

## Das Dharam: the promise to serve humanity

Many congratulations on Das Dharam Foundation Day 2022. This is a very blessed day for the Sachkhand Nanak Dham Mission because Maharaz Jee “established the practical worldwide Mission of Das Dharam on 16 February 1980. Das means “one who serves the Lord” and Dharam refers to “our promise to God before our birth”. Maharaz Jee explains that Das Dharam therefore means the promise we made to God (before we were born) to serve humanity” (See *Nanak Dham Newsletter, (2020), Vol. 1, Issue 1*). It is in serving humanity that we ourselves are spiritually fulfilled. Maharaz Jee repeatedly explained this to us during his spiritual sermons.

Below we provide some key points from one section of Maharaz Jee’s Das Dharam Day speech, 16 February 1986.

*Continued on p3.*



Hazoor Maharaz Darshan Das Jee

### Inside:

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# Editorial

## Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala

Dear Reader,

Hearty congratulations on Das Dharam Day 2022!! It is one of the most important days in the SND calendar. Maharani Jee celebrated this day each year with thousands of devotees from India and from all over the world. It is a day full of blessings, grace and love. Maharani Jee gave the gift of *Naam* to devotees on this day. This is the 5th Newsletter we are publishing with the grace of Maharaz Jee and Maharani Jee. In this Newsletter, we are delighted to share the artwork of children of the mission across three continents.

We begin with a translation of a *shabad* (spiritual verses) written by Maharaz Jee which explain why he started the Das Dharam mission. The *shabad* is entitled *Sehej Sukh Suninderay Satguru*. Maharaz Jee explains in his speech that this was a question-and-answer session he had with the Lord. We then share a story from a *satsang* by Maharaz Jee which was delivered in May 1983. The story is entitled "The faith of a devotee in a Perfect Master". This is followed by a

beautiful story from a devotee (Das Rinki) on her blessed journey with Maharani Jee. We continue to provide the translation of spiritual verses written by Maharaz Jee in his *Yashvanti Niradhar* (compilation of spiritual writings). We provide you with the translation of the *shabad* entitled *Teray Tol Taraje To Lekay Teri Shapat Talwar Di Noke Tak*. Maharaz Jee pays great respect to all the saints, sages and Perfect Masters who have sacrificed their lives for the love of the Lord. In the poetry section we share a beautiful poem written by Das Sukhdev Singh in Punjabi (translated in English) entitled *The Beauty of Horses*. In the Children's Section we share a lovely story about being true to our divine promise. In Pali's Pantry we share the recipe of *Aloo Sabzi* (Dry Potato Curry), one of Maharaz's favourite vegetables.

We hope you and your loved ones are all doing well. It is a difficult time the world over, and time and again we give thanks to Maharaz Jee and Maharani Jee for keeping their blessed hand over us. Thank you so much for reading the Newsletter. We wish all of you an amazing Das Dharam Day and a blessed year ahead. We welcome all contributions. Kindly contact the editor should you have anything you would like to share in the Nanak Dham Newsletter.

## Contributions welcome

The "Nanak Dham" Newsletter welcomes contributions from readers. If you would like to contribute a story, a drawing, or a photograph, kindly **contact the editor**, Das Jagjit Kaur at: [dasjagjitkaur@gmail.com](mailto:dasjagjitkaur@gmail.com).

Visit our website at:

<https://sachkhandnanakdham.international>

In this speech Maharaz Jee explains why he established the Das Dharam Mission.

Maharaz Jee says: "God is my beloved; I love him as I would a friend. I have named God Nanak. I asked God why there was a need to establish Das Dharam? God explained this to me through the following spiritual verses entitled Sehej sukh suninderay Satguru", translated and explained in first person below.

### Sehej Sukh Suninderay Satguru

ਸਹਿਜ ਸੁਖ ਸਨੌਦੜੇ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ, ਸਚ ਸਨਤੋਖ ਦਇਆ  
ਨਾਮ, ਚੌਹ ਧਰਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਾਂਈ।

*Sehej sukh suninderay Satguru, sach,  
santokh deya, Naam, chau dharman  
de saee*

The perfect spiritual Master comes to give the message of truth, contentment, compassion and Naam; the Master is the messenger of the four faiths

**Maharaz Jee explains:** The Satguru is the messenger who distributes happiness and the divine word to humanity. He has the patience and power to bless humanity. The four faiths I am referring to here are not Hindu, Sikh, Islam or Christianity; they are Truth, Contentment, Compassion and Naam.

