

Glimpses of Japu ji Sahib

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As a matter of fact to write about Japu ji Sahib requires deep understanding of Sikh Philosophy. I know I would fail to give even partial information about it. To understand Japu ji Sahib one must understand God. No body could understand God till now and Japu ji Sahib is God and Guru. It is the central idea of Shri Guru Granth Sahib. The Sikh Guru's had attached a lot of importance and reverence to the writing. Guru Arjan Dev ji had recited this path before going to heavenly abode at Lahore, Guru Hargobind ji wanted to give throne of Guru Nanak to a Sikh who could recite Japu ji Sahib with complete devotion and Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib had recited this path before he was beheaded at Delhi. All the Sikhs are advised to do this recitation daily in the morning as it is included in Nitnem.

It is the creation of Guru Nanak and Guru Sahib had given clear understanding that these words are not His words these are the words of God and He is just the medium through whom these words had appeared so that all the people could get blissful relief from their sufferings. These words contain the directions for the seekers of truth and highlight the wrong interpretation of their religious faiths. This depicts the way of life and the follower can reach highest and meet God.

It contains 38 steps or Paures and it is headed by Mool Mantra. Mool Mantra had been repeated before all the Raags. The Mool Mantra defines God as to who is He and what are His attributes. These attributes are not found in any one except God. That is why God cannot be identified with any thing in *this world*.

It starts with "Ik Onkar" This simple and powerful expression dispels the theory of three powers who were independent and their duties were well defined and people had to fear and worship all the three powers separately. These opening words advises the follower to observe that there is one power of God which is working over all the universes. God does all the functions of being, the creator, the preserver and the terminator and He is all pervasive. "Satnam" His Name is only truth and rest of the creation is not the reality. "Karta Purkh," He is the only one creator and is immanent reality. "Nirbhau Nirvair" He is only one who is fearless and no body is above Him to fear and He can be only one who is fearless and powerful and does not carry any animosity towards those who do not bother about Him. He loves all. "Akaal Moorat" The time does not change Him. He is in the same form from beginning to the end if there is any. "Ajoni Saibhank" He is beyond incarnations and He created Himself. "Gurparsad" Guru Nanak had mentioned that he could say these words about God with His blessings as no body can reach Him and one can realize through His grace only.

He is exclusive. Then the proper composition of Japu ji Sahib starts. The first two lines again clarifies the status of God that is He was there at the beginning of life and He is there all the time and He would be there when nothing would be left of this world.

1st Pauree: It delineates the religious practices followed by the seekers, which are not of any value to get His grace or His closeness. These practices were, to wash your body in a sacred waters; maintain silence for long times; to observe fasting for certain days; to keep reading religious books in the entire life and to collect wisdom through these books. What helps to achieve the highest? The answer is to completely submit your

self to His Order. Even if you decide not to submit yourself to His Order. His Order is going to prevail, even if you don't accept that and that cannot be stopped as that is already written and cannot be changed.

2nd Pauree: It defines His Order: It is difficult to assess why His Order is in a particular way. The entire universe is under His strict Order. Some get praised for the good deeds and others are doing all the bad things and suffer punishments. Some are blessed with all the things and others have to run around for the entire life to make both ends meet. If you understand that He is working through every body then you stop hating some body for his misdeeds. You can hate the evil and not the evil doer. For all the evil doers He is responsible. If you understand His Order then you can really get rid of vanity and pride.

3rd Pauree: It is difficult to understand the powers of God. No body can do that even if he continues doing the research in all his incarnations. What ever little some body understands the particular aspect of His immense powers, the persons get amazed with His powers. If some body is physically very strong he can understand how physically strong God is. If some had learnt about cycle of birth and death he finds his comprehension incomplete. He meets all the needs of His creation and His stores don't get exhausted by giving for all the time. His creation has limited life span but His resources are perfect all the time. He is always in Happy Blissful mood.

4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Pauree: No body can offer anything to God as He is the owner of everything; He is the true Lord and His words are so sweet no body can communicate with more sweet words with Him. So to get His closeness, the seeker need to get up before sunrise and think about His astonishing qualities then He bestows His blessings on the seeker.

