

Importance of Hair

God created human beings and blessed them with completeness by granting them external and internal parts of the body.

Hair is God's priceless gift and it is as important as the other parts of the body. Non-existence of even one part of the body becomes an obstacle for the body to function correctly and creates an inferiority complex in human beings because of the body's ugliness.

Just like a person without a hand is addressed as one handed, a person without one eye is known as blind in one eye, and a person deprived of legs or feet is called lame, a person without hair on his head is called bald-headed and a person without a beard is known as beardless or Khoda.

Just as a person has inferiority an inferiority complex because of non existence of any God given part of the body, the importance of hair as an essential part of the body can be revealed by the bald-headed person or the person who doesn't have a beard. This person, in spite of having all other parts of the body, still feels incomplete among the society. He is always repenting because he feels he has been accursed by God. The bald- headed person or beardless is always praying and requesting the ability to grow some hair. He also tries to acquire hair by spending great amounts of money on doctor's visits, medicines, and facial ointments. Acquisition of hair is not very successful even after numerous efforts and expense sometimes.

I would like to relate a personal experience so that importance of hair can be known. I was sitting in my room at

Rampur Khera Gurdwara Sahib during summer. Two military men from Pathankot came to see me. One of them was a major and the other was a colonel. The Major was acquainted with me, but it was Colonel Sahib's first visit. Snacks were provided to them after Major Sahib finished the introduction. Major Sahib had adopted the teachings of Sikhism, but Colonel Sahib had been cutting his beard.

Major Sahib addressed me and said that Colonel Sahib was my boss at our location. It is not my place to say anything but because I am his well wisher, I am going to say something related to him. Major Sahib said, " Colonel Sahib does read Guru's word. He believes in God, is fully faithful, but along with it he keeps on cutting his beard. Please inspire him to be in the form of the ideal, original, perfect Sikh with hair and beard." I answered after I heard what Major Sahib had to say. I said that Colonel Sahib is educated and a wise man. He knows what is good and bad for him. A hint is enough for a wise man instead of advice or any explanation. I told Major Sahib that he has given that hint to Colonel Sahib.

While this conversation was going on, a person whose name was Gurdev Singh but also known as Dev, was fighting with some kids who were eating food in community kitchen or langar. He was talking improperly with them because he was angry. I heard the fighting words of Dev and knew why he was fighting with the kids. Dev had been living at the Gurdwara (Guru's house) for the past two to three years. He had been doing voluntary service. Often he used to argue with the kids.

I called one of the disciples and asked him to bring Dev to me. He went and brought Dev to me. I asked Dev about the

cause of fight with the kids. Dev said, " I serve food from the community kitchen to these kids but they tease me by making comment like, ' Hey lady give us some cooked lentils and give us some rote(Indian tortilla) ' You tell me if I look like a lady. I am already accursed by God and stricken by fate. God didn't give me any beard and that is one reason I didn't get married. I am neither considered a male or a female. These kids harass me more by calling me a lady. I live a miserable life and try to pass the time by doing a voluntary service and living at the Gurdwara. Please advise them not to make me more miserable or else I will break somebody's arm or leg." I listened to the whole conversation in front of Major and the Colonel Sahib. I told Dev that when I go down, I will punish those guilty kids. I advised Dev to stay calm. After I consoled Dev, he went downstairs to the community kitchen or langar.

When he left, I addressed Colonel Sahib and asked if he listened to the grief of this sufferer. I said it is strange that a person who has been given hair and beard by God is not willing to keep it. On the other side, a person who was never blessed with hair and beard is repenting because he believes his bald- headed or beardless look is a sign of God's displeasure and a punishment for his bad deeds. I told Colonel Sahib to decide for himself and think about why we are destroying this symbol of manliness with our own hands.

If God had not given us hair or beard then we would have been in the same condition as Dev. We would not have been enumerated in the male or female category. Colonel Sahib was a wise man. He agreed that it was our fault and our laziness. We make mistakes just by imitating other people.

He made a promise that next time we met, he would definitely be in the form of an ideal Sikh with uncut hair and beard. He asked

me to pray for him so that he could keep his promise to be a true Sikh of the guru. I received a letter from Major Sahib after some time in which he expressed his happiness about Colonel Sahib keeping his hair and beard uncut. Most of the time it is not that people are helpless. Usually it is due to the ignorance that people are trying to compete in a race to look better than the other person. They are breaching God's order by cutting hair.

Hair is not given after a child's birth. Just as other parts of the body are formed in accordance to limits inside mother's womb, hair is also given according to God's will within fixed limits during pregnancy. God's plan is very marvelous. Just as Guru's word commands:-

"Pooray kaa kee-aa sabh kichh poora

"Ghat vadh kichh naahee

(Salok mehlāa 1 page 1412 Guru Granth Sahib Ji)

The complete God has created such a whole universe; wherever the body needed external hair, a fixed length of hair was given. For the protection of delicate internal limbs of the body, God created hair where ever it was needed. God provided hair on the ear membrane, and inside nose to prevent dust going into our lungs. God also gave hair on the head and beard on men's faces. It is God's will that he provided hair on women's heads only. The person, who unwisely goes against God's will never achieves success. Hair keeps on growing even when it is being cut by human beings all lifelong. A person has to surrender in front of God's will.

