

Nanak Dham

DECEMBER 1989

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REMEMBER HIM

WE ARE DETACHED from the Lord, who gave us birth and sent us here to earth. The joy, peace and happiness of Naam is lost. It is through Naam that the soul unites with the Lord.

The message of Naam has constantly been given by messengers of God, who come to earth to show us the true Path. But Man distorts the true message and creates divisions by religions and clans.

There are four points of a compass: North, South, East and West. Four qualities: Mercy, Truth, Contentment and Naam. Four religions: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and Sikhism. There are four castes and 8,400,000 cycles of life and death, at the end of which human life is granted.

To cleanse this form of life, messengers of God show us the path to the tenth door, where our Lord resides. The only division between the Lord and the soul is a curtain as thin as the inner peel of an onion. Unless this curtain is drawn open at the eye centre, there is no way of meeting the Lord.

All our searching for the Lord is outside ourselves, but the Lord can only truly be found within this body. He can only be realised with peace and love. Although we forget Him, He always remembers us and grants us that which fulfils our needs.

Messengers of God do not come and ask you to leave your families or worldly affairs, but simply come to awaken the humanity within you. This humanity is to love and serve His Creation and not only those who are related to you.

During these cold months, we heat our bodies through various means, but the heat required for the heating of our soul is Naam, His remembrance, His love and His yearning. When your soul has acquired the Lord's warmth, then none of these outside worldly cold spells will disturb you.

Live and enjoy life in the world and in your families, but do not forget Him. This way of life is not for cowards but for those with brave hearts, those who accept a living death.

His message is a simple one: "O Man, leave your bad deeds and turn to devotion. I am your



Mahraz Darshan Das

Creator. Know me for there is no one who will accept you except me. Remember me during your suffering and devotion. Nothing is hidden from me and I hold the rights to everything.

"Everything is known to me. For as long as you fail to recognise me, O Man, I will keep an account of everything that you do. But when you remember me, I forget and conceal your failings."

Storekeeper of Good

If with a true heart you give something in His name, then He will return it one hundredfold. But it would be wrong to assume that if you give Him one of your sins, He will return it one hundredfold. He and His messengers are storekeepers of good and not suffering. Good emanates from Him, but suffering is of your own creation. He gives you His Love, Truth and Unity, which gives you the strength to raise yourselves up.

In the scriptures of Sachkhand Nanak Dham, in the book, "Jaswanti Niradhar", I have said: "Our skins, whether black or white, and clothes of many colours are of no significance. But the

clothing blessed by God is simply the skin on our bones. Clothes are given to you as a blessing to hide your organs and not for fashion."

The body itself is given to you for devotion and to follow the True Path. "Do not follow falsehood, but first before anything else recognise yourself and what you are doing."

The Path

Some say that the Path to God is the most difficult. If you ask me, the path to God is the easiest. Stand anywhere and call out to Him and He will answer your call. But remember to call Him with a true heart.

I have never said to you that I will show you God. What I have said is that He can be attained through Naam and that you yourselves can attain the qualities of God. Who is He? What is He? I have never revealed Him to you. What I have said is that I have named Him, "Nanak". His name is great, because I have seen Him.

Many will try to lead you astray with words. Do not get confused. Do not follow me

blindly, after all you are human beings and not animals being driven by a man wielding a stick.

The Truth

At the age of 17 years, when He revealed Himself to me, I simply asked Him for His protection and the strength to reveal the truth in front of people. It is this Truth, which messengers of God reveal to the people of the world. This truth is not false because that, which you do not know is false and that which is known to you is the Truth. These messengers have done, are doing and will carry on doing the Lord's work.

When the Lord forgives someone, his whole life is vastly improved. He comes to cleanse the unclean, His loved ones. His messengers come to pry you away from evil. They do not teach evil.

People cry out that their kith and kin or religions are in danger. On the contrary, it is your leadership that is in danger. It is your position that is in danger. Not your faith. You die in the throes of revenge. If there is anything dangerous in the world, then it is a man who seeks vengeance.

Man is not loyal. He scorns and reproaches Him when he does not get his own way. The Lord is flexible. He adapts Himself to your way of thinking or faith. What you see in front of you will be a reflection of your inner feelings or faith.

The message of this month is one of remembering Him or reciting His Naam, His service and the service of His Creation. Happiness and peace of mind can be attained through Him when you recognise yourselves. The question that you need to ask yourself is: How do I attain these goals? You must find the Way yourselves.