ਇਕੋ ਵਰਨ ਇਕੋ ਧਰਮ, ਇਕੋ ਕਰਮ ਗੋਸਾਂਈ ਤੂੰ ਸਭਨੀ  
ਥਾਂਈ।

*Eko varan eko dharam, eko karam  
gosai tu sabni thae*

As human beings we are all one, we have one reason for being and we have one aim, which is to merge with the divine who is omnipresent.

**Maharaz Jee explains:** We have one Varan (caste) that is, we are all human beings. We have one Dharam which is to fulfill the promise we made to the Lord before we were born. We have one Karam which is to merge with the Lord through Naam meditation. As explained in the verse below, we can attain Naam from the true spiritual Master (Satguru).

ਸਿਰਜਨਹਾਰ ਸੱਚੇ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ, ਸਚ ਤਪਾਵਸ, ਸਚ  
ਚੰਦਰਮਾਏ ਦਿਸੇ ਨਾਂਗੀ ਦਿਸਾਏ।

*Sarjanhar sachay paatsha, sach  
tapavas, sach chandar mahay dise  
naahi, disae*

The beholder of truth leads us to meditation, the Lord (here referred to as the moon) who cannot be seen, is revealed to his true lovers or devotees.

**Maharaz Jee explains:** I said to the Lord, you are the almighty, omnipresent, you are the one who helps everyone, you are the truth. I asked Him what you are saying to me, when will this be revealed? How will the moon be revealed to those who cannot see it? As I explained to you, I speak to the Lord as I do to a friend. The Lord answered:

ਸਿਦਕ ਭਿਓਂ ਹਰਿ ਅਰਜਨ ਕੋ,  
*Sidak beyo har Arjan ko*  
*Arjan knew true contentment*

**Maharaz Jee explains:** When the devotee is ready to see and perceive the true loving God, then God reveals

Himself. Here I am referring to Arjun to whom Lord Krishna revealed his true form. This emboldened Arjun to take part in the war against the Kauravas without fear. I am also referring to Shree Guru Arjan Dev Jee who faced torture without fear of sitting on a hot plate.

ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਸਿਰ ਦੀਜੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ, ਪਿਤਾ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ  
ਰਾਏ ਜਿਨ ਦੀਓ ਪੰਥ ਖਾਲਸਾਏ।  
*Shahadat ser dije Guru Tegh Bahadur,  
pita Gobind Rai jin dio panth khalsae*

Guru Tegh Bahadur who was beheaded for the sake of the truth; father of Guru Gobind Singh, who gave us the Khalsa Panth

**Maharaz Jee explains:** For the sake of the true path, Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life. Khalsa means pure. Then he said, this Das Dharam which I am giving to you, this is what it will stand for:

ਸਚ, ਸਿਦਕ, ਸਰਬਤ, ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ, ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ, ਸਿੰਘ ਜੋ  
ਬਣ ਜਾਏ।  
*Sach, sidak, sarbat, sadh sangat,  
shahadat, singh jo bhan jae*

Truth, contentment, service to humanity, the congregation of a saint, sacrifice (of the 5 vices lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego) are the qualities of a courageous human being, a Singh.

**Maharaz Jee explains:** I asked the Lord, how will this happen? He answered, the person who embraces the above principles will become a Singh. Singh here refers to the courageous and brave devotee.

ਭੂਲ ਗਇਉ ਵਚਨ ਗੁਰੂਵਨ ਕੇ, ਦਿਉ ਫਿਰ ਸਮਝਾਈ।  
*Bool geyo vachan gurban ke, deo phir samjae*

We have forgotten the spiritual messages of past sages of the Lord; these are being explained again

ਦਾਸ ਧਰਮ ਚਲਿਓ ਫਿਰ ਕਲਿ ਮਾਂਹੇ ਜਿਸ ਦੇ ਸਾਂਈ,  
ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਅਗੰਮ ਗੋਸਾਂਈ।  
*Das Dharam chaleo phir kal mahe, jis de sahin Darshan agam gosai*

Das Dharam began again during kalyug, whose spiritual leader is Darshan who is working for the Lord.

