

## **LIFE'S GREATEST LESSONS**

*By Mark Manuel*

I have just finished reading a wise and wonderful book and am enriched by the experience. It is full of classic wisdom to live by and presents 20 principles that are deeply rooted in common sense as they are in compassion. What the book does is help readers assemble their priorities. And it does this by presenting it bite-size pieces some of life's most important truths. Read, learn, and enjoy! The book is called Life's Greatest Lessons. Here are 20 things I learnt from it.

1. Success is more than making money. Success means doing the best we can with what we have. Success is in the doing, not the getting—in the trying, not the triumph.
2. Life is hard...and not always fair. Life is a series of problems. But do you want to moan about them or solve them? Remember, the world will not devote itself to making you happy.
3. Life is also fun...and incredibly funny. Of all the gifts bestowed by nature on human beings, hearty laughter must be close to the top.
4. We live by choice, not by chance. God asks no man whether he will accept life. That is not the choice. You must take it. The only choice is how.
5. Attitude is a choice, the most important one you'll ever make. Everything can be taken from man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms, to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.
6. Habits are the key to all success. In truth, the only difference between those who have failed and those who have succeeded lies in the difference of their habits.
7. Being thankful is a habit, the best one you'll ever have. Don't complain because you don't have...enjoy what you've got.
8. Good people build their lives on a foundation of respect. Treat other people exactly as you would like to be treated by them.
9. Honesty is still the best policy. Truth is the only thing that works and the only foundation on which lasting relations can be built.
10. Kind words cost little but can accomplish much. Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push. A smile. A word of optimism and hope. A “you can do it” when things are tough.
11. Real motivation comes from within. No matter what you are or what your age may be, if you want to achieve permanent, sustaining success, the motivation that will drive you toward that goal must come from within.
12. Goals are dreams with deadlines. People with goals succeed because they know where they are going.
13. There's no substitute for hard work. The best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

14. You have to give up something to get something. Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange it for, establish your priorities, and go to work!

15. Successful people don't find time, they make time. Time is life. It is irreversible and irreplaceable. To waste your time is to waste your life, but to master your time is to master your life and make the most of it.

16. No one else can raise your self-esteem. Self-esteem is that deep-down inside the skin feeling you have of your own self-worth.

17. The body needs nutrition and exercise—so do the mind and spirit. Mind, body, and spirit act in concert to determine health and well-being.

18. It's okay to fail, everyone else has. If you're willing to accept failure and learn from it, you've got the potential of harnessing one of the most powerful success forces.

19. Life is simpler when we know what's essential. It is only with the heart that one sees rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.

20. Essential No. 1 is being a good person.

(Courtesy: Afternoon Despatch & Courier, Mumbai, August 11, 2003. Shri Mark Manuel is the Managing Editor of this newspaper).

## ESTEEM

Temper your sharpness,  
disentangle your ideas,  
moderate your brilliancy,  
live in harmony with your age.  
This is being in conformity with  
the principle of Tao.  
Such a man is impervious alike  
to favour and disgrace,  
to benefits and injuries,  
to honour and contempt.  
And therefore he is esteemed  
above all mankind.

— Lao-Tzu  
(The Sayings of Lao-Tzu)

GLIMPSES OF THE  
59TH ANNUAL SANT SAMAGAM—II  
By Ram Kumar “Sewak”, S.R. Prajapati and Parveen Saxena

At this moment, Babaji, Rajmataji and Mataji arrived and took their seats on the dais.

Sister Dipti Preeti and party from Dohad (Gujarat) rendered a song:

By your grace we are at your feet,  
You guard us ever since we took refuge in you.

Child devotee Namrata from Amritsar, addressing the congregation, said: Man believes in God but does not know Him. Knowing God is essential for human redemption. The Satguru has brought a definite change in our thinking and made it possible to share our joy and sorrow with each other and to live in self-esteem. We should not only propagate but also live up to the True Master's teachings.

Rev. Mahinder Mehndi from Sirhind (Punjab) sang in Punjabi:

All humans have been moulded from the same clay, by the same Potter,  
All are constituted of the same elements;  
All are images of God,  
Hate not anyone.

Rev. Netesh Alagh from U.K. addressing the holy congregation in English said: All religions have originated from God. It is possible that man may perceive God outside the idols but it seems difficult for a man to behave as a human. The devotee Arjuna enquired of Lord Krishna how to control the mind. The Lord replied that when the mind was focused on God, it thought in the right direction. In this way, the mind could be controlled.

Rev. Mithu and party from Bhilwara, in their regional attire, rendered a chorus in Rajasthani:

O man, you have forgotten God.

Rev. S.S. Bassan, President, Sant Nirankari Mission, Canada, in his address said: There is no greater power than God in the universe and all the elements co-exist in the universe. The sun, the moon and the stars are moving in an orderly manner, which proves the existence of God. The Nirankari Mission blesses one with the real achievement of life—God-realisation or Self-realisation. There is no greater achievement than this. When we claim to be Nirankaris, people expect us to be true humans. Only if we vindicate their expectation, can we bring glory to our Master.

Sister Hemlata from Gurgaon (Haryana) rendered a song in Hindi:

Only if we imbibe love instead of hatred,  
Our life can be blissful.

Now poet devotees Revs. Sukhdev Singh from Kotha Guru (Pb.), Vivek Rafiq from Delhi, Om Prakash Vishwakarma from Mumbai and Basant “Komal” from Ludhiana recited their poems.

Rev. Vishan Das and party from Jammu (J&K) rendered a chorus:

May we do good to all,  
May God bless us all.

Next, Shrimati Vinita Shrivastav, Officer On Special Duty to the Governor of Uttaranchal, read out the message from H.E. Sudershan Aggarwal, the Governor of Uttaranchal:

By the grace of Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji, a spiritual wave is flowing in the life of all the people. Rising above their differences, people are imbibing love and goodwill. The country needs the guidance of Babaji. Babaji is giving a new and positive direction to the society in the form of God-knowledge, revolutionary campaign of blood donation and other social services. All wish to do all in their power to meet new challenges for the society and for the rapid progress of the country and the world.

Shrimati Srivastav also thanked Babaji and Rajmataji and Mataji on her own behalf.

