

I

Religions were created to inspire and guide the inner consciousness of man, and to transform it :

from animality to ‘humanity,’
from humanity to ‘nobility,’
from nobility to ‘spirituality,’
from spirituality to ‘the angelic,’
from the angelic to ‘God-consciousness.’

But, generally, we, the so-called religious people, **do not transcend** these planes of consciousness, and tend to continue in our usual materialistic way of life.

Religion is to be **lived and practised** with every breath, and should be **reflected and manifested** in all aspects of life.

If religion does not **transform our consciousness** and make a better **and nobler man of us**, then the adoption and profession of religion becomes :--

hypocrisy,
superfluous,
showy,
meaningless,
farce,

self-deceiving,
bigotry,
egoistic, and
a mockery !

In fact, Religion is meant to provide **a link between God and man, and between 'man and man,'** but when the **emphasis is more on** :—

norms and forms,
creeds and dogmas,
rites and rituals,
conformity and conduct,

rather than on GOD and HIS LOVE, then, Religion itself becomes a **hindrance** between Man and God, and a **wall** between man and man !

Religion is NOT merely **intellectual**

belief,
faith,
theology,
philosophy,
dogmas,
rites,
rituals,
ceremonies,
discussions,
do's,
don' ts,

or, to be

learned,
practised,
adopted,
owned,

professed,
possessed,

Just **to satisfy our false** sense of egoistic imaginations
and hypothesis.

Various religions,
numerous sects and sub-sects,
ever changing dogmas and beliefs,
divergent interpretations,
different intellectual presentations,
changing rites and ceremonies,
contradictory practices,

through the ages — **are proof of**

imaginative,
superfluous,
hypothetical,
illusive

nature of **fickle ideology, belief and conception** about
God and religion !

These mental beliefs and dogmas merely **remain**
an 'obsession' of mind and is manifested in hair-
splitting discourses and discussions of theories and
philosophies.

This obsessional religious zeal often **explodes**
into emotional **fanaticism**, causing untold sufferings
and destruction.

In our **narrow-minded religious ignorance and**
bigotry, we have **reduced** 'Religion' to : —

selfishness,
egoism,

partisanship,
showmanship,
bargaining,
shop-keeping, and
commercialism !

'Religion' denotes :--

Goodness,
compassion,
kindness,
fairness,
charity,
nobility,
forgiveness,
tolerance,
co-existence,
magnanimity,
service,
affection,
love,
happiness,
health,
prosperity,
peace,
bliss,

and **all other sublime virtues of Divinity.**

If our thoughts and actions do not **reflect these sublime virtues**, we **denigrate** and **malign** our adopted religion, and **make a mockery of it !**

**'Religion' is opposed, contradictory and antithetic
to :—**

selfishness,
unkindness,
injustice,
corruption,
malice,
hatred,
envy,
prejudice,
avarice
jealousy
anger,
aggression,
wickedness,
strife,
enmity,
cruelty,
sensuality and
egoism.

Attachment to any thing in the world, is like a 'screen' between God and man. We keep up such **screens of separation** with **tenacity and determined application**.

We cling to religion as :

an ornament,
embellishment,
certificate of credibility,
testimonial,

appendage,
fashion,
feather-in-the cap !

So God stays away from us — as we simply do not 'need Him, yet !

When we actually feel the **need for Him, yearn and cry for Him and His Love**, 'Religiosity' is **torn asunder**, and **universal aspect of religion shines forth with the grace of God and is perceived and realised in full glory of Divine Light and Love !**

In fact, religion is generally adopted for: —

respectability,
solace,
material gain,
selfishness,
camouflage for our karmas,
boosting the ego,
escape from 'Satan', and
salvation from re-birth,

but, **NOT with a flame of 'Love of God in the Heart'!**

Any religion, which preaches, propagates and encourages directly or indirectly : —

discord,
hatred,
division,
repulsion,
harm,

conflict,
confrontation,
bigotry,
violence,
crusades,
superiority complex,
exclusiveness,
partisanship, and
parochialism,

is not worth being called a 'Religion'!

During the ages, the 'consciousness' of man got: —

bogged down,
fascinated,
attracted,
absorbed,
entangled and
lost

in the **glittering illusion of 'Maya'**, entirely forgetting the original **golden thread of Divinity** running through the cosmos.

Consequently, our changing, imperfect, limited, whimsical '**intelligence**' becomes the '**base**' of our **so-called religions**.

All ideologies or beliefs, **based on such imperfect fickle intelligence**, can also be : —

superfluous,
imaginary,
illusive,

hypothetical,
whimsical,
variant,
opposite,
contradictory, and
controversial.

This explains the **emergence of** : —

so many religions,
numerous sects and sub-sects,
ever-changing dogmas and beliefs,
different rites and rituals,
divergent religious approaches,
contradictory teachings,
confronting ideologies and beliefs,
bigotry,
religious communalism,
religious fanaticism,
religious hatred,
religious strife,
religious confrontation,
religious enmity,
religious atrocities,
religious crusades,

and what not !

It is strange and **ironical** that man —

with 1. all his physical, intellectual, emotional
advancement, and **boastful modern
civilization,**

2. **Proliferation** of numerous religions into various sects and sub-sects;
3. **profusion** of religious knowledge and philosophy;
4. hair-splitting discussions and discourses about religions, ideologies and theories;
5. **plethora** of religious books and scriptures;
6. **un-ending exhortation and propagation** of religious sermons and dogmas through modern scientific electronic **gadgets**;
7. **Multiplication and exaltation** of religious temples and institutions;
8. **surfeit** of so-called God-men or sadhus,

has failed to : —

comprehend,
realise,
grasp,
recognise, and
identify,

the subtle difference between : —

1. the 'One' universal '**Religion of Love**' or '**Nam**' of the **Divine Realm**,
and
2. various dogmatic religions of the world.

In fact, 'Religion', is two-pronged or two faced :—

1. One aspect of it, is the outer religion, which we term as 'karm-kand' or dogmatic religion of rituals.

2. The other aspect, is the esoteric Religion' i.e, inner universal religion of **the soul**.

The former is a '**means**' to achieve the latter, which is the **ULTIMATE END of** our religious journey.

