Begampura
City Without Sorrow

9 October 2016
Shanti Lecture & Dialogue

HARINDER SINGH
@1FORCE
THE COMPASSIONATE SOVEREIGN HAS NOW ORDAINED THAT NO ONE ANNOYS, OPPRESSES OR INFlicts PAIN ON, ANOTHER. ALL SHALL ABIDE IN PEACE IN A BENIGN REGIME.

- GURU GRANTH SAHIB, 74
I am a Sikh

- Disciplined
- Protector
- See God in All
- No Discrimination
- Brave
- Respects all Paths
- Everyone is Equal
- Uncut Hair
- Exalted Attitude
- Don't Drink Revengless
- Meditate on God
- Gender Equality
- Fidelity
- Help the Disadvantaged
- Fearless
- Humble
- Work Hard
- Help
- One God
- Selfless Service
- Compassionate
- Race Equality
- Student of Life
- Chant the Name
- Warrior Saint
- Don't Smoke
- Honest
VAHIGURU – AWESOME WISDOM

- 1 Force
- Identified by Truth
- Pervasive Creator
- Fearless
- Without Enmity
- Timeless Being
- Unborn
- Self-Illumined
- Realized through Infinite Wisdom
WORLDVIEW

- Oneness: There is No Other
  - Creator = Creation
  - All 7 billion people are Divine

- Service: Expression of Love
  - Zero Tolerance for Racism & Sexism
  - Political, Social & Economic Rights
VISION

**Begampura**
*City without sorrow*

- **Spiritual Domain**
  - Divine Presence
  - Eternal Peace

- **Political State**
  - No 2nd class citizens
  - No suffering or fear

- **Economic Arena**
  - No unfair taxes
  - Content residents

- *Guru Granth Sahib, 345*
The aim of life, according to the Sikh Gurus, is not to get salvation or a heavenly abode called Paradise, but to develop the best in us which is God.

- Teja Singh
THE SIKH MODEL

- **Remember (nam japna)**
  To be in constant remembrance of the All-pervading; introspective living

- **Labor (kirt karni)**
  To earn in a just manner with integrity and honesty; truthful living

- **Share (vand chakna)**
  To benefit peers and share with the needy; distributive living
# Harmony in a World of Difference

## Underlying Conflicts

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<th>Conflict</th>
<th>Internally</th>
<th>Externally</th>
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<td>Groupism/Caste/Tribe</td>
<td>• One message for all</td>
<td>• Redefine terms/ideas</td>
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<td>• Reorient allegiance</td>
<td>• Identify with the weak</td>
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<td>Gender Discrimination</td>
<td>• Oppose customs</td>
<td>• Respectful attitude</td>
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<td>• Position appointments</td>
<td>• Challenge roles/spaces</td>
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AT A GLANCE

✓ Sikhi originated 550 years ago in Panjab
✓ Sikhs left the Homeland 100+ years ago
✓ Goal is to recognize divinity here & now
✓ 99.9% who wear turban are Sikhs
✓ Sikhi is an independent faith/people
THE COMMUNITY

• **Sikhī: World’s 5th Largest Religion**
  – Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism

• **26 Million Sikhs Around Globe**
  – 18 million in Pañjāb, the Sikh homeland
  – 4 million in rest of South Asia
  – 1.5 million in North America
  – 1 million in Great Britain
TURBAN = TERRORIST?
Lessons for Today

1. Focus on “Begampura”
   • Filter out noises, find points of unity
2. Zero tolerance for racism & sexism
   • Home, School, Congregation, Workplace
3. Stand for under-represented
   • Poverty, Conflicts (ethnics/religious/gender), Human Rights
O my mind, you are the embodiment of the Divine Light – recognize your origin.

O My mind, Divine is with you; thru Perfection’s wisdom, enjoy the colors of Divine Love.

By acknowledging the origin, I shall know the Creator; and only then will I understand what living-dying really is.

By Perfection’s grace know the One; then, there won’t be another love.

Peace comes to the mind, and gladness resounds; then, I shall be acclaimed.

Thus says Nanak: O my mind, you are the image of the Divine - recognize your origin.

- Guru Granth Sahib, 441
242 AMERICAS?

- State: red or blue
- Age: old or young
- Class: rich or not-rich
- Race: white or minority
- Gender: male or female

“Extend the sphere, and you take in a greater variety of parties and interests”

- James Madison (1787 Federalist Paper No. 10)
GLOBAL ISSUES

New Global Citizens' programs are organized around one or more of the following global issues. NGC Global Issues are based on NGC student input, the UN Millennium Development Goals and the belief that EVERY YOUNG PERSON can play a role in solving them!

EXTREME POVERTY & HUNGER
Extreme Poverty & Hunger: 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, earning $1.25 or less per day.

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION
Roughly 57 million children do not attend primary school (from about five to eleven years old) and over half of them are girls.

GENDER EQUALITY
Women perform 66% of the world’s work and produce half of the food, but only own 1% of the farmland.

CHILD MORTALITY
More than 3 million children who die each year could be saved with inexpensive medicine.

MATERNAL HEALTH
Every year around 300,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth. 99% of the deaths occur in the developing world.

EPIDEMICS
In 2012, malaria caused around 600,000 deaths and an additional 200 million new clinical cases, the majority of which occur in the world’s poorest countries.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
1 child dies from water-related disease every 21 seconds.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY
Youth comprise 17% of the global population, but 40% of the unemployed.

ARMED CONFLICT
Around the globe, an estimated 11.2 million to 13.7 million children have been internally displaced as a result of armed conflict.

NATURAL DISASTERS
Since 1990, natural disasters have affected about 217 million people every year.
AM I ESTABLISHING BEGAMPURA?

- Uphold dignity & respect of all
- Address injustice via love
- Nonconformist lifestyle
- Challenge norms/thought
Perpetual spring must roll in you. You shall be the moral influence radiating peace, goodwill, friendship, fellowship, life, vigor, vitality, in short, spirituality.

– Prof. Puran Singh