

Nanak Dham

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ACCEPT HUMANITY

MESSENGERS OF GOD state that wherever the Lord is that place blossoms and becomes a site of joy, peace and goodwill. This place is the human body, which is parched without Naam. It is devoid of joy and peace.

They have always emphasised the need for the shelter of a Master and Naam, through which all your aspirations and needs are fulfilled. This body has been suffering the consequences of bad deeds committed over many births and is separated from God. Union with God will be as a result of your good deeds.

You are quite content to wallow in worldly attachments, which are of no benefit to you here or in the hereafter. Rather than travelling inwards you seek Him outside yourselves.

Messengers of God have through the ages revealed the simplest path that you must follow to unite with God. Today you can unite with God through giving. You are not being asked to give finance or your worldly possessions but your service, through which you can meet with God.

God has not changed

True peace that you all yearn for is acceptance of God's Will. The essence of suffering and joy is contented happiness. That which you are truly looking for is a personal and true confidant. You have not really searched out this one being. There are a number of things that hold you back from searching for your confidant. Some of you do not wish to rise up and realise your potential. You are therefore committing a crime against yourselves.

This life-line, which has deluded past and present seekers for truth, in fact lies with a true Spiritual Master, who is at one with God and will unite you with Him. Everything in the universe is directed by Him and runs in accordance with His Will. God has not changed any of the timetables which He started, but you have



Mahraz Darshan Das

changed to suit yourselves and prevailing times. God has not changed.

God will forever bless, forgive and show, mercy no matter how evil or good you may be. Instead of shunning evil doers and those not accepted by society, God befriends and embraces them.

God is not touched by emotional turmoil. He is beyond all aspects of the human predicament. He is so small that He can manifest himself in a grain and at the same time swallow the universe. He is formless and yet He has revealed Himself in numerous forms to his beloveds.

If God does have a need, it is for this human life. He is the guardian of each one of us after we are born. You are in the habit of making public all that you do for other people, but you will never hear from God extolling his deeds for people.

Messengers of God were asked to raise themselves. He said: "Awake! Perform your duty!" If God is truly within you, then you are Him. If after committing a small crime you accept a little suffering, then you become God-like. On the other hand if you perform a little good and share it, then you also will become God-

like. Accepting both as the Will of God is the ultimate aim.

The place is pure and in full blossom where your Master is residing. It is known as Sachkhand, where your Naam is being repeated, where your feet bless the earth and your congregation gathers.

His glory, praise and commendations cannot be yours until you give up pursuit of your personal glory, praise and commendations. I have never promised you that I will show you God. For the last 14 years all that I have emphasised is that you should perform good deeds, accept Naam and profit from it. Accept the will of your Master and you will be transformed. You will become Him. God is not shown or revealed. He is made.

Cleanse this temple

My message to you is that the deeds, which separate you from God should now be given up. Because you have not really recognised the true potential of your human life, you are suffering the consequences.

You must first recognise the fact that God is the creator of the universe and you will one day have

to return to Him. The method that you require for returning to God is that you should wake up. Stand up. Make sacrifices to cleanse this temple of the living God. The present time has need of you.

There is nothing higher than promise. No other being has achieved the bliss or peace, which only this human body is given. The honour and exaltation that this body has been granted, is not extended to any other form.

Today you are ready to kill or die for your interpretation of the honour of your religion. Man is the only created being who does this. If you look at messengers of God, you will see that they did not sacrifice themselves for any religion, faith or sacred place. However whenever they did sacrifice themselves it was for man's suffering. When man is suffering, God comes as man on this earth. History reveals this.

Although you are taught that you must accept your particular faith or religion, your acceptance of humanity is more important. Love, service and sharing with your fellow human beings is the true religion. It's like money, which can be used for doing good and bad. Human life has the same purpose you can either use it for good or evil. The knowledge of this division comes from your Naam, true path and pure thoughts.

Messengers of God come to give you something and not take anything away. There are many mystics, but only one Master who is one with God. There is only one, who truly earns from good deeds and performs them. His message is one of love and peace. It is for the benefit of this human life.

Scriptures were revealed by Masters for mankind, to impart true knowledge to man. They were not revealed to create friction and strife in the name of religion. Do not follow that faith, or go to any place of worship, which teaches you to hate and despise others, or to break up your unity, even if he is from

LOVE AND TRUTH ARE GOD

“LOVE IS GOD,” said Mahraz Darshan Das.

He also said: “Truth is God.”

Love and truth has not always been easy for us to discern in our Mission recently, especially while the argument continues over the leadership of the Mission. Love and truth are still to be found, but sometimes it is as if they are hiding.

It is not so easy for anyone to show love while fighting a court case. People can even be suspicious of truth revealed in court. May be they are some of the lessons we are having to learn. The Mission was founded to proclaim love, peace and unity, not to provide a feast for lawyers.

