

Sateguru, Sadh and Sant

According to the *Gurbani* in *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji*, *Sateguru* is the intermediate link between the devotee and God. With God's grace, the devotee follows the *Gurmat* path, and honestly puts more effort in meditating on God's name. The path towards God opens up, the devotee's sins are erased, and the devotee becomes free from the cycle of birth and death. Without the *Sateguru*, no one has ever reached God, nor will anyone ever do so. God has placed self (God) into *Sateguru*, and the spirit can be seen by the devotee through meditating on God's name.

The *Gurbani* tells us numerous characteristics of the *Sateguru*: *Sateguru* is complete, is spiritual, exists forever, has been existing forever, is free from the cycle of birth and death, is divine knowledge (*SateGuru ke Bani*), is divine word (the *Sabad/Gurmanter*), is divine spirit (*Jot*), is residing in everybody, is the intermediate link between the devotee and God, and is the vehicle/channel to meet God, etc.

The *Gurbani* has addressed *Sateguru* using many names. Some of these names are: beloved, friend, companion, *Sadh*, *Sant*, etc. If the definition of *Sateguru* is not completely understood as per *Gurbani*, this can lead to the worshipping of earthly "saints." Understanding this principle is very important. Only this understanding can stop this spreading of *dehdhari* (bodily) *Sategurus*, *Sadhs* or *Sants* who are preaching their own holiness and misleading people. In the Gurus' era, no one ever called each other *Sadh* or *Sant*. Instead they simply called each other *Bhai* (Brother/Sister).

In some places in *Gurbani*, the term *Sadh* or *Sant* is also used to refer to God. Occasionally it is also used to refer to the people who follow the path of *Sateguru*, the ultimate saint. In some places in *Gurbani*, these earthly *Sadhs* or *Sants* are called thugs (thieves), who mislead innocent people into rituals and away from the path of *Sateguru*.

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The *Gurbani*, like a mother, cradles us, holds our hand, warns us from the wrong path, teaches us *Gurmat*, and re-enforces the importance of meditating on God's name. It also tells us to be a Sikh of *SateGuru*, to be humble, and to meditate on God's name with great love and devotion. If we carefully read *Gurbani*, we can easily find the direction given by our *Gurus* and *Bhagats* in *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji*: Be humble, it is better to be called *Gursikh*, *Bhai*, or *Bhain* rather than *Sadh* or *Sant*. If we think ourselves superior to the rest of the mankind then it is extremely difficult to establish or keep a close relationship with God

This paper, which is written in *Gurmukhi (Punjabi)*, has numerous quotations from *Gurbani* so that the true character of *SateGuru* can be understood to dispel all illusions

Waheguru Jee Ka Khalsa
Waheguru Jee Kee Fateh

Definition of Terms:

Sateguru: Spiritual; Word; Divine spirit

Sadh or Sant: *Sateguru*

Gurbani: Divine writing in *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji*

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji: Sikh's knowledge-based *Guru*; Sikh's Holy book

Gurmat path: Honest living, Sharing & Meditation on God's Name

Sabad/Gurmanter: Holy Word; God's word; *SateGuru*

Jote: Holy Spirit of God; *SateGuru*

Gursikh: Sikh of *SateGuru*

The Gurus: The Ten Gurus; Religious master; messenger of God

Bhagats: Those on God's path

Bhai: Brother

Bhain: Sister

Gurmukhi: The "alphabet" used in *Gurbani*

Waheguru: God's Name

Khalsa: Sikh; Devotee; God's slave/servant