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In the constitution of the Khalsa commonwealth, the greatest act of genius of Guru Gobind Singh was when he transferred the divine sovereignty vested in him to the God-inspired people, the Khalsa. - Prof. Puran Singh

Dear fellow-travelers,
Vahiguru ji ka Khalsa, Vahiguru ji ki Fatih!

On the Vaisakhi day, “The Rider of the Blue Steed” inaugurated a highly dynamic personality – the Khalsa. This community’s “Light of Life” ceaselessly radiates glory, justice, and love. The *Nash* doctrine enforced on Vaisakhi day freed us from the shackles of slavery: shattered inequities due to caste-apartheid or lineage, eliminated doubts borne out of polluted mind, and eradicated sexism through annihilation of patriarchal hegemony.

Vaisakhi is a reminder to all of us to reflect on the Guru’s vision of personal (ਕੁਖਲੀ) and community (ਪ੍ਰਿਥਕ) development as articulated in the Guru Granth Sahib. It implores us to revive the Spirit Ascendant (ਚੜ੍ਹਦੀ ਕੜਾ) that changed the destiny of South Asia and beyond through unparalleled acts of courage and integrity. It demands us to think strategically and respond to the critical issues and challenges Sikhs worldwide are facing, both internally and externally.

In today’s global Sikh reality, Vaisakhi translates into making genuine and concerted efforts on several fronts:

- Breaking intra-Sikh barriers of prejudice and hostility among people and institutions due to gender, race, social-strata, sexual orientation, or religion.
- Confronting global powers, not conforming, when they act against the well-being of the Sikh Nation (ਪ੍ਰਿਥ ਕੀ ਸੀਤ) and the humanity at large (ਸਰਬੋਤ ਦਾ ਭਠਾ).
- Building inter-religious understanding, especially where prejudice runs strong through strategic alliances with like-minded people who adhere to the notion that “the ends do not justify the means.”

Let us become the active agents of freedom. Let us treat women with dignity and respect in our private and public lives. Let us identify with the under-represented issues and people: from *Mulnivasi* (commonly untouchables) struggle in India to confronting the global war criminals. All this is possible once every Sikh recognizes and maintains the Guru-granted sovereignty.

Towards spiritual, mental, and physical freedom!
Harinder Singh

Harinder Singh is a co-founder of Sikh Research Institute and Panjab Digital Library. He advocates education as a fulcrum for social change. Email: harinder.singh@SikhRI.org | Twitter: @1Force