

Anniversary Edition



# *Digital Wealth* *Sikhism & Thoughts*



(Ik Onkar)

**Recite the Name of the Lord Who  
is the Creator, the Preserver,  
and the Destroyer - all in One,  
and like Whom there is no other.**

July 2009

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## **Foreword**

What appears below is a collection of posts from my blog Digital Wealth <http://blog.Hardeep.name> arranged in order for easy following rather than by date.

This eMagazine is being released to commemorate the first anniversary of the blog (16<sup>th</sup> July 2009). While this eMagazine is a snapshot of the blog at one particular time, the blog itself is dynamic: the blog posts may change with time, based on comments from readers and my own learnings. Hence, if you like a particular topic, please visit the blog, read the latest – and leave your questions / feedback.

It's not easily possible to reproduce all the hyperlinks in the print version. However, against each post a URL to that post is mentioned. If needed, please enter the URL, read the post online with all links intact.

If you are only interested in Sikhism related posts on DW please note:

**Online bookmark:** <http://blog.hardeep.name/category/sikhism/>

**RSS feed:** <http://blog.hardeep.name/category/sikhism/feed/>

## Deh Shiva bar mohe

By [Hardeep](#) • July 22, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20080722/deh-shiva-bar-mohe/>

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, first Indian Sikh prime minister is undergoing a confidence motion as I write this. He invoked a war prayer by Guru Gobind Singh Ji while introducing the motion. The meaning of the prayer is very well narrated [here](#). I quote below the relevant section:

“Daahay shiva bur mohaay eaahay sub karman tay kabhuun na taruun  
Na daruun aar saun jab jaayaay laruun nishaay kar apuni jeet karuun  
Aar sikh ho apanay hi man ko eah laluch ho gun tau uchuruun  
Jab aav ki audh nidhan banaay aut hi run main tab jhonnj maruun”

Shiva, God Almighty  
Pray do confer  
A blessing on me  
From Pious deeds  
I should not flee

And in a battle  
There shouldn't occur  
Any fear in me  
Determined I may spur  
Myself to victory

And Pray Almighty  
Let my mind gather  
A lesson for me  
A craving to utter  
Praises of Your Majesty

When the end is nigh  
Let me then stir  
Myself to ecstasy  
And enter  
The battlefield and die

(translation by J S Chadha)

In the prayer, “Shiva” stands for God Almighty and not - as some might believe - for Lord Shiva. Same goes for “Ram” when its used in Shri Guru Granth Sahib, except when its used as “Raja Ram” or “Raja Ram Chander”. “Ram” literally means One who is Omnipresent.

I wish the Akali leaders would support the Sikh Prime Minister. Issuing an Edict would be taking a political matter too much into the religious domain. All the best Mr.Prime Minister 😊

# Gurbani Wallpaper

By [Hardeep](#) • July 23, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20080723/gurbani-wallpaper/>

Attached below is a Gurbani wallpaper that I have created and intend to submit to SikhNet.com for inclusion in their wallpaper collection for downloads. It comes in six flavours, each slightly different - select the one that you like most.



The wallpaper is a composite: the pebbles background was photographed by me in Goa, the Gurmukhi text and meanings is computer graphics, but the Ik Onkar is not. **The Ik Onkar is also a photograph** taken in slowshutter, and with a flashlight that I moved by hand to make the shape.

TinuURL link to this entry: <http://tinyurl.com/gwallpapers>



ਮਾਇਆ ਮਦਿ ਮਾਤਾ ਹੋਛੀ ਬਾਤਾ  
ਮਿਲਣੁ ਨ ਜਾਈ ਭਰਮ ਧੜਾ ॥  
ਕਹੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰ ਬਿਨੁ ਨਾਹੀ ਸੂਝੈ  
ਹਰਿ ਸਾਜਨੁ ਸਭ ਕੈ  
ਨਿਕਟਿ ਖੜਾ ॥੧॥

Intoxicated with the wine of greed, the mortal babbles on about trivial affairs : he cannot meet the Lord. Says Nanak, without the Guru, he cannot understand the Lord, the Friend who is standing close by.

(924, Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji)

## Being blind

By [Hardeep](http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20080805/being-blind/) • August 5, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20080805/being-blind/>

While reading from Sri Guru Granth Sahib, I came across the following:

ਸੇ ਕਿਉ ਅੰਧਾ ਆਖੀਐ ਜਿ ਹੁਕਮਹੁ ਅੰਧਾ ਹੋਇ॥

ਨਾਨਕ ਹੁਕਮੁ ਨ ਬੁਝਈ ਅੰਧਾ ਕਹੀਐ ਸੋਇ ॥ ੩ ॥

This is Unicode text for Gurmukhi so hopefully everyone should be able to read. If not, try downloading [Unicode font](#). If there are still problems, here is a transliteration:

So kyo andha aakhiye ji Hukamo andha hoye, Nanak Hukam na bujhayi andha kahiye soyi.

