

# QUADRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMPILATION OF THE AAD GURU GRANTH SAHIB

## THIRD INTERNATIONAL IUS SEMINAR 2003 *DOCTRINE OF GURU NANAK IN JAP* Saturday, September 20, 2003

### PREAMBLE

**T**he Institute for Understanding Sikhism (IUS) held the Third International IUS Seminar 2003 on September 20, 2003 in the auditorium of the Western Laval High School, Laval, Quebec, Canada. This is the third in the series of the seminars being arranged by the IUS towards the Celebration of **Quadricentennial of Compilation of the Aad Guru Granth Sahib:**

The First in 2001 was on: ***GURDWARA: History, Meaning and Functions of Gurdwara.***

The Second Seminar in 2002 was on: ***Sabd Guru, Conscience and Consciousness.***

The third seminar in this series was on: ***Doctrine of Guru Nanak in JAP.***

In this seminar the scholars from USA, India, and Canada deliberated on different topics directly related to the ***Doctrine of Guru Nanak in JAP.*** In fact JAP is the essence or a summary of the Nanakian philosophy embodied in the Gurbani, incorporated in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib.

Dr Harinder Singh Ahluwalia, President, Info-Electronics Systems Inc., Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, declared the seminar open. IUS motto *Sabd, Vidya vichari ta parupkari*, was recited by S Satnam Singh and his associates of the Gurdwara Sahib Quebec before starting the seminar. Dr Parminder Singh Chahal, and Mr Jaspal Singh Ahluwalia successfully handled the stage and timing. Dr Balbir Singh Sahni, welcomed the delegates. Contributions of the IUS during the last five years of its existence were presented by Prof Devinder Singh Chahal, President, IUS. (See pages 44-45)

The following research papers on **DOCTRINE OF**

**GURU NANAK IN JAP** were presented:

Prof Devinder Singh Chahal, PhD, Professor of Microbiology, President of IUS explained that meanings of *Hukm* (ਹੁਕਮਿ) according to the Doctrine of Guru Nanak in JAP and rest of his Bani. He said that Hukm means the 'Laws of Nature' and every action and reaction in this universe and in the living world is going on according to this Hukm. Nobody can change the Hukm. (p 11)

Dr Avtar Singh Dhaliwal, MD, Johnson City, Tennessee, USA talked about 'Bliss of Listening' (ਸੁਣਿਐ).

Listening requires attention and concentration. The perception of sound by hearing mechanism, when interpreted based on the pragmatic experiences; helps human beings either become 'one with universe', or the self-centered egoists without realization their real function in the cosmos. Listening in JAP means comprehending the philosophy in the Gurbani to become 'one with universe'. (p 17)

Dr Harbans Lal, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (Arlington, Texas, USA) talked about that 'conquering the mind is equivalent to conquering the world' (ਮਨਿ ਜੀਤੈ ਜਗੁ ਜੀਤੁ). He explained that through the enlightened mind one becomes master of all joys and comforts in contrast to a slave of all life miseries. (p 23)

Dr Kulbir Singh Thind, MD, San Mateo, CA, USA discussed 'Questioning-Answering System, the Nanakian Methodology', used in JAP and rest of the

Bani in the Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS). He said that in the AGGS Guru Nanak's verses appear in Question-Answer style more than hundred times. (p 29)

Prof Hardev Singh Virk, PhD, Professor of Physics. Chandigarh, India talked about 'Cosmology' as explained by Guru Nanak in JAP and other Bani of Guru Nanak. He also compared Guru Nanak's conception of cosmology with that of modern and scientific conception, which was very similar. (p 32)

S Rabinder S Bhamra, Westbury, New York, USA presented his paper on "Pollution and Cleansing of mind", in which he explained that Mind is the key player in the drama of human life. It is the creation of Naam and is housed in the subtle body contained in the outer physical body. The purifying effects of Naam can only cleanse it. (p 33)

Dr Sangat Singh Syalee, MD, Neurologist and Psychiatrist, New York, New York, USA explained the Khands (ਖੰਡ) mentioned in JAP. As JAP is the synopsis for understanding the nature of Ultimate Reality, all this Creation and purpose of life and spirit behind this Phenomenal Existence, the 'Khands' can be considered as the highest goals of achievement for human beings. (p 35)

S Gurdev Singh Sangha, Kitchener, ON, Sikh Educational and Cultural Society, Toronto emphasized that one can become truthful by understanding Gurbani and by practicing the philosophy in it. (p 36)

Dr Kulbir Singh Thind was honored with '*IUS Plaque of Honor*' on behalf of the IUS by Dr Harinder Singh Ahluwalia and Prof Devinder Singh Chahal for his contributions for the development of CD with lots of information on Aad Guru Granth Sahib in Punjabi, Hindi, English, and Roman script; *Kosh* (encyclopedia) of words used in the AGGS, and much more. The latest edition of his CD was distributed free of cost to all the participants. On Sunday Dr Thind gave practical demonstration to the *Sangat* at the Gurdwara Sahib Quebec, 'How to use the CD to get the required information'. This CD is available from him ([drksthind@yahoo.com](mailto:drksthind@yahoo.com)). (p 43)

Thereafter, Dr Ahluwalia and Prof Chahal honored all the invited speakers with '*IUS Plaque of Honor*' on behalf of the IUS. Dr Jarnail Singh, Ottawa, Ontario was also honored for his contributions for dissemination of Sikhism.

There was a special session for Young Sikhs where they were asked to let the IUS know, What do they want to know about Sikhism and How? Miss Anjan Sohi, Miss Reena Kudhail, Miss Ruby Kooner, Miss Vaishali Bhandhari, ( See pp 39-41) and S Devinder Singh Kaura participated. Each young Sikh participant was honored on behalf of the IUS by Dr Hardev Singh Virk by presenting them 'IUS Medallion'.

A very successful discussion was held on '*Towards understanding Integrated and Comprehensive Philosophy of Sikhism*' by all the speakers and the participants. Discussion indicated that a lot work is to be done on this aspect.

Finally two important resolutions were passed unanimously. These are reproduced at page 41.

**Bookstall:** A bookstall of new books on Sikhism was arranged by Dr Harbans Lal, PhD, President, Academy of Guru Granth Sahib, Arlington, TX.

S Surjit Singh Pahwa, Gurdwara Sahib Quebec, Montreal; and S Manjit Singh Chatrik, Photographie Inc., DDO, Quebec recited poems related to the JAP.

**Receptions:** Mrs and Dr Parminder Singh Chahal gave a welcome reception to the speakers and the Organizing Committee at their residence in Laval in the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> September. Gurdwara Sahib Quebec provided lunch at the seminar.

Mrs and Mr Jaswinder Singh Rana, Entrepreneur, SGR Bleaching; Harman Fashion Inc, Boutique JHS Denim, gave a very warm reception to the speakers, Organizing Committee, and the prominent dignitaries from all communities of the city including the Ex-Mayor Mr Piere Bourque of Montreal, and Counselor Park Extension Marry Deros in the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> September on behalf of the IUS. The reception was a great success because of the organization of Professor Pavitar Singh Bhandhari. On this reception it was mentioned that the series of seminar on the teachings of Aad Guru Granth are being held to maintain interfaith relations and multiculturalism in Canada for peaceful living.

**Devinder Singh Chahal,**  
**President, IUS**

**Editorial Note:** In the proceedings the readers may find slight differences in interpretation of the same phrase of Gurbani by different authors. The Editor intervenes only if any interpretation is against the basic philosophy given in the Gurbani.