**Maharaz Jee explains:** The same age-old spiritual message of previous sages of the Lord is being explained again in Das Dharam through Darshan Das.

When Das Dharam was established, there were only two rooms in Delhi. After that the mission flourished to such an extent that even I cannot explain it. When the mission was established in the UK, I did not even have five pounds or three true devotees. The Lord said go ahead, establish this mission and wherever you go, I will be there with you. To date, He has kept his promise to me.

# The Faith of a Devotee in a Perfect Master

On Das Dharam Day it is really important to remember the promise we made to the divine before we were born. The promise to love, respect and to have faith in humanity. Below we share a story from a satsang that Maharaz Jee delivered on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1983 in Birmingham, UK.

One evening a man went and knocked on the door of a devotee of Guru Nanak and said “I am the follower and devotee the Nanak who has come to Kartarpur.” Being a follower of Guru Nanak, the devotee and his family showed the guest a lot of respect. Maharaz Jee explains that if a Guru’s devotee comes to our house, we should show them a lot of love and respect, such as washing their feet because this cleanses us of our many wrong doings in past lifetimes.

The man who posed as a devotee and was shown the utmost respect, was really a thief. He only received the respect because of the Guru’s name. The hosts fed him and gave him a bed to sleep. The thief however, had a different plan in his mind. When all the members of the household were asleep, he walked around the house stealthily, and forced open a trunk that had valuables. He picked up a jewellery box that belonged to the devotee’s wife and attempted to escape through the front door.

However, he found that the door was bolted and locked from the inside. In many villages in India, even today, people bolt and lock their front doors from the inside. In sudden fear of being caught, the box dropped from his hands, and this woke up the devotee.

The devotee rushed to the front door and asked the thief what was the matter? The thief made an excuse saying that he wanted to use the facilities outside. The devotee humbly opened the door and just at the thief was about to escape, the devotee said, “Hey this box is yours, please take it with you.” The devotee knew very well that this guest was a thief, and that he had stolen the jewellery box, but he gave him the box out of love and respect for the Guru. The thief picked up the box and disappeared into the night. In the morning seeing the trunk open, the devotee’s wife realised that the jewellery box was missing. She said to her husband that the man who came here the night before was not a devotee but a thief. “Is this what your Guru Nanak teaches people. Is this his message, to loot people?” she asked. The devotee replied “a follower of the Guru cannot be a thief.” He said that he had willingly given the box to the guest because he needed some assistance. For the love of Guru Nanak he covered up

the wrongdoings of the thief and his wife calmed down.

Time passed and after two years, the devotee had the opportunity to see Guru Nanak during the harvest month of *Vaisak* (April). Devotees could only see the Guru after 6 months, either during *Vaisak* or during *Diwali* (November). During *Vaisak*, devotees would bring their harvest as an offering to the Guru. When the devotee arrived to join the huge congregation, Guru Nanak stood up, singled him out and looked at him straight in the eyes and hugged him. Guru Nanak said, “Hey devotee, you covered up for me, therefore I will always be with you and cover for you.”



Artwork by Das Gurkiran

The moral of the story is that the Guru is always with a devotee who has true love, faith and respect for the Guru. Maharaz Jee explains that even if someone cheats us, we should not lose faith in the person. The Guru knows all and covers for us all the time.



Artwork by Das Rai Bahadur Navjot

# Blessings of Maharani Pali

## Darshan Das Jee

*Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane  
Sarbat Da Bhala*

I first met Maharani Jee in 2002 in New Delhi at the *Khayala Darbaar* (place of congregation) during a program for *Amaavas* (new moon). Someone from Meerut was travelling to Delhi and invited me along. The following year I received the gift of *Naam* from Maharani Jee.