We generally tend to think that if someone else has not achieved something, then we should not attempt it either. But if you can do something, you must come forward and do your best for the Lord. He will protect and secure you.

* These are the main points of the Sangrand Satsang delivered by Mahraz Darshan Das on 15th December, 1986 by Mahraz Darshan Das in Birmingham.

OPINION

MAHRAZ DARSHAN DAS was a peacemaker, who prepared us for the union of mankind from both East and West.

The whirlwind of events that have blown through the world in the last two years, especially in Russia and among her eastern block allies, has nevertheless been amazing to those of us who live in the West. We have seen the Iron Curtain being pulled aside.

On 11th November, exactly two years to the day after Mahraz Darshan Das was killed, we read headlines that bulldozers had moved in to breach the Berlin wall and that hundreds of thousands had flocked to the West through new crossing points. Pictures of East Germans triumphantly climbing and sitting on the Berlin wall that was designed by their government nearly thirty years ago to stop them coming over to the West amazed us. Within less than two weeks hundreds of thousands gathered in Wenceslas Square in Prague, Czechoslovakia to hear a leader of

East and West

the People's Party say: "No one believes in communism any more." The hardline Czech leaders quit last month only hours after the former leader, Alexander Dubcek, deposed in 1968, had greeted the huge crowd again in Wenceslas Square.

Thousands of Russians have gone home from Afghanistan and massive steps have been made to democracy in Poland. The student rebellion in Peking last summer that was suppressed by the Chinese government with tanks and soldiers is not finished. The courage that was shown by many, but symbolised by one unarmed student in Tianenmen Square, who stood in front of an advancing column of tanks and was seen on television screens and newspapers around the world, convinced many millions that we are one human family.

When President Reagan of the United States and the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev signed the treaty in Washington in December 1987 within a month of the shooting of Mahraz Darshan Das, some of us were sceptical as we read the words of the Russian leader that the treaty offered "us a chance to embark on a new direction that leads away from catastrophe, and together move towards a nuclear free world." Mahraz Darshan Das had however assured us that God would not allow man to destroy his creation.

The climate of relations between East and West has changed for good. Already there are plans for reductions in foreign military involvement in Europe. While it may look as if communism has "lost the battle for hearts and minds in Europe, it certainly cannot be said that capitalism as a total

world view has won," said the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg last month. There is only a gospel, said the Archbishop, "which is social because there can be no life outside social relationships. And social, in this context, must also mean political and economic."

The way to a just and peaceful world "has always been a way of struggle and conflict," the Archbishop continued. "The journey demands courage and the taking of risks."

These times of great change that we are living through, require us to maintain our balance and seek out people of great integrity and courage to provide proper leadership. It is right that religious leaders should speak out even on political matters, because God is concerned with the whole of life including politics, as Mahraz Darshan Das told us. God is working out His plans for everyone in the world.

THE DEATH sentence has all but been pronounced on Britain's nuclear energy industry to many sighs of relief from ordinary people. The turnaround by the government has been remarkable. British Nuclear Fuels has recently been spending large sums on press advertising and has not given up trying to point out how "green" nuclear power is, not adding to the Greenhouse Effect as the burning of fossil fuels like wood, coal and oil in huge quantities does.

We realise that fossil-fuel power stations produce CO₂, which contributes to the Greenhouse Effect, but the advertisements point out that nuclear power stations do not. In France and Belgium they generate more than two-thirds of their electricity from nuclear power, helping to reduce their output of carbon dioxide, but there are so many other costs and risks from nuclear power that ever since Chernobyl, if not before, most people are not prepared to accept the costs and risks associated with nuclear power. Recent publicity about the levels of radiation many miles from Chernobyl has added to the health fears of the Russians and others in Eastern Europe.

NUCLEAR POWER

It is ironic that it is as a direct result of the proposed privatisation of the electricity industry in the UK that the government's friends in the City have tolled the death knell for nuclear power. Twenty years ago Britain stood at the forefront of nuclear technology with more installed nuclear capacity than any other country. Now Britain is the first to opt out. It is economics and accountants rather than the green lobby that has killed nuclear power. The government has been told by the City that there was no way that electricity would be successfully privatised even at give-away prices, unless the whole of the nuclear side was taken out. The £7 billion cost of decommissioning the ageing Magnox series of nuclear power stations was the first unacceptable aspect of nuclear power to the City, but the unknown bill for reprocessing spent fuel and decommissioning the AGR nuclear power stations would also have been totally unacceptable to investors.