The only object of 'Religions' is to

encourage,
stimulate,
induce,
motivate,
inspire, and
drive

the soul to '**turn inward**' — deeper and deeper — till we arrive at the **ULTIMATE DEPTH** — the Divine Home of the soul.

If the outer 'ritual religion' does not **inspire and take us** to the Ultimate Divine Realm — it becomes **meaningless**.

It is a pity that with all his intellectual knowledge and scientific achievements **man is still ignorant or conveniently complacent of the Truth about 'God' and Religion !**

In fact, man's misguided intelligence, **galvanized with illusive 'Maya'**, is the **cause of misconceptions and confusion about 'God' 'Religion'**, or things **pertaining to the Divine Realm**.

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II

'Things Divine' are beyond the comprehension or grasp of our limited intelligence. They can only be **perceived or realized** by the **'insight'** of the Soul — called **'intuition' or the 'Third eye'** — in the sublime company of the **Illuminated Souls**, i.e., — sadh sangat.

When we try to understand secrets of the celestial world, with hazy vision of our limited intelligence, we **mix up and confuse the things of the two different worlds, and get confounded**, resulting in: —

differences,
confusion,
controversies,
confrontation,
ill-will,
hatred,
bigotry, and
hypocrisy

in regard to 'God' and 'Religion'.

The outer religions comprise :—

logic,
learning,
scripture quoting,

convincing discourses,
hair-splitting philosophies,
rituals,
rites, and
ceremonies,

The intellectual preacher of this outer religion lives in the world of senses and by his **clever logic & theories**, builds convincing systems of religions, out of meagre details, writes brilliant treatises, but he is **'NOT LIVING'**, as he is **not in touch with the Higher ones**, he knows them **not**, nor has he the **'eye' of faith** to see the Real Divine Realm of Bliss, joy, peace, love & Glory.

Religion is meant to :—

1. **transcend** mind, heart and intelligence,
2. **transform** intellectual theories and philosophies into practical religion,
3. remould the man in the 'Image of God' — **as God intended him to be**, and
4. **elevate** the consciousness of man from materialistic world to the Divine Realm.

God is Man's elemental need, and religion is a psychological necessity.

God is the ultimate fulfilment of life.

The Divine Religion is the **innate heritage of every soul**, but is lying dormant and latent, **hidden in our wordly consciousness**.

This **Divine Heritage** of Divine Grace and Light has to be :—

awakened,
ignited,
activated,
developed, and
manifested

in our consciousness.

Man's profound intelligence has been able to develop the materialistic science to unlimited horizons of the cosmos, but is **incapable to comprehend and grasp the science of the soul.**

Our modern science, despite all credible achievements, is still groping for the **real purpose of life.**

Our intellectual gymnastics and earnest reasonings to prove one very abstract point, or its opposite-exude an air of **unreality.**

Such mind boggling logical exploits, may by the professional philosopher's **excursion**, but definitely the common man's despair,

This Spiritual 'Science of the Soul' can only be realised and experienced through inner '**Intuition**' or the innate Divine Intelligence of the soul.

In fact, it is the **transformation and transmutation** of our consciousness, from materialistic world, to the Realm of Divine Grace and light.

Any religion or faith, which **deviates, distracts and diverts** our attention and belief, from the above mentioned **genesis of Divine Truth**, is a 'misnomer' and is not worth to be called a religion !

The profound confusion, frustration, **unhappiness**, sorrow and misery prevailing in the world, is the **direct result of**

misunderstanding,
misconception,
confusion
bigotry, and
hypocrisy

of the **so- called professed religions !**

To clear the mind of **dogmatic theological debris**, it is essential to **attune** it to **Divine Vision within**, which alone can guide us, **through the worldly consciousness** of the cosmos, to the **Divine Consciousness**. This is the only way to transcend the sordid world of the illusive Maya, and **find refuge and solace in the Divine Realm**.

The only way of salvation or freedom from the sordid, cruel butchery of 'Maya', is to **TURN BACK** and **take refuge** in the True Universal Divine Religion.

This '**turning back**' from the world of 'Maya' to the world of 'Shabad' or 'Divine Grace' is **not** a physical, intellectual or emotional process. It is essentially a process of **transformation or transmutation of 'consciousness'** on the '**Intuitional**' plane.

This transition of transformation of our thoughts, beliefs, faith and consciousness, from the illusive, materialistic world, to the Divine Realm, is the:

True,
The only ONE,
Original,
Living,
Vibrating
Universal,
Ultimate,
Eternal

Divine Religion.

In fact, it is the :—

primal,
spontaneous,
simple,
natural,
innate,

Religion — inlaid and inherited by every soul.

Sometimes we do come across expressions of such spontaneous simple faith amongst simple, unlettered guileless folks, which put to shame the so-called intellectual religious professionals !

The self-realised, enlightened simplicity of human life in its own natural sympathy, labour, faith and love, is after all the **simplest and highest practical universal religion of the masses.**

But Such simple, natural, spontaneous, universal religion can only be **instilled**, into the consciousness of the masses by the **spiritual genius of supernatural vision of Enlightened God man**, i.e., **sadh sangat**.

The humanity would be much better off, if it is **not** beguiled and confused with different, contradictory, and dogmatic religions !

The 'Divine Light' or the 'Essence of Divine Grace' is called 'SHABAD'— the **word-less 'WORD'**.

prophets and sages may come and go, but this **word-less 'WORD'** IS THE

all engulfing,
all pervading,
all illuminating,
unchanging,

Eternal Divine Light, which has been enlightening and sustaining the Cosmos, since eternity.

This same 'SHABAD' was in the beginning, during the ages, and pervades through the whole cosmos.

All the Gurus, prophets and Sages were illuminated and possessed of this same 'SHABAD'.

We may give different names to this 'SHABAD' in various languages, but the essence of this word-less 'WORD', is the same '**Divine Grace and Light**'.

Therefore, this word-less 'WORD', or 'SHABAD' is the : —

true,
vibrating,
living,

all-Illuminating,
all-Engulfing,
all-powerful, and
eternal

'Guru' of the universe.

