

# DIVYA DRISHTI 2016

KABIR ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO



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Many of Satguru Kabir Saheb's bhajans refer to our different stages in life, from birth to teenage life, to adulthood, to old age. Reminder upon reminder to question: "Kab bhajiho Satyanam?" Each and every stage of life has its own particular demands, pulling the individual away from his goal. Play, studies, friends, relatives, work, children.... all of these are reasons why someone believes he cannot devote himself to God. No time for God or, time for God only in times of hardship. Why so?

There is constantly an inner conflict within us. We tend to be pulled to different directions and be carried away although we realise it is not the right thing to give in to. Still we allow ourselves to be pulled towards the unreal state of things. This is how our focus goes to the different aspects at different stages of life. Thinking that old age would be the right time to devote ourselves to God is again an excuse not to be with God in the earlier stages of life. Do we know if we will reach old age? Do we know if old age will permit us to devote ourselves to God? Will we have the opportunity to do what we could have better done when we had full control of ourselves? Because of the illusory trap which lures us all the time, we do not realise that we are on the wrong track.

God is that Universal Consciousness into which we have to merge. If we do not pause to look within ourselves for that Universal presence, then we will continue to run after unreal goals and never attain our objectives. In other words, we have to evolve. Evolve from that state of ignorance to a state of wisdom. When we reach that state, nothing else matters. No desire for money, for relationships, for security, for survival...all desires vanish. At that point, experiencing the presence of God is all that exists. There is no attachment or emotions which would pull one hither or thither.

“MAN MAST HUWAA TAB KYUN BOLE,

KAHEIN KABIR SOONO BHAJI SAADHO, SAHEB MIL GAYE TIL OLE”

When the mind is already immersed in the Universal Consciousness, what need is there to express it? Experiencing that feeling of oneness with God is all that you need – nothing else matters. Satguru Kabir Saheb says: “ By meditating on my Master, I have found Him (with my third eye). Thus, our goal is to evolve to that level which, when attained, is the ultimate experience of God's presence.

As we leave behind 2016 and embark on another new year, I would like to extend my best wishes to everyone. At a time when many of you will be making resolves, I suggest that you also reflect on how you could evolve to achieve the goal of this human life. I hope to have your full support in 2017 to achieve our goals for the Association.

Happy New Year 2017!

Blessings,

Mahant Jay Jaggessur

## MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT, KABIR ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO

“KARIYE NIT SATSANG KO, BADHA SAKAL MITAI

AISA AVSAR NA MILE, DURLAB NAR TAN PAI”

*Always Take Part In Satsang And Remove All Worldly Obstacles. You May Not Have This Opportunity Again, As Human Birth Is Difficult To Obtain Again*

*Dear Fellow Members of the Kabir Association of Toronto, and all Kabir Panthis. It is my pleasure to extend warm wishes to everyone celebrating this holiday season. It is a special time of the year to give and share, and to spend quality time with family and friends and the less fortunate.*

### **Activities**

Over the last year, the association has been very active in satsangs , twice per month, mainly at Mahant Jay Jaggessur’s residence, and also at various places throughout the GTA. We had also participated in this year’s Holi Chowtal Samelan.

The association continues to be blessed with the presence of Shri Mahants Vithal Das Saheb and Pattiram Saheb, as well as Shri Mahant Jay Jaggessur who is our leading Mahant. With an abundance of knowledge, teachings and spirituality, we are truly grateful for their guidance. In addition as of last year, I have been ordained by His Holiness Panth Shri Ardh Naam Saheb as Diwan; something that I am truly thankful for and do look forward to continue to serve with full bhakti. I must also mention that all of this is also backed by our dear beloved secretary Kamini bahen’s hindi teaching.

Our Bal Joyti group has gotten bigger and the group is a much talented one now. A lot of emphasis are being placed on this group as I see them as our future leaders.

### **Vancouver trip**

Earlier this summer, some members, including my wife Anjie and I, of the Association were fortunate to take a trip to B.C. It was a journey of our lifetime, one that I fell in love with. We initially went there for a short vacation and while being there, I was able to meet my two wonderful sisters, Didi Sumi and Savi and their families, as well as Dr. J. Das and his family, brother Chunni, Jagan, Paltoo, Ramesh, and their families, and Sarojini and her brother Ramanand. We were well greeted and the hospitality was tumultuous. This would have made it the first time for Anjie and the second trip for me there. We had the privilege to witness what a wonderful province B.C. is; the weather and the outdoor activities was very encouraging; for sure we will be back soon. Our small group led by Mahant Jay Jaggessur, conducted satsangs at Dr. Das and at my Didi Sumi’s residence, and it was well attended by devotees from Mauritius, India and Guyana.