God has blessed human beings with hair according to the environment in which they live. Dark black and curly hair was given

in the hot climate zone. Brown and white hairs were given to people who live in cooler areas so that the body can adapt to the environment. God has not provided us with extra limbs for the body nor has he deprived us of any limbs. According to Baba Kabeer ji's command:-

"Na kachh poch maatee kay bhaanday

Na kachh poch kumbhaarai"

(Parbhaatee Kabeer ji page 1350)

If an incomplete person tries to interfere with God's will by being defiant to Him, he will gain nothing but humiliation and assets of sinful deeds. In composition of God's word, Guru Arjun Dev Ji has praised God in Vadhans Raj by portraying Him with an appearance of long hair and beautiful nose. He pointed out that God's form is endowed with qualities. Guru Ji's command is:-

"Tayray bankay loin dant reesaalaa

Sohnay nak jin lamrhay waalaa"

(Wadhans mehlaa 5 page 567)

Satguru ji encourages us to meditate by referring to God as Kesav, Keso (having hair). Baba Kabeer ji's command:-

"Kabbeer kayso kayso kookee-ai na so-e-mail-ai asaar

Raat divas kay kooknay kabhao kay sunai pukaar"

(Salok Kabeer ji page 1376)

Baba Nam Dev ji has guided us to ask our graceful God with uncut hair to help us escape from the cycle of death and birth.

“ Kaysvaa bach-uneer a-ee-ay ma-ee ay ayk aan-jeo”

(Dhanasaree NamDev ji page 693)

While we pray and worship God and refer to Him as having hair, we should know that all holy men whether they are Muslim or from another religion, priests, divine people and saints who are sent by God to show people the path of truth, have all kept untrimmed hair and beard. According to Muslim faith, the whole universe is the descendant of Baba Adam. God created Adam with His own appearance and made all messengers of God prostrate in prayer (Muslim way of praying) to Baba Adam.

One more thing to remember is that Baba Adam only once disobeyed God's command. As a result he had to fall below his status. But those people who disobey God's command everyday and repeatedly, what price would they pay, God only knows.

In his literature, Sikh philosopher Puran Singh ji has written in clear words about the importance of hair and the five symbols of Sikh faith. There is no argument or reasoning about the fact that hair and the five symbols of Sikh faith are given by Guru Sahib and God Himself, and that we must keep these priceless gifts in good condition with lots of love and respect. These gifts are just like symbols of the married state of a woman while her husband is alive. We love the gifts given by our dear God.

During ancient times, instead of giving a Brahmin (a caste in India) the death sentence, his hair and beard were cut, and that was considered a punishment worse than a death sentence.

“Moodyang praanayat ko Dando Brahmunsus vidhee yaatay”

Mehlaa: Seng: Dhe: 8 Salok 379

But today people are paying money out of their pocket to cut their hair and beard without death sentence. The people who are doing this can only tell us under constraint they are becoming participants of such a big punishment. The Satguru Kalgidhar Ji has urged us to be ideal Sikhs by revealing his stamp showing God blessed hair.

“Ek Onkar Satguru Ji saha-ai”

“The entire congregation will be protected by the competent Guru. You have my blessing, and you take the sweetened consecrated water administered in Khalsa Baptism from the five beloved ones. Keep the hair, this is My Stamp. Don't be careless about kirpan (Dagger type symbol) or the special underwear shorts worn by baptized Sikhs. Keep pure steel bracelets in your hands. Take care of your hair twice a day; the members of entire congregation don't eat meat of an animal slaughtered by Muslims after they recite a prayer. Don't keep contacts with a person who cuts hair or beard or kills his own daughter, -----Pray, recite Waheguru, Waheguru, uphold principles, a lot of faith and the Sikh code of conduct.”

(God's order for congregation of Kabul)

Bhai Mardanaji's son Noor asked, “What advice can you give me, Father, since you have spent all of your life in the company of Guru Nanak Dev Ji?” Mardana ji advised his son to do three things. First of all he told him to keep hair on his head, meditate and recite Satnam in the later part of the night. Finally he told his son to do voluntary service and look after the congregation. Noor committed himself to his father's advice and gained blessing from his father and God.

