

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's ideas and Messages for the welfare of Humanity and Peace - (OMANSH DHAWAN CSE-B 202)

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji fell as a martyr to the freedom of consciousness and belief, under the orders of Aurangzeb, a ruler, who with his puritanical views had an attitude of narrow exclusiveness in the matters of religion. Sikhism, of which Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was the Ninth Apostle, has all through upheld the spiritual approach in matters of faith, and its message has been free from the rancour of any kind against any set of beliefs. The great sacrifice made by Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji to vindicate the right of the people to profess and practise the faith, meant, in fact, the assertion of the principle of justice for which the ruling Mughal rulers of the day had very scant regard. For this reason, the life, career, and teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib are of immense significance even in contemporary times, when the forces of hate, fanaticism, and tyranny are still very dominant and assertive. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was a multifaceted genius. He was not only a martyr and a prophet but was also a great poet. In addition to his 57 Shlokas, 59 of his other compositions (Shabds), written in 15 Ragas (measures) are included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib. His hymns deal with the pathos of the human predicament. Though he articulates on the unreality of human passions and possessions, yet his hymns have been a source of spiritual succour and solace to millions of people in their hours of personal grief and affliction. He brightens our awareness of the ephemerality of the material phenomena, however instead of creating a sense of despair and depression, elevates the human mind and imbues it with the hope which permeates the cosmos. He fortifies our faith in human nature and makes it possible for us to rise above the irritants of the immediate problems of existence and keep our attention focussed on the everlasting and eternal. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's hymns seek to redeem life from meaninglessness and fear, to enlarge and enliven humans' consciousness, and to open their inward eye to the glory of all redeeming, ever-existent truth.

Guru Tegh Bahadur preached the conviction that it takes to be indifferent to misery and happiness, to get rid of vices like flattery and allegation, and every otherworldly pleasure. It is when one has mastered the art of self-control that he/she can truly be spiritual. Guru Tegh Bahadur showed the path of divinity to his disciples by teaching them to overcome greed, desire, ego, and pain. He guided his followers towards the path of peace. Guru Tegh Bahadur taught the world to be content with their life, as everything in the world is "Nanak's doing". He spread the idea of attaining Jiwan Mukti by making peace with every life-situation. The Guru revealed the true reason behind human suffering to his followers. It is in times of despair and misery that one gets to see the ephemeral nature of worldly pleasures, and only then can one truly learn to value greater things in life. Guru Tegh Bahadur was a merciful savior of the weak, and that is what he preached. He taught his disciples to protect the ones who need protection, even if it comes at the cost of one's own life. The Guru pressed on the omnipresence of the Almighty. The Lord lives within us, and one only needs to look within himself to connect with him. He preached that the symbol of the universe, Aum (Om), is everywhere, inside you, outside you, inside me, and outside me.