Rev. Gobind Modak from Kolkata (West Bengal) addressing the holy congregation in Bengali said: Babaji is doing what the Great Masters did during their times. Quoting the scriptures, he prayed that Babaji may also bless the people of Bengal.

Rev. Gullu and party from Giddarbaha (Pb.) rendered a chorus:

Hatred has ruined man,  
Love alone can rehabilitate man,  
When darkness of ignorance engulfs man,  
God-knowledge liberates man.  
The Mission is instilling love in man,  
Turning into angel man.

Rev. Sukhdayal from Ann Arbor (U.S.A.) addressing the holy congregation said: Taking pity on us Babaji blessed us with God-knowledge and saved us from the birth-death cycle. By shedding ego, one is honoured and revered. May we realise that the one, who integrates us with the Satguru and the devotees, is our true friend.

Now members of an English Medium Congregation, including a Nigerian, came on to the dais to render a song in English. Rev. H.S. Nirman explaining the background of the song said: It depicts the faith of the devotees in their True Master five thousands years ago; those, who reposed faith in him, were saved from the great Deluge.

The song ran as follows:

Look towards Him, look to Him.

Next, Dr. Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmad, President, Interfaith Harmony Foundation, in his address to the holy congregation said: The sea of devotees here is a proof of Babaji's greatness. His personality gives rise to a better hope in the mind. From Adam till today, 1,24,000 prophets have manifested. God never leaves His creation sans a prophet. He speaks through His prophets. Islam, as I have learnt from my elders, preaches love, peace and well-being of all. The one, who deviates from this Path, cannot claim to be a Muslim. May God show the right path to the youth who have taken up arms. May God instil love in them.

For fostering Hindu Muslim unity and for making India a spiritual power, Dr. Ahmad appealed to all to study the holy Vedas and Quran together. He also emphasised on continuing mutual dialogue between the two communities and hoped that Babaji would facilitate such interaction.

At this moment Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain, former Union Minister, arrived and sought Babaji's blessings.

Next, Sister Megha Chadha from Avtar Enclave (Delhi) sang in Punjabi:

Man, know the creator who pervades the universe.

Rev. D.R. Kaarthikeyan, a former Member of Human Rights Commission and former Director of C.B.I. and presently, President, Life Positive, read out his address in Hindi: The Nirankari Mission is dedicated to human well-being and its message is meant for everyone. For world peace, we should be at peace with ourselves.

Sister Mini Tarun rendered a song:

May peace prevail everywhere  
And conflict nowhere.

Rev. Gurpreet Bhatia from U.K. addressing the holy congregation in English said: Rationality brings a happy change in life. Alluding to Begampura, he added: Begumpura means a place where bliss ever prevails and the people bear mutual goodwill. Babaji has blessed us with a unique awakening. He is turning intolerants into tolerants.

At this moment Shri Mangat Ram Singhal, Minister for Labour and Industry, and former Minister Shri Narinder Nath and presently Chairman, Trans Yamuna Development Board, Delhi, former Union Minister Shri Jagdish Tytler and Shri Sajjan Kumar, M.P. arrived and sought Babaji's blessings.

Now poet devotees Revs. Ram Raj Babbar from Faizabad (U.P.) Vinay Joshi, Mahendra "Gulshan" and Ram Kumar "Sewak" from Delhi recited their poetic compositions.

Rev. Gurmeet "Anjaan" and party from Ludhiana (Pb.) rendered a chorus:

Master, your smile is so enchanting that everyone is ecstatic. By your grace a lowly has become a king.

Rev. Virender Bamne from Mumbai speaking in Marathi said: In a dialogue between tongue and teeth, the tongue said: You are thirtytwo, while I am single. Be not proud. If I turn crooked, all your thirtytwo will be smashed. In this way the tongue persuaded the teeth to co-operate.

Rev. Bamne further said: In case the speed of Tsunami becomes the speed of love, it will be an instrument of rehabilitation instead of destruction.

Rev. Ram Kailash and party from Allahabad rendered a chorus in Bhojpuri, highlighting the blessings of Babaji.

Revs. Swaran Baldev from Delhi rendered a duet in Punjabi:

The True Master has integrated all through the knowledge of the One,  
Intoxicated with love, we are ever ecstatic and recite Allah and Maula.

Rev. Ajay “Bejode” and party from Tarawri (Haryana) in their regional attire rendered a chorus in Harayanvi:

Sant Samagam has brought great joy,  
It is spread out in India, nay in whole world.

Now holy sisters Samata, Renuka and Sudiksha rendered a chorus:

Life is your trust,  
May it be dedicated to you!

In his concluding discourse of the day, Babaji highlighted the following points:

- \* Man, every breath is invaluable, why are you wasting it?
- \* Do we spend life in slander or spend it in reading, listening and discussing God-knowledge?

Those, who live up to the thoughts of the holy beings, are saved from the birth-death cycle.

\* Self-realisation through God-realisation is the most important task of life which should be accomplished by every human.

\* Human life is considered superior most because only in this life can one attain God-knowledge.

\* A plant in a limited space (flowerpot) cannot grow into a tree. To grow into a tree, it must be sown in the open—unlimited space.

\* Hands cannot be shaken with clinched fists. One ought to be open-hearted so that one can befriend and love others.

\* Those, who wish to march forward, need not wait for the caravan.

(Text of Babaji's discourse appears at pages of this issue)

Today's proceedings were conducted by Rev. Sant Ren Chadha from U.K.

**MONDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2006**

### **General Body Meeting**

Today, the General Body Meeting was held in the Samagam Pandal. It is an occasion when Babaji gives guidance to and showers blessings on the Executive, Zonal Incharges, Parmukhs, Mukhis, Gian Parcharaks and Central Seva Dal organisers.

At this meeting, Babaji nominated Rev. J.R.D. Satyarthi as the President of the Sant Nirankari Mandal vice late Rev. Bhagat Kotumal Ji and promoted Rev. Harbans Lal Arora as Chief

Organiser, Seva Dal, vice Rev. G.S. "Premi", Vice-President of the Sant Nirankari Mandal, and shifted Rev. O.P. Nirankari of Chandigarh to Central Seva Dal Office, Delhi.