It is doubtful that any new nuclear power stations will be built this century or possibly ever again in the United Kingdom. At present nuclear power contributes 18% of the UK's electricity, while coal which became so unpopular with the government as a result of the miners' strike still produces some 72% at a smaller cost per unit, with the remaining 10% coming from oil and gas powered stations.

Renewable Sources

The problems of our energy demands still remain. The economic solution might be more coal-fired stations, but the environmental price of them is too high. To green inspired people renewable energy sources such as wind, wave and tidal power may have caught our minds, but the experts tell us that they are unlikely to be anything more than technological curiosities providing power for isolated parts of the UK. Need this be so? Would it not be sensible for the government to

consider paying a premium price for renewable energy sources like wind? This might go against the principles of privatisation, but if the whole question is not thought through and properly dealt with, we might be back to using candles soon.

We are told that power stations burning natural gas may provide an interim solution, being relatively clean, emitting only about 60% of the carbon dioxide produced by coal. But natural gas may become too scarce to waste 50 per cent of its energy generating electricity

As ordinary citizens possibly all we can do is to take all the steps we can in our own homes for energy conservation. Those of us who knew Mahraz Darshan Das have been prepared for hard times ahead with only light-hearted relief at the warming of our climate with its other serious side-effects. There will be defunct nuclear reactors, spent fuel and a multitude of other radioactive encumbrances with us for generations to come buried in deep vaults at enormous cost. The threat to our world is not from a nuclear holocaust. □

In the last ten years an unplanned increase in subsidies going to elderly and mentally impaired people in residential homes in the UK through the social security system has increased from some £10 million to around £1,000 million a year.

Many of the people who are subsidised in this way would be much better off in their own homes. The government's white paper on community care was published last month with the aim to provide a rational framework in which the community services for the mentally ill and elderly can expand and improve.

CARING FOR PEOPLE

It is estimated that there will be a 50 per cent increase in over 85-year-olds to over one million by the end of the century. The white paper recognises the pressing reasons to co-ordinate care and the need for practical support for carers. It proposes that the prime responsibility should be given to the local social services departments. Individuals in need will have to be assessed so that services can be tailored to meet their needs with managers to monitor the progress of people

such as discharged mental patients.

The white paper acknowledges the controversy over the rundown of long-stay mental hospitals and that in "some places hospital places have been closed before better, alternative facilities were fully in place." No further mental hospitals are to be closed until it is shown that proper community services exist to help discharged patients.

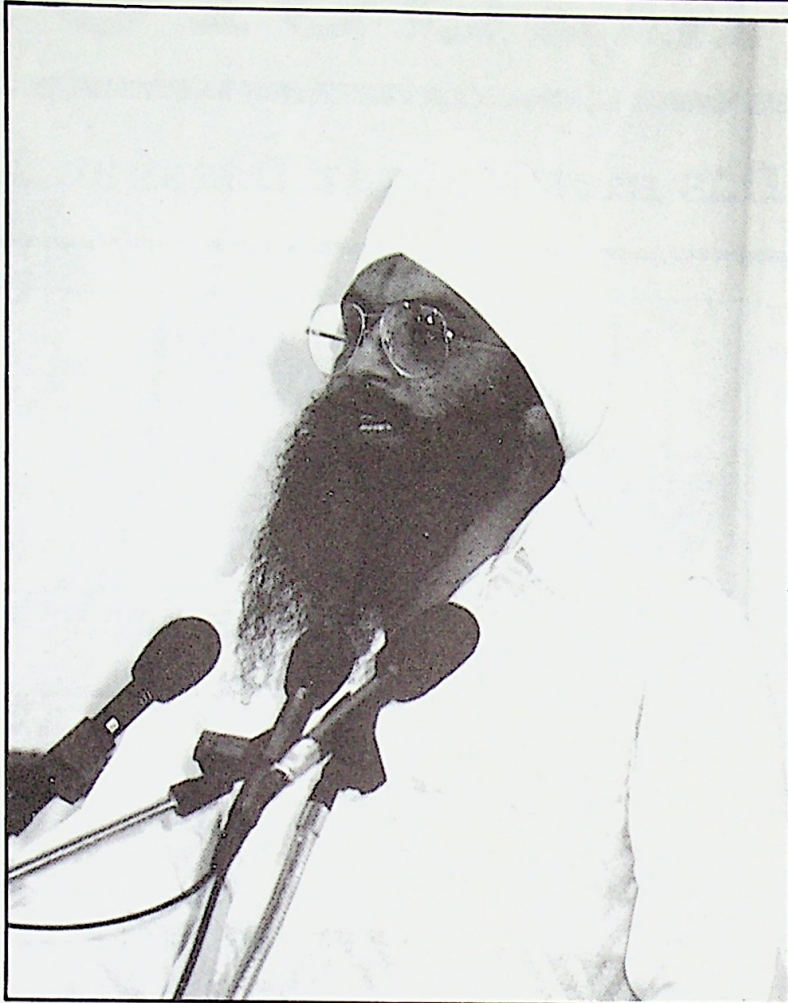
The present government prefers incentives to persuade councils to use private rather than public residential homes, which is