I would like to share how Maharani Jee blessed my father Das Gurdeep Singh. While my father had deep respect for Maharani Jee, he did not go to the *Darbaar* or *Dera* (places of congregation) and he still had not committed to becoming a vegetarian. Occasionally, he would eat non-vegetarian food and have some alcohol outside our home which would upset me. In 2009 my father had a stroke, and the entire left side of his body was paralysed. He could not move the limbs of the left side of his body. He was rushed to hospital and admitted into the ICU. The MRI scan revealed that the right artery of his heart was 99.9% blocked. The doctors at the hospital warned us that my father could go into a coma. The situation was very serious. I spoke to Maharani Jee over the phone and told her what had happened. I cried a lot, and she consoled me and said, don't worry, and have courage. Maharani Jee then came to the hospital and although no visitors were allowed



Maharani Pali Darshan Das Jee

into the ICU, she was permitted to see my father.

Maharani Jee held the thumb of my father's left foot and meditated. She then blessed him. The following day, he gained some movement in his left leg. The doctors were quite surprised by the fact that even though my father's artery was almost completely blocked, the clot that caused the blockage was not very large.

Once he began to gain movement in the left side of his body, my father thought he would recover very soon, and perhaps even go back to his old ways.

But Maharani Jee had other plans. It took 6 months for my father to fully recover from the paralysis caused by the stroke. It was during those 6 months that he became spiritually attached to Maharaz Jee and Maharani Jee. With a new lease on life, he took Naam from Maharani Jee and today remains a strong and committed devotee. I understood that his illness was a calling from Maharaz Jee and Maharani Jee for him to take Naam and to meditate.

After my father's illness he lost his business and I had to support the family. This would not have been possible had it not been for the immense blessings of Maharani Jee. When I first met Maharani Jee, I was in my 20's and was very confused about what direction to take in life. I was of marriageable age, but I also wanted to study further. I went and filled the forms required to enrol in an MBA and sat the entrance exam, for which I had had very little time to prepare. Nevertheless, I got admission into the program but was still unsure of whether I should pursue it or not. I wrote to Maharani Jee explaining the

whole situation to her. I received a phone call from the SND secretary Das Inderjit Singh who told me that Maharani Jee had received my letter and that she wanted me to continue with my studies. I completed my degree in 2005.

When I started working, I was on a very modest salary, this soon changed, and I received a lucrative package after six months. With Maharani Jee's grace I travelled to Singapore, China and the United States. It was because of Maharani Jee's direction and blessings that I was able to support my family financially when my father fell sick. Her blessings are the reason for the progress I have made in my life. Today I am a director in a multinational company. Maharani Jee is always with me during every step in my life. It is through her blessings that I have been able to achieve all that I have in my life.

Dhan Darshan  
Dhan Pali Darhan

By Das Rinki  
(Noida, India)



Artwork by Das Gurbani Vasundra

# Teray Tol Tarajee To Lekay Shapat Talwar Di Noke Tak

## translation of Maharaz Jee's writing

In the preceding Newsletters we explained that the “*Yashwanti Niradhar*” is a compilation of sacred verses known as *shabads* written by Maharaz Darshan Das Jee. Maharaz Jee has given particular importance to the three *Gadhi* (spiritual altar) *shabads* that are to be recited in a particular

order as part of Sachkhand Nanak Dham activities. We have provided translations of the 3 *Gadhi shabads* in previous 3 Newsletters which can be found [here](#). Below is a translation of a *shabad* from the *Yashwanti Niradhar* written by Maharaz Jee.

ਤੇਰੇ ਤੋਲ ਤਰਾਜੀ ਤੋਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਸ਼ਪਤ ਤਲਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਨੋਕ ਤੱਕ ॥

*Teray tol tarajee to lekay shapat talwar di noke tak*

From the time of your weighing scale to the time of the tip of your spiritual sword

### **The symbolic meaning of this verse is as follows:**

From the legacy of Guru Nanak Dev Jee (who worked in a shop as an assistant and used weighing scales) to the defence of the downtrodden by Guru Gobind Singh Jee