Baba ji cautioned the participants that every mistake cannot be condoned. Those, who commit mistakes, should take note. No one can be allowed to pollute the environment of the congregation. Everyone has to abide by the Satguru's directions, may he be holding any position. Those entrusted with responsibilities should discharge the same without the sense of doership. All should co-operate in discharging their duties.

## **Congregation**

Today the banner above the main dais had the the following inscription:

The need of the hour is to love and not of enmity or controversy.

The programme opened with the recitation of a hymn from the Avtar Bani by Revs. Rajan, Ashok and Nazir from Jammu:

Friends, let us sing the eulogy of God together.

Daughters of Rev. Shaukat Ali from Patiala rendered a hymn from the scripture in praise of God.

Rev. Ram Prakash from Nangal Township (Pb.) addressing the Samagam congregation said: I was born in a Brahmin family which was steeped in ritualism. However, being a teacher by profession, I imbibed the spirit of enquiry and service. I had discussions with saints of the Arya Samaj and learnt that God could be realised by the grace of a God-realised soul. Someone told me about the Nirankari Mission and I had discussion with the Nirankari devotees for three days before I attained God-knowledge. Now it is all bliss.

Sister Arti from Chandigarh rendered a song in Hindi:

Name is the true wealth,  
Sans Name, life is worthless.  
Attain the wealth of Name from a Satguru  
And sing the praises of God.

Rev. Mahadev Kundyal from Rishikesh (Uttaranchal) in his speech said: Due to ignorance, I had been under an illusion that I am and not God is the doer. However, I have now realised that the one who surrenders to the True Master attains God-knowledge and realises that God and not one is the real doer. There was no age in which all was good. Both Prahlada and Hiranyakasipu were born in the Satya Yuga (Golden Age). However, while Prahlada is revered, no one cares for Hiranyakasipu. The low caste Shabree, dwelling in a forest, recognised Lord Rama, while Manthara (the royal maid servant) dwelling in the royal palace at Ayodhya could not. On shedding one's pride one can become pure and pious. If Sat (Truth) is prefixed to Sang (congregation), it turns into holy congregation and if Sat is prefixed to vichar (thinking), it turns into right thinking. The Satguru has turned each devotee into a lamp of Truth. I wish that we may enlighten the world with the light of God-knowledge.

Rev. Dharam Vir and party from Phagwara (Pb.) rendered a chorus in Punjabi:

Babaji, by your grace we breathe,

On meeting you, we have met God.

Sister Bhavana from Paschimpuri (Delhi) sang a song in Punjabi:

To shower blessings on every home,  
To awaken the world,  
The Satguru holds the Samagam, every year.

Rev. S.P. Duggal from Bhatinda (Pb.) speaking in Punjabi said: Babaji is establishing a religion based on compassion. Without a Satguru, one cannot understand what religion is. When one perceives God dwelling in all, none is regarded as an alien or enemy. People claim to meditate on God without knowing Him. How can one meditate on an unknown entity? By blessing one with God-knowledge, Babaji is turning us into true devotees; who should be considered an enemy when love has left no room for enmity?

Rev. Bal Krishan and party from Sardar Shehr (Rajasthan) rendered a chorus in Rajasthani:  
Man is unnecessarily bearing pangs of separation, while God is omnipresent.

Rev. Navneet from Nirankari Colony (Delhi) addressing the congregation in English said: A rustic person can be civilized. Education is no guarantee of civilization. The real mark of an educated person is that he behaves in a civilized manner. The real aim of education can be fulfilled by participating in the holy congregation, regularly.

Rev. Chandra Bhan from Jind (Haryana) sang:

People of the world, listen the message of the Satguru,  
Shed alienation and forge brotherhood.

Rev. Dr. Latif Ahmad from Lakhimpur Khiri (U.P.) in his address, highlighting the significance of the 'hint', said: The Prophet said: This is Allah. In his time, Lord Krishna said: This is the Universal Self. Saint Kabir said: God is at hand; where are you searching for Him? What remains (Shesha) cannot be destroyed even by stinging by a Naga (cobra). Sheshnag which props the earth is none but Formless or what abides.

Sister Vimla from Chennai (T.N.) rendered a song in Tamil:

If God wishes, one can be happy,  
To be happy, surrender to His will.  
The True Master showers happiness.

Sister Laveena from Kangra (H.P.) rendered a song in Punjabi:

God's love is so overwhelming,  
One can neither describe it nor remain silent.

Rev. Surinder Sagar from Hoshiarpur (Pb.) rendered a song in Punjabi:  
Be humble and you will see God.

Rev. N. Gobind Rajan from Thajavur (T.N.) gave the Mission's message in Tamil.  
Rev. Ramesh Kumar from Jugial (Pb.) sang in Punjabi:

Come here and see God.

At this moment Ch. Prem Singh, Speaker, Delhi Legislative Assembly, arrived and sought Babaji's blessings.

Rev. Raj Kumar from Jaspur (U.P.) in his address said: The True Master is teaching the art of living. Earlier, we were merely breathing, but by the grace of the True Master, we have learnt how to live. We used to pray for universal welfare, but actually wished for our own welfare. The True Master taught that our welfare lies in the welfare of all. God dwells in all. Babaji showers coolness (peace) that is why we are sitting here together as one family. Where it is cool, people sit together and where it is hot, they sit away from each other. Babaji has turned hatred into peace and narrow-mindedness into large-heartedness. May we live as wished by Babaji.

Rev. Sunny from Jammu (J&K) rendered a hymn:

O mind, O mind, remember God,  
May beloved Master dwell in our hearts.

Rev. Baldev Nagpal from Bhiwani (Haryana) in his address said: One gets what one prays for to the Master. However, asking for anything other than the service of the Master may bring suffering. Even the one, who rakes in riches, lacks the peace of mind, which can be attained on realising one's true self. Everyone is at peace in favourable circumstances but the test of one's state of mind can be in unfavourable circumstances. If we surrender to the will of the True Master and God, we can attain more than what was destined and before time. Babaji wishes us to be pure and pious, within and without.

At this juncture Shri Arvind Sharma, M.P. arrived and sought Babaji's blessings.

