

Kesh- The God's Wish

(English Translation of article from book "Ujaro Deepa" written by Prof. Darshan Singh Khalsa)

- How important are Kesh for human being?
- Why should be Kesh not cut, whereas we cut the extra nails?
- Are Kesh alive like any other part or organ of human body?

** Best effort was made to do Punjabi to English translation to best of knowledge. Any error is regretted and reader is advised to read original Punjabi version*

mwtl qyij in swij A kir dnl B dh] (pthw 812)

He fashioned you from clay, and made your priceless body

gr syw qyBgiq kmwel] (pthw 1159)

Serving the Guru, devotional worship is practiced

Gurmat believes that Akal Purakh (The Creator, The God) has created this universe and the everything one can associate with the universe.

hrn Brn j w kw ngR Pru] (pthw 284)

He destroys and creates in the twinkling of an eye.

HE is creating the universe according to his own desire. HE is the wisest, so HE does not require to consult anyone about the style,the model,the look of HIS creations. HE and only HE creates , decorates and drapes this universe.

qldwnw qllblnw ml'blcwr i kAw krl] (pthw 727)

You are wise, You are the supreme seer; how could I make You an object of thought?

nmy cy sAwml bKs qllhrI]

O Lord and Master of Naam Dayv, You are the merciful Lord of forgiveness.

HE himself is extremely adorable and so are all HIS creations, the tall mountains, the clear waterfalls, the storm of clouds that can cover the beauty of Sun and Moon, The dancing peacocks, the birds on the lush green trees, the sweet sound of nightingale, the herds of running deer, So beautiful is the universe that I can not enjoy it all. O Creator, there is no end to your creation.

kdriq kvx khw vlcwr] (pthw 3)

How can Your Creative Potency be described?

vwrAw n j wv ek vwr]

I cannot even once be a sacrifice to You.

j o qDu Bwv swel BI I kwr]

Whatever pleases You is the only good done,

qllsdw sl wmiq inrkwr]

You, Eternal and Formless One! //

After creating the universe, In order to keep it unique and beautiful forever, HE fixed the age or the time frame each of HIS creation will stay in this universe. So that when one creation dies the new one will come in to replace it and the universe will always looks new. And this HE has done himself and has not given this authority to anyone else. In this lies the secret of uniqueness and beauty of this universe.

j lhxumrxw hkmuh' Bwx' Auv' j wie] (pñw 472)

Birth and death are subject to the Command of the Lord's Will; through His Will we come and go.

Then Guru says, "Human being and its body is the precious and most beautiful creation of the God".

kblr mwns j nmudl Bu h' hie n bwr' bwr] (pñw 1366)

Kabeer, it is so difficult to obtain this human body; it does not just come over and over again.

ies dhl kauismrih dy] (pñw 1159)

Even the gods long for this human body.

sodhl Bj uhir kl sy]1]

So vibrate that human body, and think of serving the Lord. ||1||

After so many efforts one gets to be human being. HE gave us this body and HE gave humans the free will also. However, every human being should look around and note that no other creation of God other than us try to change the appearance of the body given to them. They are happy with whatever God gave them and are trying to take care of God's gift. This is how HE wanted human being to be and this complete body is HIS gift to human being.

So when humans cut their hair and change the appearance of God's most beautiful and precious creation, aren't we deviating from HIS path?

Then, How will we achieve HIM or be on HIS side? While we are not even taking care of HIS gift, where as all other of HIS creations are.

hkim mlinA' hw' prvxu qw Ksm' kw mhl upwiesl] (pñw 471)

Obeying the Order of His Will, he becomes acceptable, and then, he obtains the Mansion of the Lord's Presence.

qllmyrw sKw qhl myrw mlqu] (pñw 181)

You are my Companion; You are my Best Friend.

qllmyrw plqmu qm slig hlqu]

You are my Beloved; I am in love with You.

qllmyrl piq qh' myrw ghxw]

You are my honor; You are my decoration.

qw ibnu inmKun j wel rhxw] 1]

Without You, I cannot survive, even for an instant. ||1||

qllmyr lwl n qllmyr pin]

You are my Intimate Beloved, You are my breath of life.

qllmyr swihb qllmyr Kwn] 1] rhwau]

You are my Lord and Master; You are my Leader. ||1||Pause||

ij auqm rkhuiqv hl rhn]

As You keep me, so do I survive.

j oqm khhusel mih krn]

Whatever You say, that is what I do.

j h pKau qhw qm bsn]

Wherever I look, there I see You dwelling.

inrBau nmuj pau qrw rsn] 2]

O my Fearless Lord, with my tongue, I chant Your Name. ||

qllmyr l nv iniD qllBfuru]

You are my nine treasures, You are my storehouse.

rtg rsw qllmni h ADuru]

I am imbued with Your Love; You are the Support of my mind.

qllmyr l sBw qm slig rclA]

You are my Glory; I am blended with You.

qllmyr l Et qllhymrw qklA] 3]

You are my Shelter; You are my Anchoring Support. ||3||

mn qn Alhir qhl iDAwieA]

Deep within my mind and body, I meditate on You.

mr mu qmwrw gr qy pwieA]

I have obtained Your secret from the Guru.

siqgr qy idrVAw ieku ekV]

Through the True Guru, the One and only Lord was implanted within me;

nwnk dws hir hir hir tkV]

servant Nanak has taken to the Support of the Lord, Har, Har, Har.

