

K, W, L Chart

What I Know

What I Learned

What I Want to Know

Gurū Granth Sāhib

- **Compiled by** Gurū Arjan Sāhib in 1604 CE
- **Contributors**
 - **Gurūs**
 1. Gurū Nānak Sāhib
 2. Gurū Aṅgad Sāhib
 3. Gurū Amardās Sāhib
 4. Gurū Rāmdās Sāhib
 5. Gurū Arjan Sāhib
 6. Gurū Teghbahādur Sāhib
 - **Bhagats**
 1. Jai Dev (b. 1170 A.D.) I
 2. Shekh Pharīd (1173-1266 A.D.)
 3. Trilocan (b. 1267 A.D.)
 4. Nāmdev (b. 1270 A.D.)
 5. Sadhanā (b. 13th Century A.D.)
 6. Rāmānand (b. 1359 A.D.)
 7. Kabīr (1398-1494 A.D.)
 8. Dhannā (b. 1415 A.D.)
 9. Pīpā (b. 1425 A.D.)
 10. Sain (b. 15th Century A.D.)
 11. Ravidās (b. 15th Century A.D.)
 12. Bhīkhaṇ (d. 1574 A.D.)
 13. Sūrdās (b. 1529 A.D.)
 14. Beṇī (?)
 15. Parmānand (?)
 - **Minstrels and Bards:**
 - Bābā Sundar (1560-1603 A.D.)
 - Satā and Balvaṇḍ
 - The Bhaṭṭs (court poets): Kal, Kalsahār, Tal, Jālap, Jal, Kīrat, Sal, Bhalah, Nalah, Bhikkh, Jalan, Dās, Gyand, Sevak, Mathurā, Bal, Haribans, Satā and Balvaṇḍ
- **Total numbers of hymns: 5867**
- **Total numbers of pages: 1430**
- **Total numbers of Ragas: 31**

Then we will be getting more involved with the contents of Gurū Sāhib:

Gurū Granth Sāhib is the only scripture that includes a wide variety of saints, sages and bards, including Hindu bhaktas, Muslim saints and Sufī poets, and other devotees. All of which correspond with the same message as the Gurū and praise of Vāhigurū. This affirms that the message is a universal and of all religions as well as the mystic experience. All of these authors bow down to the power of the Word. Remember the Gurū was inclusive of all the stratus of the caste system from the high to the low to the untouchable, during a time when the caste system was the way of life and demoralized man. **Why do you think Gurū**

Arjan Sāhib included other religion's bāṇī? What significance is it to include different classes of the caste system?

Language changes with time and is a creation of a society. Pañjābī spoken today is very different from our Gurū's time. Gurbāṇī uses several different Indic languages and therefore may seem complex in grammar. The language of Gurbāṇī is the language of the saints evolved during between the 12th and the 17th century and is based on the local dialects. Many words used in Gurbāṇī are not used today and in some cases their meanings may have changed. The Gurū Granth Sāhib is comprised in 8 different languages. **What does this tell you?** (Answer: Gurūs were highly educated and well versed in poetry of all these languages).

Arrangement

Gurū Arjan Sāhib arranged the compositions in a very systematic arrangement. In the 1430 pages, it is divided into 33 sections:

- Pre-rāg: Nitmen at the time (Jap, Rahirās, Sohilā)
- Rāg: 31 Rāgs
- Post-Rāg: Assorted verses, i.e. saloks, savayes of Gurūs and bards

Each psalm is preceded by a number (mahalā) indicating the name of the contributor. The Gurūs are respectively in order from the 1st to the 9th.

Under each Rāg the hymns are further arranged in the following order;

- Caūpadā (ਚਉਪਦਾ / hymns of 4 verses)
- Astpadī (hymns of eight verses)
- Chant (ਛੰਤ / hymns of 6 lines)
- Short bāṇīs
- Vārs (ਵਾਰ / consisting paūrī - ਪਉੜੀ - with any or no salok - ਸਲੋਕ)
- Hymns of bhagats in the same order

Note the hymns may be further classified according to the musical ghar in which each are to be sung. It can be summed up as the Gurbāṇī being arranged first according to the Rāg, second, according to the meter of the sabad, third, to the contributor, and fourth, by the ghar.

Message of Gurū Granth Sāhib in brief:

- Description of Vāhigurū – One Universal Creator
- Very introspective
- Guide to a spiritual and meaningful living
- Way to become a Gurmukh (Gurū-oriented individual)
- Spiritual knowledge, guides the path of life
- Vāhigurū's attributes and praise
- Path of Love is key to Vāhigurū -realization and living in bliss
- How to Identify the human soul with Vāhigurū and the obstacles that stand in the way along with how to overcome these obstacles
- Eternal message
- Truthful living/ no conduct higher than truth itself