Sisters Jyoti and Sarita from Canada rendered a duet:

What we say, we should practise,  
What we wish for, we should strive.

At this moment, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, Union Minister for Railways, arrived and sought Babaji's blessings.

Rev. Amarjeet Singh from Chandigarh addressing the congregation said: There is so much talk about religion. People study the religion but by mere study they cannot come close. Before studying, one should realise the Truth. Only then one's study will be useful. The scriptures only describe the Truth. We have to go forward and attain the Truth. Only then can we reap full benefit from the study of the scriptures. Here one is blessed with God-knowledge (Truth), enabling one to be one with God and thereby fulfil the aim of human life.

Rev. Surinder Pal from Delhi rendered a Ghazal:

Once we shed alienation,

The world will be transformed,  
The mind cannot control the wishes;

When one wish is fulfilled, another crops up.

Now Rev. Gobind Singh welcomed Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav on behalf of the Mission. Then Rev. K.R. Chadha introduced Shri Yadav saying: 50 percent concession granted by the Railway Ministry has greatly benefited the devotees attending the Annual Samagam. May Babaji bless Shri Yadav, so that he may continue to serve the country.

Shri Yadav addressing the holy congregation said: It is my good fortune to see the lakhs of Nirankari devotees belonging to all the four faiths—Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian, sitting here together. I had an ardent wish to meet Babaji, Rajmataji and Mataji and it has been fulfilled. By their holy glimpse, I feel blessed.

There is bloodshed throughout the world. In this environment Babaji's and Nirankari Mission's message is playing a praiseworthy role. The message of Brotherhood is beneficial for the entire world. As all the rivers merge in the sea, all humans merge in God, one day. God dwells in all. The Nirankari devotees by touching each other's feet are reviving the ancient Indian culture, which needs to be amulated by all.

When the question of granting concession in the railway fare arose, I did not know who wanted the concession and therefore only 25 percent concession was given. Later, when I knew the truth, I became confident and agreed to 50 percent.

Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Union Minister for Company Affairs also sought Babaji's blessings and said: Like you Babaji and your Mission, we are also rendering selfless service. We are grateful to you for opening schools and hospitals.

Sisters Meena and Meenakshi from Balachaur (Pb.) rendered a duet:

My Satguru has unravelled heavenly mysteries,  
I offer my sacrifice to him.

Rev. Sandeep Khinda from U.K. addressing the holy congregation in English said: Seasons change and we are compelled to accept the change. Devotion brings about a change in one's life: tension gives way to bliss. Babaji has dedicated his entire life to our well-being. No one knows when he goes to bed. May we also dedicate ourselves to him, follow his teachings and shed narrow-mindedness and love all. We should not go back from the Samagam only having a holy glimpse of Babaji but should also gain something more. Let us imbibe his message in our hearts so that the same be translated into our conduct. A difficult task is not difficult; what is difficult is to make a beginning. Let us begin. Before reforming the world, let us reform ourselves.

Rev. Molu Sumbria from Kathua (J&K) rendered a song:

Man, love all,  
None is alien.

Now it was the time of the multi-lingual poetic symposium in which twenty poets recited their poetic compositions on the theme:

Today the need is of love,  
Not of enmity or controversy.

Rev. Gopi and party from Mumbai rendered a chorus in Marathi, highlighting the ideals and teachings of the Mission.

Next, Rev. K.R. Chadha, Convener, Samagam Committee, in his address said: In the Dwapar (Bronze Age) when you bade farewell to (your destitute classmate) Sudama, you enriched him. Pray enrich these devotees, too. The demolition of unauthorised construction is going on in Delhi these days and consequent unrest. May peace and happiness prevail here. Rev. Chadha closed his address with a prayer for the health and happiness of all those who helped in rendering services for the Samagam. He also pointed out that for the first time a delegation of the devotees from Pakistan has come here which reminded us of Latifal, Peshawar, etc., the historical centres of the Mission and prayed that we might also visit the same.

Rev. Gobind Singh, Chairman, Samagam Committee, addressing the congregation said: We seek forgiveness for the shortcomings in the Samagam arrangements. We thank various Government departments and agencies for their full co-operation. May we serve the Mission as wished by Babaji. Pray, bless everyone with health and happiness, so that everyone may continue to serve. May Seva (selfless service), Sangat (holy congregation) and Simran (God-remembrance) be an integral part of our life. Congratulations to all for the success of the Samagam.

Alluding to the sacrifices of the martyred devotees, Rev. Gobind Singh said: They contributed a lot to the Mission. Their families feel that the martyrs sacrificed their lives for their Guru and the Mission.

Next, holy sisters Naranjan, Mohni, Jagjit and Bindiya rendered a chorus:

Master, bless that we may love all,  
Be kind, be kind.

In his concluding discourse, Babaji made the following points:

- \* The topics of the Samagam were truth, love, compassion, etc. Here all are knitted together with the thread of (spiritual) unity.
- \* We are drawing world's attention that if these lakhs of devotees can be knitted together, why not rest of the world.
- \* In every age the one, who imbibed love and truth, was revered. This is the best path.
- \* One may have human form but one should also conduct oneself as a human.
- \* Here the message is being given that those who trod on the wrong path, always suffered. If they suffered, you shall also.
- \* Shedding hatred, enmity and controversy, we should love. This is not only the need of the hour but also of every era, every age.
- \* To love means to imbibe the spirit of love. The one, who imbibes love, is a moving temple.
- \* While we wish well of our near and dear ones, we should also wish so for others.
- \* One may have committed many sins but even great sinners like Sajjan, the thug, and Ganeka, a prostitute, were redeemed. It is never too late to mend oneself.

\* Consciousness does not mean cleverness but awakening.

Today's proceedings were conducted by Rev. Kuldip Singh.

Thus concluded the 59th Annual Samagam.

**TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER 14, 2006**

### **Guru Vandana**

Today, Guru Vandana programme was held at the Samagam venue in which artiste devotees from different states participated and depicted the Mission's ideal of Unity In Diversity. The programme was unique in that the devotees in their regional attires and speaking different languages presented devotional items.

The devotees from Zira (Pb.) performed a folk dance.

