

Guru Nanak's Japu Ji : The Celestial Ladder

PROLOGUE

The revealed Word is Japu Ji
charting Ascent Divine,
Guru's elixir of Grace,
ambrosia for human race.

Inspired Word is Japu Ji
from One Formless Supreme,
blazing way to Truth Eternal,
the Abode where He dwells.

A chosen prayer is Japu Ji
recited at an early morn
when everyone is attuned
to the Divine Harmony.

Ultimate Revelation is Japu Ji
of Nirgun Nirankar Par Brahm,
Mystic Ladder to Truth's Realm,
the pathway to our Original Home.

Japu Ji enshrines Essence Sublime,
Visible Form of Light Divine
from the Home of Eternal Calm,
Nad Brahm beyond name and form.

Japu Ji is the True Arc of Grace,
the Beacon Star for human race,
the Sole Saviour That never fails
in the darkest hour What must avail.

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Of its Thirty Eight Steps of Eternal Light
each step guides the soul's flight.
Spurred by yearning and devotion
the soul ascends to Lord's Mansion.

Mool Mantra is the root-realization
of the Truth's Revelation,
the Garland of God's Attributes
of the One Indivisible Absolute.

Mool Mantra is a vibrant string,
each word or phrase a swirling sling,
Nad-Shabad vibrating Order Supreme
within Earth, Heaven and Space in-between.

Standing at the head of Jap
Eternal Truth crowns the top,
recited it is at initiation time,
on each and every auspicious time.

The Creator Lord is the Unborn Formless Word,
the Song of Song, the Un-struck Melody Unheard
the Beginning less, Uncreated, Ever-the-Same
the Self-refulgent All-pervading Light of Holy Name.

No sage, no scripture can His Truth discern,
Author He is of grand illusion,
far above the wheel of time
far above the timeless chime.

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The Guru's Word is His Visible Form,
Its meaning dawns only through His Naam,
the Word is the Way to God realization,
instantly Its Light unveils all illusion.

Naam is the Ultimate Reality,
Naam is the Highest Truth,
Naam is the Almighty,
Naam is the Formless First.

If you seek the Guru's sight
bow before the Book for Light,
dwell on Its Text with a pious heart
self-immersed in Guru's Thought.

“The Word is the Guru’, self is the seeking disciple,
hearing best’, so says the Text.
As the Word is revealed,
wounds of world are healed.

Seeker soars on sound-light wings
to heaven-of-Truth's eternal spring,
Unstruck Melody guides his flight
blazed by Word, informed by Light.

Freed from worldwheel of shame,
steeped in Harmony of Holy Name,
the spirit soars to its Original Home
where God abides as Formless Om.

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Shabad pervades Lord's creation infinite,
Shabad ordains manifestation of Light,
through Shabad universes come into being,
through Shabad do they vanish.

Shabad is the vesture that Creator wears,
the Mystic Sound is what a seeker hears,
Shabad is Light of Truth That unveils
the divine dispensation of bliss and bale.

Deeper you Commune with Word Divine
no contact remains with worldly chime
all Your channels merge into one,
and you return to Origin of origin.

Man's destiny is not cast in an erratic fashion,
inexorable is law of Karmic retribution,
Karma is the seed we sow for preferred harvest to reap,
all choice is ours, of roses or thorns,— in which shall we heap!

To law of Karma every one is bound,
no one is immune from worldly rounds ,
each one reaps what he sows,
and to hell or heaven goes.

In Guru's, law of karma is the solid base,
but devotion is prelude to Divine Grace,
if Karma is highway for a pilgrim to ply
devotion is skyway for His soul to fly.

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Though law of karma inexorably operates
Divine Grace, still is the ultimate great,
predestination or free will, what is the true state?
Why are some liberated ,others on the wheel gyrate?

Himself He shakes a soul to awake
or never may. He may reveal His face.
Inscrutable mystique is Divine Grace,
only He knows how fetters shall break.

The Path to Divine Grace is inscrutable arduous long,
but if He willeth, It becomes an effortless song,
the fruit of every action is in Divine Hand,
He Wills who shall perish, or who shall land.

No one can translate or transcreate
the Revealed Word which is Immaculate,
Its rhythm intricate, Its poetry sublime,
None can recreate Its mystique divine.