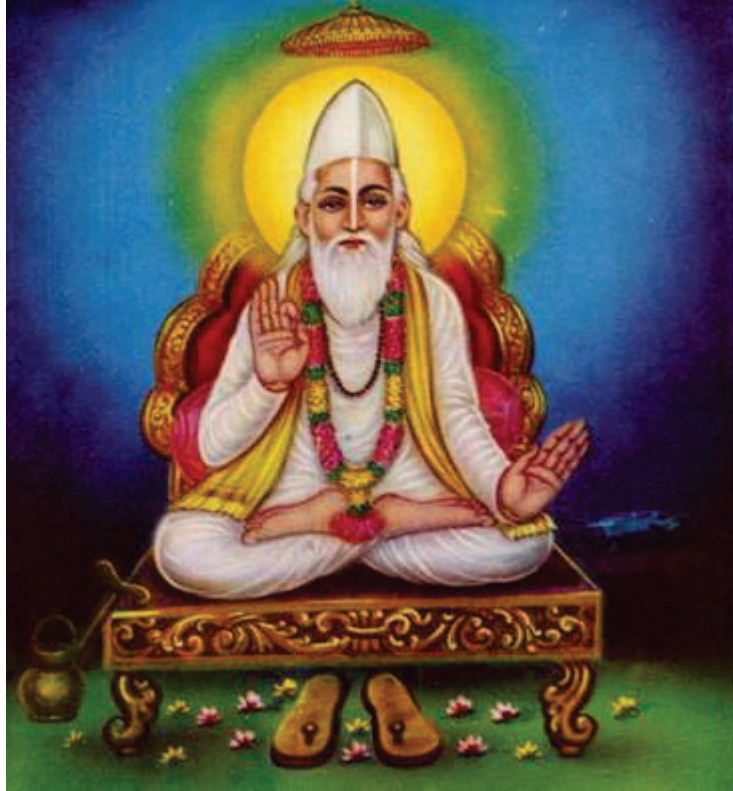




॥ SATYANAAM ॥

Divya Drishti



2012 Edition

by Mahant Jay Jagdessur

SATYANAAM

EDITORIAL by Mahant Jay Jaggessur

2012 has been a very fruitful year in many ways. We were blessed to have the visit of Panth Shri Hazur Ardh Naam Saheb, we obtained the charitable organization status approval from the Federal Government, and we also launched our website. We still have lots to do attain our goals and pursue our mission, but we should be very proud of the achievements we made during this year. And this has only been possible with the unflinching support from all of you. Thank you to all of you.

As with every New Year, we reflect on our successes and failures, revisit our objectives and set new goals. I am sure you will all have your personal goals and resolutions. I shall however invite you to provide us with any feedback or suggestions you may have to improve on our activities and undertakings. We will soon be working on an events' calendar which will set out activities we will be organizing in 2013.

This year Pragatya Divas will fall on a week-end, and therefore we would be looking forward to a larger participation in the events we will be organizing around that time.

Lately, we have witnessed a marked increase in social degradation, with a glooming economic environment, as the global crisis continues to affect both large and small economies alike. In these situations, the need for spiritual guidance is more than ever felt. We cannot control others, we cannot control the world, but we can control ourselves. The way we approach situations that come our way is what determines the outcome of our actions. So, everything rests with us, and we have no reason to blame others, to blame situations, to blame the world. By changing our way of doing things, our way of acting (or pro-acting) to situations, we shall make the difference. Satguru Kabir Saheb says : " Man ke hare haar hai, man ke jeete jeet

Parmaatam ko paaiye man hi ke parteet"

We need to understand our true nature, our spiritual nature. This allows us to reflect on what actions we should take. Under the spiritual guidance of a Guru, we learn that mind control is crucial to achieving any goal, including the ultimate goal of life, salvation.