So, In order to achieve the proximity to HIM, We should never disobey HIM. HE has not created anything without reasons. From centuries, Scientists are trying to understand these reasons or causes of HIS creations. Till date they have not been able to find/discover these.

Alhu n j wpl klqw Awkuru] pthw 5

The limits of the created universe cannot be perceived.

Alhu n j wpl pwrwvuru]

Its limits here and beyond cannot be perceived.

Alh kirix kgyibl l wih]

Many struggle to know His limits,

qw ky Alh n pwey j wih]

but His limits cannot be found.

Due to our ignorance or inability to understand the cause of HIS creation, we consider it useless or not required. This is the thinking of many humans about the hair. First of all HE has given these hair to human body, we do not have to go and buy these. More over since HE has given these to us, Let us try to understand their importance to our life.

First of all let us consider it from scientific angle. God has given us the hair to our body, wherever these were needed and also HE took care of the amount of hair needed on different parts of the body.

Please note that God has created a protective structure to safeguard the delicate or sensitive organs (Eyes, Tongue, Brain) of our body. Eyes have strong bones around these. Tongue has the jaw. The Brain has the defence of skull. Now there was need to keep these organs protective from changing weather impacts. Hair not only act as puff to save the organ from bruises, these also help in weather proofing the organs. These also act as insulator.

Again note that HE even took care of humans living in different parts of the world by giving them hair of different color , density and length according to the weather conditions of those area. People born in particular geographic area will have some uniqueness in their hair comparing to the people in other geographic areas.

For example, people from hot areas have dark black hair as black color absorbs the heat and keeps their organs cooler. Remember we use black sunglasses during summer, this is proven by the science as well. I want to add here also that, In India summers get very hot and you can search the Internet and will not be able to find any case of sunstroke in Sikhs (Here Sikh means the one who looks like Guru, not anyone else) as compared to other people. People from cooler areas have brown hair. Even Sheep in high winter areas and mountaintops have brown hair.

Now we can understand that hair are will of God and given to us by him.

Second question people ask, if we cut our extra nails why should we keep hair.

In order to answer above question let us understand the inevitable rule of HIS universe, that HE the God is life and is related to only life, however to keep HIS universe afresh HE has fixed the lifespan of all of HIS creations. HE has also created a rule that no one in this universe will keep relation to the dead. This is why, when our beloved ones, our brother and sisters, our kids, our parents die, we burn their dead bodies, i.e. we dispose of the dead according to HIS rule. Even trees shed the dead leaves during autumn. Sea or Water carries abundant

species and life, however it throws out the dead or dead bodies, because GOD and universe has relation with life only.

However God knows the difference between live and dead, but we sometimes cannot differentiate between these, and stay attached to the dead due to our ignorance.

srj laukītiḥ inrj laipjī ih Aḥ kīl kaḥ Bīrl] (pṁ 332)

You murder living beings and worship lifeless things; at your very last moment, you shall suffer in terrible pain.

This is the only ignorance we have about the kesh and nails. So Guru teaches us that whether it is nail or kesh we will not keep the dead. This is why Guru gave us comb (Remember five K's given by Guru) so that we can clean out the dead hair and take care of the living hair. Everyday Sikh takes out dead hair with comb and takes care of the living ones. Similarly we only cut the dead portion of the nails and take care of the rest.

Now there is another question, if the extra part of nails is dead then kesh are also dead because while we cut our extra nails, there is no pain, similarly while we cut our kesh there is no pain. Here again we are making another mistake by considering that pain is the only evidence of life, however it is not true. Let's see. There is no pain in teeth itself, so shall we get rid of the teeth as well. Even doctors can make any part of the body painless if it is needed to carry out any surgery, but he never declares that part of the body dead. So pain is not the evidence of life. In reality the only evidence of life is if something responds to time, weather, disease, medicine or treatment. **So let us see if kesh qualify to be living according to above criteria.**

We get hair like all other organs at the time of birth. These also increase to their natural length along with other parts of the body. Hairs do respond to aging, medicine, and disease in the similar sense as other parts of the body.

If a young person dies and we keep his/her body for a long period his/her hair will not change color to be white. So kesh live and die with the whole body. Similarly, the internal nails also respond to the overall health of the body and are alive, hence we never remove these. Only the dead portion is removed or cut.

So, by giving example of dead portion of nails and declaring the kesh dead is a great mistake. So we should keep our kesh healthy and follow God's wish, who has gifted us the whole body and all parts of it. This is the teaching of our Guru as well, always respect God's will.