

# PAVAN GURU PAANI PITTA...

*Author :*  
**Bhagat Puran Singh Ji**  
Founder Pingalw ara



**All India Pingalw ara Charitable society (Regd.)  
Am ritsar.**

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For Free Distribution only

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**Parshotam Singh Lalli**  
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## **A Warning by Bhagat Puran Singh**

Today, the environment is threatened by man's own short-sighted activities. The excessive growth of human population is one of the major contributory factors in this process, as it necessitates the production of additional food material and other industrial products. This degrades the environment still further. Unnecessary use of machines, over-exploitation of natural resources, cutting down of forests, overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides have brought about many unpredictable changes in the biosphere. Though the Mother Nature has given warning signals from time to time, in the form of draughts, floods, sudden changes in climate and increase in global temperature, these have not been taken seriously and man continues his war against the Mother Nature, a war which he is bound to lose in the end.

No one, from rulers and government officials down to the common man, has any concern for the environment. This has to change if the Earth has to be kept liveable. Every one has to contribute towards this effort, as only joint action can save the environment. The remedial measures will have to include the following :

- Planting trees, so that the land surface of the mother earth remains green, colourful and aromatic.
- Wise and innovative programmes to protect the environment.
- Conservation of the free gifts of nature (water, air and soil and wise use of mineral resources). Let us use our natural resources sagaciously, so that we can pass on to our coming generations the same environment which we inherited from our fore-fathers, and not a degraded one.

**-Bhagat Puran Singh**

## Pre face

When and how the world came into being, no one till now has been able to tell, though scientists have been and are still trying to unravel this mystery. Guru Nanak Dev, in Japji Sahib, has this to say about it :

Question : Kavan su vela vakhat kavan, Kavan thit kavan vaar.

Kavan su ruti mah kavan jit hoa akar.

(When was it, at what hour?

What was the date? What the time?

What was the season? What the month?

When the world came into being?)

Answer :

Vail na paaya panditi jey hovey lekh puran.

Vakhat na paaya kadia jey likhan lekh koran.

Thit vaar na yogi jaaney rut mah na koyee.

Ja karta sirthi kao saajey aapey jaaney soyee.

(The pandits could not tell that time, else they would have written about it in their Puranas.

Nor the Qaajis could plumb this secret, or the Koran would have had a surah about it.

The Yogis too did not know the day and date, nor the season nor the month.

The Creator alone knows about it who created this universe.)

Then the Guru says : Keeta Pasao eko kavao.

Tistey hoey lakh daryao.

(A command from the Creator brought the universe into being, and the rivers began to flow on its surface)

But everything happens according to the divine law. The wise say that the universe was created out of five

elements : air, water, fire, soil (earth) and the sky. These five elements are the source of all life, and in Indian culture they are deified. To keep them unpolluted and to conserve them is our moral duty.

They are invaluable gifts bestowed on us by nature, but being free and available to us without any exertion on our part, we value them very little. These treasures, are not only ours. The past generations had the same right over them and the future generations deserve them as much as we do. We have, thus, no right to pollute them.

The sensitive and enlightened souls like Bhagat Puran Singh have intimate relationship and deep kinship with nature, and when they see the blind exploitation of natural resources, it pains their hearts. They have as much concern with the coming generations as with the present. They have a deep sense of duty to make the people aware of their environment, so that the five elements may be conserved in their fresh and pristine state. If these elements are contaminated, the whole creation could become sick and even die a slow death.

A craze for material wealth has made man blind. According to Albert Schweitzer : Man has lost the capacity to foresee and forestall, he will end up by destroying the earth and with it, of course, himself pollute and perish.

Today, man has polluted everything including air, soil and water. Guru Nanak Dev had called air the Guru, water the father and earth the great mother. He wanted the people to understand their value. He travelled far and wide for 24 years and motivated the people to live by moral values. Throughout his life, Bhagat Puran Singh strove to convey Guru Nanak's message to every household. In one of his essays, he writes thus :

“The nation will survive only if the people live simple lives based on truth, if they do not try to deprive others of their rights. They should live compassionate and contented lives, and should use the handmade rural articles such as handspun cotton cloth, hand-made shoes made in villages and utensils of brass and clay made in the

countryside.”

These things may appear ridiculous in the present machine-age, but if we do not follow Bhagat Puran Singh's teachings, the nature will, in the end, punish and make us to do them. The factories and motor vehicles have burnt petrol and diesel in thoughtless manner and caused global warming. In rich countries, the aeroplanes are used like buses. These aeroplanes are petrol-guzzling monsters. The rise in global temperature has caused the glaciers to melt at increasing rates. If the melting of the glaciers continues at this rate, the average sea level will rise and many cities and other settlements will get submerged; the people will lose their homes and become refugees.

The greed of man has polluted the soil in a race to get more crop yield per acre. The chemical fertilizers and pesticides have made the soil poisonous and sterile. When we set fire to stubble to clear the field for the next harvest, we burn our mother earth's breast. The friendly insects and earth-worms which help in making the soil fertile, die of pesticides or fire. The today's man has become lazy and easy-living. He doesn't want to work. He is afflicted with cancer due to pesticides in his food and his off-spring is deformed. The trees are being cut down with abandon. Punjab has only 5% of its land surface covered with trees, where as the minimum percentage should at least be 20%. The trees increase fertility of the soil. If they are not planted, the earth will become barren, the deserts will spring up, the famines will devastate the land. The history bears witness that whenever man tried to rob the earth, he had to face dreadful famines. In one of his writings, the Bhagatjee says that one of these famines was so terrible that it came to be known as 'the skull famine. The people who died during the famine had gold and jewels underneath their pillows. Such events taught the sages and saints to write these words in the scriptures :

“It is far better to grow corn than to accumulate pearls and jewels.”

Bhagat Puran Singh, in the essays of this volume,



'Pavan Guru Panni Pita', has not only exhorted people to live simple lives, he himself lived a very simple life. He travelled only by tonga or by train. The tongawalas in every town were friends of Bhagat Puran Singh. The use of wood should be minimised so that we need not pull the trees down to obtain it.

Bhagat Puran Singh's teachings and warnings have been with us in the form of pamphlets. We are now publishing them in the form of a book so as to preserve them for posterity and to make them available to a wider readership. The ideas and suggestions put forward by well-known world bodies such as the U.N.O., World Bank and W.H.O. have also been included in this volume.

All this has been made possible only by the cooperation and enthusiasm of the sangat. We look forward to your valuable suggestions and monetary donations for the Pingalwara.

**-Dr. Inderjit Kaur.**