recognised as a market worth more than £2 billion a year. The white paper says that "No local authority should deprive those people assessed as needing residential care of the opportunity to enter an independently run home meeting the required standard of care." This should strengthen organisations like the Abbeyfield Society, with which Sachkhand Nanak Dham became involved just before Mahraz Darshan Das was killed.

The most important carers are of course family, relatives and friends. Let us hope the government recognises this as well.

THOUGHTS ON OUR HOLY MASTER

To mark the birthday of Mahraz Darshan Das on 7th, December.



Mahraz Darshan Das

ONCE IN A LIFE TIME with God's blessing we may be fortunate enough to meet a Perfect Spiritual Master, who can transform our lives for the better. When he is physically with us we have a unique opportunity, because he has so much to give us.

He makes promises with us on a personal level, which at one time possibly seem as if they could never be fulfilled. Gradually however his blessings do show themselves in our lives and the meaning of even the smallest remark, which he made to us takes on a profound significance for us.

Mahraz Darshan Das was one such Perfect Spiritual Master, who won the hearts of his followers with his true love and his selfless devotion to others. He not only gives us pleasure with his radiant presence, but is a source of inspiration even when he is no longer with us.

The absence of his physical presence is an enormous loss to his followers, but memories of him and everything that he has left us can never be taken away from within our hearts. That is why he used to say that when he is gone everyone of his followers will become a "Darshan Das".

Mahraz Darshan Das lived a life that was a shining example to the whole world. He taught us that

the only worthy life is one where you live for others, help those who have no-one to ask for help and learn to love those around you. He never asked or told anyone to do anything, which he personally would not have done himself, because he believed in setting the perfect example.

Once he said to me: "You cannot achieve anything worthwhile in life, unless you have struggled."

He had to struggle in his short life. Through his struggles he achieved so much, for which we can all remember him.

Someone may be able to become a spiritual teacher by leading a good life and learning to give religious or spiritual discourses, but a true spiritual Holy Master is one who is born with these qualities with the blessing of God and does not have to read any religious or spiritual book to gain spiritual knowledge or worldly knowledge that knows no limits.

The difference between a Perfect Spiritual Master and an ordinary spiritual teacher is like the difference between the sun, which gives us natural light without which the world cannot survive and a lightbulb, which can only give us artificial light.

Vinod Kalia

THE PATH TO GOD

The meaning of our slogan "Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Das Bhala" and the title "Das".

We continue publishing questions put to Mahraz Darshan Das and his answers in the publication entitled the Marg Darshan in Punjabi, which we are calling The Path to God, in English.

Why do your followers greet each other by saying: "Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala," whenever they meet each other.

This slogan is the essence of all scriptures, which was first uttered by Guru Nanak. Every messenger of God during his life time on earth gives his followers a slogan such as - Ram Ram, Sia Ram, Namastey, Eslama Laykam, Sat Kartar, Sat Siri Akal, Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ke Fateh.

Similarly while looking at today's needs I have given my followers the slogan of "Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala." Its meaning can be explained in the following way:

1. Nanak Naam - Glorifies the name of God.
 2. Chardi Kala - Asks for the prosperity and goodwill of His creation.
 3. Tere Bhane - Is to seek contentment under His Will. "Oh Lord, let there be contentment, unity and love. Be merciful so that we can live under your Will."
 4. Sarbat Da Bhala - Is to seek the well being of all Creation. "Oh Lord, forgive even those who have forsaken you and are blind, dumb and mute to your glory."
- This is practised and taught in Sachkhand Nanak Dham.

Sachkhand Nanak Dham believes in the slogan as being similar to atomic power. Sachkhand Nanak Dham shows practically the results of this power.

Why do your followers use the name Das in front of their names?

First of all it is necessary to define the meaning of the word, Das. Das means a free servant, who performs free service, which does not constitute slavery.