People who allow themselves to be carried away in the vicissitudes of life can never achieve any success. They are just like the boat left to sail by itself : it goes where the wind blows, and soon it crashes against the cliffs. As long as someone enjoys the pleasures of life thinking that this is the only real pleasure we can have, he has missed the golden opportunity of his human birth. Satguru Kabir Saheb says that it is your

choice : either you use this opportunity wisely, or bear the consequences of getting back in the loop of births and re-births.

“As owsar nahin paaiho dharo Ram karihaar

Bhowsaagar tari java jab palak na laagey baar”

It is a rare opportunity to be born as a human being. Stick to your Satguru, and cling to the knowledge imparted by Him. This way you will cross this ocean of life, and get to your destination. The key is the spiritual knowledge which you obtain from your Guru, which is the only means of reaching your goal.

My message to you at this fresh start of a New Year is : Perseverance. The sure way of attaining your goal of life is to persevere in your spiritual path. As we move forward, the world is facing more and more complex challenges, thus giving rise to more misery and sufferings. Genocides, wars, terrorism, global warming, social degradation, racial discrimination are just a few such challenges, all created by mankind. We tend to question ourselves: How can Man endanger his own life... This is the reason we need to be stronger than ever in our faith and trust in God, and persevere in our path.

Let us all celebrate life, let us all glorify our inner self, let us all seek inner peace, let us all be happy... all the time.

Blessings,

Mahant Jay Jagdessur

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bandagi Saheb To All,

It is that time of the year when 2012 is soon coming to an end and by the time you know it 2013 will be here.

The Kabir Association is still a small group and we realize that it will take time in building. We are now in our second year and when I look back, we have come a long way despite numerous challenges we were faced with namely, being a small group, limited financial support, just to name a few. However, due to superb teachings of Satguru Kabir Saheb propagated by Shree Mahants Jay Jaggessur, Pattiram Saheb and Vithal Das Saheb, we have kept our spirits high. In addition to this, some members are vigorously pursuing studies in music and hindi classes and we feel that this combination is the pillar for setting the stage for a prosperous organisation.

Regarding Bal Joyti, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the rising stars of this group namely Ravi and Dev Dass, Medha and Prashant Jaggessur and last not least Diya for their excellent singing and musical instrument talents. Vidya and Prisha are also following along, and are definitely promising stars. For those who have not seen them, I dare you to come and see for yourselves.

I want to thank all the members and non-members who have supported this organization in one way or the other. Special thanks to our Mahant Jay Saheb and family for hosting the monthly satsangs and Kamini bahen and family for hosting the kids' satsang.

I also want to thank our beloved mother Dhanpatie Dass a/k Doris who has participated in all of our satsangs . Being the oldest and long serving member, she has recently celebrated her 85th birthday. Also Mahant Pattiram Saheb who also recently celebrated his 82nd birthday.

When a group of people bound together towards a common goal, impressive things are bound to happen. All of you have proven this, time and again and it lends credence to every hope for a Happy 2013.

Soon, our focus will turn to family and friends and the traditions that compose the holidays for each of us. It is my heartfelt hope that your most treasured gifts this season will be health and happiness in the company of those you hold most dear.

Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Haimraj Das (Bemal Saheb)
President
Kabir Association of Toronto

2012 AT A GLANCE

The year 2012 was full of activities and events. We are expecting to have still more events in the New Year, and hope that everyone benefits from the numerous activities. And share our happiness and love with one and all.

I am sharing the memories of the last 12 months with you and hope, like me, you will also cherish these wonderful moments we spent together.

JAN-FEB-MAR

The year started with our very first Satya Vaani satsang on the 9th January. For the first time, 2 satsangs were being held simultaneously, one in Mississauga and the other one in Scarborough. Both places welcomed a good number of devotees, starting off the New Year on a positive note.