To:—

realise,
partake,
experience,
enjoy,
emanate,
spread, and
glorify

the Divine Blessings of joy, Bliss and Love, is the only :—

true,
basic,
original,
ultimate, and
eternal

Universal Divine Religion !

Consciousness of this 'Divine Truth' or 'Nam' is the core or quintessence in the 'Cosmos', around which all the major religions revolve.

All the True Religions are expression and projections of this basic Divine 'RELIGION OF LOVE', which are preached, propagated and glorified in different :—

norms,
forms,

dogmas,
creeds,
rites,
rituals, and
ceremonies

for the **upliftment and salvation of humanity.**

This inner **transition of ‘transformation of consciousness’, from ‘Maya’ to the Divine Realm** of Joy, peace, Bliss, love and Grace, is the **True, practical, Universal, Divine Religion.**

If this **‘transformation of consciousness’ does not take place**, and our life is **not ‘changed’ for the better**, the ‘religion’ **remains :—**

physical exercise
mental excursion,
intellectual satisfaction,
emotional reveries,
obsession of mind,
hypothetical belief,
superfluous faith,
shallow theology,
dry philosophy,
meaningless dogmas,
dead rites,
dry rituals,
dreary ceremonies,

resulting in :—

superiority complex,
pride,

hatred,
jealousy,
malice,
bigotry,
strife,
aggrandizement,
enmity, and
hypocrisy

in the guise of 'religion' !

Every religion proclaims the cardinal principles of Truth, Righteousness & love, based on the

Fatherhood of God, and
Brotherhood of men.

The **underlying unity** between scriptures of all faiths, also bear an unmistakable testimony to the '**Universality**' of religion.

But in actual practice, we overlook, ignore and forget the subtle '**universal aspect**' of Religion, and unconsciously slip into superfluous dogmatic aspects of religious : —

differences,
opposition,
contradiction,
confrontation,
hatred,
strife,
bigotry,
violence, etc.

Thus, we **deny or belie** the subtle basic **principles of 'Religious Unity' or Universality.**

It is only the **golden thread of 'Divine Love'** which is:—

all-pervading,
all-embracing,
all-loving
eternal,
spontaneous,
in-laid,
inherent,
innate,

in all hearts and souls, which govern, direct and motivate all subtle deep feelings and actions of life.

Therefore, this thread of 'Divine Love' **is essential and most potential of Universal Religion.**

In fact, a Religion cannot be called '**Universal**', **without the current of 'Divine Love'**.

Usually, every religion proclaims & preaches 'Love', but it becomes :—

superfluous,
limited,
one-sided,
diluted,
polluted, and
stagnated

with bigotry and religious pride.

Stagnated water gets putrified and polluted in course of time. on the other hand when it is connected to the main stream, it remains fresh and pure.

Similarly our mind, emotions and Love can be pure & fresh, so long as it is **connected to or in tune with, the main current of Divine Life.**

The consciousness of egoistic- self and sense of possession disconnects our mind from the Divine Life Stream and makes our thoughts, emotions and Love, diluted, polluted and stagnant.

We sincerely love our own children, but cannot love other's with the same fervour. Similarly, **our love is biased** when we deal with people of **other faiths !**

There can be NO UNIVERSALITY in religions, unless the soul **transcends the limits of worldly consciousness and enters the subtle and purified state of 'Divine Consciousness'**. In this Supra-consciousness, the soul is **in touch, and in tune with the Divine consciousness**, where there is a sense of

ONE in All, and
All in ONE,

engulfed in the Bliss of Divine Love.

Therefore, the

activation,
expression,
manifestation,
proliferation, and
glorification,

of Divine Love, in the vast cosmos, is the: —

original,
primal,
basic,
eternal,
practical,
vibrating,
living,
True
Universal

‘LOVE RELIGION.’

This :—

all-pervading,
all-engulfing,
all-loving,
inherent,
hidden,
latent,
innate

Eternal **‘LOVE RELIGION’** is working : —

incessantly,
eternally,
silently,
imperceptibly,
secretly,
spontaneously,

perfectly, and
meticulously,
within every soul of the cosmos, for its individual evolution
and emancipation.

This vibrating and blissful '**Love-Religion,**' is beyond
the comprehension and grasp of limited human
intelligence, and needs no 'man-made' :

conventions,
dogmas,
rites,
rituals,
theories,
sermons, and
philosophies.

Hence, this Universal 'Love Religion' cannot be :—

learnt,
achieved,
grasped, or
imposed

through intellectual :—

knowledge,
philosophies,
discussions,
research,
preachings,
theorising,
sermonising,
propagating,
austerities,

recitations,
rites,
rituals,
do's, and
don'ts.

This '**Love-Religion**' is simply a

DIVINE GIFT,

from the Divine Realm, bestowed through :-

company,
guidance,
inspiration,
infection,
ignition, and
grace

of Illuminated souls, blessed with Divine Vision.

This process of :-

'conversion' of soul —

from ulterior dogmatic religion,
to inner Universal 'Love Religion',

Or

'transformation of consciousness'

from the wordly plane,
to the super-consciousness
of DIVINE VISION.

is going on silently, imperceptibly, incessantly but **surely**,
through the guidance and grace of Illuminated God-
men of Divine Vision, i.e., Sadh sangat.

This natural sublime evolution of souls, goes on unconsciously and spontaneously, according to the **Law of Dispensation of Divine Grace and Love**, irrespective of religious preaching or propagation, like the natural spontaneous growth and blooming of the flower.

All this secret and sacred **Dispensation of Divine Grace and Love** is working :—

incessantly,
eternally,
silently,
spontaneously, and
perfectly,

in spite of : —

1. darkest period of evolution of souls in 'KAL-YUG',
2. scarcity of real Illuminated soul of Diving Vision in the universe,
3. tremendous distraction of glittering illusive MAYA,
4. neutralising and nullifying effect of the superfluous, dogmatic religious propoganda,
5. malice and persecution of Illuminated man of Vision, by the established dogmatic religions.

Flower emanates and spreads :—

fragrance,
beauty,
colours,
tenderness,

kindness, and
magnanimity

to every one

un-consciously,
spontaneously, and
effortlessly,

without any

condition,
distinction,
prejudice, and
pride

This process of : —

accumulating,
condensing,
preserving,
emanating, and
spreading

the fragrance and beauty of the flower is the

true,
natural,
spontaneous,
inlaid,
inherent

religion of the flower.

