

HUKAM 5

*The One Name is the Lord's Command; O Nanak, the True Guru
has given me this understanding.* 72

According to this line, 'Naam', 'Shabad' and 'Hukam' are the play of one and the same spiritual realm.

When electricity is stored in the power house it is called energy.

The flow of electrical power is called current.

In the same way the energy of spiritual light in us is called 'Naam' or 'Shabad' and the natural tendency or flow that results from the 'Word' is called 'Hukam', 'Will', 'Immortality' or (God's) 'Design'.

It is through the natural tendency or flow of 'life-current' or 'Naam' that the whole universe is functioning.

1. *By His Command, bodies are created; His Command cannot be described.*

By His Command, souls come into being; by His Command, glory and greatness are obtained.

By His Command, some are high and some are low; by His Written Command, pain and pleasure are obtained.

Some, by His Command, are blessed and forgiven; others, by His Command, wander aimlessly forever.

Everyone is subject to His Command; no one is beyond His Command.

O Nanak, one who understands His Command, does not speak in ego 1

2 *The Word of Your Shabad alone is pervading everywhere; whatever You do, comes to pass.* 654

The electrical current through various means helps us with our work and gives us comfort in all places – in homes, in factories. To control this current, the wire is covered with rubber, which is called insulation.

When there is electrical failure, a tester is used to find out where the fault is. This tester has a sharp needle on one side and a bulb on the other. The needle of the tester is pricked into the rubber until it reaches the wire. If there is current, the bulb of the tester lights up and the wire is said to be 'live wire'. If the bulb does not light up the wire is deemed to be 'dead wire'.

Outwardly all the wires seem to be alike. Only by piercing the needle of the tester into the rubber to touch the wire, can one ascertain if there is current or not in the wire.

This means that we can obtain electricity only by piercing the outer rubber covering the wire in order to get our work accomplished. Without contact with the current all bulbs, radios, T.V's etc. remain 'dead'.

In the same way as long as the flow of 'Divine Light', 'Life Current' 'Naam' is working in us we are alive but when this light leaves us we experience 'death'.

Bulbs, radios, TVs etc. are by themselves dead objects. They are alive and work only with the current of electricity.

Even when the current is flowing in them, they are not aware of their 'own self' or of their 'status of being alive' because they do not have the consciousness or intellect to feel anything.

Similarly, within the human being day and night, there is total presence of the Divine 'Light', 'Naam', 'Hukam' that is operating, but the human being

is unaware
 does not understand
 has no knowledge
 cannot unravel
 does not recognise
 does not feel
 does not have faith

come to understand
 come to know
 come to discover or unravel

 come to recognise
 come to feel
 come to experience

the all powerful, wholly permeating Divine Naam or ‘Hukam’ in our spiritual being, then the egoistic insulation of our minds will tear asunder and our life boat will spontaneously glide in tune with the flow of Divine Will. Thus we will be able to free ourselves from our egoistic actions.

1 *O Nanak, it is written that you shall obey the Hukam of His Command, and walk in the Way of His Will. 1*

2 *As long as he does not understand the Command of God’s Will, he remains miserable. Meeting with the Guru, he comes to recognize God’s Will, and then, he becomes happy. 400*

3 *One who realizes the Lord’s Command, obtains all peace and comforts. 440*

4 *Those who recognize the Lord’s Command never weep. 523*

In this example it is important to note the findings below:-

| Electric current | Divine Hukam (command) |
|---|---|
| 1. Unlimited effort and expenditure is necessary. | 1. Self existant. (It’s already there) |
| 2. Its comfort derived from it is limited | 2. Its eternally comfort giving. |
| 3. Its harmful. Can be the cause of destruction. | 3. takes the form of infinite bliss, happiness and salvation. |
| 4. It’s limited. | 4. It’s limitless. |
| 5. The voltage decreases-increases. | 5. (Its energy) neither decreases nor increases |

in the flow of the Hukam, life current and life support that is naturally present in his Divine self.

This recognition or experience has to be undertaken by our conscious energy. But our ‘analytical power’, ‘intellect’ is insulated with a form of rubbery coating of doubt ridden fallacy of ego consciousness. As a result of this we remain uninformed and ignorant of the Divine Energy ‘Naam’ or its ‘flow’, its ‘life support’, the Hukam.

