

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
"RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE TEACHINGS OF SHRI. GURU NANAK
DEV JI IN ESTABLISHING VALUE SYSTEMS IN THE MODERN SOCIETY"
ORGANISED BY GURU NANAK EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY AT SHAHEED BABA
DEEP SINGH AUDITORIUM, GURU NANAK COLLEGE
ON 17.10.2019 AT 10.30 A.M.**

Anaivarukkum Kaalai Vanakkam

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Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great happiness to be here at the inauguration of the National Seminar on “Relevance and Importance of the Teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in establishing Value Systems in Modern Society” being organised by Guru Nanak Educational Society.

The great saint and founder of Sikhism Shri Gurn Nanak Dev Ji was born in 1469, 550 years ago. Today as we celebrate the completion of 550 years from his year of birth we recall his teachings with reverence and prayer.

Guru Nanak Dev ji laid great stress on Submission to the Will of God (WAHEGURU). He gave the message of “Hukam Rajayee Chalna Nanak Likheya Naal“. Everything happens by God’s

Grace, so Rest assured that God knows better what is right or wrong for us. We should, therefore, accept His decisions without any grudge or question.

Guru Nanak Dev ji also said, “I am neither Hindu nor Muslim, I am a follower of god”, which actually spoke about his belief in one god. In Sikhism. The god is omnipresent, shapeless, timeless, and sightless. (Nirankar, akar, alakh). The God in Sikhism is not male/female, and can only be seen through inward eye. Guru Nanak Dev ji explained one thing clearly that there is only One who gives to everyone and we should not forget to Him.

The Guru stressed that there should be Goodwill for all – SARBAT DAA BHALAA. Universal brotherhood was his message. He said that religion is not mere consistence of words but actually looks all men and women equally. Universal brotherhood is a strong theme in Gurbani written by Guru Nanak Dev ji. In our prayer, we say this line towards the end of daily Ardaas – “Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat da bhala”, which can be translated as “Nanak asks for “Naam” (name of God) with which comes wellbeing, happiness and positive spirit and with His blessings, may everyone in the world prosper and be in peace”.

Truth is the foundation of Sikhism. The Guru said SACH SUNAISI SACH KEE BELA – (to speak

the truth). Guru Nanak Dev Ji told that we should always speak the truth without any fear. According to the Guru's doctrine, the victory of truth is not dependent on ending or suppressing falsehood but in standing firmly by truth. That is why Guru Nanak Dev ji exhorts that to stick to truth and to remain on the side of truth when it is necessary is very essential.

SACH KI BANI NANAK AAKHAI SACH SUNAISI
SACH KI BELA

Translation it means - "I have related the true Word of the True Lord as per His Will".

Guru Nanak says that no one can save anybody else. It is only Guru who guides us to safety, and to be saved, one have to follow the right

path of SEWA and SIMRAN told by him. Further the Guru is not to be found in big palaces, he lives with poor. Let us love the poor, God will bless us. If we recite Gurbani with love, we will find the Guru is speaking to us. We have been reminded of his observations many times in our life. In the midst of this world, do SEWA and you shall be given a place of honour in the Court of the Lord

THE THREE PRINCIPALS

Vand Chako: Sharing with others, helping those with less who are in need.

Kirat Karo: Earning/making a living honestly, without exploitation or fraud.

Naam Japna: Chanting the Holy Name and thus remembering God at all times (ceaseless devotion to God)

SHUN FIVE EVILS

GuruNanak Dev Ji asked his followers to shun five evils which leads to illusion (maya) which eventually acts as roadblock towards attainment of salvation. The five evils are-Ego, Anger, Greed, Attachment and Lust.

IMPORTANCE OF GURU

Guru Nanak Dev ji laid great emphasis on the importance of Guru in one's life. He put forward the thought that salvation occurs not from pilgrimage or rites etc, but through heart, spirit and soul. For this to happen continuous seeking of knowledge must

take place which is dependent on one's guru. Guru according to him is the voice of the god, the true source of knowledge and salvation.

NO DISCRIMINATION

Guru Nanak Dev ji was strongly against all artificially created divisions and all discrimination, both in word and deed. He said that the caste of a person is based on what he does. His idea of a caste-free society transpired also in his concepts of Sangat and Pangat.

AGAINST RITUALS/SUPERSTITIONS

Guru Nanak Dev Ji preached against superstitions, false rituals, worship of demi-gods and goddesses. He stressed that only One God, the

Formless, is to be glorified. In this way, he showed the path of truth and enlightenment.

Five centuries after the passing of Guru Nanak, his words still resonate with his followers. Let's take a look at some of those teachings.

Never forget the poor - This mantra was relevant in 1500 when there was no concept of poverty alleviation, and is just as relevant now, when poverty hasn't left the world. When Nanak was 12, his father gave him Rs. 20 to set up a business. Nanak bought food worth Rs. 20 and gave it away. When his father asked him about this investment, Nanak told him it was a "true business". Today, a Gurudwara named Sacha Sauda (true business) exists, where Guru Nanak fed the poor.

There is only one god -Using religion to segregate people into categories is awful. In the Guru's own words, "There is neither Hindu nor Muslim."

Running away to a forest won't give you enlightenment - The essence of religion / Is meekness and sympathy / But a life of goodness and purity/ Amid the world's temptations..." (Guru Nanak) Maybe one could achieve enlightenment in forests centuries ago, but we're not capable of that today. And Guru Nanak doesn't even require you to do that. Nanak himself was a farmer even after achieving enlightenment.

Simplicity is beautiful.-Simplicity of human nature can enhance humanity. For humanity,

everybody should be free from artificial beauty. To give enrichment of the soul man should follow bridging humanity.

In present time guru ji's teaching are applicable in every field of life. Guru Nanak, emphasized Bhakti, and taught that the spiritual life and secular householder life are intertwined. In Sikh worldview, the everyday world is part of the Infinite Reality, increased spiritual awareness leads to increased and vibrant participation in the everyday world.

I appreciate the President, the General Secretary and other office bearers of Guru Nanak Educational society for celebrating the 550th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in a befitting manner and conclude with the following words.

“May the nearness to the divine bring us closer
to the consciousness of the divine”.

My best wishes and greetings to all of you.

Nandri Vanakkam.....

Jai Tamil Nadu.....

Jai Hind.....