As we reported in our last issue, the case challenging Maharani Pali Darshan Das's leadership of the Mission in England has been adjourned until the parallel proceedings in Delhi have been concluded. Incredible as it may sound, it is possible that with legal delays in India the cases could drag on for very many years and by that we do not just mean two or three years.

Whichever side wins the cases in India and England, if the victory is not endorsed by love and truth, the victory will be a hollow one. Hopefully the cases will fade into insignificance when love and truth become so overwhelming that the legal formalities will become just that, formalities that have to be observed because everyone in the

world, whoever he may be is subject to law. That is the way the world is organised.

The assassination of Mahraz Darshan Das in 1987 was naturally a setback to the Mission that he founded and inspired, but it was not the end. It should rather be regarded as the end of the beginning.

The seed was planted by Mahraz Darshan Das to be nurtured by those of us he left behind with all our imperfections. In England at least not too much has been seen of the growing plant during the last few years even if hundreds gather together on Sangrands in Birmingham. Some are even reluctant to go the Dera in Birmingham, which does not

always have the pervading atmosphere of love that it had when Mahraz Darshan Das was here.

In India the situation is a little different, in effect with more than one mission operating separately in different places. Mahraz Darshan Das warned us of the problems we have been facing amongst ourselves. Let us hope and pray the time is now coming when the Mission can go forward further along the path set for us by Mahraz Darshan Das, truthfully proclaiming genuine love, peace and unity for the benefit of all.

The message given to us by Mahraz Darshan Das is vitally important to humanity in the world today.

OPPOSITION TO MULTI-FAITH WORSHIP

IT IS REGRETTABLE that two thousand Church of England clergymen defied the Archbishop of Canterbury by signing an open letter published last December calling for an end to the annual multi-faith Commonwealth Day service in Westminster Abbey, attended by the Queen, who is the head of the Church of England.

They stated that they were “deeply concerned” by inter-faith gatherings involving Christians.

They write in the letter: “We believe these events, however motivated, conflict with the Christian duty to proclaim the Gospel.

“They imply that salvation is offered by God not only through Jesus Christ but by other means, and thus deny his uniqueness and finality as the only Saviour.

“These events are frequently deeply hurtful to those in this country who have come from other religions into the Christian faith, and also to Christian minorities in other lands, both of whom have frequently experienced persecution from the other faiths, and especially where such faiths are unwilling to tolerate conversions or the existence of minority of Christian communities.”

After seeing a draft of the letter, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Carey, had said that in his opinion it was not a helpful document. It

played on Christian fears about encountering people of other faiths and was likely to lead to an assumption that they were an unwelcome presence in our society.

It must be recognised that Christians have made great strides towards other religions in recent years, but this letter has implications outside the Church of England. Members of different Christian churches are concerned as well as members of many other religions. Fundamentalists in particular may think that ‘interfaith worship’ implies a possibly dishonest attempt to bury distinctions.

Such interfaith services should not deny faith, but are communal acts of worship to listen, learn and share, obviously meaning different things to different people.

Among ordinary people there is a craving for unity that cannot be repressed for ever by creeds and religious laws. The Roman Catholic church that may still be regarded by many, as one of the most rigid religious organisations has, since the Second Vatican Council more than 25 years ago and its declaration entitled *Nostra Aetate*, moved more than some may realise.

A recent Roman Catholic document issued by the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue in Rome entitled, ‘Reflections and Orientations on

Inter-religious Dialogue and the Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ’ states: “Dialogue requires, on the part of Christians as well as of the followers of other traditions, a balanced attitude. They should be neither ingenuous nor overly critical, but open and receptive. The will to engage together in commitment to the truth and the readiness to allow oneself to be transformed by the encounter are other dispositions required.

“This does not mean that in entering into dialogue the partners should lay aside their respective religious convictions. The opposite is true: while remaining firm in their belief that in Jesus Christ the fullness of revelation has been given to them, Christians must remember that God has also manifested himself in some way to the followers of other religious traditions.

“Moreover, the fullness of truth received in Jesus Christ does not give individual Christians the guarantee that they have grasped the truth fully. In the last analysis truth is not a thing that we possess, but a person by whom we must allow ourselves to be possessed. This is an unending process. While keeping their identity intact, Christians must be prepared to learn through others the positive values of their traditions.”

We can read the Roman Catholic document bearing in mind that Mahraz Darshan Das taught us

that all religion is a man-made thing. It is our response to God.

Christians often quote the famous verse in St John's gospel: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” The next verse continues: “For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

We do not have to enter into arguments about whether Jesus was the only son of God or just a prophet. We can recognise him as a Holy Master or representative of God on whose life a great world religion has been based. In one sense we are all sons of God. As Mahraz Darshan Das said, Jesus's death was for the benefit of all humanity, not just Christians. A Master such as Jesus is no-one group's exclusive possession. Let us hope and pray that the multi-faith service is an inspiration to many about the riches of God, opening people's eyes, without blinding them to great truths.