Similarly, the Divine '**Gift of Love**', inlaid and inherent in every soul, is the **fundamental True Universal Religion of man.**

This **'Love– Religion'** is the expression, projection and dispensation of :—

Divine Grace,
Divine Bliss,
Divine Joy,
Divine Light,
Divine Compassion,
Divine Kindness, and
Divine Kinship,

through human heart and soul.

With our little false **'Ego-centric consciousness'**, we have blocked the **incessent flow of Divine Love into our mind** and **there by deprived ourselves of all the Divine Blessings of 'Love- Religion'**.

As and when we become conscious of our **Divine Heritage**, through inward **deep meditation** and in **sublime company of Awakened and Illuminated souls**, we **partake and enjoy the Divine Blessings**, and we shall thereby express and **emanate the Glory of Divine Love.**

Thus, the spiritual aspirant is wholly purified and engulfed by the Divine Grace and Light of his presence, so that **no trace of :—**

desire,
selfishness,
greed,
passion,
complaints,

resentment,
indignation,
malice,
discord,
prejudice,
jealousy,
anger,
enmity,
revenge, and

any other base thoughts, are left in his consciousness!

Thus, '**Divine Love**' becomes : —

all-knowing,
all-embracing,
all-engulfing,
all-pervading,
all-powerfull,
all-absorbing,
all-intoxicating,

and essence of all religions.

Therefore, the aspirant **overgrows all conventional religions**, and soars in the infinite skies of the Divine Realm !

His only **True, Eternal, Universal, living Religion, is to : —**

live in love,
move in love,
breathe in love,
sleep in love,

swim in love,
soar in love,
eat love,
drink love,
wear love,
think love,
speak love,
dream love,
get lost in an ecstasy of love,
become embodiment of Love or
'LOVE Personified' !

He becomes a '**LOVE-ROSE**' of the '**Divine Garden**',
unconsciously emanating the Divine attributes
of :-

beauty,
fragrance,
sunshine,
tenderness,
kindness,
sweetness,
forgiveness,
compassion,
magnanimity,
peace,
joy,
bliss,
grace,
Love,

and thereby : —

expressing,
exalting,

glorifying, and
propagating

the **Glory of the LORD**, and **sharing with others** the Divine joy, Bliss, Grace and Love.

The general public is not interested or superficially interested in religion. Even so, they adopt religion for their material gains or mental and emotional satisfaction.

Some of them do follow religion seriously for their own salvation from 'satan' or 'Mukti'.

Even the so-called religious preachers are ignorant of — **or conveniently indifferent to** — the esoteric spiritual religion of the soul ! Although they preach, propagate and exhort about spiritual matters, through quotations from scriptures, they themselves have little or no interest, faith or conviction about the **spiritual religion of the soul**, i.e., Divine Grace and Light or 'Nam' !!!

Therefore, the outer show and profession of '**Religiosity**', may **not be a true expression of 'spirituality'** !

We may go about as religious people '**without any 'spiritualism' –with God 'staying away' from us !**

Very few seek God **for his sake alone**.

only a handful of aspirants, devotees do really **yearn and long for God, and cry** for His Grace and Love.

Both the outer dogmatic and inner spiritual aspects of religions are supposed to be **complementary and**

supplementary to each other, and source of inspiration and drive for the aspiring soul.

But the ignorance or misconception of either or both aspects of religions,

makes them look like : —

different,
opposite,
contradictory,
confrontative, and
anti- thetic

to each other !

The outer dogmatic aspects of religions have already been discussed,described, explained and dilated into hair-splitting details in the various scriptures and by their preachers, **in spite of which there is so much : —**

misunderstanding,
misconception,
confusion,
controversies,
confrontation,
bigotry, and
hypocrisy,

amongst their followers !

If there can be so much cofusion and misconception about the **outer aspects of religions**, which are amenable to our intellectual research and analysis, then, the ignorance **and misconception of the spiritual aspects of religions is imperative** and natural, **since it is beyond the grasp of our intelligence.**

In the pitch darkness, there are bound to be differences and controversies about the perception of things. when the light is put ON, we get the correct perception of everything and all confusion and controversies are solved.

The intellectual has, therefore, **no authenticity of the Divine Vision** and whatever he preaches is : —

vague logic,
clever theories,
empty ethics,
dry philosophy,
hypothetic faith,
superficial convictions,
superstitious belief, and
dead religion.

These religious preachers live in darkness of ignorance, without the **Inner Intuitional Light**.

‘Ignorance’ does not mean ignorance of ‘why’ and the ‘wherefore’ of creation, but it is a **life lived in darkness of the ‘soul’**:—

Intellectual beliefs,
arrived,- at convictions,
made-up faiths,
forced-in thoughts,
logical ethics,
imposed religions, and
vague theories,

are **artificial props of intellectual pillars, to support** a well deliberated scheme of religious life, which are only : —

diseases
distractions, and
hindrances

in the path of soul-evolution.

The scholars, intellectuals & religious preachers, so-called saints and self-proclaimed gurus, mis-interpret Divine Nectar of life.,i.e.,‘NAM’ for mere intellectual ‘**gargling**’ so to say, while the blessed ones **sip and drink the Nectar and live intoxicated life of Divine Bliss, Joy, peace and Love, and bask in the cosy Sunshine of Divine presence.**

So long as we prefer to live in the darkness of illusive MAYA, there are bound to be : —

differences,
misconceptions,
controversies, and
confusion

and what not, in all aspects of our life, **including Religion.**

All ills and miseries of humanity, **sprout from, and are aggravated by,** the darkness of illusive Maya i.e., the absence of **Divine Light.**

This darkness of Maya cannot be removed or **eliminated by egoistic human efforts alone.** It can only be **substituted with the Divine light** — by the Grace of the

Guru — through the help and guidance of His Illuminated Souls — ‘Sadh Sangat’.

All scriptures have emphasised and exalted the value of ‘Sadh Sangat’ i.e. the **sublime company of the Blessed Souls or Saints**.

If a child gets admission in a good school and is placed under the tuition of a competent teacher, his smooth successful educational career is **assured**.