Here is what it means:

**How can someone be called blind if he was made blind through the God's Will? Says Nanak, one who does not understand God's Will is the one who should be called blind.**

In other words, Guru Nanak wants us to understand that nothing is within our control, and everything is happening through His Will. Unless we can understand that, imbibe that in our lives - we are blind.

I encourage readers to try and understand Gurbani - any translation can never create the same feelings as the original. While translation can be a means, it is not an end. I enjoyed reading this, and wanted to share the Guru's definition of blindness.

## Sikhism - a distinct religion

By [Hardeep](#) • September 13, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20080913/sikhism-distinction/>

Many people propagate the view that since Sikhism was born out of Hinduism, Sikhism is not a distinct religion. This is not correct - Sikhism is a distinct religion, as there are certain Hindu ideas that are not acceptable under Sikh dictates. The primary among these, being idol worship. As [the fifth Guru quotes Saint Kabir](#):

You tear off the leaves, O gardener, but in each and every leaf, there is life. That stone idol, for which you tear off those leaves - that stone idol is lifeless. In this, you are mistaken, O gardener. The True Guru is the Living Lord. Brahma is in the leaves, Vishnu is in the branches, and Shiva is in the flowers. When you pluck these leaves, three gods are torn off - then whose service are you performing?

The sculptor carves the stone and fashions it into an idol, placing his feet upon its chest. If this stone god was true, it would devour the sculptor for this!

Rice and beans, candies, cakes and cookies - the priest enjoys these, while he puts ashes into the mouth of the idol. The gardener is mistaken, and the world is mistaken, but I am not mistaken. Says Kabeer, the Lord preserves me; the Lord, my King, has showered His Blessings upon me.

Also, in the words of Saint Kabir, [quoted by Guru Arjan Dev ji in Shri Guru Granth Sahib](#), the distinction of Sikhism from both Hinduism and Islam is clearly enshrined:

I do not keep fasts, nor do I observe the month of Ramadaan. I serve only the One, who will protect me in the end. The One Lord, the Lord of the World, is my God Allah. He administers justice to both Hindus and Muslims. I do not make pilgrimages to Mecca, nor do I worship at Hindu sacred shrines. I serve the One Lord, and not any other. I do not perform Hindu worship services, nor do I offer the Muslim prayers. **I have taken the One Formless Lord into my heart; I humbly worship Him there.** I am not a Hindu, nor am I a Muslim. My body and breath of life belong to Allah - to Raam - the God of both. Says Kabeer, this is what I say: meeting with the Guru, my Spiritual Teacher, I realize God, my Lord and Master.

Why do I consider this distinction important enough to be discussed? Because, we should understand the differences and not indulge in copying of mindless rituals. We can respect all religions - but follow only one.

## 300 years of blessings by the Guru

By [Hardeep](#) • October 20, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20081113/guru-nanak-prakash-utsav/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/300\\_Saal\\_Guru\\_de\\_Naal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/300_Saal_Guru_de_Naal)

India is celebrating today 300 years of the inception (consecration) of the Holy Book 'Sri Guru Granth Sahib' as the spiritual Guru of the Sikhs. It's a state holiday in Delhi. The celebrations have really started around a year back, on 15th of September 2007. Today the epicenter is Nanded Sahib, where this historic event actually took place years ago.

While we are organising *Jagruti Yatra* (awareness rally) and *Nagar Kirtan* (city wide hymn singing), we should also take up the occasion to look within. How many people can place their hands on their hearts and proclaim to being a true Gursikh (disciple to the true Guru)?

A friend asked me a few days back ‘How many points would you give yourself as a good Gursikh?’. I said I would fail at the very first test. He was surprised, and asked me ‘in spite of reciting the *Nitnem* (daily prayers) everyday as you do?’. I said yes - and I quoted from Sri Guru Granth Sahib - ‘*Gur Satgur ka jo Sikh akhai so bhalke uth har Naam dhiawai*’. Translated it means ‘One who calls himself the Guru’s disciple, wakes up before dawn and recites the Lord’s name’. I told him I have never woken up before dawn, let alone reciting the Lord’s name at that hour.

