

# TRANSFORMATION AFTER SIKH BAPTIZATION

~Paul@CHAHALnet.com

As a 12-year old boy, whenever I was away from my parents, I will throw my long hair on my shoulders and envisioned someday Waheguru is going to turn me into a Saint! That was secret aspiration in my heart.

I was not baptized in childhood, youth or early old-age. From childhood, being the son of a Baptized father, I kept my hair till finishing of High School in 1968.

As soon as I entered Mahendra College in Patiala, one of the well-known Royal institution, I became victim of then prevailing fashion. As my older cousins, to look like actors like Dharmendar, got their hair cut, so did I too got my hair cut as I had spent only 6 months in the college.

Not only, I cut my hair, I got under influence of Science and as a joke I used to call my self “Scientific Saint”, remember I was Science-lover and famous Atheist! I took pride in teaching others about ridiculousness about existence of God!

Luckily, I got married, in 1977, to a Sikh-Daughter, Kulwant Kaur, who was a fanatic about Sikh way of life and still she is very particular about Sikh way of life and customs. After moving to United States, in California, I never missed my hair.

In 1982, after living in U.S. for about 5 years, severe stresses started coming in my life. That led me to Meditations. Honestly, these were Hindu scriptural techniques to quiet the mind, that introduced to God to



my life again. And I started missing my hair. I started reading into Christianity and got familiar with Do's and Donot's of God!

It was 1983, a visiting Saint, Sant Gurdial Singh Jee, an Ex-Military officer, transformed into a Saint. He was a Principal of a Commercial College in Ludhiana. Seeing a great inquisitiveness and deep thirst in me for God's Word, he absolutely blessed me with Wisdom of Shri Guru Granth Sahib. I will name him "5 Biggest Influences of my life!". Within next 9 months, I had the finest collection of 40 books on Sikhism, mostly starting with the most spiritual books by Bhai Veer Singh Jee, an esteemed Saint, I would dare to call him a Braham-Gyaini of Spiritual literature.

It was upheaval of 1984, that absolutely crushed me. I could not go to work, almost 3 years, just due to psychological trauma of attack on Harmandir Sahib. It was 6 Dec. 1984, that with Waheguru's Grace, I was chosen to invent the First Language Computer, based on IBM Pcc.

The next 6 years were spent on enhancing and experimenting with my much-desired object to help my Sikh nation.

During that time, one of the most use of my newly innovated Computer Systems, other than cheap newsletters printing, was publishing Gurbani.

Ah, now Waheguru starts me rewarding for all the efforts that I put to make easier on His children for Gurmukhi. Waheguru blessed me with vision to write 6 articles in local Punjabi press on "Khoj Shabad Main Lai". In this the reader will ask a question, a human common problem. And I, as a Psuedo-Scholar, will search its answer from Shri Guru Granth Sahib Jee. This writing of Gurbani literature, opened up my soul, one of the Golden period of my spiritual life.



I was happy that I was listening to Waheguru. Though, I wanted to be face to face with Waheguru. I went to all kind of Asharams in San Francisco greater bay area: Budhists, Christians, Hindus, New Life, Lator Day Saints, Saints of many cultures and languages.

One of my classical approach to meet Waheguru was to talk to prominent scholars of Sikhism. I must have met 300 visiting Sikh preachers from India who will come to Sikh Gurdwara San Jose. The preachers included famous names like, Gyani Sant Singh and Bhai Pinderpal Singh Jee. Maskeen Sahib was always very keen and glad to get my questions and discussions. Though Bhai Pinderpal Singh Jee will many time answer my questions and then he was afraid, lest I turn him into an atheist by my strong logics.

One question, typically in first meeting I will ask, “Bhai Sahib Jee, as you know I am eagerly searching for Waheguru. Honestly, share this with me, have you met Paramatama, the Waheguru. If you have met him, kindly show me the method so that I want to do that”. As that was the main cause of my existence, remember, I said “Main”. Now I would say, “The Only Cause” of my creation!