A great scholar and a popular writer of the 20th century wrote the history of mankind in twenty editions. His name was Mr. Tianbi. One time an American woman asked him about his research of the

whole universe and his meetings with people of different ethnic backgrounds. She inquired about his knowledge and understanding of different customs and religious philosophies. She asked him, "Can you please tell me, who is the best looking person in the world?" Mr. Tianbi answered very quickly, "The ideal Sikh who has an open beard." The lady who asked him this question was very surprised but asked another question very quickly. She said, "Can you tell me who the ugliest person in the world is?" Mr. Tianbi's answer was, "In my opinion, that Sikh is ugly who has cut his hair and beard."

Satguru Ji and Sikhs of the guru tolerated indescribable and unbearable distress due to this divine beauty and blessing but did not give up their ideal Gursikh appearance with hair and beard. Five and seven year- olds Baba Jorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh Ji gladly accepted the punishment of being buried alive but fulfilled firm their faith of Sikhism with hair until last breath of their lives. For his firm faith in Sikhism, Bhai Taru Singh ji was beheaded. Also for the same belief, one by one, every limb of Bhai Mani Singh ji was cut. Bhai Matee Das Ji has his body split into two parts for the same reason. Bhai Dayal Das ji was boiled in a large narrow mouthed cooking vessel. Bhai Shabagh and Bhai Shehbaaz Singh ji were tortured by being spun around the spinning wheel, but didn't let anybody interfere or get rid of their form as an ideal Sikh with hair and beard. In order to preserve their identity as an ideal Sikh with hair, ladies ground flour in large quantities with a hand operated grinding mill without any complaint and willingly allowed their children to be cut into pieces but held on to their religious beliefs.

Our elders the abandoned comforts of home, stayed hungry sometimes, and lived miserable lives in jungles but did not give up their identity as an ideal Sikh with hair and beard given by God. They were not shattered by the dishonest person. They stayed being ideal

Sikhs until the last breath of their lives. Satguru ji gave His word of honor as he pointed to these people who were firm believers in their religious faith. -----

“ In putran ka sees par vaar deai sut chaar

Chaar muai to keeya huua jeevat lakh hazaar”

Satguru ji sacrificed His own beloved sons, and accepted and adopted us as His Creation. Today we live according to Fareed Ji's command:-

“Aapnaray Gireevaan meh sir neeva kar daykh’

(Salok Fareed pg. 1378)

“Have we become sons and daughters of the Guru? Does our face resembles with faces of Baba Jhujar Singh, Baba Joravar Singh, Baba Fateh Singh, Baba Ajit Singh and Guru Kalgidhar Ji(10th Guru of the Sikhs)?” I bow my head to those people who are adopting standards and rules set by Guruji and are whose appearances resemble with Guruji's appearance. Those people who are renouncing rules and appearance given by God should look inside their heart and inquire about themselves. After that they should decide if the path they have chosen is harmful or beneficial.

We should think about our well being and loss. We should not just copy other people. The Path of Guru should be adopted by us. Satguru ji is alerting us by calling us:-

“Gursikh meet chalhu Gur Chaalee

Jo Gur Kahai soee Bhal maanhu har har katha niraalee”

(Dhanaasaree Mehlaa 4 page 667)

Please don't copy other people and damage your spiritual and materialistic worlds. According to Baba Kabbeer ji's words, don't be

careless and foolish by digging your own grave. Listen to Baba Kabeer ji's command and try to settle it within your heart:-

"Kabeer Deen gavaa-i-ai dunee si-on dunee na chaalee saath
Paa-ay kuhaara maari-ya gaafal apunai hath"

(Salok Kabeerji page 1365)

A careless and foolish person is always hated by others, and nobody considers him a good person. A smart person adopts the advice of Gurus, holy men, and wise men. This is all due to the prosperity of being an ideal Sikh with hair and beard. A person who has hair and a gracefully tied turban on his head is addressed as, "Sardar Ji" by everybody. If a person is clean shaven, he will be addressed as Babu ji, Bhayeea ji or Chowdhry regardless of his status and wealth. He will never be addressed as "Sardar ji".

Only an ideal Sikh with hair and beard can be addressed as "Sardar Ji". Satguru ji abandoned caste- arrogant people and chieftains and adopted the powerless and disrespected as His own sons by blessing the with high status in the society. His word of honor is:-

"Jin kee jaat go-ut kul nahee

Sardari nah bhai kadaee"

"En he ko Sardar Bnaoo

Tabhai Gobind Singh Naam Kahanoo"

Satguru ji opened up stock piles of blessings and gave us unrestricted substantial share of high status in society. But we are not ready for these blessings and are holding ourselves back. How much more bad luck can we have?

Ancient Sikhs of the Guru united with their God by reciting His name in such a way that it seemed like even small hair of the body was saying God's name.