Free service also means it is done by someone who sets aside his personal needs and performs it for the good of others. All saints and messengers of God have accepted the service of God.

Sachkhand Nanak Dham urges and teaches others to perform some service for others and its slogan also personifies this service. To live solely for oneself is worthless. All messengers of God have lived for others and have taught their followers to live for others as well.

I personally have stated that I am a Das and have come with a mission of service. I am your servant and urge you to stand up and serve others. Whoever accepts this with his heart and serves others is a true Das. He will be justified in using the name Das in front of his others names.

MY LORD

My Lord, Mahraz Darshan Das Jee,
 Allow me to thank you for your gifts,
 Love, Happiness, Kindness, Mercy
 And the Word of God you have given to me.
 You have taken my sins and bad deeds
 And given me true life with a bright future.
 You have given the message of God to the world
 And your sacrifice for the peace of the world.
 Give us spirit and guide us to work for your mission
 So that we make good use of this life given by God.
 The world will know, who you were, when they think,
 And follow your message of love, peace, unity and sacrifice.
 You have promised you will open the gate of Sachkhand,
 For those who want to enter the kingdom of God.
 You haven't gone, but only can be seen through Word.
 Every moment you stand by 'Zimika',
 Whenever a thought comes of you in my brain.
 Take me when you want, but with good deeds
 Earned in the mission of Das Dharam.

Zimika

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

THE STORIES AROUND the birth of Jesus in a stable, the arrival of the shepherds and the three wise men from the East are well-known to most even today, despite the commercialisation of Christmas around the world. But when the wise men had departed some two thousand years ago, the angel of the Lord appeared and spoke to Joseph in a dream, saying:

"Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word. For Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

So Joseph took Jesus and his mother, Mary, to Egypt, where they remained until after the death of Herod.

When Herod realised that the wise men had deceived him and not gone back to him to tell him where the baby Jesus was, he was very angry. He ordered

that all the children under two years old in Bethlehem and in the surrounding area should be killed, which is often referred to nowadays as the massacre of the innocents.

After Herod was dead an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying: "Rise up and take the young child and his mother and go into the land of Israel. For they are dead who sought the young child's life."

So Joseph took Jesus and his mother, Mary, back to Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned in Judaea in the place of his father, Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. So, being warned by God in a dream, he went into the region of Galilee and settled in the city of Nazareth with Mary and Jesus. In this way the words of the prophets were fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 2



THE DANDELION

An original short story by Jaswinder Mattu

He was surrounded by various flowers that considered themselves to be superior to him. They would tease him, because they thought he lacked the beauty they had. He would withdraw into himself and cry, often wishing that he had blown away in the wind like his brothers and sisters had. His mother had withered and died. It seemed as though he was out in the world without anyone to love him.

The haughty and arrogant pansies, bluebells and foxgloves jeered and sneered at him. They would push him aside when it rained so that the glorious drops of refreshing rain that fell from the heavens above would cool their dry stalks. The poor dandelion only managed to catch the few little drops that were missed by the others. But that was enough for him. He was not greedy.

One day he was the victim of a cruel joke by a dog rose

and a daffodil. Out of the trees flew the most beautiful white dove that he had ever seen. The dove awoke the vanity of the flowers. They started stretching and preening themselves so that the bird might see their beauty and land amongst them for a rest and refresh himself on their scent.

The dandelion looked up, eagerly hoping that the dove would land beside him. On seeing the excitement on his face the dogrose turned and said spitefully to the daffodil: "Oh, look, who thinks himself to be as pretty as us. Nasty, ugly thing. Go away. Shoo!"

The poor dandelion was deeply hurt and heaved a heart-wrenching sigh.

The forget-me-nots and daisies started arguing amongst themselves. The foxglove just preened himself, confident that he was to be the lucky one.

The dove flew above them and stared down in dismay at all that he saw. "Oh, where is that dandelion?" he said to himself. The dove was on special orders to take the dandelion back to the land of Eternal Happiness and Joy. The dove circled the flowers for a few moments. In their excitement the flowers were crushing each other in their desperation to be noticed. The dandelion was alone and insignificant.

"There he is," cried the dove at last. He swooped down in his joy and landed lightly beside the dandelion, who looked up in surprise. The other flowers were in a state of shock and did not say a word.

The dove whispered a kindly word in the dandelion's ear, which brought a smile of happiness to his face. The dandelion then closed his eyes. The dove bent down, took a last look around at the other flowers, smiled at their astonished faces, gently plucked the dandelion from the earth and then flew off home with him.