Similarly, if a student of the ‘Science of Soul’ finds place at the feet of illuminated Blessed Souls, or Sadh - Sangat, **his spiritual advancement and development is assured**.

Therefore, **the most important and crucial point** for the Aspirant or ‘Bhagta’ is to **seek the company of Awakened and Illuminated souls**, the Sadh-Sangat, who have been blessed with the Divine Grace and Light i.e., ‘NAM’.

The problem of spiritual life is that of **finding** truly Illuminated Souls or Sadh-Sangat.

Having found a True Guru, all we have to do, is **to surrender ourselves completely and unconditionally to him and walk the way of implicit obedience**. Nothing else is necessary. What is needed is **loving surrender** to the Guru. He is the ever-compassionate one. He awakens, **ignites and illuminates** our dormant soul with Divine Light, as we walk in the darkness of this world. He **transmutes** our senses and mind, and **purifies and illumines** our heart. And holding us by the hand, He leads us on the path, until the curtain of illusive ‘Maya’ drops,

the veils are removed, and we **behold** the Beloved face to face.

In the past, Sages, Gurus and prophets have been teaching the technique of **‘turning inwards’**, to inspire, motivate and **re-direct** our consciousness, **back to our Divine Home** in our souls, by putting us in direct contact with the ‘word-less WORD-the ‘SHABAD’ — the Ultimate Divine Essence.

But we have **conveniently ignored and forgotten these invaluable Divine instructions**, to our own detriment and peril !

Even now, the technique of **turning ‘inward’**, or transformation of consciousness, may be learned and achieved with the : —

company,
guidance,
inspiration,
infection,
ignition,
grace,

of

Inspired,
Awakened,
Illuminated, and
Blessed

Souls or Saints-‘SADH SANGAT’.

To be blessed with the company of sublime ‘Sadh-Sangat’, is a rare privilege. **The very presence of such blessed souls gives more than a million books !**

Out of 'LIFE' cometh life ; and true Illuminated Souls can **wake up within you**, the centre of Light'.

For the attainment of such exalted spiritual Consciousness, the following points are most important and essential : —

1. **'Sadh Sangat'**, i.e., company of Illuminated souls of Divine Vision,
2. **Meditation** i.e., 'Simran',
3. **Loving selfless service** i.e., 'SEVA'.

H H H H H

III

“Some practical advices and percepts on this subject from some Illuminated Blessed Sages and Saints may be useful in guiding the sincere spiritual **aspirants and students of the ‘Science of the Soul’**.”

“Minute sensitive waves of ‘thought-current’ are constantly and habitually scattered and wasted in the outer direction towards materialistic world, and are spent, absorbed and lost in materialism. These extroverted thought-waves have to be collected, concentrated and re-directed **inwards** — to the Source of Divine Light i.e., our Soul”.

This reverse process of mind, from ‘extrovert’ to ‘introvert’, is called ‘Meditation’ or ‘Simran’.

The easiest process of Meditation is to concentrate the mind on the Divine Word—‘SHABAD’ or ‘GUR-MANTAR’, and repeat it continuously for some minutes in the beginning.

The duration of meditation should be increased gradually with practice.

Sit in a comfortable posture, close your eyes and meditate at fixed time, regularly every day, morning and evening and at any other available time.

Repeat the ‘Gur Mantar’ in low voice, so that you can hear the whisper of Gurmantar, uttered by yourself. By this simple method, concentration on the ‘WORD’ becomes easy and smooth.

This is the preliminary technique for the beginners only. In due course, with consistent practice, the ‘Gurmantar’ will imperceptibly dissolve into ‘SHABAD’ i.e., word-less ‘LIVING WORD’, vibrating with Sublime Thrill, Bliss, Joy and Love. At this stage, meditation i.e., ‘Simran’ becomes effortless, automatic, spontaneous and enjoyable.

For the practice of concentration and meditation, the following things are essential : —

silence,
solitude,
regularity,
guidance, and
company

of Awakened and Illuminated Saints, blessed with Divine Grace and Light, i.e., “Sadh Sangat”.

H H H H H

“ Through meditation, you will gradually grow into harmony with Divine rhythmic vibrations, and become more and more **‘god-like’, magnetic and endearing to all.**

As you grow in meditation, you will find that veil after veil of illusive darkness of Maya is withdrawn, until a new revelation of the Divine Realm rises before you, with new Divine Consciousness”.

H H H H H

“Repeat the Name of God— again and again, as you : —

sit in a bus or train to office,
work in the kitchen or garden,

during your walks,
as you take your bath,
as you dress up,
before going to sleep,
during sleep, and
on awakening.

Repeat the Name as often as you can.

Repeat the Name with love and longing in your heart and tears in your eyes. Take care that the repetition does not become **mechanical and boring.**”

H H H H H

“Fasten this one ‘Word’, ‘Gurmantar’ to your heart.

Let the ‘Word’ go with you in your daily work and your daily life,

The ‘WORD’ will keep your consciousness awake.

In case of doubt, temptation or trouble, solve it with this ONE WORD !

Repeat the WORD, Until it : —

penetrates your heart,

engulfs your soul,

‘hear, it with your ‘heart’ !

‘see’ it in your integral ‘intuition’ and

your whole being becomes this ONE WORD!

All else is evaporated or eliminated ! ”

H H H H H

“The **reverse process of transformation of Consciousness** is a difficult and tardy work, but it

becomes easy and smooth in the company of Illuminated and Enlightened Souls i.e., ‘Sadh-Sangat’.

As this reverse process takes place in our life, our mind is gradually **purified and spiritualised** in the ‘Sadh-Sangat’ and becomes **amenable and conductive** to the **sublime influence** of subtle vibrations of Divine Grace and Light. At the same time the **influence of materialism is imperceptibly reduced and eliminated from our consciousness.**

The more our thoughts **are spiritualised** by sublime company or ‘Sadh-Sangat’ and meditation, the more they become **subtler, powerful, dynamic and magnetic** with **reflections from Divine Grace and Light.**

Ultimately, when **our soul is awakened and illuminated with Divine Light**, by the Grace of the Guru, we, **in turn, become channel or pipe-line for the outward flow and expression of all Divine attributes of kindness, joy, Bliss, Love, Compassion, etc.”**

H H H H H

“The **personal contact or company** is the easiest and quickest way of conveying thoughts and influencing others.