Oh my Lord, was not I surprised when I heard the answers from Sikh preachers, from 300 of them, over almost 30 years! I was expecting at least 30-40 of them, would have been successful in meeting our Creator. All 299 of them flatly told me, and with great sincerty, in private conversatin, have not met or seen Waheguru.

Only one Ragee from Indore, shared this with me, “My younger VeerJee, I get so much Mast or fascinated with music/keertan. I get lost in the Keertan and I think I with Waheguru! I would say I have met 50%, but I am certain to meet Him fully, in times to come and in this life!”



I was enthralled that there is some hope!

I remember the famous childhood song about Mirza-Sahiban, where Brothers of Sahiban, venture to say loudly to Mirza, “Tenu Bhajia Nu Devange Jaan Oye, Tere Tote Karanga Char Oye!”, meaning, “We will not let you run and escape from you. We will capture and divide you in pieces!” Though, I was in complete love and compassion with Lord, but I challenged the Almighty itself, I know You are there and You can not fool any longer. Sooner or later You and I will be embracing each other!”

With the Grace of the Waheguru, I had a great selection of 8 different Translations of alone Shri Guru Granth Sahib! Of course, my personal collection of books was over 300 spirituality only, out of 1000 books!

One of the most rewarding thing happened in Nineties, when my esteemed Mentor, Pita Jee Sachdev, advised to write Gurbani! By the way, Pita Jee Sachdev was one of those 5 personalities that enhanced my search for Waheguru. Again, not by worldly view, I think this 70 year, clean-shaven, an ex-executive, was a Braham Gyani! Remember it is the love, not the bookish knowledge which makes a person a Braham Gayani.

One thing more, very few people have insight what a Braham Gyani looks like. These folks are so simplistic, and so down to earth, that even near and dear ones cannot see their spiritual growth!

In San Jose Gurdwar Sahib, I will write Gurbani Shalokas and gift it to anyone who came into my contact. This habit of writing, discussing and giving away Gurbani turned out to be biggest blessing of my life!

Can you imagine the powers of a single sentence from a Braham Gyani, lifts the spiriti of a seeker! At this moment, my hands are stopping and



eyes are getting wet due to flowing tears, that this act turned me into one of the walking authority on the subject of Sikh Scriptures!

It did not matter, whether I knew the meaning or not, but was important, I was plugged into Waheguru's Heart!

One of the most imaging thing happened, as Pita Jee Sachdev Jee, has mentioned, "Bete, when Gurbani touches our body in any way, it sends a subtle message thru our body, mind and soul, and purification proces initiates in our being."

Since then every single day of my life, there will be Gurbani books on my bedside table, my pockets, my working desk, my car or my entire life. I purposefully put a hand-written Gurbani Card in my side pocket or chest pocket.

I remain, so-called clean-shaven, for middle 45 years of life. Then at age of 62, I got baptized as a Sikh. Many folks requested me to write my experience, comparing the life before Baptization and after Baptization. So that other people who want to follow my footsteps, get an insight as to what are the pros and cons of doing this step. Here is brief list of factors that went thru Transformation as the result of Sikh Baptization.

### 1. Discipline

Baptization has brought a general discipline to my life. A person who used to wake up at 8:30 A.M. After Sikh Baptization, typically takes a bath at 5:00 A.M.

2. Rituals: As Sikh Religious festivals come, now I participate 3 times more than before Baptization.



### 3. Reading Gurbani:

As a Baptized Sikh, my reading of Gurbani has increased by 30%. In past, I read the Gurbani from Magazines or Books, now I read from Translations and SGGS.

### 4. Smooth and Free Relationships:

Before Baptization, as I had very strong lust instincts so I deliberately chose to keep myself away from opposite gender. After Baptization, Gurbani dampens Lust feelings and mind is more occupied with constructive ways, that it gives such a freedom to interact with opposite gender as you never look as an object of lust!