The devotees from Phagwara (Pb.) staged a drama 'Bhakti Kay Rang' (Hues of devotion). Its moral was that the devotees wish to remain ever immersed in the ocean of devotion.

The devotees from Dhuri (Pb.) staged a drama conveying the message that one can be truly happy by the grace of a Satguru. They also prayed:

Master, bless all with happiness.

The devotees from Muktsar (Pb.) staged a play 'Satguru Da Adesh' (Satguru's commandment) which depicted that one can be happy by following the Satguru's teachings.

Sister devotees from Sri Ganga Nagar (Rajasthan) in their regional colourful attires staged a Rajasthani folk dance, singing:

Babaji, bless us,  
You are great.

The devotees from Sarsaram (Bihar) staged a drama highlighting the folk culture of Punjab.

Rev. Attar Singh and party from Shimla (H.P.) in their regional attires rendered a devotional chorus.

The devotees from Jamunanagar (Haryana) highlighted the spirit of Brotherhood and Co-existence, using Hindi, Urdu and English languages.

The devotees from Mandi Gobindgarh (Pb.) performed a ballet, singing that the Satguru is the bestower of happiness.

The devotees from Kapurthala (Pb.) staged a play 'Paramatma Ki Khoj' (Search for God), depicting man in search of God, who can be realised by the grace of a Satguru.

The devotees from Sevraphuli (West Bengal) performed a Bangala folk dance which impressed one and all.

The devotees from Mussoorie (Uttar Khand) staged a Garhwali folk dance, describing the glory of the Satguru.

Child devotees from Avtar Enclave (Delhi) staged a Rajasthani ballet. They also conveyed the message that more dangerous than Dengue is a mosquito of pride which can be exterminated only by the Satguru.

At this moment, Babaji, Rajmataji and Mataji arrived and were welcomed with a song:  
Salutations to the Satguru,

The earth, sky and cool breeze, all salute the Satguru.

The devotees from Bangalore (Karnataka) staged a South Indian dance, conveying the message:

Be whatever you like,  
But first be a human.

The devotees from Amritsar (Pb.) presented a symphony on various traditional musical instruments of Punjab to depict the spirit of co-operation.

The devotees from Hyderabad (A.P.) rendered a song in Telegu, meaning:

Babaji has held my arm,  
Friends, now I have a 'husband'.

The devotees from Jalandhar (Pb.) staged a ballet 'Veda Sagana Da' (Venue of Celebration) which depicted Punjabi folk culture.

The devotees from Ludhiana (Pb.) staged a ballet 'Masti Ruhan Di' (ecstasy of souls) based on Sufi compositions.

Now Rev. J.S. Puri, President, Sant Nirankari Mission, U.S.A., Rev. Harbans Lal Arora, Chief Organiser, Seva Dal, and Rev. G.S. "Premi," Vice-President, Sant Nirankari Mandal, garlanded Babaji, Rajmataji and Mataji respectively, while Revs. Swaran, Baldev and Manmohan melodiously rendered a song of celebration:

Beholding you, Babaji,  
We have become oblivious of the world.

Addressing the holy congregation, Rev. Rajmataji said: Unique is the relationship between the Satguru and the devotees which can neither be fathomed nor described. When the mind is happy, the face also radiates happiness. The Satguru has transformed us into humans, rather angels. The congregation is the abode of angels. May the environment prevailing here prevail all over the world, so that all may be happy.

In his concluding discourse, Babaji highlighted the following points:

\* Truly happy is one who is dyed in the devotional hue and imbibes love.

\* Beholding me, some people think that this Mission is of the Punjabis. However, 80 percent of the devotees belong to other states and speak the language of their states. This is a universal Mission and not of any particular community or language.

\* Here, Truth is given all importance and Guru's words are honoured.

\* Wherever they may be, the devotees imbibe love and are devoted to God.

\* The hallmark of the devotees is that they are one in word and deed.

\* One cannot be great simply on account of one's age, physical prowess, property, possessions, etc. Great are those who forgive.

\* To overlook others' faults, signifies the spirit of forgiveness and wisdom.

\* I always wish to make others happy. May I imbibe this spirit and honour the devotees.

\* The crown placed on the head may be of some precious metal but the real crown for the head is only the congregation and Nirankar (God Formless).

\* May you be blessed with devotion and happiness.

Babaji's discourse will be published in our March, 2007, issue.

Today's proceedings were conducted by Rev. Sulekh Singh "Saathi".

(Concluded))

November 13, 2006 was the third and concluding day of the 59th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam. The massive holy congregation was blessed and addressed by Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj. A free translation of his discourse is given hereunder.

SAINTS,  
DHAN NIRANKAR!

Today on the third day of the Annual Samagam we have enjoyed the spiritual bliss. The thoughts expressed here by the devotees are based on truth, devotion and humanism as also love, affection, compassion, tolerance and broad-mindedness. They also spoke of the unity in diversity the Samagam reflects: the devotees from different regions, speaking different languages and of different cultures are knit together with the thread of spiritual unity. The Samagam rightly poses an important question: If unity in diversity can be achieved here, why not in the world at large?

### **Humanism**

Holy beings teach from their personal experience that only those, who led a saintly life and trod the path of love, humility and imbibed human values, attained greatness as seen from the history. This path of humanism has been acknowledged as the best one. However, due to failure to make the right use of the faculty of intellect bestowed by God, man has deviated from it in every age and trod a path which brought him disrepute. Consequently, he lost his here as well as hereafter. That is why it is said:

The paths of the devotees and the worldlings are different, but if one makes the right choice, one shall choose the right path, treading on which one is redeemed, here and hereafter. Today, too, the devotees are reiterating this message and exhorting man: Be cautious; be wise; human life is rare; value each breath and vindicate your humanity. No doubt, man is a human by appearance but not by disposition. For this reason, he has to prove that he is a human indeed. Human body is not the real mark of a human; one has to prove it by one's conduct. That is why holy beings have given importance to human conduct. Those, who tread the path of altruism, truth and devotion, conduct themselves as humans. The dearth of such humans is the cause of the decline of human values in the world. Though human by appearance, man behaves as a satan or devil and that is why the environment of fear and violence prevails all over the world. Holy beings have been reiterating in every age: Man, those who conducted themselves in this manner, lost all and if you do so, you shall also lose. You should, therefore, shed this foolishness and be wise to be redeemed here and hereafter. This is the ancient message which has been reiterated here by the devotees. During the three days, the devotees spoke on these topics and just now you have heard the poet devotees who also exhorted man to shed enmity and controversy and imbibe love.