ਤੇਸ਼ ਧਾਰਾਂ ਆਰੇਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਰੇਤਾਂ ਤੱਤੀਆਂ ਪਵਾਈਆਂ ਤੇਰੀ ਖਾਤਿਰ ॥

*Tez tharan aarian dian, reta thathian pavaiyan teri khatar*

Razor sharp teeth of the saw, and the heat of hot sands were endured by your loved ones for your sake dear Lord

### **The symbolic meaning of this verse is as follows:**

In the remembrance of Guru Arjan Dev Jee, Mati Das, Sati Das and Dyal Das, as well as the Muslims (after the death of Prophet Mohamed) who endured torture for the sake of the truth

ਤੇਰੀ ਸੋਚ ਦੇ ਸਦਕੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਚੁੰਮੀਆਂ ਸੁਲੀਆਂ ॥

*Teri soch de sadkay, una chumia soolian,*

For your love dear Lord, they happily sacrificed their lives,

### **The symbolic meaning of this verse is as follows:**

Here Maharaz Jee refers to all those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the truth, including Guru Tegh Bahadur

ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿੱਲ ਕੰਨਾਂ ਚ ਠੁਕਵਾਏ ਤੇਰੀ ਖਾਤਿਰ ॥

*Jena kil kanaach dhukvae teri khatar*

They endured nails being hammered into their ears for your sake dear Lord

**The symbolic meaning of this verse is as follows:**

Here Maharaz refers to great sages such as Mahavir

ਤੇਰੇ ਆਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਇਸ਼ਕ ਅਵੱਲੇ ਨੇਂ ਜ਼ਹਿਰ ਪਿਆਲੇ ਪੀਤੇ  
ਤੇਰੇ ਇਸ਼ਕ ਦੀ ਖਾਤਿਰ ॥

*Teray aashiqan de ishk avalay ne, zher  
pyalay peetay tere ishk dee khatir*

Your lovers are one of kind who drank poison without hesitation for the sake of your love, dear Lord

**The symbolic meaning of this verse**

**is as follows:**

This verse is in remembrance of sages such as Socrates and Meera Bhai

ਜਿਸ ਸਾਂਝ ਨੂੰ ਤੂੰ ਕਦੇ ਜਗਾਇਆ ਸੀ 'ਦਰਸ਼ਨ' ਉਹ ਉਦੋਂ  
ਦੀ ਬੁਜੀ ਏ ਹੁਣ ਤੀਕਰ ॥

*Jis sanj nu tu kaday jagaya si Darshan,  
oh odho di bujee he hun tikar*

Oh Lord, the light of unification you once gifted humanity says Darshan, has been extinguished until now

**The symbolic meaning of this verse is as follows:**

The age-old message of unity has been forgotten. We say there is one God, but we do not believe this and we are still deeply divided.