God cannot be created in some form of idols, His abode cannot be established by any one. The service to the God is singing His praises and listening to the praises with love and understanding. If somebody does this then his all pains and sufferings just vanish and he is blessed with happiness in his body and mind. Japu ji Sahib is the treasure of His praises.

The Holy dip in sacred waters is not useful but willingly accepting His Orders is much more effective in washing the sins. If you imbibe His teachings then you have collected wealth of much higher value than the wealth of jewels, gems, emeralds or gold etc. Guru Nanak says if He could understand one lesson then Guru Sahib would not able to describe that in words as it would be beyond description.

If some body lives thousands of years of fruitful life and earns respect from all over the world, if such a person does not pray to God then that person would be prosecuted like a criminal and his total value in the eyes of God would be less than an insect. The insects remember God.

8th to 11th Paurees: The four stanzas evaluate the benefits of listening to the powerful words of God in Japu ji Sahib.

By listening, the devotees are in ever lasting blissful happiness, the sins committed, pains and sufferings are eliminated once for all. The death cannot come and touch the devotee.

He would acquire the powers of sidhs, peers and deities. He would understand the intricacies of nether worlds, heavenly worlds above and lands and oceans.

He would know about Isar, Brahma, Ind, Gopi and Govind. He would understand Ved, Shastar and Simrities.

With listening, mentally compromised people would understand the value of prayers and they would start praying. He would develop contentment, the truth and spiritual knowledge. He would get the benefit of taking bath in 68 pilgrimages. He would be recognized for his education and knowledge. He would understand the intuitive meditation with ease. He would know how the earth is holding itself and the whole of universe. The listener would know the intricacies of body, mind and complete perception of yoga. No hurdle would ever cross his way.

He would understand and acquire all virtues. He would be respected like religious leaders of Sheikh, Peer and Kings. The physically blind will find directions and unreachable would be within reach.

12th to 15th Paurees: These are devoted to the status of a person who had listened and followed the words of God. Guru Sahib explains the elevated mental status of such a person cannot be described and all the papers and pens to write collected together would fail to describe the status of such a holy person. The follower would realize the immaculate Lord.

The devotee would have intuitive awareness and intelligence. He would understand all the realms of the world. He would not suffer any punishment and even of messenger of death would not touch him.

The follower would not have any obstruction in his path. He would lead the most contented and respectful life. The follower would understand the reality and he would not follow the misdirected rituals to please God. He would develop direct link with Dharamraj.

He would be enlightened and level of consciousness would perceive God. He would be connected to the highest in the realm of God and would be honored there.

Such a follower not only attains salvation for himself but his entire family would benefit from his service to God. His friends would also gain many benefits they would not be required to beg from others. Such is the power of immaculate God Lord.

16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Pauree: God is formless and eternal, present all the time everywhere. Whatever God does is good for the entire creation of the universe. So it is imperative that every body must accept His actions willingly.

Those who had listened and followed His directions with love and care are His approved beings-chosen ones and are called Panch. The chosen ones are given powers to lead the world and are accepted as leaders by others. The chosen one are honored at the court of God and court of kings also. God's just actions cannot be understood by any one. The earth is balanced in the Universe due to His Orders and it is a myth that a bull is supporting the earth. If you believe that bull is supporting then who is supporting the bull underneath. If bull is standing on earth then how many bulls must be there to support all the earths.

God created the universe through one command, and many rivers started flowing on the earths and water supported the life.

Millions of devotees are continuously repeating His Name with immense love. Countless are the religious books and countless are doing constant recitations and praying to God. Millions of people make difficult worship services. Millions are fighting for right cause and are not deterred by the prospect of death in doing so.

The other way round, millions of people are killing others by cutting throats, millions are committing sins all the time. Millions are misled by false deeds and are depriving others of their dues. All are doing as God is directing them. Guru Nanak says with all the humility that He is giving this information.

God has many names and many places of abode and all places are unreachable by any one. We have to take help from words to describe him and to sing praises for praying. But He is beyond description by these words. God has created everything and He is there in all beings and there is no place where He is not there.

20th, 21st and 22nd Pauree: The recitation of prayers and listening with love can wash away all sins in an instant. Guru Nanak explains that as the dirt can be washed clean with water and if there are clothes soiled by human excretions these can also be made clean with the use of soap and water. Constant repetition of prayers can wash away all the sins.