It is an honour to die for righteousness, but to die for falsehood is like giving leprosy to one's family.

Mahraz

INTERNATIONAL SANATAN DHARAM CONFERENCE

New Delhi

THE INTERNATIONAL Sanatan Dharam conference that was co-sponsored by Sachkhand Nanak Dham and the All India Sri Sanatan Dharam Yuvak Mandal was held in New Delhi on 28th and 29th December, 1991.

The conference was inaugurated by Giani Zail Singh, the former President of India with messages from various dignitaries. Several sessions were held during the two days on a number of topics concerning the problems of mankind.

Maharani Pali Darshan Das was still convalescing from her recent operation and Baba Jee Dharam Singh from England spoke on her behalf on the subject of spirituality and world peace.

As we think his speech was a significant one we set out most of the speech below: "We have assembled here to ponder over the ways and means through which spiritual heights can be achieved and peace can be established on the Earth."

"Basically spirituality and world peace are inter-related.

The cause of this unrest on the earth is the confused state of man's mind. The five perversions, Lust, Anger, Greed, Attachment and Pride are touching new heights at present. Wars, terrorism, nepotism, favouritism, envy, slander and all other defects are the off-spring of the five perversions."

"This widespread disturbed condition of mankind has come at a time when the old established religions and faiths have grown uncertain and often fail to meet our needs, because modern man is so busy that he has hardly any time to

Spirituality and World Peace

devote to search for the truth. The old holy books and literature have passed through so many amateur translating hands that they have lost the originality that they once had or the truth has been manipulated to suit individuals, communities, nations and religions."

"Modern man is seeking answers to problems that deeply disturb him and rob him of his peace of mind, resulting in his becoming more and more unbalanced in his thinking and piling up destructive material capable of blowing up the whole world many times in just a few seconds. He feels that there must be an answer to this emptiness in the vacuum, which is so keenly felt these days."

"All debates, lectures and conferences will produce no substantial result unless the fallen state of mankind is uplifted, which is really an uphill task. To bring about such radical change and for the attainment of the lofty goal and ideal of making man peaceful and bringing peace on earth, the revival of the basic truths contained in the holy scriptures is essential. The pacification of these perversions responsible for this confused state that mankind shall have to be taught the real and unadulterated truth. History tells us that such occasions arose in the past as well. Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Buddha, Christ, Mohammed, Kabir and Nanak came to Earth to put healing balm on the bleeding wounds of humanity."

"These days, we talk at the top of our voices about God realisation and peace, but the truth remains

that even we do not know what God is or how to realise Him, or how to achieve our desired results from spiritual practices."

"We even do not know how to worship or what to worship. In this weary and strife-torn world everyone is seeking peace, which however eludes us despite our manifold efforts to find it. None of us are happy in this world of perceptions. The rich are unhappy and the poor are in agony."

"However saints, who are messengers of God, offer a healing balm to one and all. They have the true philosopher's touchstone that changes base metal into gold. They release us from the eternal bondage of the cycle of birth and death and its attendant travails. The way they do this is through joining our soul with the Word that constantly reverberates in our forehead. When the mind tastes the sweetness of the Divine Melody it forsakes the pleasures of the world, which become utterly tasteless. This is the ancient wisdom that the sons of God of all ages come to propagate."

"Nearly 2000 years ago Jesus was sent to show us this path and he gave us these very teachings. We didn't, however, accept them and crucified him in our sinful ignorance. After him came Mohammed. He was also not accepted in the true sense, during his life-time. Then came Kabir and Nanak and others, but mankind remained untouched. Now very recently mankind assassinated Mahraz Darshan Das for bringing us the message of God, because his teachings were detrimental to the interests of a few people, who

plotted to kill him."

"Man is made by God in his own image, as shown by the initial capitals:

G - Generator
O - Organiser
D - Destroyer

All these qualities put together make GOD. All these qualities are also found in every human being. God can only be seen and realised in the human body. The Bible refers to our body as the "Temple Of The Living God" and the Hindu scriptures also affirm this."

"The human body is the true church, mosque, gurdwara or temple, where God abides. The key to these treasures within is found from the saints alone. The saints are jewels in God's diadem. They are the men with mystic vision. Ordinary men and women are blind."

"Their inner eye can only be opened by a perfectly attained one. It is the Master's grace, which attracts a disciple to him. This grace flows only when the Lord wills it. When the Master initiates a disciple he attaches the disciple's soul to the audible life stream, which can be heard in the form of music. In spiritual language this divine melody is called Word or Logos or Anhad Shabad."

"The Master tells a disciple to concentrate his attention inside on the point that lies between the eyebrows. This point is called the eye-centre. The divine melody resounds at this point."

"Without following this time-tested method of the path of the Masters the pacification of the perversions is not possible and man cannot become peaceful to bring peace on earth."

From page 1

your own faith. Do not go to that place, mystic, leader or Master, who destroys your unity, which God has given you.