However, the most important task for us at the moment is to root out the evil of shearing of hair. This is unacceptable within the *Panth*, and we need to ask ourselves why do we trim hair - just do look good (in my opinion, ending up looking like clowns)? Is that reason enough to break away from the Guru’s advice? Lets always think of what the Guru says:

Hoye Sikh sir topi dhare,  
saat janam kushti hoye mare.

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Cursed is the Sikh who wears a cap - he will die as a leper for seven births.

## [Guru Nanak prakash utsav](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • November 13, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20081113/guru-nanak-prakash-utsav/>

I visited the *Nagar Keertan* yesterday, on the occasion of [Gurn Nanak Prakash Utsav](#). *Prakash Utsav* means celebrating the day the Divine Light (of Knowledge) spread.

The thought that struck me during the hymn singing was this:

ਸਾਧੂ ਸੰਗਿ ਸਿਖਾਇਓ ਨਾਮੁ ॥  
ਸਰਬ ਮਨੋਰਥ ਪੂਰਨ ਕਾਮੁ ॥

The translation:

In the Saadh Sangat, the Company of the Holy, the Naam (Lord’s True Name) is learned; (and through the Lord’s Name) all desires and tasks are fulfilled.

It struck me because it very simply conveys the fact that the Lord’s Name is one stop solution to fulfillment of tasks. There is no need to be superstitious - go take refuge in the Name of the Almighty.

Further reading:

- A very good detailed word sketch of [Gurudwara Nankana Sahib](#), where Guru Nanak was born;
- [Japuji Sahib](#), the first text in the Holy Scripture, that talks in length about the what and how of Lord’s name. Here is a very brief [translation](#), and a more detailed [translation](#).

## [Golden Temple](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • November 22, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/images/20081122/golden-temple/>

Ok, my very first Flash based web album is here: [The Golden Temple](#).

[The Golden Temple](#), at Amritsar, India is the most significant place of worship of the Sikh religion, and one of the oldest. The temple is called Harmandir Sahib, and is indeed covered by a layer of Gold.

I always had the feeling that you would need to buy Adobe Flash to build Flash albums, or at least other paid software. I had always used [JAlbum](#) to build my web albums. However, to my surprise there are free skins for JAlbum that let you build such Flash web albums.

## [Inheritance](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • December 24, 2008 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20081224/inheritance/>

People talk about heritage and inheritance. There are two values that I have inherited from my maternal Grandfather. Today I am going to talk about one of these two values. The other is more personal, I may talk about it some other time.

A [Gurdwara](#), meaning “the doorway to the Guru”, is the Sikh place of worship and is referred to as a “Sikh temple”. My Grandfather would get off his bicycle whenever he reached a Gurdwara and walked the part of the road in front of the Gurdwara. Reaching the other side he would hop on to the bike once again and ride away. “Why do you do this?”, I would ask. His reply would be “Its a way to respect the Guru”.

A small thing, we may feel. However, doing it patiently every single time, especially if the Gurdwara is close to your home and you have to pass it 2-3 times a day, both while coming and going - its tedious to say the least.



Gurdwara

Today I have a car but each time I pass by a Gurdwara, I think of this. Will I be able to pass on the legacy to my kids? When I am traveling by the Metro, and I pay homage when I pass by a Gurdwara, people around me (from different religions) copy me. I hope they don't just forget it - they take it with them. My cab driver started doing it after seeing me. To me it means a lot.

## [Gurpurab Celebrations](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • January 3, 2009 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20090103/gurpurab/>

[Gurpurab](#) is a celebration or commemoration based on the lives of one of the Sikh spiritual gurus. They tend to be either birthdays or celebrations of Sikh martyrdom.

The Gurpurab of Tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji is coming up, on 5th January. Tomorrow there is a procession in Delhi to mark the occasion. Many other initiatives are on to mark the occasion. Following photos show the decoration that is done daily at our local [Gurdwara](#) (Sikh place of worship):





Sai Ghadi



Gur Jaisa

The quote on the first one says “The moment is blessed, which is used to recite the name of the True Lord”. At the center of the flower is “Ik Onkar” which means “God is one”, or rather **“Recite the name of the True Lord, One Who is the Creator, the Preserver and the Destroyer (all in One), and like Whom there is no other.”** The second one says “No Deva (gods and goddesses) can equal the Guru. The one who has blessing on his forehead falls in selfless service to the Guru”.