## Vision

**The Association has come a long way, thanks to Satguru Kabir Saheb, and of course all of you and your support, whether it being spiritually, financially, or otherwise. I am sure you will agree with me that the Association has been gaining recognition throughout the community and the world at large. As we continue to move forward, we all know that there is a long way to go and will be counting on all of you for your love and support in any way that will help us acquire a centre for our mandir soon.**

## A final thought...

*The human mind is truly fascinating. Our ability to adapt to the conditions we face each day can be both a blessing and a challenge. We get so immersed with a particular challenge in front of us at a point in time (no matter what that challenge may be), it is easy to lose sight of where we started from. With that "trick" of adaptability in our mind, a job well done or the notion of success can be lost—instead supplanted by feeling worn down by struggling through the "weeds" of our day, week or month.*

The point is, each one of us have a goal in mind, and if we stick to it we can achieve it. Keeping in mind that we shouldn't wait until the end of the year to create one, always be in satsangs every month, and that task of our goal will become a reality sooner rather than later.

After reading this message, I urge each one of you to make a list of things that happened to you, or you have accomplished in 2016, and then tally them up. If you like it, then you are a happy person, if not, then do something to better that. This is my personal experience I am sharing.

It has been an extraordinary year, one for which each of us should be very proud. For me, I would say well done and hope you could say the same.

Warm wishes to you and your loved ones and all the best for 2017,

Haimraj Das

*Vice-President*

*Kabir Association of Toronto*

As usual this year was also marked with a lot of satsangs and other activities bringing together devotees of the Toronto area. We are highlighting below the main events of 2016.

We started off with our New Year's opening satsang on January 1st at 3386 Homark Dr, Mississauga. Our monthly Satyavaani satsangs, and Bal Jyoti children's satsangs were regularly held at the same address. In March, we participated in the Annual Holi Sammelan organised by the Indo Caribbean Golden Age Association for the fourth consecutive year. This year's Sammelan was held at the Vishnu Mandir in Richmond Hill. The audience appreciated our performance very much this time as well. Around the same time, we also presented our Holi Chowtaal at the Vishwanath Mandir in Toronto, and at the Vishnu Satsang Mandir in Scarborough.

In June, we celebrated Pragatya Divas as usual with great fervour and devotion. Many devotees from all around the Greater Toronto Area attended the ceremony.

We also had many outdoor summer activities this year. Our Annual Summer Family Fun Day was held at the Kelso Park in Milton. This year, we were fortunate to have amongst us visitors from Trinidad (Mahant Deochan Saheb and his wife, and Mahant Kumar Saheb and his wife). But the biggest event of 2016 was no doubt the outdoor camping at Earl Rowe Provincial Park, where all participants were very excited to spend a week-end out in nature. The time spent was essentially an opportunity to recharge ourselves by being close to Nature. Activities included hiking, boating, trekking, riverside walks, beach walks, and various other games.

Our final big event for the year was our Bal Jyoti Fun Day. This event was held on Christmas eve at Hiteshbhai's residence (6 Dalkeith Crt, Brampton). Everyone had lots of fun participating in the games and enjoying talents of our children.

Overall, we had a very fruitful 2016, and we look forward to another successful year in 2017.

When we take decisions in life, we can be driven by our personal ego or by our intuitive inner voice. Our personal ego is our false sense of identity because we do not actually exist in that dimension. Our existence in that dimension is purely illusory. Just like the whole world is Maya, giving in to our personal ego is similarly accepting illusion to be the truth. On the other side, our intuitive inner voice is the Universal presence of God. Listening to that inner voice is experiencing God.

Let us take an example. When we are to buy something or when we think of money as being the source of power in our life, we can be greatly mistaken by letting our ego determine what is good for us. Our ego, motivated by opinions of others, may dictate us to amass as much wealth as possible. Becoming rich by having millions in our bank accounts. Our intuitive faculty, on the other hand, tells us that the value that money can bring to our life is what is important, not the money itself. What happens when someone keeps on accumulating money in his life? At the end, he dies and is not able to make use of it. Others will benefit from it; or it may also be that those who are entitled to inherit it will fight among themselves. And when the dispute is settled, they may as well continue to grow the wealth still more and not benefit from it. Satguru Kabir Saheb said that greed is a very dangerous thing. Greed is motivated by our false identity, which leads to our destruction.

