring it? Sikh Bulletin*, Roseville, CA and *Sikh Virsa*, Calgary.
4. *Sikhism – A Philosophy Without Myth. Sea of Faiths*, UK (Appearing in July 2002)
5. Many articles were written for *Sikh Reviews*, Calcutta, *Spokesman Weekly*, Chandigarh, *Sikh Bulletin*, Roseville, CA, USA, and *Sikh Virsa*, Calgary, etc.

## RECOGNITION

INSTITUTE FOR UNDERSTANDING SIKHISM  
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*Their Donations have enabled us  
to disseminate  
Gurbani and Sikhism  
to the humanity*