I was at the Gurdwara Sahib on the New Year eve, and the thought that struck me was:

ਸਬਦਿ ਮਰਹੁ ਫਿਰਿ ਜੀਵਹੁ ਸਦ ਹੀ ਤਾ ਫਿਰਿ ਮਰਣੁ ਨ ਹੋਈ ॥  
ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਨਾਮੁ ਸਦਾ ਮਨਿ ਮੀਠਾ ਸਬਦੇ ਪਾਵੈ ਕੋਈ ॥੩॥

Through understanding and absorbing the Shabad, you will forget ‘yourself’ and became ‘dead’. Dying in the Word of the Shabad, you shall live forever, and you shall never die again (because you will not need to be born again). The Ambrosial Nectar of the Lord’s Name is ever-sweet to the mind; but how few are those who obtain the Shabad.

[‘Shabad’](#) refers to the Word of the Guru, the hymns.

## [Sikhism has its own channel on DW](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • March 3, 2009 <http://blog.hardeep.name/general/20090303/sikhism-on-dw/>



There are a lot of people who are interested specifically in Sikhism related posts on Digital Wealth. It is now possible for them to subscribe specifically to the Sikhism category. The details are below:

**Online bookmark:** <http://blog.hardeep.name/category/sikhism/>

**RSS feed:** <http://blog.hardeep.name/category/sikhism/feed/>

**Have posts delivered automatically to your inbox.**

### [Chaupai Sahib](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • March 5, 2009 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20090305/chaupai-sahib/>

*Chaupai sahib* is *Gurbani* composed by the tenth Sikh Guru, [Guru Gobind Singh](#). This *Bani* is one of the five *Banis* recited by the initiated Sikh every morning.

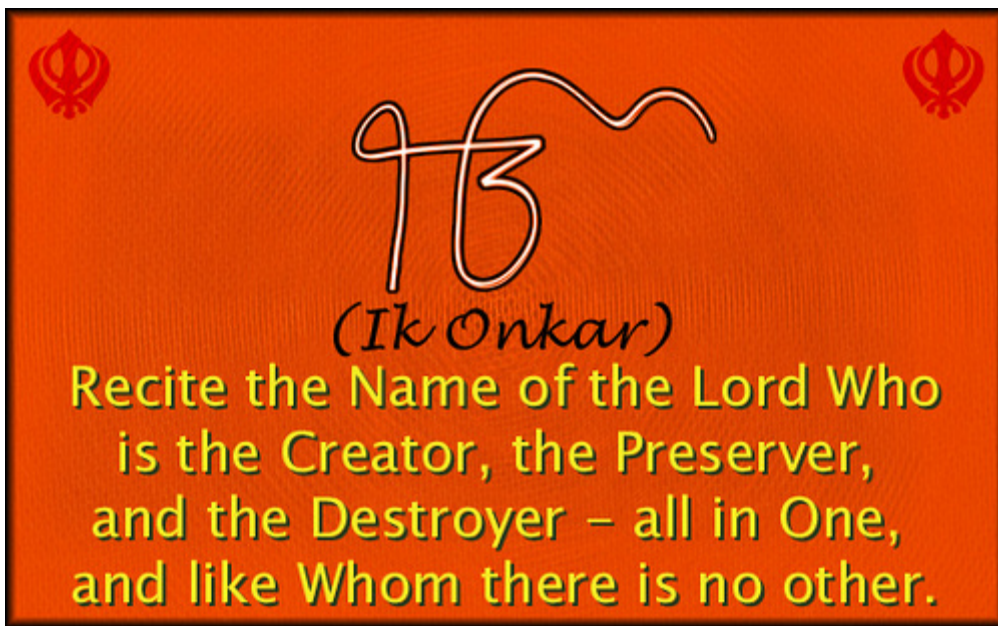
Below is a beautiful rendering of [Chaupai Sahib](#), with translation. Please listen; it is one of my favourite *Banis*.

Incidentally, there is a movement on by <http://chaupaisahib.org/> to complete one million readings of *Chaupai Sahib* by June 2009, the 25th anniversary of the attack on Sri Darbar Sahib. You are required to contribute by reciting the *Path* and informing via the website.

### [Ik Onkar wallpaper](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • March 8, 2009 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20090308/ik-onkar/>

Today I am sharing a wallpaper that can be used as the center piece of your screen. It explains the meaning of Ik Onkar. This is my own interpretation, apologies if I have got it wrong - please let me know through the comments section.



Click on the photo for a bigger version.

## [Panja Sahib](#)

By [Hardeep](#) • April 16, 2009 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20090416/panja-sahib/>



The photo is by [Shafqat Mirza](#) kindly donated by him to CC-BY license on my request, and digitally enhanced by me.

It is my wish to be able to one day visit the *Panja Sahib* - the Gurdwara in Pakistan where Guru Nanak, in 1521 AD taught Wali Kandhari a lesson. This is what they say happened: Guru Nanak reached Hassan Abdal (a place in Pakistan) and the number of his followers soon exceeded that of Wali Kandhari - who had been living as a 'saint' in the area for some time. So, he stopped the flow of water to the people of the village. Guru Nanak sent his disciple Mardana to him to request him to let the water flow. However, Wali Kandhari mocked them, and did not relent.