In February, we had the visit of Dr Purnendu Ranjan from the University of Chandigarh, India. He came to Toronto, after spending 5 days in Vancouver with Dr J Das, where he also gave a public lecture on World Religions. Dr Ranjan, a born Kabir Panthi, stayed with Mahant Jay Jaggessur for 3 days. A symposium was held on February 25th, where Mahants, devotees, and executive members of the association participated to share ideas and knowledge on the various practices of Kabir Panthis in India. Dr Ranjan is the author of a book entitled "History of Kabir Panth" . It was also the opportunity for us to have Dr Ranjan visit some of the major landmarks in Toronto, like CN Tower, Niagara Falls, etc...

Finally the month of March also marked the 1st anniversary of the setting up of our association, the Kabir Association of Toronto.



**L-R: Mht V Das, Mht P Ramroop
Dr P Ranjan, Mht J Jaggessur**

APR-MAY-JUN

The main event in this quarter, like in every year, was the celebration of the Pragatya Divas. This year, an Aanandi Chowkaa Aarti was held at Mahant Jay Jagdessur's place on June 3rd. This was a grand opportunity for devotees coming from all around Toronto, and the Greater Toronto Area to participate and pray. This 614th anniversary of the appearance of Satguru Kabir Saheb was also the occasion for new devotees to learn about the practices and rituals of the Chowkaa Aarti ceremony.

In the month of June as well the association obtained the approval of "Charitable Organisation" from the Federal government. This was indeed a great achievement for the association, setting the pace for the future advancement of the Kabir Panth community of Toronto.

JUL-AUG-SEP

The summer months of 2012 were the richest in events and activities. One of the first outdoor activity was the Webster Falls expedition. This outing was planned and organized by Kamini Bahen, who took all the pains of coordinating with each and everyone, sending out directions and fixing meeting points. Obviously, this was a very successful event. Participants not only enjoyed the scenic views and natural waterways, but also shared the pleasure of tasting the varied cuisines of India, Pakistan, Guyana, Mauritius...



The Majestic Webster Falls



The Big Family

Another fruitful event was our first ever garage sale. A big thank you to all those who generously offered items for sale to the association.

In the month of August, we were very fortunate to have been visited by Dr Jagessar Das and Shrimati Urmila Das. The whole Kabir Panth community of Toronto was happy to share some very special moments with our guests. Bimal Das Saheb, who hosted the guests, held the first activity at his place, an Aanandi Chowkaa Aarti on August 23rd. This was the opportunity to have devotees, especially from the east end to participate. On August 24th, Dr J Das attended our Monthly Satya Vaani satsang, where he gave his lecture. This was very well received and acclaimed by devotees present. The next item was a public lecture held at the Franklin Horner Community Centre in Toronto, where Dr J Das was the keynote speaker. Mahants Pattiram Ramroop Saheb, Vithal Das Saheb, and Jay Jaggesur Saheb also gave their lectures. This event was also filled with bhajans from the bhajan mandali of the Kabir Association of Toronto. Hitesh Prajapati Saheb did a perfect job in organizing the event and also in being the anchor for the day.



Bhajan Mandali at F Homer Community Center



L-R: Mht J Jaggesur, Mht V Das, Dr J Das, Mht P Ramroop



Attendees at Dr J Das Public Lecture

The next great event during this quarter was the visit of Panth Shri Hazur Ardh Naam Saheb. This was His second visit to Toronto, where He spent 1 week. Satsangs, home visits, lectures were among the most common activities held. Special thanks to Sudesh Ramroop Saheb who arranged for this visit. The official launch of our website was also done by Panth Shri Hazur Ardh Naam Saheb during a satsang on September 3rd. Mahant Jay Jaggeessur Saheb composed 2 bhajans in honour of Hazur Saheb's visit to Toronto.