The effect of such influence of thoughts is dependent on the **intensity and conviction of one’s feelings** on the one side, and the **receptibility** of the other mind.

Hence, persons of developed minds, **with deep convictions and strong faith**, can influence and infect weaker minds- with their thoughts and beliefs.

Where vocal exhortations, or intellectual propaganda **fail to leave any sustaining mark on the minds of the**

audience, the very presence of a dynamic enlightened personality can silently inspire and transform the lives of people with his penetrating dynamic spiritual rays and vibrations, which constantly emanate from his sublime dynamic Spiritual personality.

The same principle applies to the **intuitional writings of the Enlightened Souls,** which are ever fresh, original and soul-stirring.

If cultivated powerful mind can effect the ordinary mind so deeply on the mental and emotional plane, the Enlightened Divine Soul can also **inspire, awaken and ignite the aspiring souls and usher them into the subtle intuitional plane of Divine Ream.**

If the laser rays or radio-active radiation can penetrate through thick metal—and the destructive flash of the ‘lightening’ can do so much havoc on the physical plane, the **dynamic spiritual subtle rays of Divine Vibrations—emanating from the Dynamic personality of a God-Man—can also pierce the thick clouds of materialistic ideas and intellectual conceptions, and touch the Divine fringes of the soul of the aspirant and usher him into the Divine Realm.**

Thus the **silent rays of Divinity can transform the life of an aspiring soul into a spiritual ‘God-Man’, having been re-born into the Divine Realm.**

This is the **direct way of ‘introduction’ of Souls into the Divine Realm of Grace and Light.**

The most difficult part of it is that of finding and **recognising Truly Enlightened Spiritual Souls or ‘God-Men’.**

H H H H H

“If we desire and aspire for higher, nobler, healthier, happier life, it is essential that first of all we avoid, discard, forget or brush aside our baser ideas and thoughts at once, as soon as they sprout in our mind, and at the same time replace or substitute them with higher, nobler, inspiring thoughts by invoking the help and guidance of Guru’s Grace, and seek and imbibe sublime inspiration of Gurbani and holy company of Awakened and Enlightened Souls.

If these depraved thoughts are not forgotten or diverted **in the first instance**, and **are entertained and cultivated**, they percolate and penetrate deep into our mind and sub-Consciousness gradually. In course of time, they become **insidious and powerful to enslave us**, making our lives unhappy, corrupt, depraved and miserable, with a trail of baser elements of selfishness, envy, avarice, jealousy, hatred, anger, egoism, aggressiveness, wickedness, cruelty and what not”.

H H H H H

“The one thing essential for meditation is ‘concentration’, one-pointedness of the mind. The mind must become steady, as a flame flickers not.

The wind or worldiness disturbs our mind and makes it flicker.

There are lamps enclosed in glass cases. They are called ‘hurricane lanterns’. Storms may blow outside, but they do not touch the flame. They continue to burn steady and bright.

Living in the world, as we do, our minds cannot remain steady without a **protective influence**.

This protective influence is 'Sadh– Sangat or the fellowship with the Enlightened and pure ones. Blessed amongst men, is, who lives in the company of fellowship with the Blessed and pure ones, who have realised the Divine Truth. They help the seeker to discipline the mind. The unsteady, wavering, restless and doubting mind becomes steady, unflickering and faithful under the purifying influence of "Illuminated Souls".

When the mind is purified, a higher Center of consciousness wakes up — called '**Intuition**' — with which the seeker no longer wavers or doubt; he 'sees' , he 'knows', he enjoys the Bliss and Joy of Divine Grace."

"What is needed is the 'loving surrender' to the Master,
The Guru.

The way of 'Love' is the simple way.

He, Who would walk the way of Love, will also have to study the **scripture of the Soul** and on every page of the **Soul scripture**, is inscribed the Name of the Beloved in Celestial Light, i.e., 'SHABAD'.

He, who would walk the '**Way of Love**', need not torment his body, nor practise 'prana-yama', nor undertake pilgrimages to Holy places. The 'pilgrim' of the '**Way of Love**', live and moves, and has his breath in the 'One Beloved' !

The emphasis of the '**Simple way of Love**' is on inner renunciation, inner detachment .

Live in the midst of the world, But be not stained by worldliness.

Live for God.
Live with God.
Live in God.

The pilgrim of the 'Simple way of love' moves along the pathways of Life, singing the song of the Beloved. He spreads the sunshine of Divine Bliss, Joy and Love, all around wherever he goes .

He hates none,

He has malice against none.

He Loves all and gives out Love to every body
from his pure radiant heart.

He serves all, with Love in his heart.

His aspirations are : —

'Lord', I am wholly Thine, I need Thee, I love Thee,
"Keep me in Thy Service".

Thus the seeker grows in Divine Blessedness and every cell of his blood is saturated with the Nectar of God's Grace or '**NAM,**' which overflows from his radiant personality."

H H H H H

CONCLUSION

The process of **transition of Soul** from — materialistic consciousness,

to — Intuitional Divine consciousness, is called RELIGION, to enjoy the bliss of Divine Grace and Love is the ultimate goal of RELIGION, to be lost in the infatuating Divine Love is the fulfilment of the individual soul, to be merged in the Ocean of Divinity is the destiny of Soul.

This Universal Religion of Love is :

all-embracing,
all-pervading,
vibrating,
living,
unchanging,
eternal and
innate

Spiritual consciousness of SOUL.

This Transformation of 'spiritual consciousness' can only be attained with the grace of the Guru, through : —

contact,
company,
guidance,
help,
inspiration,

infection, and
ignition

of the 'Sadh Sangat' i.e., personal company of, and devotion to Awakened, Illuminated, Blessed Souls.

But to come across True Illuminated 'Sadh Sangat', is the crucial point in the spiritual life of the aspirant.

There is a surfeit of so-called 'Sadhus', Saints' and self-proclaimed 'Gurus' in the world, specially in India, and it is impossible for the aspirant to distinguish or identify real 'Sadh Sangat' to guide his soul to its destiny.