God in His bounty gathered you, who were broken and scattered from many births because of many bad deeds. He recreated you in the form of man once again. In a sense once this human form has become one with God, there is no need for exterior adornment.

Whether it is a scripture or a place of worship, or any place, where man is not valued, then do

not go to such places. Think of this as a message of God. Scriptures will give you nothing nor will places of worship. Faith teaches you to make a promise and to love. It shows you the true path. In fact the true meaning of faith is the making of a promise and fulfilling it.

The God, who you are seeking outside yourselves, is in fact there within you. If you can imagine, there are 77,000 pores on your body. If you have accepted Naam

from a Perfect Master then one repetition of Naam is reverberated through each of those pores.

You should now endeavour to put right your suffering. If you do not know the way, then you should ask somebody. Asking is no crime, but forgetfulness is. Love is fathomless. Repeating and knowing Naam is also fathomless.

The message of Sachkhand Nanak Dham is that you should stand up against anyone who

creates friction, strife and wars amongst you. Sacrifice yourselves where there is love, peace and unity. Pull down the flags of religions and sects and put up the flag of promise. Followers of Sachkhand Nanak Dham should become examples for other people to see.

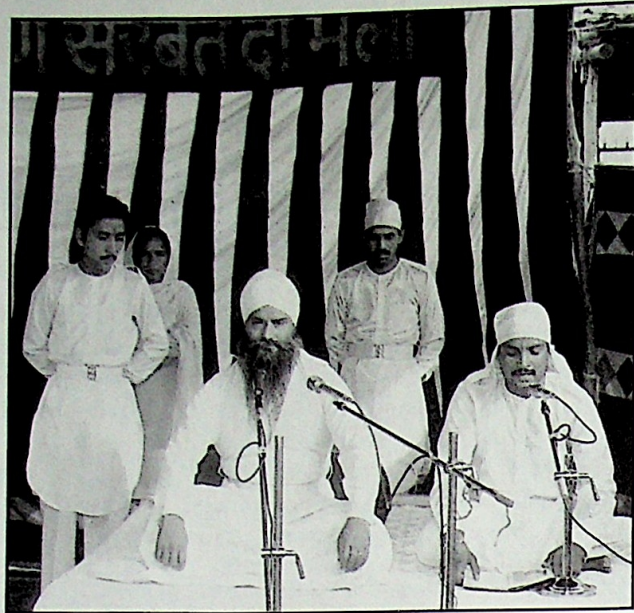
Death will come but once. Only die for truth.

• The main points of the satsang delivered by Mahraz Darshan Das at the Handsworth Leisure Centre, Birmingham on 8th December, 1984.

Accept Humanity



Some members of the congregation at Winnipeg in Canada preparing to decorate the Darshan Darbar there for Mahraz Jee's birthday.



Baba Jee Dharam Singh presiding at the celebrations at Khayala Darshan Darbar.

Mahraz Jee's Birthday Celebrations



Cutting the birthday cake at Nairobi Darshan Darbar.

MAHRAZ DARSHAN DAS'S 38th birthday and Maharani Pali Darshan Das's 37th birthday were celebrated on 7th December in many places around the world, where their followers had gathered.



Dancing the Bhangra at Khayala Darshan Darbar.

At Khayala Darshan Darbar, New Delhi, for instance, the celebrations started one day early on 6th December at 3.35am with a continuous 24 hour 'Nanak Naam' recitation. On the birthday itself the recitation was completed at 3.35am and prashad was distributed.

At 11am Baba Jee Dharam Singh unfurled the Mission flag. A team of Yuva Das Dharam members then went to the residence of Maharani Pali Darshan Das, where she was convalescing after her recent operation, to congratulate her on her birthday offering her flowers and praying for her long and healthy life.

Kirtan (hymn singing) was started

at 1pm by Huzuri Ragi Das Manohar Deep, which was followed by kirtan led by Huzuri Ragi Das Shiv and Das Devi Das. Baba Jee Dharam Singh gave the satsang and distributed the prashad to the congregation. Baba Jee Dharam Singh was in charge of the celebrations throughout the day

because Maharani Jee was taking a complete rest after her successful operation, which she had had on the 15th November.

After dark the exquisitely decorated Darshan Darbar was illuminated around the outside with

coloured lights. In the evening members of the congregation danced the Punjabi Bhangra, followed by singing songs and ghazals, Indian ballads written by Mahraz Darshan Das. The congregation had come from far and wide that day. Early in the morning of the 8th of December the congregation was seen off and blessed by Baba Jee Dharam Singh.

Among the many other places that Mahraz Jee's and Maharani Jee's birthdays were celebrated were the Darshan Darbar at City Park, Nairobi, Kenya during the evening of Saturday, 7th December. After kirtan and the singing of Mahraz Jee's songs, the congregation gathered around the colourful cake cutting ceremony.

Das Pali Chana had brought a special one metre candle for the occasion. Das Parlad Singh Das lit the candles on the cake.