Panth Shri Hazur Ardhnaam Saheb at satsang by Mht J Jaggeessur's residence



Panth Shri Hazur Ardhnaam Saheb's Vidai

OCT-NOV-DEC

A second garage sale was organized on behalf of the association in Scarborough. Special thanks to Bimal Das Saheb for organizing this event. The Bal Jyoti in November was held in Scarborough, thus drawing devotees from the east end, many of whom were at their first attendance to explore the learning experiences of our younger members. Thanks to Delhia Bahen for hosting this Bal Jyoti session.



Garage Sale in Mississauga

Finally, the last great event of the year was the Fun Day, which is our family get-together, held on December 15th. Games, riddles, musical performances, dandiya dance, mimicry... Such was the variety of items which attracted not only kids, but also older folks who wanted to prove their skills and competences. From the spoon race to the donkey's tail, from the ball to the limbo, from the charades to the chutney, everyone was well served. The food was even more enjoyable. Both kids and adults had their lot. Participants are already looking forward to the next year's Fun Day!



Fun Day in Action

Like I mentioned, this year had a real mix of activities and events. As always, we are open to feedback and suggestions. Please send your feedback to our e-mail, info@kabirsaheb.org

SEE GOD IN EVERYTHING

By Mahant Jay Jaggessur

All religions agree on at least one thing : That God exists! It is true that there are different concepts and different beliefs as to the "how" of its existence. But, yes, God exists. God exists, but people fight against each other, taking His name. Everyone wants to prove that "his" God is the best, is superior others' God. Are there different Gods? Or is there only one God? The simple answer is that God is in everyone, God is in everything, God is omnipresent.

Satguru Kabir Saheb says : " Sab ghat mera Sanyiyaa Sooni sej na koye

Hai sabmein sabse nyaaraa aissaahai prabhu hamaaraa "

God is unique, as He is not one, nor is He many. Satguru Kabir Saheb says that the whole universe functions with only His command, and that energy which rules the whole universe is also within us. We house the Lord within us. Let us realize this and dissipate all negative thoughts of God being confined to a specific place. When we accept this fact, then we can live in harmony with everyone and everything. Then we acknowledge that there is no good and bad, no light and darkness, no happiness and misery, no beauty and ugliness... This is the concept of oneness. Oneness is more easily understood when we think of how one drop of water which falls in an ocean becomes one with it, and there remains no difference between the drop and the ocean.

" Boond samaaye Samoondr mein, yeh jaane sab koye

Samoondr samaaye boond mein birla jaane koye "

It is true that neutrality is not an easy concept to comprehend, but perseverance in implementing the spiritual principles taught to you by your Guru leads you to that conviction. God is in fire as much as He is in water. That water which we use to do bhog and arpan, and the same water which comes as flood to devastate everything and everyone in its way. That fire which we use to perform aarti, and that same fire which, in no time, burns down houses, people and properties. How can God exist only in the fire of your aarti, and not in that fire which destroys houses and people? How can God exist in the water of your bhog, but not in the rising waters of the floods?

The omnipresence of God is not questionable. Our trust and belief have to be firm in the holiness of God and His creations. You cannot be burnt by fire, you cannot be drowned by water... None of the creations of God can destroy you, because you are also the creation of God. By limiting your identity to the bodily confines of your human body, you are grossly mistaken and unable to perceive your true identity, your true self.

Satguru Kabir Saheb says :

“ Panchi ke khoj agam pargat kahein Kabir bari bhaari

Sab hi moorat beej amoorat moorat ki balihaari “

The deep meaning of these lines unfold the very nature of our existence as the extension of God. Kabir Saheb explains that it is hard to understand that the bird (soul) is beyond seeking, yet it is very clearly perceptible. He further says that “ I sing the glory of all forms (moorat), all those forms amongst which the Formless (amoorat) exists.” The Mundaka Upanishad, canto 2, part 8 also explains the same point :

“ Bhidyate hriday graantih chidyante sarva samshayah

Kshiyante Chaasya karmaani tasmin drshte paraavare “

Meaning : When you realise that that Self, which is both the Higher Self and the Lower Self, the knot of the heart gets untied (i.e. you get freed, and connected to God). All your doubts vanish and all your actions (i.e. of your previous births) get dissipated.