"Gurmukh rom rom her dhiavay"

(Ramkali mehlaa 1 page 941)

Today we have made up our minds to destroy this hair which is spiritually very harmful and disadvantageous. Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji has ordered us, by revealing five symbols of Sikhism that without hair the other four symbols are meaningless. His word of honor is:-

"Nashanai Sikhi ee Panj Harf kaaf

Hargiz na bashad ee panj muaaf

Kara, Kardo kachh kanga bidan

Bina kes haich asat jamlā nēsha

Kalgidhar (10th Guru of Sikhs) Ji's historical orders has been written by poet Saanapat. According to these orders Guru's Sikh should never cut his hair and beard. A Sikh should never use drugs. This is the noble path to live a successful life.

"Seess na mandavai meet hukaa tuj bhalee reet

Mun mai kar prem preet sangat mai jee-ee-ai

(Sri Gur Sobha chapter6)

Huka nahi peevai sees dari na mandavai

So to Waheguru Waheguru Guru Ji Ka Khalsa

(Sri Gur Sobha Granth ch. 5)

Pun sang saraa prabhoo ji sunaee

Bina teg teerang rho nah bhaee
B ina shashtar kesang nrang bhaadh jano
Ghai kaan ta ko kitai lai sedhano
Ehai more agiyaa suno lai piaray
Bina teg kesang divo na deedarai
Ehai more bainaa manaiga so jo-ee
Tisai ichh purang sbhai jaan ho-ee

(Gur Bilas pa:10 chapter 23)

Satguru ji has given lot of importance to hair and martial arts because hair is symbol of divine power. A person who becomes aware of unapproachable power of the hair, never desires anything bad about the hair.

A story is written in an ancient historical book about Samson. A boy was born in Manooha's house and he was named "Samsoun." He was very brave and powerful. He had ripped many lion's jaws with his own hands. He defeated over 1000 enemies with one bone of a donkey. Samson had beaten Palestinians badly. They were very irritated with him.

Samsun fell in love with a woman named Delilah Palestinians bribed her to find out the cause of Samson's power and bravery with submission of her love. She asked Samson about the secret of his power. Samson told her that he never shaved his head and cut his hair and that is why he was admired by God ever since he was in his mother's womb. He told her that this power will stay with him as long as he didn't cut his hair. If for any reason his head was shaved, then the power within him would disappear and he would become

powerless. Delilah told the secret to his enemies. They planned a conspiracy with her to cut Samson's hair.

She made Samson fall sleep on her lap and called a man to shave his head. Samson became powerless after his hair was cut. His divine power was gone. After that his enemies attacked. Delilah informed him about the attack. Samson woke up and started to walk outside just like he used to do. He was not aware of losing his divine power. Palestinians caught him, poked his eyes out and brought him to court. They tied him with brass chains and threw him in jail where he operated the grinding mill the rest of his life.

(Judges chapter 13-16)

Just because of this reason of cutting hair, people of India have lived a life of slavery like herds of sheep for years. Whoever and whenever they wanted, sometimes from Gazani or sometimes from Kabul Kandhar brought army to attack and trample people of India all the way to Delhi. They took desired wealth and girls either married or unmarried in the form of herds so that they can sell them like animals at a very low price.

It was only Khalsa (Sikhs with untrimmed hair and beard) who defeated these cruel people who came through Khabar mountain roads to rob wealth and honor. Khalsa not only closed those roads forever but also ruled these cruel people. Khalsa forced these tyrants to do unpaid labor and penalized them by having them pay taxes. Khalsa freed those, captive Hindu girls who were either married or unmarried and took them home safely. Only Khalsa was brave enough to take this courageous and bravery chance. Nobody else received this honor.

Once there was a famous writer in England. His name was George Bernard Shaw. One day he was getting his getting his

haircut and a shave done. His younger son was watching him shaving his beard. Spontaneously he told his dad that his teacher taught him about how famous writers, wise men, and philosophers keep their hair and beard uncut as a symbol of nature's gift. He asked his father, " Don't you want to become a great man or a philosopher? Do you want to rebel against nature?" Those words spoken in innocence by George Bernard Shaw's son made such a great impact on him that he threw all the tools needed to shave out of the window. He promised to live by nature's rule. He established his reputation as a world famous philosophic writer while keeping his hair and beard untrimmed.

Most often it happens in this world that a person is ignorant about the qualities of some valuable things and doesn't appreciate them. Unknowingly he becomes unappreciative of them. That is why Baba Kabeerji said in his command:-

" Nahee patan nahee paarkhoo nahee gaahak nahee mole"

(Salok Kabeer page 1365)

But the person who is blessed by God to assess a valuable thing and understand its qualities, he learns to appreciate that thing and takes good care of it.

