

# Dasvandh

*To selflessly give time, resources, and money to support Panthic projects*



## Building a Nation

### *The Role of Dasvandh in the Formation of a Sikh culture and space*

Above: A painting depicting Darbar Sahib under construction, overlooked by Guru Arjan Sahib.

# Guru Nanak Sahib Ji

- Guru Nanak Sahib's first lesson was an act of Dasvandh: when he taught us the true bargain: Sacha Sauda



# 3 Golden Rules

- The basis for Dasvandh are Guru Nanak Sahib's key principles, which he put into practice in his own life



Above: Guru Nanak Sahib working in his fields

Left: Guru Nanak Sahib doing Langar seva

# Mata Khivi & Guru Angad Sahib

- Guru Angad Sahib ji and his wife, the greatly respected Mata Khivi, formalized the langar institution. In order to support this growing Panthic initiative, support from the Sangat was required.



# Community Building

- Guru Amar Das Sahib started construction on the Baoli Sahib at Goindval Sahib. This massive construction project brought together the Sikhs from across South Asia and was the first of many institution-building projects in the community.

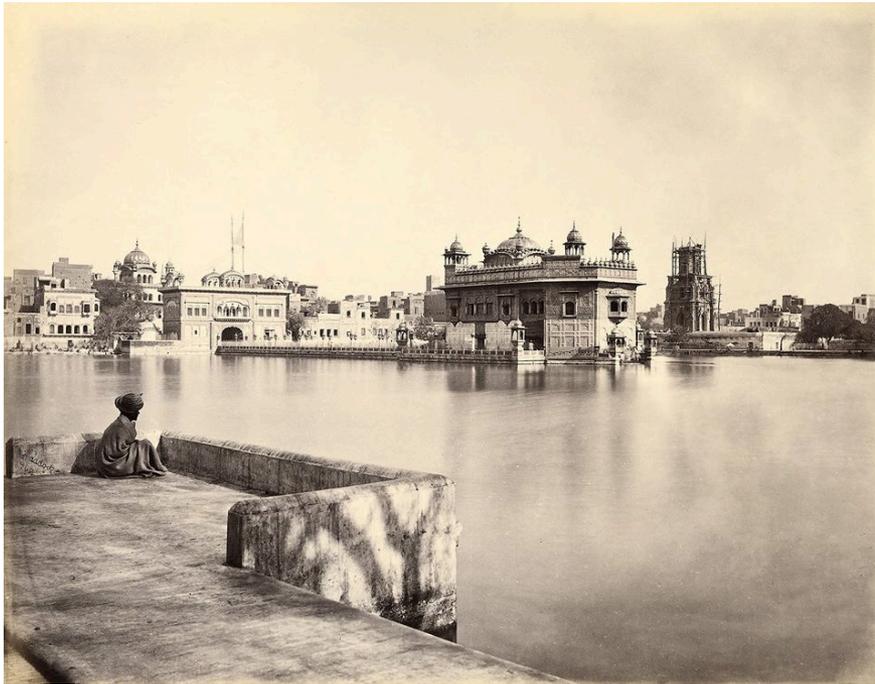


# Guru RamDas Sahib Ji



- Besides creating the sarovar at Amritsar, Guru RamDas Sahib Ji designed and built the entire city of Amritsar

# Guru Arjan Sahib & Dasvandh



- It was the monumental task of building of Harmandir Sahib that allowed for the creation of the Dasvandh system by Guru Arjan Sahib ji.

# Seva Takes Many Forms

- Not everyone could physically take part in the construction process. Financial support by the community was essential. In this process, what was once an informal concept, became a formal system: **Dasvandh**



# Dasvandh for All

Guru Arjan Dev curing lepers at Tarn Taran, Punjab



- Dasvandh wasn't just for building Harmandir Sahib and sarovars. Guru Arjan Sahib built hospitals, like this one for lepers that he built at Tarn Taran Sahib. Dasvandh was a means to an end. The end is Guru Nanak Sahib's vision of a free, just, and equal world! As Sikhs, we should strive to make Guru Nanak Sahib's vision a reality by helping our community (Sikh and non-Sikh!) be free, just, and equal!

# Dasvandh as Means of Survival

- Guru HarGobind Sahib used Dasvandh to build up the Sikh army. Having a strong army to stand up for our rights and principles was essential to spreading the message of Sikhi.



Above: A painting depicting Guru HarGobind Sahib sitting on the original structure of Akal Bunga (now known as Akal Takht).

# OUR HISTORY ... AND MOVING FORWARD

*Guru Sahib  
taught us and  
modeled the  
importance of  
giving*

Sikhs in our  
past humbly  
provided basic  
necessities to  
all people



# WHAT IS DASVANDH?

- Dasvandh literally means “one tenth of”
- Refers to the act of sharing 10% of a person’s income, resources, and time

**What does the word  
“Dasvandh” mean to you?**



# WHY GIVE DASVANDH?

## *Every Sikh's duty:*

By selflessly giving time, resources, and money, we strive to live the kind of lives our Gurus led: living in the spirit of Sarbat Da Bhalla to create a free, just, and equal world for everyone!

**Giving Dasvandh in the form of time, resources, or money is every Sikh's duty!**

# CHARITABLE PROJECTS BY SIKHS



## Education Programs:

- Teaching Sikhism to police officers, teachers, companies
- Teaching Punjabi and Sikhism to Sikh youth
- Teaching Sikhs about the importance of physical health

## Advocacy Programs:

- Supporting Sikhs during workplace discrimination
- Working with US Government to create Sikh-friendly laws

## Seva Projects:

- Feeding the homeless
- Building homes
- Building libraries
- Making our Gurdwaras more environmentally friendly

# HOW CAN I DO MY PART?

- As we reflect upon our history, there have been several examples of young Sikhs who have achieved great things in their lives.
  - Guru Har Krishan Sahib Jee
  - Chaar Sahibzadey
- This shows us we ALL can make a difference if we try and do our part.
- Start sharing – BOTH are important!
  - **Time** – plan on helping out on a weekly basis; try out **1 hour per week!**
  - **Resources** – see if you can pair up with a friend and pool resources!
  - **Money** – *every little bit counts!*



# DASVANDH BOXES

In order to practice giving and getting into the habit of giving Dasvandh, we are going to start an 7 week initiative.

○ Who?

**YOU!**

○ What?

**Practice Dasvandh**

○ Where?

**At home**

○ When?

**NOW!**

○ How?

**Each week, you will bring back your “Dasvandh Box” with money you have collected and we will pool all our money together and donate to an important cause.**



○ Why?

**It's an important part of our history and our philosophy!**

ਘਾਲਿ ਖਾਇ ਕਿਛੁ ਹਥਹੁ ਦੇਇ ॥  
ਨਾਨਕ ਰਾਹੁ ਪਛਾਣਹਿ ਸੇਇ ॥੧॥

One who honestly earns what they eat, and also  
gives from their earnings,  
*Says Nanak, that individual recognizes the [Sikh]  
way.*

**Guru Nanak Dev Jee**

**Ang 1245, Guru Granth Sahib Jee**

# THANK YOU!