### **Love**

Love is the need not only of today but of all times and of all ages. All holy beings have emphasised the need of love. When man sheds love, he turns into an animal; when he sheds love, he smoulders in the fire of hatred, enmity and slander. Though human, devoid of love, man is conducting himself as a demon. But when man imbibes love, he not only turns into a true human but an angel. Therefore, there is the dire need of love which is vanishing.

There is a dearth of love in the world. Holy beings have exalted and termed love as God. Generally, people read and recited about love but they neither understood nor imbibed it. Today, too, people claim to love God and naturally they are expected to imbibe love but it is not so.

People are for God but they are not for love. Worldly people do not 'love' love but they 'love' hatred. On the contrary, the devotees 'love' love. This is the difference between the two. It is a well-known fact that what one loves, one does not wish to forsake. 'So much attached to it, I do not want to let go (of it); but there is a vast difference: people love hatred and saints and devotees love love.'

The one who loves, realises God

Again:

God manifests Himself through love.

Every holy being has said:

Man should not give up love.

Further:

Love is a thread. Do not snap it by jerking. Once broken, it cannot be rejoined. And if rejoined, there will be knot in it.

We should never forsake love. The one, who imbibes love, is a roving temple. Saint Kabir says:

I have drunk the cup of love and now it permeates every cell of mine; I need no other intoxicant.

On the one hand, love permeates every cell and on the other, one does not imbibe even an iota of love in one's heart. That is, the heart has turned into a stone. A poet has depicted this state in a couplet, meaning:

Today, stone is the mark of every art; may it be of hand or of tongue.

In other words, human heart is like a stone—stone-heartedness. As already stated, on the one hand, love permeates each cell and on the other there is only an iota of love and that too for one's ownself—selfishness. Even members of the same family imbibe selfishness. If love permeates the whole family, the home will surely turn into a heaven because the one who imbibes love can make sacrifices for others. True love is devoid of selfishness. Therefore, love-intoxicated beings do only good. Whether it is day or night, hot or cold, they bestow peace and own all. May everyone imbibe love. This is the message given by the devotees here:

What is needed is love and not hatred or controversy.

A question arises: Has hatred or controversy ever brought any good? So many wars have been fought, so many blasts have taken place: has any good accrued therefrom? No, on the contrary, these have added to loss of life and destruction of property. Today, violence committed even in an isolated corner of the world, has its repercussions in the entire world. Holy beings always, wish to spread love but instead hatred spreads. It indicates that all are ailing: they are ailing from hatred and we know the extent to which a mentally ailing person can cause harm and misery to others. Except jealousy and hatred, man does not imbibe any positive sentiment. Imbibing jealousy, he is smouldering in its fire. He is jealous of those who smile or are happy or prosper. He also imbibes hatred on the grounds of faith, religion, culture and colour. Thus man has become an embodiment of hatred and jealousy. Holy beings have taught man in every age to shed hatred and imbibe love

for everyone. The earth is thirsting for love. It is a paradox that man thirsts for love but is not prepared to love. He wishes to be loved but treats others harshly and hurts their feelings and causes misery. This is what he 'gives' to others but, in return, wishes only love for himself. Holy beings have taught:

Do unto others as you want others to do unto you.

## **Hatred**

Man wishes to be loved and honoured and wishes flower petals strewn in his path but when his turn comes to give, he gives hatred and strews thorns on the path of others. Holy beings say: Man, give to others what you wish to have from them. And, we know, everyone wishes good for oneself and, therefore, one should 'give' the same to others. These have been the teachings of the holy beings right from the ancient times and the speaker devotees have drawn our attention to these. However, man is mired in selfishness, greed and evil. Though man has strayed far off, holy beings tell him: Sajjan, the thug, had also deviated far off but he, too, turned over a new leaf and became virtuous. Similarly, Ganika, the Sinner, was also redeemed. Though you have deviated far off, but now is the time to mend and reform yourself. In other words, it is never too late to reform oneself. Man should, therefore, not cause harm to himself as also to others. Instead of causing harm, he should benefit himself as well as others. Therefore, every word of holy beings has importance and those, who heed and live up to the same, redeem themselves and redeem others, too. This is the ancient holy message of the holy beings. No holy being has preached hatred, rather they always gave prominence to love and humanism. In this way, holy beings have been teaching not one person but the whole of the humanity to imbibe noble values and sublimate their lives. Those, who heed saintly teachings, imbibe these virtues. However, under the worldly influence many knowingly deviate from these teachings. Although they know the importance of love, yet they imbibe hatred. The one, who knows the importance of love but imbibes hatred, is foolish.

A wise person is the one who lives wisely. What one has understood, one should live up to and not deviate from it. Once a lamp has been lighted, it is foolish to extinguish it. The lamp of love has to be kept burning. The devotion has to be strengthened day-by-day and the awareness has to be maintained. While the devotees here are giving the message to the world, they are also praying that they may not deviate from it, knowingly or unknowingly. No one knows when one may be misled or ego may raise its ugly head or narrow-mindedness creep in the mind and one may deviate from the right path and conduct oneself as the worldly people do. It is rightly asked:  
With a lamp in hand, if one falls in a well,

Is it wisdom?

## **Devotees**

The devotees are ever awake and alert. Accordingly, they not only heed but also live up to the holy teachings. Let us never give up love or be narrow-minded, not speak harshly nor turn stone-hearted. Rather, we should imbibe tolerance and contentment. A devotee always prays that he may be ever awake, never careless because perverse tendencies are out to prey on him: They are always on the look-out for an opportunity to overpower him. In this manner, certain people with perverse tendencies are on the prowl and coming close to us exert such influence on us that we deviate from the path of devotion. That is why it is said that a devotee is always should be alert. However, alertness does not mean cleverness, which sways the world, but it means to be always awake. With cleverness what is man not doing? A devotee, therefore, does not imbibe cleverness but alertness. Thus he is alert that he may not be influenced or waver in his faith or follow the path

of the worldly and self-willed. If he follows the worldly and the self-willed, he is bound to be doomed and to lose peace of mind.