“BAHUT JATAN KARI KIJYE, SAB PHAL JAAYE NASHAAYE

KABIR SAANCHE SOOM DHAN, ANT CHOR LE JAAYE”

At the end, your wealth is taken away by thieves, that is those who have not worked for it. Those thieves are in fact within us, in the form of kaam, krodh, lobh, moh, ahankaar. None of these will come to our help when we die. Because it is all Maya. The only thing that we can bring along with us when we depart is all the actions that we have performed. So, if our actions are triggered by our ego, we are bound to be falling in the trap of Kal, and therefore not attain liberation.

“KABIR SAB JAG NIRDHANAA, DHANVANTAA NAHIN KOYE

DHANVANTAA VAHA JAANIYE, SATYANAAM DHAN SOYE”

He who allows himself to be guided at all times by his inner self, the Higher Self within himself, is able to find liberation in his life. Greed can never lead us to abundance. And if it does, this abundance is only illusion. We are not able to use that abundance to attain happiness or bliss in

our life. We must take what life gives us, because whatever we receive is what we deserve, what we ourselves worked for, according to our actions.

The story of the truthful woodcutter gives us an interesting insight of what we own in our life. Once a woodcutter was passing by a river and his axe happened to fall in the river. His only tool to earn a living was that axe, and he could not find it. The river was deep, and he could not dive. As he was crying over the loss of his axe, an Angel appeared before him and asked him what happened. He told the Angel about his misfortune, and the Angel agreed to help him find his axe. The Angel went into the water and came back with a golden axe, which he presented to the woodcutter. The latter cried still louder, saying that that was not his axe. So, the Angel went back in the water, and this time came back with a silver axe. Again the woodcutter said that this was not his axe. So, the Angel went back, and this time came with the old rusty axe of the woodcutter. This time the woodcutter became happy and thanked the Angel for bringing back his axe. The Angel was very impressed by the woodcutter's truthfulness and he gave him all three axes. Our actions are what lead us to happiness. As long as we do good actions, we will be happy. If we give in to greed, if we let our false identity guide us, then we are bound to fail.

## BAL JYOTI CORNER

This year, 2016, was another productive year for the Kabir Association of Toronto, especially for the youths in our Bal Jyoti satsangs. We have Shri Mahant Jay Jaggesur Saheb who gives us great insight into the teachings of Satguru Kabir Saheb taken from many literatures. Among those literatures are Sakhees or testimonies that Kabir Saheb had left behind in a poetic and witty style that provokes the minds of people. Another teaching of Kabir Saheb is the Tisa Yantra or the 30 gems, which are 2 lined couplets that explains how we must conduct ourselves as we walk on a Spiritual Path towards enlightenment. Some of those couplets from the Tisa Yantra covered this year in our Bal Jyoti Satsangs, which were themes for the satsang were:

- Dhariye Kya? – What do we need to have – Patience
- Durgandh Kya? – What is unpleasant? – Disgrace
- Thehriye kya? – What do we need to Control? - The Mind
- Honi kya? – What is to happen? – Whatever is to happen will happen
- Vichariye Kya? – What is the Essence? - The Essence of the Word – Saar Shabd

As Bal Jyoti Satsangs continue to progress, we as youths, continue to learn about the path of truth, as Satguru Kabir Saheb depicted for humanity.

Additionally, we have two more segments that have started this year in Bal Jyoti Satsangs. We have incorporated a Hindi Lesson segment, taught by our Executive Secretary Kamini Gaur, who has graciously taken the effort to educate not only the youths, but the adults as well. As Satguru Kabir Saheb's teachings are highly based on the philosophy of the Guru, whereby submission to a

Satguru, true Spiritual Knowledge can be acquired which cannot be obtained from books – called Saar Shabd (beyond the essence of the Word). However, the many teachings of Satguru Kabir Saheb that are written in books, are very informative in leading a spiritual life. All poems and Saakhees of Kabir Saheb are in Hindi, and being able to at least understand those deep messages of Kabir, we can implement those teachings into our everyday life.