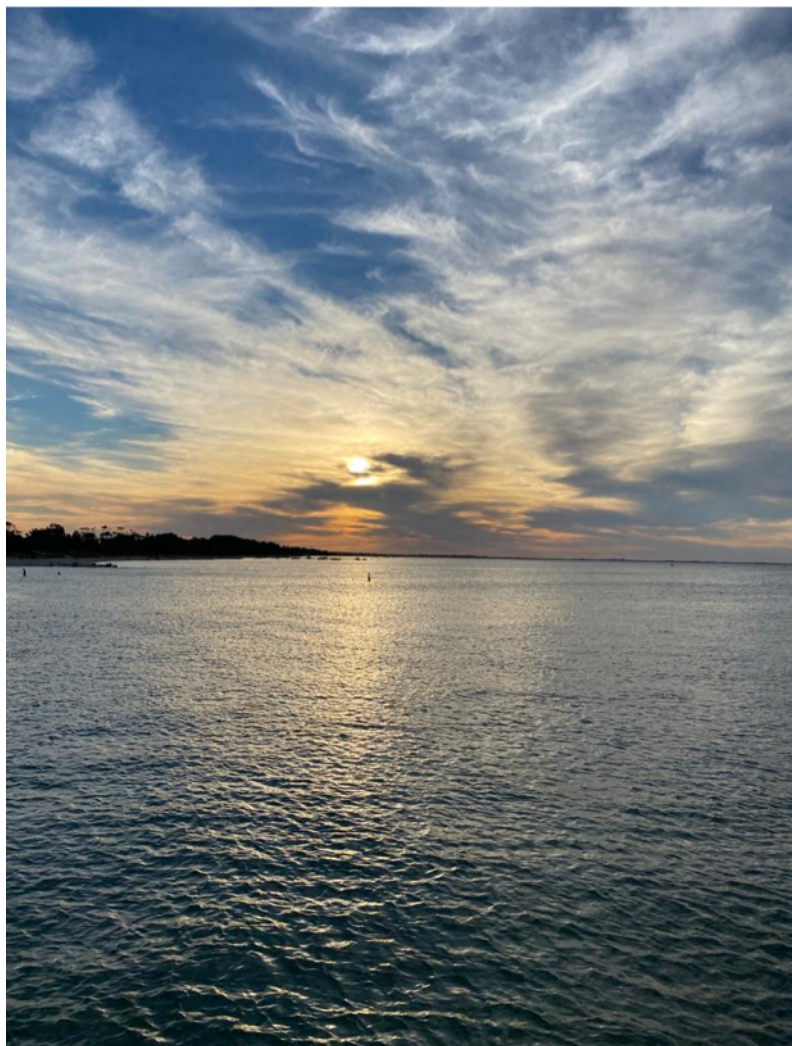


Photo by Das Neelkamal

# Poem: Ghore Di Shaan

## "The Beauty of Horses"



By Das Bhajan (painting study)

ਨਾਨਕ ਨਾਮ ਚੜਦੀ ਕਲਾ ਤੇਰੇ ਭਾਣੇ ਸਰਬੱਤ ਦਾ ਭੱਲਾ।  
*Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane*  
*Sarbat Da Bhala*

ਹੈਵਰ ਦੀ ਜੋੜੀ ਘੋੜੇ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਨ  
*Hevar di jordi ghore di shaan*  
The beauty of a pair of horses

ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹੀ ਸਵਾਰੀ ਕਰਮ ਬਲਵਾਨ।  
*Patshahi savari karam balvaan*  
The carrier of saints due to previous  
good karma

ਪਿਆਰ ਦੀ ਸਾਂਜ ਦਾਤੇ ਦੀ ਬਾਨ  
*Pyar di sanj datay di baan*  
The unity in love is the blessing of the  
Lord

ਕੀਮਤ ਦਾ ਸੋਦਾ ਤਜਰਬੇ ਪਹਿਚਾਣ।  
*Keemat da sodha thazarbe pehechaan*  
The value of the horse can only be  
known by an expert

ਤਾਕਤ ਦੀ ਤੋਲ ਕਰਦਗੀ ਮਿਸਾਲ  
*Takat di taul kardagi misaal*  
The strength of a horse known world  
over as horsepower

ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹੀ ਤੋਫਾ ਸ਼ਾਹੀ ਸੁਲਤਾਨ।  
*Bathshae tofa shahi sultaan*  
A royal gift between kingdoms

ਘੋੜੇ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਰਹਿਮਤ ਦਾਤਾਰ  
*Ghore di shakti rehmat datar*

The strength of the horse is a blessing  
of the Lord

ਮਦਾਨੀ ਸਨਮੇਲ ਜੂਏ ਵਾਪਾਰ।

*Madani sanmail jue vapar*

In war, the sports arena and in  
gambling

ਜਲ ਦਾ ਚੱਖਣਾ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਜੈਕਾਰ

*Jal da chakhna amrit jaykaar*

Drinking life-giving nectar is a blessing  
of the Lord

ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਮਿਲਾਪ ਦਾਸ ਸਤਕਾਰ।

*Darshan milaap das satkar*

The meeting of souls is the praise of the  
Lord

ਅੰਨਮੋਲ ਸਵਾਰੀ ਮਿੱਤਰ ਸੰਮਾਨ

*Anmol savari mitar saman*

The priceless horse ride is akin to a  
deep friendship

ਹੈਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਜੋੜੀ ਘੋੜੇ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਨ।