So Guru Nanak, lifted a stone, and from below a spring of water appeared. Angered on seeing this Wali Kandhari dislodged a big stone from the top of the hill intending to hurt Guru Nanak and his followers. However, Guru Nanak lifted his hand and this stopped the stone where it was. This hand is imprinted in the stone.

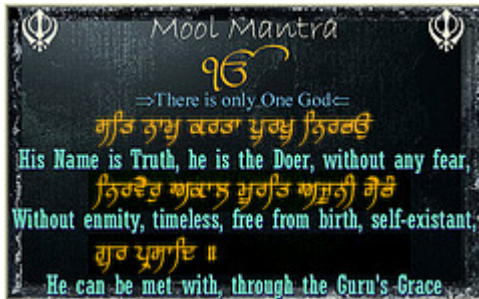
Click [here](#) to read a more detailed account of this.

There is another historic event that happened at this same place more recently, when a British Government train was passing through Hassan Abdal and having Sikh protestors being taken to the jail. Sikh people at the Gurdwara wanted to feed the protestors, but the British Government (coming to know about this) decided not to stop the train at the station. Read about that, and the courageous Sikhs [here](#).

## [Mool Mantra](#)

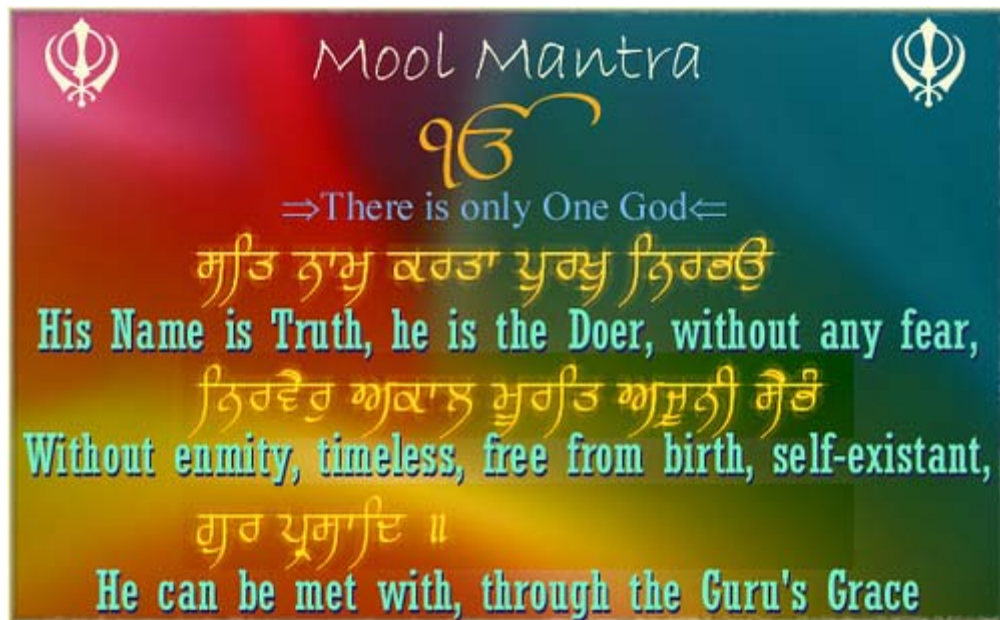
By [Hardeep](#) • April 17, 2009 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20090417/mool-mantra/>

I share below two flavours of plaques containing the *Mool Mantar*, and meanings. You can either print them, or use as the desktop wallpaper. Click to enlarge.



Mool Mantar - I





Mool Mantar - II

## Aad Sach - Eternal Truth

By [Hardeep](http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20090604/aad-sach-eternal-truth/) • June 4, 2009 <http://blog.hardeep.name/sikhism/20090604/aad-sach-eternal-truth/>

[Continuing the series](#) of Gurbani wallpapers, here is the next one - also in two versions:



Aad Sach





Aad Sach - a variation

As always, click on the images to download bigger versions.



# About the author...

The author **Hardeep Singh** is a software project manager by profession, MBA (Finance) by education and a photographer by hobby. He holds the ISO 9000 auditor and ITIL (Foundation) certifications, and is a Linux enthusiast.

He blogs at **Digital Wealth** <http://blog.hardeep.name> on a range of topics from Computers, to Finance, to Photography and Religion. The name Digital Wealth represents knowledge in a digital form.

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