## **Teachings**

We should follow the holy teachings in order to succeed in our aim. If the thread in a needle follows the needle, the cloth will be stitched. But if the thread moves in a different direction, the cloth will not be stitched. We should, therefore, follow those devotees who have surrendered themselves to the Master, have firm faith in God, are steadfast to their ideal and imbibe love and humility. It is also stated in the Avtar Bani that we should keep company of those who are of firm faith and avoid those who waver and nurse misconceptions. We should follow the devotees who imbibe love, tolerance, contentment, humility and broad-mindedness and serve selflessly and dedicatedly and are free from greed and ego. They are truly alert and wise. May they remain alert. This is what holy beings have been reiterating. Let us follow these teachings and sublimate our lives. Saint Rahim says:

A diamond does not proclaim its high worth. Its intrinsic qualities make it invaluable.

Similarly, a flower has not to invite butterflies, which are attracted to it by its beauty. May we learn the true art of living, so that we have not to proclaim our goodness. Those, who live up to God-knowledge, attain greatness. On the other hand, a worldly person proclaims that he is great but his life does not reflect any virtue: he neither imbibes love nor does he conduct himself nobly nor has he made any contribution to the society. The worldly people proclaim their greatness but the devotees do not do so; they sublimate their lives. A mirror does not lose its shine even when broken and continues to reflect. What is meant is that a mirror, whether it is intact or broken, reflects one's image. A devotee is like a flower which smiles even amongst thorns as if it is surrounded by flowers.

Again, a flower retains its importance whether it is on a branch, or fallen on the ground, otherwise it would not be threaded into a garland. Even flower petals are showered on each other on auspicious occasions. In other words, a flower whether blooming on a branch, plucked or shredded into petals, is valued. Similarly, a devotee is a flower who sublimate the earth and perfumes the the environment. To repeat, like flowers, the devotees embellish the earth, purify the polluted environment by their noble conduct and sublimate the world. May God bless all to lead a noble and devotional life, imbibe love and serve the humanity selflessly, shedding the craving for power and pelf.

## **Peace**

Today people imbibe hatred and violence: nations are at loggerheads with one another and there is a race for proving to be superior and more powerful. 'If the power of love overcomes the love for power, the world will see peace.' What is meant is that peace can be ushered in not by hatred but by love. Hatred can never bring peace. Hatred leads to conflict. Due to hatred, the world is afire. Hatred has never benefitted anyone nor ever established peace on the earth. Has any one who imbibes love thrown a bomb in the market and caused damage? Only the one, who imbibes hatred, commits such evil acts. The devotees are reminding us that hatred has already caused much harm; what is needed is love. A poet has rightly said:

A whole life is short for love; how do people find time for hatred? The precious human life is sacrificed at the altar of hatred. If one has to sacrifice life, one should do for love and humanism and not for hatred.

Love is a matter of heart and not of brain; brain implies cleverness. 'Man's brain is full but his heart is empty.' In other words, the brain advances so many arguments and it claims to be right. Even a robber can argue that robbing and killing people is a necessity. It is not the brain but the heart that matters. On the one side, is argument and, on the other, feeling. One may win with arguments; some can argue so well that the opponent cannot compete with him and keeps silent. Many can win by arguments but the real winner is the one who wins the heart. And the one who wins hearts is the true conqueror. As already stated, love is a matter of heart and not of brain. In case the heart imbibes love, it turns into a temple. People say: the mind is a temple or a mosque. The mind cannot be a temple or mosque unless God dwells in it. If one imbibes Ravana's disposition in the mind, it cannot be a temple. To turn the mind into a temple, one has to shed hatred and imbibe love. And when the mind turns into a temple, one turns into a roving temple worth worshipping. Normally, a temple or a place of worship is static but those, who imbibe love and love God, do not stick to one place, rather they turn into roving temples. The devotees have always inspired one to give importance to the need of love and not to sour relations by imbibing the greed for wealth. For the sake of a few coins, we ill-treat others, forgetting that wealth will not side with us; it will be left behind here. We should not create alienation among the people.

### **Prayer**

The devotees have contributed to the creation of peaceful and blissful environment prevailing here. May everyone enjoy it.

Saints, Dhan Nirankar.

## **THANKS WITH REQUEST**

It is to acknowledge with many thanks that the Branches of Sant Nirankari Mandal in India and overseas have evinced an absorbing interest and done well in raising the number of subscribers to the Nirankari Magazines. The services of the devotees concerned are highly appreciated.

Admittedly, there is an encouraging response from the devotees for subscription to the Sant Nirankari, Ek-Nazar and Hansti Duniya. But there is always a scope to maintain continuity of this campaign to ensure that these three periodicals not only go to all the Nirankari devotees but also reach the hands of general public. We may choose to subscribe for someone as a New Year Gift, Birthday Gift, Wedding Gift or the like.

With the international character of the Nirankari Mission, it is also needed to give global touch to the contents of the magazines. It is, therefore, requested that compact articles for Sant Nirankari and brief write-ups for Hansti Duniya be sent to us. Besides, every inspirational effort or event made individually or collectively, highlighting the Mission anywhere in the world, may please be reported to us, preferably with photographs, for use in our fortnightly Newspaper, Ek-Nazar. Globalisation of its magazines and literature would automatically globalise the Nirankari Mission.

C.L.Gulati  
Member Incharge, Patrika Vibhag

With the blessings of  
Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj  
Guru Puja Divas (Worship of the Guru Day) Samagam  
will be held on February 23, 2007  
at the Samagam Ground, Burari Road, Delhi-110009

P r o g r a m m e

Seva Dal Rally : 04.00 p.m. to 06.00 p.m.

Holy Congregation : 06.00 to 09.00 p.m.