Especially on days of celebrations, Mahraz Jee always reminded us that we should consider what it is that we are going to do for God.

MAHARANI PALI DARSHAN DAS RECUPERATES



Maharani Pali Darshan Das back with some of her congregation at Khayala Darshan Darbar on New Year's day.

MAHARANI Pali Darshan Das was attending Khayala Darshan Darbar daily until the 12th of November, after which she was admitted to hospital for her tumour operation on 15th November.

for the first time since her operation.

Maharani Jee arrived at 1pm on New Year's day and remained with the congregation until 9pm.

When the operation had been successfully performed the doctors advised a complete rest for two months, but at the request of the congregation she visited Khayala Darshan Darbar on New Year's day

The congregation showed their joy at her return to them by dancing Bhangra and taking tea and snacks with her. It was a very happy occasion for the congregation to have Maharani Pali Darshan Das back amongst them again.

12th Anniversary of Das Dharam

On 16th February 1980 Mahraz Darshan Das gathered together his followers at Loni Dera outside Delhi to lay the foundation for his practical mission of Das Dharam, which was to work alongside his spiritual mission of Sachkhand Nanak Dham, which he had already founded.

sacrifice. Love moves the world.

Followers of Das Dharam are urged to abstain from eating meat, because killing is not the work of humanitarianism. If we were intended to eat meat God would have given us nails and teeth like the numerous carnivores roaming the earth.

On that day many scientists had come to India to witness a total eclipse of the sun by the moon, while many ordinary Indian people had locked themselves away in a veil of superstition, believing that the eclipse was an omen of bad luck and disaster.

Live and let live should be the motto that everyone should follow.

Das Dharam accepts and respects all the religions of the world. It also believes it is a moral duty to protect religious centres. It teaches patriotism and allegiance to the country one lives in.

The members of the Mission are called "Das". A Das is someone, who acknowledges everyone as his or her equal and helps humanity. Anyone who follows this path can be considered to be a follower of Das Dharam.

Serving humanity is the aim of Das Dharam and its message is one of love, unity and peace. Like a shield it offers protection and as a sword it offers life. A knife in the hands of a villain takes life, but in the hands of a wise or brave man protects and saves life.

There is one rule of Das Dharam to which all other rules surrender, love. Love is truth, contentment, service to humanity, attending the congregation of a master and

It was on the 16th February 1980 that he gave us the slogan, "Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala," which roughly translated means: "In the name of Nanak, God's growing power, do His will, do something good for His creation," although he told us the slogan should always be recited in the original Punjabi words and not in a translation. He said he had been given the slogan by God for everyone's power and protection.

It was also on the 16th February 1987 that two of our members with the blessing of Mahraz Darshan Das started this newspaper under the name of "Awaaz".

FROM NUKES TO HEALTH FOODS

I CAN STILL REMEMBER the first time that I met Mahraz Darshan Das. It was in April 1986 at a satsang (prayer meeting) in Southall on a Sunday afternoon.

At the time I was an undergraduate studying for an honours degree in nuclear engineering at London University. If someone had told me that my entire life would take a different direction after just a few words from a man, about whom I knew very little and understood nothing, I would have simply laughed and dismissed the whole affair without a second thought. Yet that is exactly what happened. My very reason for being was altered with all old perspectives and viewpoints changed forever, it seems.

Mahraz Darshan Das's first words to me were spoken in Hindi. He asked me why I had come to see him since he was just a mere man, who probably could not do anything for

me anyway.

I replied saying that I was very impressed by a speech of his that I had had the pleasure of viewing on video. I told him that parts of the speech almost seemed to be echoing my unexpressed thoughts at that time.

To this he said: "If you really believe, then do as I say by first giving up eating meat and drinking alcohol or any other intoxicant."

I had automatically said: "Okay," without any real conviction, but Mahraz Jee had just leaned a little closer and repeated in a very sincere manner what he had just requested of me. This time I said: "Yes," with a lot more conviction and have never looked back since.

The next nineteen months proved

to be the most amazing and enlightening period of my life, the details of which would be beyond the scope of my limited writing prowess to express.

During this period I learnt to be more patient, tolerant and compassionate. I believe that Mahraz Jee made all this possible for me. He made it possible for me to start on the journey of self realisation and taught me humanity - the central theme of his eternal message to us all.

Every prayer meeting that I attended was a unique experience that seemed to create as many more new questions as were answered. I hung onto every word uttered by Mahraz Jee with a fathomless appetite. The monthly visits to the Dera in Birmingham always left me feeling inspired and somehow more alive.

Alas, it was not meant to be so forever. On that fateful evening in November 1987 the lone voice of truth, the all-loving and gentle Mahraz Darshan Das was brutally and senselessly taken away from us all.

