

Dasvandh

Reflection

- What did we learn from the Dasvandh Box project?
- What feedback do you have?
- What worked? What didn't?



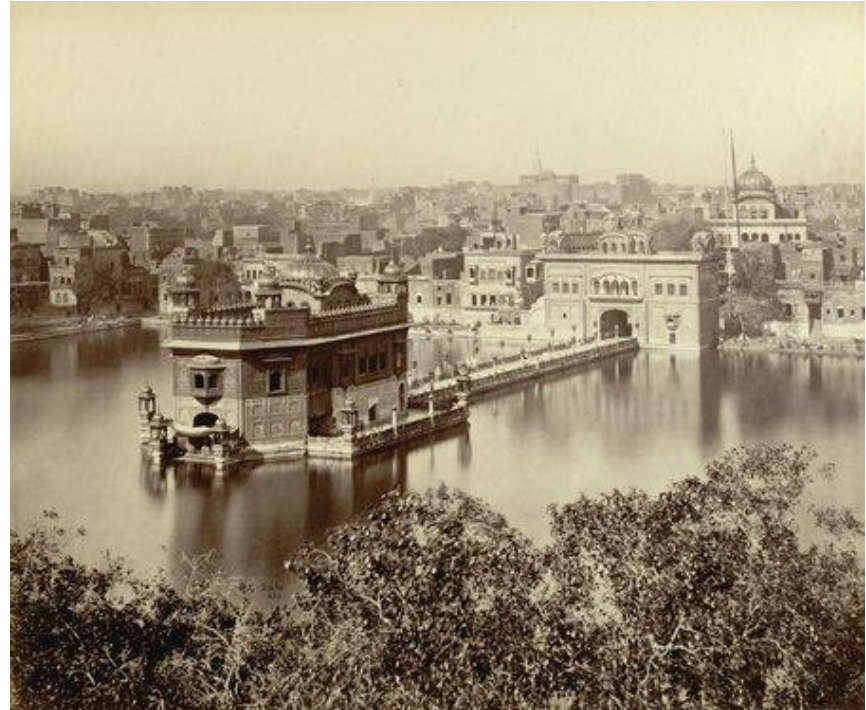
Our history

- Guru Nanak Dev Jee: "Vand Chakkna"
(to selflessly serve and share with others)
- Guru Angad Dev Jee: the institutions of langar (community kitchen) for the sangat
- Guru Amar Das: "Manji System"
 - Appointed 22 Gursikhs to spread Guru Nanak's message and provide spiritual guidance.
 - They were also responsible for collecting the offerings of the Sangat - help to pay for langar and other expenses (Dasvandh)



Our history

- As construction of the Harmander Sahib and Sarovar began, Sikhs were asked to set aside ten percent of their income to help with the costs
- These funds were collected by “Masands” appointed by Guru Ram Das and put into a common pool (Guru key Golak)



Harimander Sahib 1870

Dasvandh: *Selflessly give time and money to support the work of the Guru*

- Dasvandh literally means "a tenth of"
 - refers to the act of donating 10% of one's income and time.
- Giving part of our income (established as 10%) is a practice of recognizing that everything comes from Waheguru.
- ਦਸ ਬਸਤੂ ਲੇ ਪਾਛੈ ਪਾਵੈ ॥ ਏਕ ਬਸਤੂ ਕਾਰਨਿ ਬਿਖੋਟਿ ਗਵਾਵੈ ॥ (Sukhmani Sahib – written by Guru Arjan Dev Jee)
- Shabad reflects on the 10 things that were given to us actually belong to Waheguru but we take them as they are ours

References about Dasvandh

- ਘਾਲਿ ਖਾਇ ਕਿਛੁ ਹਥਹੁ ਦੇਇ ॥ ਨਾਨਕ ਰਾਹੁ ਪਛਾਣਹਿ ਸੇਇ ॥੧॥
Ghali khai kichhu hathhu dei, Nanak rahu pachhanahi sei //

One who works for what he eats, and gives some of what he has; O Nanak, he knows the Path (*Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Page 1245*)

- ਦਸ ਨਖ ਕਰ ਜੋ ਕਾਰ ਕਮਾਵੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਰ ਜੋ ਧਨ ਘਰ ਮੈ ਆਵੈ ॥
ਤਿਸ ਤੇ ਗੁਰੁ ਦਸੋਂਧ ਜੋ ਦੇਈ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੁਯਸ ਬਹੁ ਜਗ ਮਹਿ ਲੋਈ ॥
Das Nakh kar jo kaar kamavay, Taan kar say dhunn ghar meh aavay //
Tis tay Gur Dasvandh jo dayee, Singh suyus bahu jugg mein layee //

A Sikh, who gives Guru's Dasvandh out of the money earned by honest means, earns praise and glory in the world. (*Mahan Kosh by Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha*)

What other religions are doing

- Christianity – *Tithe* (contribute 10% of earnings) usually back to the local congregation
- Islam – *Zakat*: 2.5 -20% depending on the source of the money
- Judaism - *Tzedakah* community gives 10% to charity

Case study: Taking a look at what the Jewish Community has been able to accomplish



Jewish Helping Hands

Mending the world, one miracle at a time.

- Honors members that “are making strides to repair the world, starting in their own communities”
- Reaching out to the needy and provide financial & hands-on support
- US based organizations that raise money and provide support to areas and communities in need



Looking forward

- The question is: how do we take what's been done, learn from it, and get things done?
- Potential projects
 - National Sikh Awareness – showcasing Billboards along major highways across the country
 - Establish a museum and archive of the Sikh Struggle
 - Create an international presence at the UN
 - Establish a census and survey of Sikhs worldwide
 - Consolidate efforts to increase and sustain Sikh-sponsored humanitarian efforts



So how do we accomplish this?

- Talk about Dasvandh and the importance of giving back – raise awareness
- Start donating!
 - **Money** - start small but it all makes a difference!
 - **Time** - commit to helping out on a weekly basis



TED talk

- Making a change
 - = creating a new habit
 - = creating a new reflex
 - = requires practice
- Be a risk taker but lead with generosity
- What's your commitment?
 - Teach someone a shabad
 - Multicultural awareness
 - Give money on a monthly/bimonthly basis to a cause
 - Tutor someone

Action plan

- 1) Make a commitment and write it down
- 2) Write down the length of this commitment
- 3) Write your name and email
- 4) Hand it in
- 5) I'll be checking in with you to see how your action plan is progressing

“If you cannot love and serve that which you see, how can you love and serve that which you cannot behold within your arms.”

- Bhagat Puran Singh