Remove the veil of ignorance, and then persevere in your path of spiritual enlightenment, you are sure to realize the concept of “oneness”. The very concept which consolidates your belief in the omnipresence of God. Perseverance also entails resistance to temptation. And the best way to resist temptation is to practice detachment. Some people choose to leave everything behind, and go to the forests, to focus on their goal of God-realization. But detachment can also be achieved by staying in your world of families, friends, relatives, work, society, etc. When you disengage your mind from discriminating among people, among things, and start seeing God in everything, you will already be detaching yourself from the world of maya. See god in everyone – your wife, your husband, your children, your parents, your friends, your neighbor, your relatives... See God in everything – your house, your car, your dress, the road, the trees, the soil, the sky, the river... See God in every living being – ants, dogs, cats, cows, fish, birds... In short, deify everyone and everything.

BAL JYOTI

Another great year of achievement for our young members of the Bal Jyoti circle. 2012 has definitely brought its share of inspiring lessons and store of knowledge during our Bal Jyoti satsangs. In addition to the regular sessions structured around one theme every satsang, we also had a special edition of an open Q&A forum with Dr J Das this year, where kids obtained the answers to many of their questions.

Bal Jyoti has helped to inculcate the principles of Kabir Panth in the younger generation and at the same time is instrumental in grooming the youth to take over. The satsangs have been very carefully prepared and structured to convey the message of Satguru Kabir Saheb. Selected and appropriate moral stories, and fables have been used to illustrate concepts and messages. Kids have also been presented real-life examples, thus consolidating their knowledge base. This year, several themes were discussed, among which, truth, ego, karma, Guru stood out. Power words have also reinforced our non-hindi speaking participants' understanding of various concepts.

At the same time, hindu festivals, practices, and other common rituals have also been exposed. These were explained in both their historical context as well as the spiritual perspective. Gradually, the kids are being introduced to different aspects of spiritual life. Kids also has a jeopardy game to review their knowledge level. This served both as a test and as a reminder. In the New Year we will have more such activities and other Q&A type sessions to further reinforce the learning experience of all participants.



The Bal Jyoti Circle with Dr J Das and Shrimati Urmila

HAZUR SAHEB AAYE HEIN – A Welcome bhajan

Aawo mil gaaein, aawo manaein (2) Hazur Saheb aaye hein (3)

Kahan kahan jaaye lekar aashaa, dhoonde maarag dishaa

Pehchaanon toum asli rastaa, Guru tatva hai saanchaa

Teerath aaye tere dwaare (2) Hazur Saheb aaye hein (3)

Iss jeewan kaa yehi paribhaashaa, apnaa mukti paanaa

Guru bhakti bin nahin paaoge, amarlok parvaanaa

Aawo soonlo amrit baataa (2) Hazur Saheb aaye hai (3)

Sache dilse tan man dhan se, karo arpan Guru charanaa

Iss wasar ko nahin khona hai, kardo oojwal jeenaa

Kabir panth mein chalte rehnaa (2) Hazur Saheb aaye hai (3)

Farewell Bhajan – Vidai Bhajan

Hamaare binati sooniye Saheb, Toronto aate rehnaa

Ham sab Hans janon par apne, kripaa barsaate rehnaa

Door se aaye oopdeshe soonaaye, Ham kitne hi dhanya huwe

Aise hi ham ko giaan ki, Gangaa nehlaate rehnaa

Ghar ghar jaakar sab bhakton ko, Aashir vachan se nirmal kiyo

Jaate jaate hamko apne, Dayaa barsaate rehnaa

These bhajans were written and composed by Mahant Jay Jaggesur on the occasion of the second visit of Hazur Ardh Naam Saheb to Toronto, Canada from September 1st to September 8th, 2012.