A holy man Budu Shah, knew the value of hair. He accompanied Satguru KalgidharJi during the battle of Bhangani. During this battle Budu Shah's two sons and a few hundred disciples became martyrs. After winning the battle, When Satguru ji arrived on the pure holy land of Paunta Sahib, he sat in a hall of audience. He praised the brave warriors and blessed them with appropriate gifts. Holy man Budu Shah's sacrifice was acknowledged by Guru Sahib ji and he was asked to come forward. Guruji gave his love and lots of blessings. Guruji gave his word, " Peerji, you have sacrificed a lot. You

can ask for anything." There were tears in Budhu Shah's eyes and his heart was filled with love when he heard Guru ji's words. He folded his hands, saluted Guru's feet and said, "Dear Guru ji if you are pleased with me then please bless me with your hair along with your comb so that I can have a glimpse of you everyday with this hair." Satguru ji fulfilled his desire. Budhu Shah kept that hair in a golden box as long as he lived. He used to get up early in the morning, take a bath, meditate and then have a glimpse of Guru Ji through the hair and comb, the tokens given by Guruji.

Bhai Nand Lal ji knew the value of the hair, and that is why he left his job at a royal court. He wanted to preserve the looks of an ideal Sikh with uncut hair and beard and that is why he took Kalgidhar Sahib ji's shelter. He did voluntary service within Guruji's command and led a successful life by becoming baptized Sikh. Bhai Nand Lal ji noticed that both the spiritual and materialistic worlds were united in Guru ji's one hair strand. He learned that the value of this one strand of hair is priceless even when compared with the wealth of both worlds.

" Deen Duneeya dar Kmandae aan paree Rukhsar mai

Her dow aalam keemte yak tar mooyae yar mai

(Gazal-2 Bhai Nand Lal Ji)

Bhai Taru Singh ji knew the value of hair because he refused to accept worldly wealth, comforts, and ranks. He told Nwab Zakaria Khan, " Hey Khan I will never convert to the Islamic religion by giving up my appearance of a Sikh with hair and beard." He told Khan that even if he was offered the ruling and control of all states, he still would never convert to such a religion where he would be punished hereafter and face God's anger.

Zakaria Khan asked him if a person gets punished for converting into Muslim religion. Bhai Taru Singh Ji gave a logical answer, "Khan ji if you plant a garden or build a building then how would you treat that person who tries to ruin your garden or that building? Khan became angry and said in an authoritative voice, "Whoever ruins my garden or the building, I will punish that person by throwing him in jail." Bhai Taru Singh ji smiled and told Khan that if somebody tried to damage God's created image, wouldn't God punish that person. Zakaria Khan was speechless. He felt humiliated when he heard those true words from Bhai Taru Singh Ji. Khan ordered in a furious voice to bring Taru Singh Ji's appearance of an ideal Sikh to an end. Taru Singh ji's determination was rewarded. His hair became as hard as Iron wires. Even a scissor could not cut his hair. The humiliated Khan called the hangman who was a shoemaker to cut Taru Singh Ji's skull from his body.

Bhai Taru Singh Ji tolerated this torture, fulfilled his firm determination, gained God's happiness by obeying His command, but never got rid of his appearance of an ideal Sikh with hair and beard.

Why would a person let go of God given parts of the body and an appearance with hair and beard? There are five main reasons for all this as far as I can tell.

Disrespect of hair by imitation

A popular game in this world continues to be copying others. Very few people live their lives thinking properly and doing an evaluation of their gains and losses. Otherwise, the whole universe keeps on going by imitating others. There is a

saying in Punjabi language, " Where ever most of the village herd is, there will be Banto's calf." But one should remember that we suffer discomfort, unhappiness, and harm because we are imitating others.

Let us take a look at the farmers. If few farmers planted potatoes, then majority of other farmers will grow potatoes by buying expensive seeds. Because of the abundant quantity of the crops, many farmers suffered a loss instead of gaining profit by spending money on expensive seeds and fertilizers.

Just like this incident, farmers started growing trees of Poplar about ten years ago by copying other farmers. They didn't do their calculation and perception of the future market value of these trees. The end result was that trees were sold at a very cheap price. The businessmen made money but the farmers were under lot of debt. After popular, eucalyptus trees were planted and sold. What was the reason?. It seems that nobody has been successful or will be successful by imitating others without any reflection of thoughts.

If we look at wedding arrangements, one person tries to compete with another and spends lot of money. A third person tries to compete with the fourth and it continues. A person loses

his capacity for good and is under lot of debt because of imitation. One should remember that nobody will ever be successful by copying others and will definitely regret it. Success in life is always result of careful thinking and perceiving loss and profit.