The prevalent religious practices to go to the religious places for holy dip in waters; donate money to the needy people; to take mercy on people. These practices are good and people do recognize these services and earn respect. But all these practices stand nowhere equal to listening and following the praises of God. This will make you get bathed within your own body with sacred waters. God has all the good qualities and without His gift of good qualities no body can worship Him.

When the Universe was created no body knows. All the religious books of Vedas and Quran do not mention the origin of the Universe. Guru Nanak says only God knows the time and hour of the creation of the Universe. So no body can praise God as no body knows about Him. Guru Nanak says how do I pray to you I don't know? People had tried to know about Him but failed.

There are hundreds of thousands of nether worlds below and heavenly worlds above. Muslim books -Katebs mention 18000 worlds but reality is not known to them. Only He knows who made this Universe. He is known as the highest.

23rd, 24th Pauree: Many persons are engaged in knowing and praising God, but all of them are failing to understand anything about Him. It is as if many rivers and streams merge into seas but fail to know anything about sea as their own existence is lost and cannot separate themselves from sea to assess its dimensions. Kings and emperors who have amassed a lot of wealth matching mountains do not carry any value if they do not pray to God. A tiny ant carries heavy value in comparison to these kings as ants had not forgotten God.

Endless are His praises and endless are those who are saying His praises. His actions cannot be estimated and gifts cannot be counted. Endless is vision and endless is hearing. Nothing can be known what is in His mind. His creation cannot be perceived. Many struggle to know about his limits but fail to get any idea. No body knows His limits. Any body who is so high and lofty can know about Him. O Nanak, by glance of His vision He bestows his blessings.

25th Pauree: His blessings are bountiful and abundant and no account is possible. He is the Lord and gives to everybody and does not hold back anything. There are many heroic warriors who beg from the merciful Lord. The number of people who contemplate on God are countless. Many people waste their life and die without any use. Many people keep on taking throughout life and deny having received any thing. There are so many foolish consumers of your gifts. Many are deprived and suffer throughout life. This is

also your gift, O Lord. Liberation or bondage is your will. No body can explain this. If some foolish person says something about His orders the person feels humiliated as the result of his follies. He himself knows and He himself gives. Only very few chosen ones would know about it. But blessed are those to whom he allows His praises to be sung and those chosen ones are king of kings.

26th Pauree: Priceless are His virtues and priceless are the traders who deal with these virtues. Only blessed ones are gifted these virtues and these are the people who guide the suffering, helpless and needy people. Their contribution to the society cannot be evaluated. The Vedas, Puraans, Gopees, Govindas, Indra, Brahmas, Sidhas, Budhas, demi gods, demons are in your service and praising you and telling others. So far many had come and gone who were absorbed in singing your praises. If He were to create as many as already been there then also no one would be able to know about Him or define any virtue of God. He is as great as He wishes to be and He only knows about it.

27th Pauree: He is the Supreme Commander, He does whatever pleases Him and no order can be issued to Him. There are four sources of the creation of the world and there are innumerable varieties of His creation. There are as many requirements of the created lives. He makes arrangement for the sustenance before the birth of the concerned species.

Where and how could be the door and dwelling where He takes care of His creation! Every one of His created lives sings His praises, these include: air, water, fire, planets, solar systems, galaxies, the brave and mighty soldiers, celestial jewels, sixty eight pilgrimage places, heavenly enchanting beauties, underground world lives, Pandits, religious scholars, Indra, Brahamas, Devies, Sidhs, Chitra Gupts, Dharamraj and many others. But one thing is common among all, these are blessed by you and all are imbued with nectar of your essence. Guru Nanak says, there are many more who are singing your praises but He does not remember them.

He is true, His name is true, He is there and He would be there even when His own created universe ceases to exist.

28th to 31st Pauree: Guru Nanak has directed the Yogeas and the world as to how to conquer, get respected by everyone and dominate the world. This is by conquering your own mind as the whole universe is in your body.

God is primal, pure light, no beginning, no end, the same through ages and would be the same form at the end. Guru Nanak says, He bows before Him and humbly bows before Him.