So many aspiring souls have been misguided and distracted from the real path of spiritual goal, by these so-called 'Sadhus and 'Gurus'.

In fact, real Illuminated Saints or God-Men are rare, and it is impossible for the aspirant to recognise them with his own limited and illusive intelligence.

Each soul is the 'Ray' of 'Divine Sun', and as such, there is an **innate attraction** of the soul towards its original source, i.e., 'GOD'.

This hidden attraction or longing of the soul, for its 'Divine Source, is over shadowed by worldly consciousness, which can be thinned away or dissolved by Sincere and devotional religious 'Sadhnas'.

In the degree, this illusive shadow of Maya is removed, **the genuine innate attraction, aspiration and Love** for Divine Consciousness, **is aroused and developed.**

At this stage, the aspirant **is not satisfied with** the outcome of dogmatic, intellectual, conventional religious 'Sadhnas', and

desires,
aspires,
longs,
burns, and
cries

for **higher, sublimer, blissful and loving state of consciousness.**

It is these aspirations, longings, yearning and cries of aspirant, for higher and sublimer experience of Divine Consciousness, **which invoke the Grace and Blessings of the LORD**, who arrange the introduction of such a yearning soul to genuine 'Sadh-Sangat'.

To have the privilege and blessings of genuine 'Sadh Sangat', is the dispensation of love and Grace of the Lord, **in response to the inner aspirations**, longings, yearnings and cries of love of the soul.

Once the spiritual aspirant is put on a right path to Divine Consciousness, he can experience the blissful ecstasy of higher and sublimer Divine Vision, under the guidance of genuine 'Sadh-Sangat',

'**Religion**' should exude and demonstrate sublime attributes of **inner intuitional**

awareness,
knowledge,
wisdom,
experience,

realisation,
detachment,
renunciation,
peace,
joy,
bliss,
devotion,
love and
ecstasy

of spiritual state of Divine Consciousness, vibrating through every pore of body, and manifested in all aspects of life.

But we have: —

mis-interpreted,
mis-construed,
abused,
mis-used,
debased,
maligned, and
denigrated

'Religion' in our daily life-pattern or conduct, which is manifested in : —

selfishness,
pride,
hatred,
jealousy,
greed,
strife,
confrontation,

hypocrisy, and
violence

through our thoughts and deeds, **under the cover of, or in the name of 'Religion'**.

Thus, we, the self-made religious people have unconsciously **insinuated** an element of :—

doubt,
misunderstanding,
misconception,
ignorance,
indifference,
faithlessness,
hatred, and even
allergy

about 'Religion' in the minds of the common man !

In fact, we have ourselves **denigrated and reduced 'Religion' to** :—

farce,
ridicule,
laughing stock,
mockery,
un-necessary,
time-wasting,
repelling,
blasphemy, and
hypocrisy

in our daily life, with little or superfluous faith in subjects of Religion, Spiritualism and God !

The world is madly running headlong into the horrible abyss of materialistic hell, without any hope of 'return'.

Only Illuminated, Awakened and Blessed Souls i.e., 'Sadh-Sangat', can save humanity from this sordid clutches of materialism, and help it in the **re-discovery of True Eternal Universal 'Love Religion'**.

The essence of all religions may be summed up into the following practical 'LIFE-MOTTO'.

"LOVE FOR ALL
MALICE TOWARDS NONE"

The magnetic

DIVINE-PULL-towards the individual

soul is the

DIVINE GRACE,

and the spontaneous

RESPONSE of the soul

to this Divine pull is the

ONLY,
TRUE,
ETERNAL,
ALL-PERVADING,
ALL-EMBRACING,
ALL-ENGULFING,
ETERNAL,

VIBRATING,
LIVING,

UNIVERSAL RELIGION of the Cosmos.

All religious doctrines, theories, dogmas, austerities, rites, rituals-are the projection and expression of this primal basic religion — innate in every soul.

Devoid of this Divine pull, and spontaneous response — religion becomes : —

Dry,
dreary,
superfluous,
shallow,
showy,
meaningless,
egoistic,
hypocrisy,
farce and
a mockery.

H H H H H

UNIVERSAL RELIGION

Humble Submission

Unto The Readers.

The word 'Religion' used to incorporate 'Universal' aspect in it, or in other words, a true religion has to be a universal religion. However, just as 'ghee' today means anything other than pure ghee, unless we used the word 'pure' with it (even then we have our doubts), similarly religion today means anything but purity and sublimity ! It is, therefore, but natural for anyone to become allergic to the word 'religion', as it hides under its Umbrella, — 'motives' and religion has been one major cause of world-wide bloodshed and hatred. In spite of all this, there is a concept of 'Universal Religion' that generates universal brotherhood of mankind, who are elevated to become God-Men. These pure, illuminated, blessed Souls will eventually rule the entire world — thus goes the prophecy.

It is this concept of Universal Religion that Bauji Jaswant Singh Ji 'Khoji' is explaining in the pages that follow. In the conclusion, he sums up the essence of all religions in the life motto :

'LOVE FOR ALL & MALICE TOWARDS NONE'.

As also explained in Gurbani :

**'MAN APNE TE BURA MITANA
PEKHE SAGAL SRISHT SAJNA'.**

And again,

**‘NA KO BERI NAHE BEGANA
SAGAL SANG HAM KO BAN AAEE’**

Renowned Urdu poet Iqbal wrote on religion :

**‘MAZHAB NAHEEN SIKHATA
AAPAS MEN WAIR RAKHNA.’**

True religion is an art of living and has many facets. Guru Nanak simplified it in **‘naam japo, wand chhako.’** To propagate the message of universal brotherhood, He not only travelled over 50,000 miles across the world, but also lived that way himself, till his last breath. In Japuji, He advised to attune ourselves to His Sweet Will. He simlized the devotion of a seeker or bhakta to the love of ‘lotus’ for water :

**‘RE MAN AISI HAR SIO PREET KAR
JAISI JAL KAMALEH ! ’**

Guru Arjun has defined the best religion as

‘HAR KO NAM JAP, NIRMAL KARM.’