The second additional segment in our Bal Jyoti Satsang is the addition of a question and answer session with no other than Dr. Jagessar Das Saheb, President of the Kabir Association of Canada in Vancouver, BC. With modern day technology, we have been able to do a Skype Satsang, where Dr. Das located in Vancouver can visually communicate with us here in Toronto, through a computer program called Skype. Dr. Das Saheb is vastly educated in Satguru Kabir Saheb's teachings, and has written many books of Kabir such as the Bijak – the Treasure Map and Brahm Nirupan – The Ultimate Reality, giving both youths and adults the opportunity to clear doubts by asking any questions relating to Kabir Saheb's deep philosophy. This segment which is quite new and only started in November this year, has been a very beneficial method so far in acquiring Spiritual Knowledge of Satguru Kabir Saheb.

On behalf of the youths of our Bal Jyoti Satsang, I humbly thank all the key players in our Association for their ongoing encouragement and investment in our youths. Special thanks to Shri Mahant Jay Jaggessur Saheb for his dedication and efforts by taking the time to go through many beautiful teachings of Kabir Saheb. Special thanks to Kamini Gaur and Dr. Jagessar Das Saheb as well for their contributions and we all look forward for their contributions in the upcoming Bal Jyoti Satsangs. Last but not least, I give a special thanks to Reckha Jaggessur Ji and her family for open heartedly hosting Bal Jyoti and Satyavaani Satsangs at their home. May Satguru Kabir Saheb shower blessings upon everyone for this New Year and together, may we continue to walk on the path of truth towards enlightenment and salvation.

Bandagi Saheb,

*-Dev Dass*



## SAAKHIS.... SAAKHIS.... SAAKHIS

“AATAM DRISHTI JAANE NAHIN, NAHAAVE PRAATAHI KAAL

LOK LAAJ LEEYA RAHE, LAAGAA BHARAM KAPAAL”

Just by taking morning baths everyday one is not purified. One has to realise his true Self. Just by following social rules and regulations does not get one to liberation; instead it fills doubt in his mind.



“PREM BINA DHEERAJ NAHIN, BIRHA BINAA VAIRAAG

SATGURU BIN JAAVE NAHIN MAN MANSAA KAA DAAG”

Without love, there cannot be patience; and without the feeling of separation, one cannot attain renunciation. Similarly, without a Satguru the vices of the mind cannot go away.



“MANN KE MATE NA CHAALIYE, MANN KE MATE ANEK

JO MANN PAR ASAVAR HAI, SO SAADHU KOYE EK”

Do not go by the dictates of the mind; the mind is very unstable and pulls one everywhere. He who is able to control the mind (instead of having the mind controlling him) is a true saintly person.



“DASON DISHAA SE KRODH KI OUTHI APARBAL AAG  
SEETAL SANGAT SAADH KI TAHAAN Oobaariye Bhaag”

Wherever you see, in all ten directions, there is the fierce fire of anger. Only in the company of Saints and Sages can you find peace and solace.



“SHABD BARAABAR DHAN NAHIN, JO KOYI JAANE BOL  
HEERAA TO DAAMON MILE, SHABDAHI MOL NA TOL”

There is nothing in the whole world that is more precious than the meaningfulness of the WORD. Diamonds can fetch a big value, but they are not as valuable as the word. Words liberate, diamonds do not.



“JIN DHOONDHAA TIN PAAYAA, GEHRI PAANI PAITH  
MEIN BAPOORAA DOOBAN DARAA, RAHI KINAARE BAITH”

He who is brave enough to dive deep down will find the treasure. In other words, he who is willing to seek within himself will find God. He who fears to dive, that is to search within himself, will not find God.



## PICTURES



Satsang in Vancouver BC with Dr. Jagessar Das in August 2016. Attendees are from both Kabir Association of Canada & Toronto.



Hindi Lesson by Kamini Gaur Ji in Bal Jyoti Satsang.



Question & Answer session with Shri Dr. Das Saheb from Vancouver BC during Bal Jyoti Satsang.



Kabir Association of Toronto participated in the annual Holi Chowtaal Samelan at Vishnu Mandir.



Kabir Association of Toronto's annual Fun Day took place at Kelso Park.



Kabir Association of Toronto's camping trip at Earl Rowe Provincial Park.