How the true Yogi can be? Let contentment be his ear rings; the work be his begging bowl, concentrating on His Name be the ashes he applies on his body. The patched clothes be the remembrance of death: pure mind without vices be guidelines in life; the walking stick should be the faith in God. Brotherhood of mankind be considered the highest sect of Yogeas- Iaea Panth.

Knowledge be his food; compassion be his attendant; the musical instrument he uses be constant heavenly sounds of the vibrations from God; he needs to harness the wealth, the super natural powers and other entanglements of wealth. Meeting God or separation from Him is written by God Himself.

Brahama the creator, Vishnu the sustainer and Mahesh the terminator are the sons of Maya. These deities work as per orders of God and God is observing everything but these semigods cannot see God and they don't know about it and that is surprising.

The worlds after worlds are His seats of authority and all have super stores. He has given only once to all these stores. He is creating and watching the world all the time. God is true and His works are true.

32nd Pauree: His virtues cannot be spoken even if some body may speak with millions of tongues and all the tongues speak as many times. He is very high and there are countless steps of ladder to reach the Lord Husband. It is same way as the ants get fascinated about the happening in skies and the ants cannot reach the sky. Any body may reach Him if He wishes that way and all the rest are making false and unsupported claims which fall apart.

33rd Pauree: God is all powerful and nothing is under the control of the man. To speak, remain silent, to ask some thing, to give something, to live or to die, to rule and to amass wealth and if some body believes he has some powers then those are unproven and false claims. You cannot have intuitive understanding, explain or understand the ethereal world. No one has the power to have salvation from here. He got the power and He does everything and supervises all the happenings and understands everything. So that is why no body is bad or good as God does everything.

34th to 37th Pauree: Guru Nank Sahib has described the five stages of spiritual growth which every body have to pass through to reach Him. God has designed that way.

Dharam Khand: The earth had been created which has day and nights, seasons, air, water, fire and nether worlds under this earth. This is a like school where you learn to rise higher. This has many types of living beings and many ways of living styles and there are endless names. Each deed of these living being is closely watched. God is true and his office bearers are truthful. Those who had listened and followed the praises of God are recognized here and God blesses these people.

Gian Khand: The knowledge of the follower grows here. He understands which was not visible to earthly beings. There are so many heavens and skies and so many nether lands, so many seasons of different types of air, fire and earths. He comes to know other spiritually evolved people like Brahams, Sidhs, Budhs and Naths. There are countless blessed people there.

Saram Khand: .This is a realm of work. The body and mind are molded in such a way that nothing can match in beauty to them. They are so good looking that no body can describe their beauty and the evolution of mind grows like those of spiritual leaders.

Karam Khand: Here the power of God is apparent and only blessed ones have access here. These blessed people don't die and they cannot be betrayed here as Lord God resides in them. Here reside great warriors who are immersed in the glory of God. These beloved one are always attached and are sewn together with God. Here the accomplished Bhagats live and all of them are in ever constant blissful happiness.

Sach Khand: This is the abode of God. Having created the world He bestows happiness on all by His glance of grace. There are worlds upon worlds of existence and these are beyond description. All the worlds exist as He commands and wishes. He rejoices and contemplates over His creation. Guru Nanak says it is difficult to describe Him.

38th Pauree: These are steps needed to be followed to get the Nectar of Name. Make good moral character the furnace and patience be the goldsmith. Your mind be made the anvil, spiritual wisdom be the tools, the fear of God the bellows and fire be the hard work. Make love of God as crucible and with the help of words of gurbani, purify

your mind and thus Nectar of Name will be produced in this work place. But all these steps and the work would be possible with His grace only and blessed ones would do that.

This is the end of Japu Ji Sahib and there is a Slok which is always recited along with this recitation but this is recited at the end of other baanees also.

Slok: This is how world is doing with grace of God and He has provided these gifts to the entire creation. Air guru, water father, the earth mother, day and night are nursing assistants and the entire mankind is enjoying and playing with these gifts. Good and bad deeds are under strict observation of Dharam Raj. As per your deeds you get rewarded some get closer to God and others are driven away. But who meditated the name of God and worked hard got the radiant glow on their faces and many others closer to these people had benefited along with.