

# They Belong to ALL OF US

by Ralph Singh

**“There is only one God – one Truth  
– one Service to Humanity”**

*Baba Virsa Singh ji*

Those who are concerned that their particular identities will be threatened if they consent, let alone admit, to the concept that the One God or One Truth that defines their being and their community of believers is in fact the same One for everyone, have not experienced God. Neither do they understand that God already exists and existed long before their traditions arrived on the planet, and exists throughout the Cosmos.

People so often talk of an historical God, and the rituals and prayers that grow out of a tradition. But there is a deep difference between faith or belief, and the knowing that comes from experience: when the Power which is God manifests, in any one of countless ways and forms, before you. For the Formless One – Infinite beyond birth and death – not subject to time and space – cannot be “known” by our logical mind, but experienced through our inner practice.

Baba Virsa Singh ji’s message was always, “Turn within.”

I would like to tell you with love that all of us should turn within. There is so much inside us – so much that there are no limits. But we always run outside. Everything is within you. The benefit you will get from within, you will not get from outside.

God dwells within us. God is neither in a particular building nor in a particular country. God is omnipresent. He is always giving light within us; and when we will look from our inner light,

we will see that He is giving light everywhere.

If you mediate and see the Light, you will surely talk with trees, with animals, with the earth, and with the seas. Why? Because the love of God speaks in everything.

I told Steve Prothero that I understood why he omitted Sikhism from his book, as its declaration of faith – one God – is antithetical to his thesis. And then told him that those who declare God is not one have been talking with those running around the base of the “Mountain” trying to attract followers much like hawkers at a fair. They have never been up the mountain and perhaps don’t even know the path to get there. Those who have come down from the Mountain, have never said there is more than one God. They always bring the Light for everyone.

We are so afraid of losing our identities and our power – and yet our identity without experiencing the God within us is false, based on the transient external material experience. It continually reinforces our boundaries and causes conflict from our egocentric, ethnocentric, and might I add, geopolitical perspectives.

Babaji could never understand the idea of conversion: “What is there to change when God already exists? We have to change ourselves. The teachings are all there, just follow them. Changing cars won’t improve the driver.”

He encouraged people to find God within their own tradition – as Guru Granth Sahib teaches: All revelations are true – the Bible, Torah, Koran, Vedas, and Sutras are true. What’s false are those who misinterpret their message.

Without the inner vision, the mystical experience from which all our traditions arose, we can’t possibly bring peace no matter how hard we try – for peace is a matter of BEing, and perhaps becoming, through grace.

That grace is constantly present and accessible, but historically it has always been the “hand” of the guru that has dragged us out of our egocentric predicament – the Divine Gaze that has opened our eyes, the Divine Voice that echoes again and again from within every cell, and from



every hair on our body, until our very being is attuned to God's Holy Name (in whatever language it speaks to us).

Then we are able to see that God is not only real, but the only Reality within all Creation – and can never be separated from it, and it not from us. This is the inner-spiritual path that is the foundation of Guru Granth Sahib and the Sikh tradition – the path of the Seekers, the disciples of Truth.

We are fortunate that in this age, Baba Virsa Singh ji, for the short time he touched this earth, was able to create a model. He not only taught reverence, but through Gobind Sadan, the spiritual oasis on the outskirts of Delhi, he has allowed everyone who enters to experience the Presence. In Babaji's own words: "Understand that there is a power by which we are speaking and thinking. There is nothing in which this Power does not exist. People have little knowledge of It. But this Power of God, which is within us is also in animals, plants and flowers, in the entire Cosmos.

"Our program is to help everyone understand that this Power is within us and within the whole Creation. When we have all understood that, we will no longer be able to hurt another's feeling, to commit violence, to deprive others of their rights, or to accept the evil that we see. Why? When we look with the vision of that Inner Power, we will understand that to injure another's feelings is to injure the feelings of that Inner Power, to commit violence is to commit violence toward that Power. We will feel, understand, and see that Power which is common to all of Creation, which has placed Its Power within the whole of Creation."

Gobind Sadan has been called "practical religion." The work goes on to feed those in need. All the food in the langar is grown with our own hands. The farms not only support the mission, but show how to grow out of poverty. Babaji doesn't feel that poverty should exist – that our world wide policies encourage the state of poverty rather than alleviating it.

Overcome terrorism by changing the terrorist mind. God dwells within everyone and is King of the Spirit. According to God's will our minds can be changed instantly.

Overcoming religious conflict – not just by celebrating all holidays, but encouraging the Why can't Christmas be celebrated in a Gurdwara, and Guru Nanak Devji's birthday in a church? They belong to all of us – their message is for all of us.

This is the mission of Guru Nanak Devji as enshrined in Guru Granth Sahib "Everyone is part of my community – I see no one as an outsider" and Guru Gobind Singh ji "Recognize all people as one human race" enshrined in Dasam Granth.

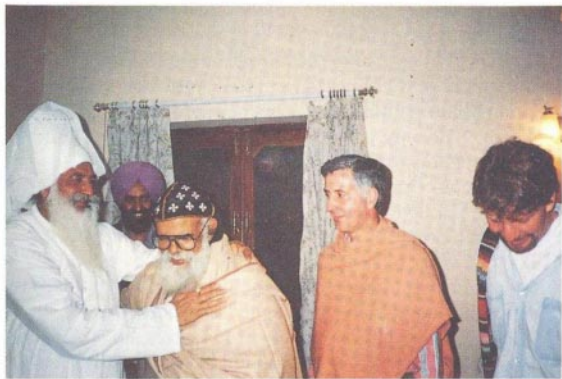
The challenge has always been living with God and allowing God to guide us. As Guru Nanak Dev ji said: Truth is supreme, but higher still is truthful living.

It's sad that even though our traditions teach the path of inner peace, we spend so much time creating conflict. We hope that Kurt's great work sparks a renewed sense of purpose – and wish

for all blessings that he continue to hold the banner high.

This is a movement in which we speak as one – many voices and many faces of the same One.

We at Gobind Sadan fondly remember when Brother Wayne accompanied by Babaji's dear friend, Father Gregorios, sought Babaji's blessings for his wonderful work. In his message, Babaji said: "Whoever has the touch of God becomes love himself. God is sitting and smiling inside you. Someone asked a saint why he was always happy. He said, 'My friend is such that He looks at me and I look at Him, and He is always happy.' If you want to be happy, love Him."



*Babaji with Father Paulos Mar Gregorios, Brother Wayne Teasdale, and John Stasio*

Baba Virsa Singh ji's teachings can be found in *Loving God, Practical Teachings of Baba Virsa Singh ji. Words of Wisdom, and Arrows of Light*, available through [www.gobindsadan.org](http://www.gobindsadan.org) or by writing to [info@gobindsadan.org](mailto:info@gobindsadan.org); Ralph Singh's book *A Path to Follow, A Life to Lead*, chronicles the path of a devotee at Baba ji's feet. Ralph's current work aimed at changing the dominant narrative through reweaving our traditional stories and new understandings into a shared narrative for peace at [www.wisdomthinkers.org](http://www.wisdomthinkers.org).