In modern times our children think of themselves heroes by dressing and changing their appearance. They try to copy film actors, singers who sing indecent songs and performers who

exhibit nudity on stage. These performers disguise themselves into different personalities and loose dignity in their characters. Those singers of indecent songs, actors, and performers do make a lot of money, but what did those people gain who imitated them? All they gained was distortion of their perfect image of ideal Sikh with hair and beard, sins, immoral acts, and the unhappiness of Guru Ji. If one does want to copy others, then they should copy those who are smarter than they are and have a higher moral character. They should try to imitate respectful people and warriors like Bhai Taru Singh Ji, Bhai Mati Das Ji, and Bhai Diyala Singh Ji to whom the whole world bows down in respect and will continue to do so. But the condition today is:

“Dharam Pankh Kar Udreeya”

(Var Majh Ke Salok Mehlaa 1 page 145)

Today it seems like, “ Saram Dharm do-ai chhap khaloai koor pherai pardhan va Lalo” is true. We can call it a predominance of ignorance, farsightedness, or lack of knowledge. In this environment the angry young men :

“Kabeer deen gavaa-i-aa dunee sio dunee chaleee na saath,
Paa-ay kuhaara maariya gaafal apnai haath”

(Salok Bhagat Kabeer ji page 1365)

Young men are entrapped in fashion in such a way that they can't find any way out. Young men are eager to disguise themselves as girls and look like them. Young girls are eager to take the place of young boys by dressing in different kinds of men's clothes.---

“Aapo dhapee hairat hoosai”

What is the reason for all this? It seems like the effects of television, the companionship of bad people, the imitation of one another under the influence of ignorance, and not following Guru ji's advice are all causes for this.

This bad influence will not go away unless we get rid of the habit of imitation under the control of ignorance and start thinking about our profit and loss with the enlightenment of Guru's advice. We won't be able to get out of this marshland until we give up the companionship of bad people, and watching immoral programs on television. If we do want to get out of this mess, then we should make determined effort with Guru Maharaj Ji's support. Guru ji will definitely help you. Our heritage and life will become successful.

Cutting of hair to look good

All the human race wants to show off its beauty through appearance, because when a person is born, two matters under the influence of materialistic world get so rigid in every male or female that they can't get rid of them throughout their lives.

The first matter is that a person believes he or she is wise and intelligent. A human being with his little wisdom thinks that he is wiser than everybody else and tries to give advice. If some wise man tries to give advice to the person with little wisdom, he tries to oppose the person by being angry instead of receiving the advice. This is due to the fact that he firmly believes in his mind that is the wisest and most intelligent person.

The second matter is that the person believes he or she is very beautiful and tries to be even more beautiful. A person is dominated by the desire to look better and then tries to fulfill it by standing in front of the mirror, using different kinds of powders, creams, and colors for facial make up. Sometimes he or she tries to use hair color dyes to change the color of their original hair, with which God has so kindly blessed us, and are the true symbols of "beauty". He tries to cut hair, sometimes, with either scissors or a razor. A person's psychological condition submerges in such a way that even their eyebrows are not spared the strokes of the razor. The human race becomes ugly and awful instead of becoming attractive. A person still gets no peace of mind. A mind is still not satisfied even when a person pierces his nose and ears in the hope of looking better. A person's race to look better does not leave him alone even when he or she is of old age. According to Sri Guru Teg Bahadar Ji's command:

"Ser kampeeyo pag dug maga nayn jot te heen"

But a human being, even in this stage of life, looks at his black hair and tries to cover his old age under this sheet of black hair. But one day he loses against nature. At last, he has to start walking toward the next journey after this world with deep signs of repentance. At that time Baba Kabir Ji's command becomes very obvious:

"Fareeda jin loyin jog mohiya say loyin mai dith kajal rekha na
sehdiyaa say pankhee soo-ay bahith

(Salok Fareed Ji Page 1378)

Remember this human body which is made up of five elements. It can never become beautiful because the body is made up of a combination of things like blood, ooze, and bones. These three things are wrapped inside the skin by nature. All of these things are

impure. If you want to become charming, then you should make your soul pleasant. By following the path shown by Guru Ji and improving yourself, Baba Fareed Ji guarantees that those people who do try to improve themselves will definitely meet with graceful God. The person who meets God always enjoys a comfortable life.

“Aap savaray mai milay mai miliya such hoay”

(Baba Fareed Ji Page 1382)

In Guru's eyes, that person is not endearing who alters his appearance with different kinds of colors. In Guru's eyes, that person who disrespects hair by cutting it with scissors or a razor is also not endearing. In guru's eyes, that person is endearing who always keeps God in his heart and collects the capital of God's name with the company of religious congregation. The command of Guru Sahib Ji is:

“Say-ee sunder sohaniya saadh sangat jin baihnay. Her dhun jinee sanjiya sayee gambheer apaar”

(Dev Gandhari Mahala 5 Page 530)

It is essential that instead of looking good in people's eyes, we should become beautiful in God's vision. We should improve our soul rather than our body. We will look ugly by cutting or damaging our original appearance that is blessed by God.

Contribution of ladies in the degradation of young men

It is often heard that ladies have contributed a lot toward forcing young men to become hairless. Just remember, ladies, the person who disregards the Sikh code of conduct and the person who forces anybody to do the same are both equally guilty. In the modern world it is often heard that young ladies give preference to clean shaven young men when selecting husbands instead of an ideal Sikh with hair and beard.