I am just too shy to share this findings, I strongly recommend Psychologists and Psychiatrists run few clinical psychological studies to unearth the gems of self-control provides to Baptized folks.

Do not be fooled, this finding may be common to all Baptized folks of all religions!

### 5. Focus on Self vanishes:

Once I got Baptized, I became such a simple, plain and pure man. The appearance did not make any difference to me! With this immunity from burden of looking good, there was buoyant feeling.

### 6. Self becomes more of a Person, than an Object:

Before Baptization, since my looks and actions were probably sending some subliminal messages to opposite gender and many ladies will have equally flirty attitude and actions towards me.



This all stopped after Baptization, now even women start keeping puritan attitude towards me.

My-age-group ladies rubbed shoulders with me and start treating me more like a brother! And younger ladies started having fatherly affection towards me!

Folks, I am a trained Medical and Software Scientist and have done tons of research, it was not my reaction, rather it was opposite gender's reaction towards me.

In other words, ladies of my age thought, he is too puritan, if he will not drink wine, he has no interest in women too! Why to waste a moment with an inert man!

And they were right! As Guru was guiding my thoughts every day and monitoring my actions, thru me itself! Thus the lustful thoughts extinguished as my air was gone and opposite gender's fuel was gone! So I became a pure and cold like ice!

## 7. Recognition and Respect:

After I got Baptized as a Sikh, I felt I am a distinguished person. I had an air about myself. It was not other people, it was my own self-portrait. I developed a sense of authority in speech and mannerism.

Everywhere I went, may be bank or cafeteria, job, park or general markets, I was being noticed due to my flowing beard and turban.

That elevated my self-confidence. Kindly, do not feel offended, I have to use this candid portrait to show my honest feeling. I felt like a Cock with a Crest among other man woman as hens!



My beard and turban give me more sphere of influence among other men and women.

The biggest change in my self-portrait, kindly forgive my arrogance, I felt men who were shaving their beards were unmanly as they were going against God-Given gift. Honestly, I started worrying about their wives, how do those ladies bear with a man who is half a man, and (pardon my expression) half a eunuch!

Remember folks, this concept had nothing to with Sikhism, it was more about God-given gift to men, to distinguish their identity from a finer-female-gender, the ladies. In my humble opinion, man were becoming more feminine, with their clean shaven faces!

Kindly forgive me for being so candid, at times I felt, the ladies whose husbands were, of my age, and were clean-shaven, in spite of any race of color, were 300% more brotherly and respectful towards me than the father of their children!

In other words, the women of all culture, let me stress, cultures as diverse as Whites, Chinese, Japanese, Blacks, Mexican, just about ladies of every culture [except Buddhist for reason unknown to me.], looked at men with Beard and Turban as more respectful and authority. The ladies felt a kind of natural affinity to stand around and with men of beard and turban, as opposed to clean-shaven men.

At times, because I was much more trained in many subtle sciences, the ladies will give me more respect and regard and





come closer to me, as a feeling of comfort and companionship than their own husbands!

Let me quote an example, many times, at work, shop, church or Gurdwara, when a couple starts talking to me and we happen to walk and talk, 80% of the time, the ladies will come on my left-hand side, leaving their husband walking on my right-hand side!

The ladies will not even notice this movement that they have momentarily deserted their husband and come on my left side. At this, but I being very observant, will kind of feel awkward, as I do not want to be never between a husband and a wife.

Typically, if we are walking, I will make myself right outer person and making the husband the middle person. And ladies will still try to come towards me, mostly reaching over their husbands. My goodness, this used to be very awkward for me.

Now, to dissipate this psychologically,

#### 8. Very Respectful of other gender:

After Baptization, I stopped shaking hands with ladies. I thought it was too invasive to touch someone of opposite gender, please pardon my hypersensitivity!