Darkness descended over the Birmingham Dera. Everyone seemed at a loss to comprehend the enormity of the situation. I believe that most of us still do not understand what the Mission is all about and perhaps even more so those of us who were placed in positions of power by Mahraz Jee himself. It is disheartening to note that most would rather hide behind old cliches and blame fate and destiny for the senseless chaos that we have created in the Mission rather than choose a practical course of action, which will enable the voice of truth to reverberate at every level of

human society.

Gone are the heady days of spiritual ascent under the guidance of a perfect master that must have surely been just as much joy for the other thousands of followers of Mahraz Darshan Das, as they were for me.

Yet the truth shall live on unabated whether we decide to lend a voice or not.

The night before Mahraz Jee laid down his life for mankind, my family and I had the pleasure of receiving him in our home where we were to spend the last and most memorable hours with him in the whole of our lives. That night he once again stressed to me the importance of working for myself.

To a question I raised on whether

vegetarianism would become acceptable to the vast majority of people, he answered me by saying that nothing would stop the progress of mankind through the very principles that are the foundation of the Mission. For the sake of those principles he was to sacrifice himself the very next day.

I no longer doubt the wisdom of these words as I see more and more people turning vegetarian all the time, for one reason or another. The most astounding fact is that children seem to be at the forefront of this sweeping revolution. This is all evident from the number of young children who come seeking advice in my health food store as to what is required in becoming vegetarians!

His sacrifice will not have been in vain. Time will bear testimony to this fact.

Editor's note: This contributor has asked to be anonymous, as he does not want this to be an advert.

Sachkhand Nanak Dham International Finances

ACCOUNTS HAVE been published for Sachkand Nanak Dham International, the registered charity in the United Kingdom up to 31st August 1991.

They reveal that at the end of last August the net assets of the society amounted to £21,093, consisting of fixed assets of £10,482 and net working capital of £10,611.

The donations received during the year to 31st August 1991 amounted to £51,681. After overheads of £40,238 were paid the

surplus for the year amounted to £11,443, which with the surplus brought forward from the previous year make up the reserves retained of £21,093, the figure quoted above as the net assets.

Although the donations received are down from those received in the year to 31st August 1989 of £73,122, and in the year to 31st August 1990 of £58,295, at least the society is now in credit. Debts of £16,069 had been brought forward from August 1988 and there were still debts of £2,291 at the end of August 1989.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

O, my Lord, what are you doing?
Where are you hiding?
You must be watching all this.

As you say, nothing can be hidden from Him.
But when are you going to sort out right and wrong?

You are Supreme, you can take it.
But our weak souls are not capable of taking the strain.

So please listen and pay attention.
Get us all out of this mess.
Guide us according to your teachings and move us towards you.

This prayer is not only for me,
But for everyone, who wants to follow your True Path of Das Dharam.

Zimika

Film Review

BLACK ROBE

BLACK ROBE is a beautiful and disturbing adventure film currently on release in the UK, portraying a French Jesuit priest in the 17th century travelling by canoe on a journey of some 1,500 miles from Quebec through the lakes and rivers of Canada, as the winter takes over the countryside.

The priest is played by Luthaire Bluteau, the Canadian actor, who played Jesus in the remarkable film, 'Jesus of Montreal' (Nanak Dham, February 1990). He was given the sinister title 'Black Robe' by the Allonquin guides, who escorted him on this journey,

because of his attire that distinguished him from the others.

The gulf between people from different backgrounds was highlighted by the fact that in adversity the native Indians regarded the priest as a "demon", although his stated aim was a mission "to reap a great harvest of souls."

Nevertheless relationships developed on this epic journey based by Brian Moore on his own novel. The Allonquin chief saved the priest's life because of his promise to take the priest safely to the remote mission station, while the chief's daughter fell in love with the French carpenter, who had been thinking of going back to France to train for the Catholic priesthood.

Directed by the Australian Bruce Beresford, it is a film to savour and ponder over, as well as enjoying the magnificent forested countryside through which the travellers pass.

Penny's Pantry

Egg-Free Vegetarian Cookery for All

Easter Nests

Ingredients to make two nests

Ingredients

4 ounces of chocolate
Half a shredded wheat
2 ounces of marzipan
Green colouring

Method

Melt the chocolate in a dish over a saucepan of very hot water. Add the crumbled shredded wheat and remove dish from saucepan.

When the mixture begins to cool, mould into nest shapes on greaseproof paper. Pat with fork to give a natural effect.

Work a drop of colouring into some of the marzipan. Roll flat and mark out leaves to decorate. These leaves will stick on with a little melted chocolate.

Mould the rest of the marzipan into little eggs and fill the nests.

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Children's Page & for those not so young

WATER IN THE SKY TO EAST AND WEST



Looking at the last remains of Mahraz Darshan Das's body before they were cast into the waters of the Ganges at Haridwar on the 28th January 1988.

ON 28TH JANUARY, 1988 the ashes of Mahraz Darshan Das were cast into the cold waters of the Ganges at Haridwar. His body had been cremated a few days earlier at his Dera in Batala in the Punjab, not far from where he was born on 7th December 1953. These funeral rites took place some two months after he had been killed in England on 11th November, 1987.