Unfortunately it is bad taste for girls. Just think about it, if a young man can become rebellious to his God, then for how long he will be a faithful companion? Ladies, please remember that if young people don't listen to God's command, then there will be a time when God won't listen to you either. Ladies, if you are the cause for young men to demolish their heritage, then you will also suffer equal punishment for disobeying Guru's command and rebelling God.

When you deal with your husbands who have demolished their heritage, you will oppose them because they will come home drunk,

after gambling, or doing evil deeds. In return they will call you bad names, say good and bad words, and beat you up. Then you will not improve anything but gain grief and repentance. Now is a time to be cautious. If you want to become proprietress of your heritage then you should remember the historic achievements of Mata Sahib Kaur, Mata Sunder Kaur, Mata Bhag Kaur, and Bibi Sharan Kaur. Please keep in mind those mothers who cleaned and grinded grain in large quantities with hand operated grinding mills, passed a day with only one cup of water and one fourth portion of a roti(Indian tortilla), saw their children being cut into pieces, but kept firm in their religious faith. Today to gain comfort for a short time without any effort, we are making the mistake of forgetting the religion.

Today God's words are excluded from the lullabies of mothers. In the evenings mothers don't have the time to talk about Sikh history or Guru's biographies and stories. This is one of the main reasons that our young men are facing such a miserable condition. How would a root of a tree grow if it doesn't get enough water?

Today there are very few parents who encourage their children to follow religious traditions and rules. Most of these children's original traditions are being formed from cartoon stories, the actions of movie stars, and words of singers who sing indecent songs. It is not the kid's fault, but it is parent's fault when they are so busy in the race of making money, that they have forgotten to spend even ten minutes with their children. The punishment for this negligence is being served by the parents and the children. How long will this go on?. As long as we don't try to make any effort for our kids to follow religious traditions, this will go on.

The religious rites are formed by connecting with Satguru's words, by listening and reading our great golden history and with the company of super good friends.

Today it is essential that we should connect with God's word and wear religious apparel. We should listen and study our golden history, accompany the religious congregation, and abandon bad company. Then there will be no reason for us not to connect with our heritage. We will definitely connect.

Cutting hair as an excuse to go to Foreign country

In modern times many young people are getting their hair cut, by using the excuse that they are going abroad in order to earn a living. In fact this is nothing but an expression of mental weakness. Today when we take a look at the foreign countries, it seems like Sikhism has flourished more there rather than in Punjab. Sikhs have established great reputation for hard work and intelligence from lower level to high level in America, England and Canada. The ideal Sikhs with hair and beard possess high ranks in government, private industry, farming, and transportation fields. In foreign countries Sikhs have achieved high respect and pride in political fields also. The ideal Sikh appearance is not dependent on any introduction. In India ideal Sikhs have also achieved high positions like Prime minister, President, Army General, and Planning Commissioner.

In America, after the incident of the September 11 attack, some mischievous and ignorant people did some tricks on Sikhs because they perceived them as Muslims. After some incidences American Government posted a calendar which exhibited the distinct appearance of Sikhs in all government offices and police stations. In this calendar photos of young Sikh kids with Patka(special cloth tied around the hair on the head), adult male GurSikhs with turbans and open beard, female ladies with Keski(small turban around the head) were published. In this calendar no clean shaven person or a Sikh who cuts beard was portrayed. It is worth thinking that an ideal Sikh with beard and uncut hair is considered part of Sikh nation, but the people who cut their beard are not considered Sikhs by the government. There is a saying in Punjabi, "No place one calls one's own". These clean shaven Sikhs are not included either in Hindus, Muslims, or Sikhs category. That is why clean shaven Sikhs should return to their faith by abandoning social approval, and connecting with their heritage. They should make this world and the next world comfortable and satisfied.

Feeling of inferiority complex within oneself

Sometimes our young generation raises the question of why they are hated for having the appearance of an ideal Sikh with hair and beard by the majority of clean shaven people among whom they have to live. Even if the argument of these young people is considered, hatred and discrimination cannot come to an end by cutting hair or beard. Beyond hair and beard, there is discrimination

going on and will keep going on between people of white and brown skin, and between people of brown and black skin. Will we take our skin off from our body or change our skin color by skin grafting. It will never be possible. After skin, discrimination about language will start. There will be no end to this. Hatred and discrimination is going on in every country among people of one state and another state. This discrimination is going on in our country too. Muslims are doing this to other Muslims. Americans, British or Canadian English people are doing this to their own people. It is human nature to hate and discriminate, and this cannot be changed.