According to Guru Teg Bahadur, the essentials of all religions are fulfilled by singing **‘Hari Kirtan’**. Guru Gobind Singh declared the Universal Truth of **attaining** God through ‘sincere love’ :

**‘SACH KAHON SUN LEHE SABHEY
JIN PREM KIO TIN-HEE PRABH PAYO.’**

The disciple is a missionary and a temple of learning, as he is **living** True Religion. He has always a mission, a yearning to serve others and lead them across the

turbulent sea of life. He, himself, is totally engrossed in the lotus feet of the Lord, his Master, never bothering either for material gains or even salvation. Leaving all ego, he surrenders himself completely to his Master, and thus he attains the status of a 'BHAGTA.' Gurbani recommends us to fully depend on such personalities and even to surrender our 'whole-self' to them:

**'MAN MERE TIN KI AUT LEH
MAN TAN APNA TIN JAN DEH'**

'Universal Religion' is a '**Love-gift**' to all seekers by one such Illuminated Soul. By his skill, he effort lessly leads the seeker to the destination. Here is an action plan to enjoy the life of a BHAGTA. Follow it under his guidance.

SINDRI
August 1986.

J.P. Nanda
Dy. GENERAL MANAGER
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of India Ltd.
Sindri Unit, Dhanbad (Bihar)

By the Author

Readers will find that I have not gone into details of conventional religions.

These numerous religions, with their sects and subjects, have already been fully described in hair-splitting details, with concrete instructions and directions, in the massive religious literature and scriptures of the world.

Countless libraries, religious institutions and Universities are already imparting and propagating religious knowledge. Some Universities have also instituted Departments or Chairs for the study and research of religions.

In other words, there is no dearth of intellectual knowledge of religion in the world, and everybody seems satisfied and complacent about his or her own religious knowledge.

Some 'thinkers' have even deeply studied religions, other than their own.

With the plethora of religious knowledge and literature in the world, it would look superfluous and absurd to make an attempt to write another intellectual treatise about various conventional religions. Apart from this, it will be unwise to open 'Pandora's Box' of religions, when the atmosphere all around, is fully charged with communal strains and emotional elements of:

intolerance,
prejudice,

bigotry'
jealousy,
pride,
hatred, and
strife.

I have therefore tried to confine myself to the general and sublimer aspect of religion, and have concentrated on the core or **quintessence** point-inherent in all religious concepts.

This article is a 'Love- gift' to the devoted Aspirants of Spirituality, who are sincerely working in the pursuit of Divinity, but are **confused and bogged down** in the maze of superfluous, illusive, bewildering, controversial religious ideologies, concepts and beliefs !

This confusion and controversies about religious concepts arise from our intellectual incompetence and ignorance of the spiritual world.

Our limited intelligence can-at best-take us to the outer-courtyard of the Divine Realm, but not beyond that.

The blind man's knowledge is limited to what he perceives through his outer senses, but cannot grasp the complete and true perception of the world of Light.

Similarly, our intelligence is incompetent to perceive the **Immanent Divine Light** or to realise the **Wonders of the Spiritual World**.

The knowledge of the Divine Realm can only be realised by the insight or Consciousness of our Souls, called '**Intuition**', which is also called '**Third** eye.

Until and unless this Insight' or Intuition' is developed and the soul is blessed with a glimpse of **Divine Grace and Light**, there are bound to be

differences,
controversies,
discord,
confrontation, and
bigotry

amongst-various religions, and between 'Outer Religion' and 'Spiritualism'.

Very few persons take up religion seriously, but even these few are : —

misguided,
distracted,
confused,
diverted, and
carried away

from the real Essence of Religion, and are bogged down or lost in the maze of conventional religions and their : —

norms and forms,
dogmas and creeds,
rites and rituals,
sermons and ceremonies,
logic and theology,
reasoning and philosophies,
superstitious obsessions,
obdurate bigotry,
fanatic aberrations,
wrong conceptions,
illusive achievements, and
hypothetic goals.

Even, if a rare soul outgrows and transcends these outward religious obsessions, and rises to the higher consciousness, it is liable to be **distracted and bogged down** in some of the following phases of occult plane : —

imaginary hypothetic Visions,
emotional flights of thoughts of the Unseen,
reveries of fanciful notions,
playing with psychic powers,
clairvoyance & prophecies,
large number of followers,
religious ashrams and institutions,
sufferings of ascetic life,
illusory spiritual achievements,
niceties of spiritual knowledge,
nothingness of Yogic trances, and
'mukti' or salvation from the cycle of
birth & death.

Such souls are so involved and absorbed in the emotional exercises of their occult powers, that they become obsessed with their religious and occult attainments, and become oblivious or ignorant of any higher spiritual vision. All these emotional and imaginary achievements, visions and occult powers are based on egoistic foundation, and revolve around the lower consciousness of 'I' and 'Me'. Hence they belong to the cosmic world and are devoid of the **touch of Divine Grace & Light**.

In fact, these occult visions and powers **are enchanting mirages**, in which most of the Yogis are caught and trapped, which prove great hindrance for their further advancement towards the true spiritual goal.

It is therefore obvious, how difficult or impossible it is for an aspiring soul, to **overcome by himself**, the powerful gravity of 'Maya', and to **transcend** both the religious and occult barriers of **distractions and misconceptions**.

Only Illuminated & Blessed souls of Divine Vision can guide and introduce the aspiring soul into the higher consciousness of spirituality, to enable him to enjoy the inner experience of Divine Bliss and Grace. This inner intuitional experience of the soul comprise :

1. Intuition of Divine Vision.
2. Vibrating thrill of Divine Touch.
3. Intoxication of Divine Bliss.
4. Infatuation of Celestial Music.
5. Secret and sacred Flame of Divine Light.
6. Ecstasy of Divine Love.
7. Cosy Warmth of Divine Presence.
8. Glory of the Divine Efflorescence.
9. Bewitching & captivating Divine Beauty.
10. Sweet caresses of Celestial Grace.
11. Soothing peace of Celestial Silence.
12. Dancing Joy of Divine Grace.

This is the

true,
eternal,
all-embracing,
living,
vibrating,
practical, and
joyful

UNIVERSAL RELIGION of all souls.

LUDHIANA
10th May, 1986

'KHOJI'