FAR, FAR AWAY in the depths of a forest a young dandelion lived all on its own. He was in the middle of a beautiful paradise. But was it paradise for him?



Das Param Das who was blessed by Mahraz Darshan Das to carry out the work of the Mission in Canada, comforting a member of the congregation of Sachkhand Nanak Dham in Winnipeg this autumn.

Write to Das Param Das, Darshan Darbar, 207-243 Queen Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 3V4, Canada. Tel: 888 4097 Area Code 204, for details of services.



Das Mukhtiar Singh one of the 31 members of the Mission in Birmingham organised by Yuva Das Dharam, the youth wing of the Mission, who gave blood last month to commemorate the Martyrdom of Mahraz Darshan Das, as did others around the world.

Letters

Nanak Dham, 5 Maxwell Avenue, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 3TN

MULTI-FAITH GET-TOGETHER

I was staggered by the article on the Multi-Faith Get-Together in Westminster Cathedral Hall published in the November issue of Nanak Dham. The remarks by Cardinal Francis Arinze from Nigeria, the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue "...the interreligious dialogue leaves intact Jesus Christ as the one Saviour" were amazing and insulting to other faiths

I am appalled by these remarks since a precedent of no change has been set by the Cardinal responsible for dialogue with other faiths by only accepting Jesus Christ as the one Saviour. If we are truly interested in multi-faith dialogue then surely all faiths must be seen as equals? Time and time again whenever there is talk of multi-faith

dialogue, it seems that it is much easier for people from religions originating from India to accept other faiths without prejudice unlike the exclusive attitude many in the Christian faith.

I believe this acceptance of other faiths by people from Indian faiths is easier because of the belief that the power of regenerate and take birth again. Therefore we accept readily the likelihood of new Saviours being born again

Secondly conception by a virgin is not alien to the Indian faiths, as the births of Hanuman, Saint Kabir and a few others exemplify. With this openness it is easier for a person from an Indian religious background to accept

Jesus as a Saviour than it is for a Christian, as Cardinal Arinze has illustrated by his remark, to accept the Saviours of other faiths.

What I would like to know in all honesty is, would Cardinal Arinze be willing to accept other Saviours from other faiths on an equal footing with Jesus Christ? I believe not. If I am right, then he was not talking from an equal and beneficial point of view for True Multi-Faith Dialogue?

Das Harminder
Birmingham

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription by post UK, £10.
Overseas Subscription £15 (Sterling) payable to Nanak Dham.

PROGRAMME AT THE DERA

Satsangs are held daily at the Birmingham Dera at 7pm Monday to Saturday (excluding Thursday).

Arjoi is at 2pm.

On Sunday Arjoi is at 12 midday and Satsang is at 2.00pm.

Free food (langar) is served every day to anyone at the Birmingham Dera, 11 Church Hill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B20 3TN.

The JANUARY Sangrand will be held on Sunday 14th January 1990

Sangrands

February 12th, Monday
March 14th, Wednesday
April 13th, Friday
May 14th, Monday
June 15th, Friday
July 16th, Monday
August 16th, Thursday
September 16th, Sunday
October 17th, Wednesday
November 16th, Friday
December 15th, Saturday

Das Dharam Day - Feb 16th

APPEAL AGAINST CONVICTION

One of the defendants convicted of the murder of Mahraz Darshan Das has been granted leave to appeal against his conviction. Rajinder Singh Bath from Southall, Middlesex was sentenced last March to life imprisonment by the Recorder of London, Sir James Miskin, QC, with a recommendation that he should serve a minimum of 30 years in prison after being convicted of the murder of Mahraz Darshan Das, the manslaughter of Baba Jee Satwant Singh Panesar and the malicious wounding of Das Dharam Singh Bimbrah.

Several grounds of appeal were put before a single judge of the Court of Appeal to consider this autumn. It was put to the Court of Appeal that the reported remarks about "murderous Sikhs" in an after-dinner speech by the trial judge during the trial may have been prejudicial and were reported in some newspapers during the trial. It was also argued that the judge should have ordered a new trial for Bath after his co-defendant changed his plea to guilty during the trial. Finally the defendant's counsel claimed that there was no clear eyewitness evidence that the defendant intended to kill Mahraz Darshan Das.

If the appeal against conviction were to be successful, the Court of Appeal could quash the conviction altogether or order a retrial. The appeal is unlikely to be heard before March 1990.