Just remember that a person, who destroys God blessed hair, has also given relinquishment of right to God and the Guru. Guru doesn't trust that person who is rebellious against Guru's orders. It is the command of Guru Gobind Singh Ji that as long as Sikhs live in this world and take good care of God blessed hair, beard and complete appearance, He will bless that Sikh with all His glory by considering him faithful to God. But the day a Sikh will mingle with the world by abandoning his loyalty to God, he will lose Guru Gobind Singh ji's trust and confidence. According to Guru Gobind Singh ji's command:-

“Jab lag Khalsa rhay naira, Tab lag Tej Deo mai saraa

Jab en ghai bipan dee reet, mai naa karo en kee parteet”

It is vital that every human being should stay connected with their heritage and have trust in God and Guru. We shouldn't cut hair and beard which are entrusted to us and blessed by God; we shouldn't betray His trust. Otherwise, we will become unreliable people that and nobody trusts. That is why we should always remember Guru Arjun Dev ji's command and not destroy our trust

ourselves. Whoever loses his own trust by his own deeds, for them SatGuru ji's commands:-

"Apnee parteet aap hee khovai

Bahur us kaa bisvaas na hovai

(Sukhmani mehlaa 5 page 268)

An unreliable person is not trusted by anybody and is looked down upon by everybody. Guru's word command:-

"Bhulan ander sabh ko abhul Guru Kartar(Sri Rag m:1 P. 61) and

"Bhulan vich keeaa sabh koee Kartar aap na Bhulai

(prabhatee page 1344)

The creator and the guru are perfect. They can never make a mistake. We should have faith in these lines of Gurbani(God's word), the completeness of the Creator, and make our short term life successful by following the path shown by Guru. We should not damage our own present and the next worlds by being defiant to Guru and the Creator.

Needed change in methods of preaching

In modern times we need to very quickly approach the young generation, who are confused without any direction while living a life guided by its own mind. They have turned away from their heritage and culture. We need to make changes in our way of preaching in order to direct these young men who have been misled from their roots. For the benefit of degraded young men, we need to give them a loving hug, pat them on the back, and make them realize the importance of closeness in relationship. Instead of saying harsh words to them, we need to adopt a way of humble entreaty in the name of Guru, just like Bhai Veerji achieved success of uniting Professor Puran Singh Ji with the main idea of Sikhism by embracing him lovingly in 1913.

It happened like this. Bhai Puran Singh Ji had adopted the teachings of the Sikh religion since childhood. After receiving higher education in India, he went to Japan to receive education about

chemical experimentation. There he was impressed by views of Swami Ram Tirath ji and he adopted those views. The Sikh nation broke all relations with him. The time came in 1913 when Chief Khalsa congregation organized a Sikh educational conference at Siyaal Kot City. During the selection of speakers, Puran Singh ji's name was presented. Because he had deserted Sikh religion, there was a discussion about whether he should be invited or not. Some people said yes and some said no during the discussion. Finally it was decided that Puran Singh was a sensible intellectual person but had gone on the wrong path under the influence of Swami Ji's ideas. Teachings of Sikhism were still assimilated inside Puran Singh ji. He should be invited and given a chance to express his views. After the agreement an invitation was sent to Professor Puran Singh Ji. During the conference he gave an impressive speech about the doctrine of Sikhism. After the lecture he came and sat next to Bhai Veer Singh ji.

Bhai Veer Singh ji patted Professor Puran Singh ji on the back and rubbed the hair on his head gently with love and said, "Puran Singh I had heard that whoever cuts God's gifted hair, their hair become very rough. But your hair is still very soft even after you had it cut. What do you use on your hair?" After he said that, Bhai Veer Singh Ji invited Puran Singh for dinner at his house. In the evening both ate dinner together and discussed views of Sikhism for a long time.

Bhai Puran Singh Ji's wife Bibi Mayia Devi Ji has written that he was mumbling something when he came home that night after dinner. After he put his bags down, his first words were, "Mayia Devi, I will not cut my hair again." Mayia Devi has referred in her writing that she told him that he was fine the way he was. He had made a mistake in the past and Sikh nation didn't mingle with him for ten years. If he made a mistake again then only God knows that for how long he will have to suffer the agony.

Bhai Puran Singh ji told his wife, with a heart full of love and determination, that once his hair was patted by an ideal Sikh, it couldn't be touched by a barber's hands. Bhai Puran Singh Ji became an ideal Sikh with hair and a beard. He was accepted in God's sight. He enjoyed happiness and unique love by adopting teachings of Sikhism. He wrote about these happy moments in the form of a poem and prose and became a resource to the right path for countless people. He is still doing that by means of literature.

Please remember a person is driven by an insult but is inspired with love. Today it is essential to show the right path of Sikhism to the young generation by embracing them with love and by using tools given by Guru Arjun Dev Ji:-

"Gareebe gadaa hamaree

Khnnaa sagal rain chhaaree

Es aagai ke na tikai vaykaaree

Gur Pooray ayh gal saaree

(Sorath Mehlaa 5 page 628)

**Please forgive any mistakes. Waheguru ji ka Khalsa.
Waheguru Ji ke Fateh.**