After his family and followers had seen Mahraz Jee's sons, 10-year-old, Tarlochan, and nine-year-old, Raju, commit his mortal remains to the water, every member of the party that had travelled there bathed in the cold, quick waters of the Ganges for purification, as is the custom at such times.

For hundreds, if not thousands of years it has been the custom for the mortal remains of many people from the Punjab and elsewhere to be dispersed with prayer into the waters of the River Ganges at Haridwar, which is considered to be the purest river in India.

Nearly five hundred years ago Guru Nanak Dev Jee went to Haridwar when a religious fair was being held there. He saw many people bathing in the river. They were standing in the river, throwing water to the east, which he learnt they believed would reach their dead forefathers.

Guru Nanak did not share their beliefs. In fact he believed that what they were doing was wrong and therefore he decided that he

should show them that it was wrong. He walked out into the Ganges himself and started to throw water to the west with both his hands. The people who were watching him found this very strange. They had never seen anybody do such a thing before.

More people gathered around Guru Nanak, laughing and shouting at him. He was not perturbed by them, but went on throwing water to the west.

One of the crowd held the Guru by the arm and asked him: "Why are you throwing water to the west?"

Guru Nanak however asked his questioner another question: "Why do you throw water to the east?"

"Surely you know that?" they shouted back. "We are throwing water to our dead forefathers. It will reach them. They need it very much."

Guru Nanak asked them: "Where do your forefathers live? How far is it from here?"

"Millions of miles from here," they replied. "The water thrown towards the rising sun will reach them however."

"That's good news," said Guru Nanak. "Let me continue. Let me water my crops. They must be drying out for lack of water."

As he spoke, he started again throwing water towards the west

more eagerly and quickly than before. The crowd began to laugh and shout more loudly.

"Where are your crops? Where are your fields?" they asked.

"In the Punjab," Guru Nanak replied. "They need water while I am away. I was sorry that they might become so dry while I was away that they would die. But when I saw you throwing water to the east with just one hand, I was told it would reach your forefathers millions of miles away. So immediately I thought, let me water my fields. I used both hands to throw water in their direction, because two hands can throw more water than one. The crops in my fields will become green again. You have shown me a very good way of watering my fields when I am hundreds of miles away from them. I am very grateful to you. Now let me complete my work, please. Thank you."

He was just going to start throwing water towards his fields again when they all shouted: "You are simple. The water thrown by you falls back in the river. Surely you can see that? How can it possibly reach your fields?"

"You are wise," replied Guru Nanak. "Your forefathers are millions of miles away. They are not even on this earth. The water thrown by you also falls back into the river. But you say it will reach your forefathers. My fields are on this very earth, in this very country, just a few hundred miles away.

Why shouldn't the water thrown by me reach those fields? If your water can reach your forefathers, my water must be able to reach my fields."

The crowd were lost for words. At last they could understand Guru Nanak was right. They admitted they had been wrong. They begged Guru Nanak to give them more advice.

Guru Nanak told them the three golden rules of his religion. First he said that he should earn his own living with honest labour, not leading a lazy or idle life. Second that he should share his earnings with others and should help the weak. Third he should always remember God.

In this way he told them how to live and act as good, honest, truthful and God-fearing men. "What you give to the poor in this way, out of your honest earnings, will go with you to the next world."

In respect and reverence they all bowed their heads. They promised to live and act as advised by Guru Nanak.

COMPETITION

1. Where were the ashes of Mahraz Darshan Das cast?
2. What were the people bathing in the Ganges doing with the water when Guru Nanak saw them?
3. What did Guru Nanak say he was trying to do with the water?
4. Where were Guru Nanak's crops?
5. Did the water thrown in the air reach the bather's forefathers?
6. What were Guru Nanak's three golden rules of his religion?
7. What did Guru Nanak say will go with people to the next world?
8. Where was the body of Mahraz Darshan Das cremated?

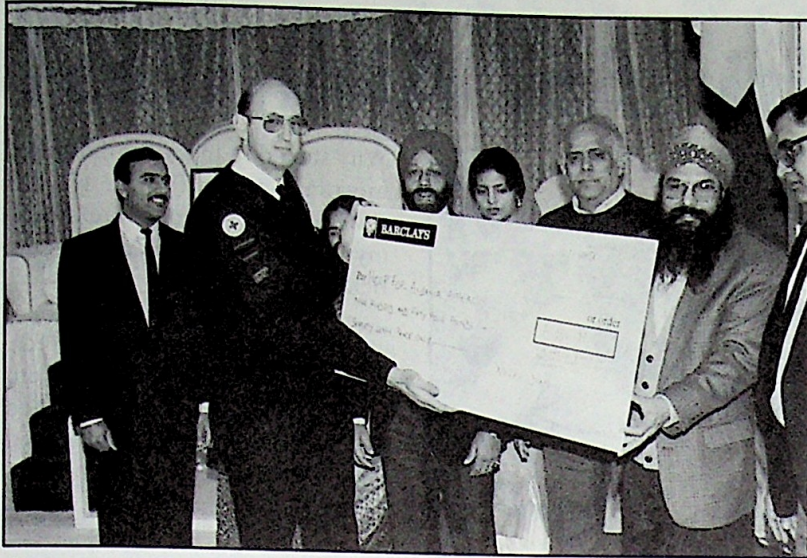
Send your answers to the Editor, Nanak Dham, PO Box 851, London, E14 9NR to arrive not later than 3rd April, 1992, provided you will still be under 15 on that date.

