

About The Author

A visiting fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge Madan G. Gandhi is an outstanding educationist, litterateur and publicist who has been in the vanguard of many movements for sustainable environment, total disarmament, human rights and one-world mankind.

A winner of Tagore Award in poetry in 1961, Dr. Gandhi occupies a very distinguished place among the contemporary Indian English poets. The recipient of several national and international awards and honours, he is the author of twelve collections of poetry in English. R. Parthasarathy rightly places him in the Indian metaphysical tradition of Tulsi Das and Sri Aurobindo. While Rosemary C. Wilkinson admires divine afflatus in his poetry, Georges Friedenkraft has listed him among the prominent poets of India, and has translated his "Dance of Life" into French. He has been included in quite a few anthologies of world poetry.

Dr. Gandhi is also a painter and designer, and his work has been exhibited in galleries in Cambridge, England, and in Delhi, India.

Honoured with Aryabhat and Varamihira Awards, Professor Madan Gandhi is a votary of fundamental unity of all religions and integration of science and spirituality as a way out of the fratricidal war unleashed by bigoted fanatics in the name of religion.

Madan G. Gandhi was born in 1940 in Lahore (now in Pakistan), India. He received degrees in English (MA) and political science (MA, PhD), and was associated with a number of universities as professor and administrator.

He worked as Visiting Professor, Delhi University, Lala Lajpat Rai Chair Professor, Punjab University, Chandigarh and has edited collected works of Lala Lajpat Rai.



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Guru Nanak's Japuji

The Celestial Ladder

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About the Book

Japu Ji, popularly known as Japu, embodies the central core of the Sikh Faith. It aphoristically crystallizes the vision of its founding father, Guru Nanak Dev.

The text of Japu Ji comprises, besides the Mool Mantra or the sumum bonum, two Slokas, one at the opening and the other at the close and thirty eight pauris or hymns.

The Japu Ji bears the stamp of divinely inspired life. It is poetry fresh from the mint of God. The pauris of Japu Ji may be interpreted as rungs on the ladder of spiritual ascent. His Light of Grace falling on each step blazes the path from earthly lowlands to heaven's Highest Realm, to the Sachkhand, the Abode of the One Supreme Being.

Translation of a holy text is in fact a gift of grace and not a mere transference of a piece of writing from one language into another but involves re-living the Word.

Here an honest attempt has been made to explore the original text in depth and to reflect upon the vision and power of the original revelation. Yet, in all humble confession, whatever the author has attempted is simply a pale shadow of the Original Sun he has been a witness to in a divinely-induced state of dispassion.

The author ardently cherishes that this modest attempt might give a fillip to some pilgrim of piety in future to commune with the Word Eternal and recognize the One that underlies multiplicity.