K.R. Chadha

Secretary, Sant Nirankari Mandal

**BHAKTI PARVA SAMAGAM**  
*By S.R. Prajapati*

Bhakti Parva (Devotion Day) Samagam was held on January 14, 2007, at the Samagam Ground, Burari Road, Delhi, with devotional zeal and fervour. The devotees from neighbouring states also participated in larger numbers. The speaker, singer and poet devotees highlighted the importance of devotion.

The Samagam commenced with a procession with Babaji, Rajmataji and Mataji seated in a flower-bedecked vehicle, preceded by singing and dancing parties.

Blessing the holy congregation, Babaji said: Devotion is the essential link between God and His devotee and it can be firmed up by remaining in communion with God. When one imbibes positive values, only then can one turn a true devotee. Devotion springs from the heart and not from the head. In devotion what is important is the feeling and not the intellect. Not dress but the sense of non-doership and humility is the mark of a devotee and these characteristics strengthen devotion. Patience and contentment are the chief characteristics of devotion which mark out a devotee. Virtues lend sublimity to the life of a devotee. When these virtues are imbibed, virtues like tolerance and broad-mindedness are strengthened. Only by imbibing such virtues the devotees strengthen their faith. Those, who give prominence to devotion, are revered for ages. The devotees Hanuman and Prahlada are remembered for their sincerity and selfless devotion even today.

Alluding to the services of Rev. Santokh Singh, Babaji said: Even today there are devotees for whom devotion is all-important. Sans devotion, life is worthless. That is why the devotees pray that they may remain ever steadfast in devotion. To strengthen devotion, apart from the sense of non-doership, we need to render selfless service which bestows real happiness and bliss.

Addressing the Bhakti Parva Samagam in Michigan (U.S.A.), Rev. Sukhdev Singh said: When a devotee imbibes humility and the sense of gratitude for God, he is on the right path. To inspire our children for devotion, we should follow the teachings of the Satguru. A devotee should not nurse an illusion that Babaji blesses only those who are in his company and others are deprived of his blessings. When we say that he is all-knowing, we must have faith that he takes care of all his devotees, wherever they may be.

## Transforming Ourselves

'Wrong' is purely a matter of self-realisation.

That's why most times

when you tell others that they are wrong

they snap back saying, "You are wrong in saying that I am wrong".

Let us not be angry that

we are not able to make others that we wish them to be,

when we are not able to make even our own selves what we wish to be.

Our primary responsibility is not to transform the world, but to transform ourselves.

— Voice of Love

'Frozen Thoughts'

With the blessings of  
Satguru Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj  
Sant Samagam will be held as under:

SANT SAMAGAM OF GUJARAT

Dates: February 17 & 18, 2007

Venue: Godhra

SANT SAMAGAM OF RAJASTHAN

Dates: March 10 & 11, 2007

Venue: Churu

SANT SAMAGAM OF UTTAR PRADESH

Dates: March 17 & 18, 2007

Venue: Amethi

SANT SAMAGAM OF BIHAR

Dates: March 21 & 22, 2007

Venue: Dhanbad

SANT SAMAGAM OF NORTH-EASTERN STATES

Dates: March 24 & 25, 2007

Venue: Kolkata

K.R. Chadha

Secretary, Sant Nirankari Mandal

## **NEW YEAR CONGREGATION**

*By S.R. Prajapati*

A holy congregation was held on January 1, 2007, at the Samagam Ground, Burari Road, Delhi, to mark the New Year.

Speaking on the occasion, Rev. Rajmataji, whose birthday falling on New Year Day was also celebrated, said: Let us imbibe virtues in the New Year and embellish the life. Shedding evil traits, let us instil good traits in our families. The devotees are ever eager to learn the art of true living.

In his concluding discourse, Babaji said: Let us strengthen the sense of mutual co-operation. On the New Year Day, people offer good wishes to each other, but the devotees always pray for universal well-being. They ever wish for happiness of all. Wherever the devotees live, they give the message that realising God, man should fulfil the prime purpose of human life. Today there is a dire need of imbibing mutual love for turning the earth into a heaven. In the world ridden with tyranny and narrow-mindedness, responsibility of the devotees has increased to create an environment of goodwill.

Often people talk of rights but seldom anyone reminds us of our duties? While claiming rights, people should be conscious of their duties also. The emphasis on rights alone is responsible for the prevailing alienation. If both the parties are conscious of their duties, they can co-operate. There is an urgent need to give priority to one's duties and not to rights only.

The environment of goodwill can prevail in a family when the mother-in-law treats her daughter-in-law as her daughter.

On this occasion, Babaji, Rajmataji and Mataji were garlanded by Revs. Mangal Sain, V.D. Nagpal and Mrs. Raj Vasdev Singh, respectively.

## TRUTH

EVERY human being aspires for praise, whether or not he performs his duty. Though embodiment of vices, one tries to pass for a virtuous person. No one is prepared to accept one's faults and shortcomings, rather wears the mask of a good and gentle being. If one is criticised for one's shortcomings, one attributes the same to the prevailing circumstances. Everyone wishes that a spade should not be called a spade, though every religion teaches that man should not avoid the truth and side with falsehood. However, the followers do not muster courage to live up to this great ideal due to their selfish interests. Every religion preaches that whatever be the circumstances, one should adhere to the truth. Evidently, everyone wishes to flaunt one's purity and piety but is inwardly afraid of one's evils and falsehood. One does not hesitate even to sacrifice the truth for achieving one's selfish ends. In other words, truth is owned theoretically but not practically.

Today, the afore said environment prevails in the political, social and domestic spheres. Even near and dear ones slander each other without hesitation. They speak the truth in an ambiguous way, so that it does not pinch.

Despite the prevailing perverse attitude, there are persons who can stand up, speak and uphold the truth. Even after their death, they are admired for their courage and truthfulness and are considered great. Those, who wish to uphold the truth, have to pay the price, otherwise the human life, Lord's best blessing, will be in vain.

It is a well-known fact that consumption of too much sweets is harmful and that of bitter ones generally beneficial. Those, who consume the bitterness of the truth, enjoy spiritual health. Unmindful of the public opinion if one reposes full faith in God and sheds the fear of the world and holds fast to the truth, one can achieve the real aim of life. By doing so, one can help to establish a healthy society and also serve the humanity better. In fact, the chief aim of human life is to realise and uphold the truth.

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