*Hevar di jordi ghore di shaan*

The beauty of a pair of horses

ਧਨ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ

*Dhan Darshan*

ਧਨ ਪਾਲੀ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ।

*Dhan Pali Darshan*

Poem By Das Sukhdev Singh (Nairobi, Kenya)



Artwork by Das Gurkiran

# Pali's Pantry

## Aloo Sabzi (Dry Potato Curry)

Potatoes are not only a delicious food, they also have good nutritional value especially when cooked with the skin. They contain vitamin C, vitamin B6, magnesium, manganese and phosphorus. Maharaj Jee absolutely loved aloo (potatoes). At Loni, he would often cook potatoes for the sangat (devotees). So we are delighted to share the recipe of this dry curry with you.

This recipe serves 4 people.

### Ingredients

Ghee 1-2 tablespoons  
Cumin 1 tablespoon  
Turmeric 1 teaspoon  
Ground black pepper 3/4 teaspoon  
Fresh grated ginger 1 tablespoon  
Finely chopped fresh green chillies to taste (2-3)  
4 medium potatoes boiled, washed and chopped into 1-inch cubes  
Lemon juice 2 - 3 table spoons  
Fresh coriander finely chopped

### Method

Heat the ghee in a wok or pan. Add cumin, turmeric, black pepper, ginger and green chillies. Cook for 1-2 minutes and then add the potatoes. Once golden brown, add lemon juice and coriander.

Serve with puri or roti (fried or flat bread).



Recipe: Shikha Chaturvedi  
Photographs: Das Neelkamal

# Children's Section

Shiva was once travelling with a devotee in the forest when he became very thirsty. He kindly asked his devotee to go to a nearby village and fetch him a pitcher of water to quench his thirst. Shiva said that he would sit on a high branch of a nearby tree and wait for the devotee. The devotee was very happy to serve Shiva and promised him that he would return very shortly with some water. Off he went to the village and knocked on the door of the first home he came across. The door was opened by a woman and the devotee humbly asked her for some water for Shiva. She said "Of course, but before I give you the water, could you kindly come in. I want to discuss something with you." The devotee went inside and saw a very beautiful young woman in there. She was the daughter of the woman. The woman said they had been searching for a groom for

their daughter for a very long time but could not find one. When the devotee knocked on their door, they felt their prayers had been answered. The devotee was just the person they had been looking for as a match for their daughter.

Mesmerised by the beauty of the young woman, the devotee forgot all about Shiva and agreed to marry the girl. Soon he began to live with the family and work for the household. They had four children, built a bigger and stronger house, bought many more animals and more land. Life could not have been better. In a short time, the man became very wealthy, and felt quite settled in his worldly life, his family and his material riches.

One day, a destructive thunderstorm hit the village. There was chaos in the



Artwork by Das Gauri

village as buildings and homes were destroyed by the flood. The devotee's home and animals were completely swept away. Not only did he lose everything he owned but he also lost his wife, his in-laws and his four children. He too was swept far from the village by the force of the water. While being carried swiftly by the flood waters, by some miracle, he came across a large branch of a tree that had not been uprooted by the storm, and he held onto it with all his might. He sat on the branch and thanked God for saving him. As his tired and traumatised body held on tightly to this branch, his eyes caught a glimpse of the branch above him. Seated on that branch was Shiva, in the same pose he had left him many decades ago, still waiting for the pitcher of water. The devotee looked at Shiva with shame. He had become so entangled in his

material life that he had totally forgotten his divine promise to bring Shiva some water.

The moral of the story is to remember that we are spiritual beings who are having a human experience. We need to be true to the divine promises we have made. Maharaz Jee explains that the way to do this is to remember God each day. For those of us who have Naam, we should do Naam meditation. Otherwise, we should chant Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala especially from 2.00pm to 2.15pm each day for our own welfare. For the welfare of others, we can chant at any time during the day. The meditation and chanting will keep us true to our *Das Dharam*, the promise that we made to the Lord before we were born.

by Das Karthyeni, Melbourne



Artwork by Das Gurveer



Artwork by Das Rai Bahadur Navjyot Singh