A £5 note will be given to the entrant who provides the best answer to the questions. Write your name, date of birth and address on your entry.

WINNER

The winner of our last competition was Alpa Bharadia of Nairobi, Kenya.

ALBANIAN CHILDREN SPONSORED WALK



Baba Jee Lachhman Das presents the cheque to Mr Burman of the West Midlands branch of the Red Cross.

A NUMBER of members of Sachkhand Nanak Dham's youth wing, Yuva Das Dharam, together with members of the Mission from West London and students from Ealing College joined in a 10-mile sponsored walk on 14th December, from Ealing College to the headquarters of the Red Cross near Hyde Park in London's Mayfair.

The walkers did well to complete the journey, because it was the foggiest day in London since the early sixties, when the famous London smogs were the blight of Londoners every winter before London was made a smokeless zone.

The walk was organised by Hitesh Pandya, the chairman of the student body from Ealing College, West London together with help from West London members of the

Mission.

The Mission's calendar in 1992 kicked off with a small gathering at the Dera in Birmingham to witness the presentation to Baba Jee Lachhman Das by Hitesh Pandya of a cheque for the money collected from sponsors for £954.77.

Baba Jee Lachhman immediately handed the cheque on to Mr Michael Burman, the director of the West Midlands branch of the Red Cross based in Solihull, together with another cheque from Mission funds for £301, pushing the total to over £1,255, which Mr Burman said would all be passed on for the benefit of Albanian children without any deductions together with other sums that were contributed that day.

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Some of the walkers at the entrance to the Red Cross headquarters in London after completing the walk.

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 the Satsang at 2pm.

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

Mahraz Jee's birthday will be celebrated on Saturday 7th December 1991.

The FEBRUARY Sangrand will be held on Thursday 13th February 1992.

SANGRANDS 1992

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

DAS DHARAM
Foundation Day will be celebrated on Sunday 16th February 1992

SHAHEEDI DIWAS, the day of martyrdom of Mahraz Darshan Das, will be commemorated, on Wednesday 11th November 1992.

Mahraz Jee's birthday will be celebrated on Monday 7th December 1992.

ABBAYFIELD SACHKHAND NANAK DHAM

FIRST RESIDENTS MOVE IN

seen. It had however been available to residents and a housekeeper for over six months since the keys were handed over to the Society at the beginning of June by the architects and builders, when rebuilding work was completed.

Residents are asked to pay £110 per week with all meals included and served in a large airy dining room. This payment is very much cheaper than for other comparable accommodation. Help can be obtained with payment of this sum from Social Services.

Each resident can furnish his or her own large bed-sitting room with en-suite facilities, and live an independent lifestyle within this supportive family home.

At the meeting in December it was speculated that the home's

strict policy on vegetarianism, as well as the no-smoking and no alcohol rule had possibly created a barrier for potential residents, as well as the cultural hurdle where Asian families are reluctant to be seen to be shirking their responsibilities to their relatives in their advancing years, even when such a home is most suitable for them.

The house is managed by volunteers from Sachkhand Nanak Dham. Volunteers will continue to be needed in the kitchen, with visiting, giving car rides to residents, gardening, decorating, typing, fundraising and standing in for the housekeeper from time to time.

If you are over 65 and would like to be considered as a possible resident for the house or are younger and would like to help, contact the Secretary of Abbeyfield Sachkhand Nanak Dham at the house, 38-40 St Stephen's Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, telephone 081 572 8856.

THE FIRST two elderly residents moved into the Abbeyfield Sachkhand Nanak Dham house in Hounslow, west London in the last few weeks together with a housekeeper and her family.

It was only a few weeks earlier in December that at the first Annual General Meeting of the Society, that some 25 people attending the meeting heard doubts expressed whether anybody would commit themselves to becoming a resident.

The meeting, which was chaired by Das Manmohan Singh, former General Secretary of Sachkhand Nanak Dham International, was attended by the Regional Secretary of the The Abbeyfield Trust, Mr Ron Watkins and the Trust's Liaison Officer, June Mortimer from the Trust's headquarter's in Potters Bar.

Mr Watkins told the meeting that of all the houses he had visited in his role of Regional Secretary, this was the best house he had ever

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