When a couple, a husband and wife are introduced to me, now I shake hand with the husband and typically embrace his wife saying something like this, “ How is my blessed Sister!” To my amazement, the ladies love this respectful closeness and they feel 1,000% uplifted [means ten times], respected and greeted, than shaking hands with them! I feel they feel more at same level as their husbands, while shaking hands, even if they feel on equal grounds on women-lib, but still in the hearts of their hearts something tells, touching other men is



not a pious thing. In at least 20% religions prohibit this, and thus women are indeed, rightfully feel little awkward when they have to touch other men, for social customs which happen to be in contrast to religious mannerism.

#### 9. Following Prophet's Instruction

After Baptization, I feel I have attained a mile-stone of life. Now I am living the life, as God wants. As Unbaptized Sikh, I did whatever I thought is good for me. As a Baptized I just follow the Guru. There is such exuberant feeling that I am doing whatever I was expected to do!

#### 10. More Productive Time:

Adds additional 2 days/Week in productivity. Baptization has added 4-5 hours/day to my routine, there by adding almost 2 waking/working days in every week!

#### 11. Cleanliness:

After Baptization, I take 12 baths a week, before it was 7 baths a week. And before Baptization I washed 10% my own clothes, now I wash 60% my own clothes.  
I noticed, I am doing 20% more house cleanings.

#### 12. Value of Time:

My TV watching has reduced from 100% previous to 25%, as I feel the worldly items are less important.

#### 13. Cons:

Water and electricity bill is gone up due to more washings.  
But it has come down due to less TV time.



14. Do more good deeds:  
You will feel strange about this observation, now I do 150% more donations on the street. There are always street-beggars, as I realize that they are not begging, rather their Karma. My duty is to help the needy. By the way, they have 300% more chances of success to beg from a beard and turbaned man, as that tells them these folks are well-off and God-loving. In my humble judgment, for every 100 God-loving donors there are only 30 Non-God-Loving. Beggars feel that they are likely to get something from Beard/Turbaned men and indeed, Baptization has made me more liberal and compassionate towards the need of other people's needs, including street people.
15. Way of life and Religious Concepts clear:  
Before Baptization, I merely collected wisdom from people & books. After Baptization, most of it starts getting into practice. And this practice became deeper and deeper, as each year passed, I was doing customs as automatic reflex actions rather than an effort.  
Let us just take an example, if we just pass the Law's Bar examination, that may give us a License to practice law. It is the Job or Practical practice of law that makes one authority on the subject. Similarly, after I became Baptized, in about a year, I started feeling like an authority on the Baptized Way of Life! And it was a thrill and puritan-way-of-life!
16. Structured Approach to Life:  
After about a year and a half, I came up with a great Model of Life Priorities in a typical day.



I got such a great insight into why suddenly my life became 250% better just in 2 years!

The why part came to me, after I observed Before Baptization life style to After Baptization Life style.

# Item	Importance Points [5 most important, 1 least]	Before Baptization
1. Faith	5 Finish before Sunshine	1
2. Fitness	4 Finish before Sunshine	2
3. Finance	3 Middle part of the Day	4
4. Family	2 Morning, Evening	3
5. Fun	1 Night and Weekends.	5

In my observation, before Baptization, my Faith Fitness and Fun(including Creativity) suffered terribly! Had I not been Baptized, you would not have seen this article, for sure! Do not underestimate the impact of this writing, it will spawn lots of Research and will be one of the greatest vehicle to Expand Sikh-Baptized-Way of Life.

17. One Anomaly:

I and my wife, are happily married for 39 years, and have parented 3 children, my wife chose not to get Baptized with me, yet she supports and encourages my bold adventure of getting on Sikhi's Salvation Ship, the Baptization.

18. Observation and Research is still going on...

Due to conflicting need of tasks in this multiplexed, time-sharing life, I have to attend some other projects. This subject is not done, in fact you are seeing the very first draft!



# Blessings from a Marginally-Baptized Sikh!

#####

