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GENDER OF GOD

(Writer: Dr. Kala Singh)

In Gurmat God is neither a man nor a woman. God is not human and physical as we are. In Moolmantra Guru has described God as a Perfect Creator, Universal life force which is present in every molecule of the cosmos. God does not take birth and does not die. So we can't give gender identity to God. "Purakh" does not mean male, but omnipresent. In following Shabads "Purakh" is used as omnipresent.

- ਵਿਚਿ ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਖਲੋਆ॥ ਵਾਲੁ ਨ ਵਿੰਗਾ ਹੋਆ॥ (੬੨੩)

Those people, who obey Cosmic Law of God, have omnipresent Creator with them all the time. Worldly vices (maya) can't harm them. Here Guru has used "Purakh" as omnipresent, not a male entity.

- ਤੂੰ ਘਟ ਘਟ ਅੰਤਰਿ ਸਰਬ ਨਿਰੰਤਰਿ ਜੀ ਹਰਿ ਏਕੋ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਸਮਾਣਾ॥ (੧੧)

You God! Is the only one universal force present in each and every molecule of the cosmos.

- ਹਰਿ ਹਰਿ ਨਿਕਟਿ ਵਸੈ ਸਭ ਜਗ ਕੈ ਅਪਰੰਪਰ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਅਤੋਲੀ॥ (੧੬੯)

The infinite all powerful, all- pervading and immeasurable God dwells close by, all over the world.

- ਹਲਤਿ ਪਲਤਿ ਮੁਖ ਊਜਲ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ ਨਿਤ ਧਿਆਈਐ ਹਰਿ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਿਰੰਜਨਾ॥ (੬੭੦)

Those people who have adopted and assimilated the Virtues of the unsullied, all-pervading God are in a blissful state now and in the future, forever.

- ਓਹੁ ਅਬਿਨਾਸੀ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਹੈ ਸਭ ਮਹਿ ਰਹਿਆ ਸਮਾਇ॥ (੭੫੯)

God is eternal creator who is permeating and pervading among all.

In following Shabads "Purakh" is used for person (Both male and female).

- ਜਿਨਾ ਸਾਸਿ ਗਿਰਾਸਿ ਨ ਵਿਸਰੈ ਸੇ ਪੂਰੇ ਪੁਰਖ ਪਰਧਾਨ॥ (੩੧੩)

Those who live every moment of their life according to teachings of Guru are perfect persons (Purakh Paradhan).

- ਜਿਸ ਨੋ ਦੇਵੈ ਦਇਆ ਕਰਿ ਸੋਈ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਸੁਜਾਨੁ॥ (੧੩੬)

The person, upon whom the God bestows mercy and lives life according to the teachings of Guru, is a wise sagacious person (Purakh Sujan).

- ਜਿਨੀ ਪੁਰਖੀ ਸਤਗੁਰੁ ਨ ਸੇਵਿਓ ਸੇ ਦੁਖੀਏ ਜੁਗ ਚਾਰਿ॥ (੩੪)

Those persons (Jinee Purkhi) who do not live life according to the teachings of the Guru are always miserable, in whichever time period according to one's mind (ਜੁਗ) one is.

In the following Shabads Guru has given example of husband and wife. In the olden times man used to be head of family, provider and decision maker. Wife used to be totally dependent upon him for everything. To make people understand that God is the provider and we all are dependent upon God, Guru used the example to make people understand the role of God as husband and we people as wives.

– ਹਰਿ ਦੂਜੜੀ ਲਾਵ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਮਿਲਾਇਆ ਬਲਿ ਰਾਮ ਜੀਉ॥ (੭੭੪)

In the second stage to meet Husband God, with the blessings of the spiritual teachings and wisdom of the true guru I met my husband God.

- ਵਰੁ ਪਾਇਆ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਅਗੰਮੁ ਅਗੋਚਰੁ ਸਦ ਨਵਤਨੁ ਬਾਲ ਸਖਾਈ॥ (੭੭੩)

She found her inaccessible, unfathomable God husband who is ever full of love and her best friend from earliest childhood.

- ਹਰਿ ਸੰਤ ਜਨਾ ਮਿਲਿ ਕਾਰਜੁ ਸੋਹਿਆ ਵਰੁ ਪਾਇਆ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਅਨੰਦੀ॥ (੭੮)

Meeting the Guru (Har Sant), I also got the knowledge and found the God of bliss as my husband.

- ਇਸੁ ਜਗ ਮਹਿ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਏਕੁ ਹੈ ਹੋਰ ਸਗਲੀ ਨਾਰਿ ਸਬਾਈ॥ (੫੯੧)

In this world there is one Husband God, all other beings are brides.

In following Shabads “Purakh” is used for mother and father.

- ਹਮ ਬਾਰਿਕ ਪ੍ਰਤਿਪਾਰੇ ਤੁਮਰੇ ਤੂ ਬਡ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਪਿਤਾ ਮੇਰਾ ਮਾਇਆ॥ (੧੩੧੯)

I am your child, you cherish and sustain me, you are the Great Primal Being (Badd Purakh), my father and mother.

In following Shabads God is male as well as female.

- ਆਪੇ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਆਪੇ ਹੀ ਨਾਰੀ॥ (੧੦੨੦)

You yourself is male and you yourself is female.

– ਨਾਰਿ ਨ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਕਹਹੁ ਕੋਊ ਕੈਸੇ॥ (੬੮੫)

Guru Nanak finalises when he says in this Shabd that God is neither male nor female. How can I describe God?

- ਆਪੇ ਨਰੁ ਆਪੇ ਫੁਨਿ ਨਾਰੀ ਆਪੇ ਸਾਰਿ ਆਪ ਹੀ ਪਾਸਾ॥ (੧੪੦੩)

It Itself is male, and It Itself is female, It Itself is the Chessman, and It Itself is the board.

– ਜਿ ਪੁਰਖੁ ਨਦਰਿ ਨ ਆਵਈ ਤਿਸ ਕਾ ਕਿਆ ਕਰਿ ਕਹਿਆ ਜਾਇ॥ (੯੩੭)

How can I describe the all Pervading God, who cannot be seen?

According to Gurmat God is our husband, mother, father, brother and sister. God does not take birth, so does not have a male or female body. As husband and father God can be

described He and as mother She. The one who does not have a body have no gender. For the purpose of writing. I write “It” for God.