If the bulb regards itself as the creator or giver of light, then its claim is false.

In the same way in the pitch darkness of materialism’s doubt fallacy, we have developed a false sense of pride in that, only ‘I’ or ‘egotism’ is the all powerful being and acting according to our own inclination we become action-bound (subject to action and reaction) and suffer (the consequences)

1 *Crying out, “Mine! Mine!”, he is bound in bondage. Entangled in Maya, he is reincarnated in heaven and hell. 761*

2 *In egotism, the soul is in bondage, and the Naam does not come to abide in the mind. 560*

3 *You can do anything, but whatever you do, only serves to tie your feet. 1075*

4 *This mind is entangled in worldly affairs, creating more and more karma. Enchanted by Maya, it cries out in suffering forever. 1176*

Contrary to this if through the Grace of the Guru we

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. It can go off. | 6. It's ever present. |
| 7. A fault can occur | 7. It's faultless. |
| 8. Its subject to human errors. | 8. It's unerring. |
| 9. It needs enormous amount of machines and equipment. | 9. It's wholly permeating, self-fulfilling. |
| 10. It's the creation of man's intellect. | 10. It is the manifestation of the Word. |

To produce electrical power we put in so much of

study
research
effort
expenditure

to bring us the comfort which can be

limited
interrupted
dangerous
fatal.

Contrary to this, 'spiritual electricity' or 'Divine Command', the fountain of 'Naam' or power house is

wholly permeating
interwoven and intertwined
omnipresent
self-existent
self-illuminated
unerring

without interruption
all-powerful
all-capable
ever comfort giving

inexhaustible
unfathomable
boundless
unbroken
continuous
consistent
the spontaneous flow

in the spiritual self of a being.

For it to manifest or come into being, it is not necessary to

acquire book-knowledge
indulge in scientific study
obtain intellectual knowledge
engage in magic or witch-craft
be involved in rites and rituals
possess machinery
kit and caboodle,

because this whole divine 'Plan' is manifested, present and pre-written in our internal being.

Despite reading, hearing, singing, discoursing and making limitless statements and propounding knowledge about this Divine Hukam or Command from Gurbani, still:

awareness has not dawned
understanding has not come
no knowledge has appeared
trust has not developed
faith has not emerged

about this 'life-current', 'Naam' or Hukam, nor has the need been felt.

From this discussion it is clear that

1. We are wandering in the darkness of egotism.
2. It is through egotism that we are entangled in false actions.

3. In egotism we regard ourselves as 'truthful-liars' and virtuous.
4. We act according to our own 'will' or 'wish'.
5. In this 'false-deeds' our fate is tied up.

6. Being 'fate-bound' we experience pain and pleasure.
7. We are in the grips of Yamas (the couriers of death).
8. In the cycle of transmigration we die and take rebirth.

9. We are ignorant of Divine 'Will'.
10. There doesn't seem to be need to know the Divine Will.
11. We make no effort to unravel the Divine Will.

12. Having studied - taught, listened-discoursed we become pretenders or audacious.
13. With audacity we have become indifferent, careless, inattentive and self-orientated.

This condition of ours is described in Gurbani thus:-

- 1 *Egotism is within all bodies; through egotism, we come to be born.
Egotism is utter darkness; in egotism, no one can understand anything.
In egotism, devotional worship cannot be performed, and the Hukam of the Lord's Command cannot be understood.
In egotism, the soul is in bondage, and the Naam does not come to abide in the mind. 560*

- 2 *The world is polluted with the filth of egotism, suffering in pain. This filth sticks to them because of their love of duality.
This filth of egotism cannot be washed away, even by taking cleansing baths at hundreds of sacred shrines.
Performing all sorts of rituals, people are smeared with twice as much filth.
This filth is not removed by studying. Go ahead, and ask the wise ones. 39*

We are putting in an enormous amount of effort and money to research and acquire the external electricity which is destructible and dangerous. But to unravel, know and recognise the internal omnipotent, unerring, eternally comfort giving Spiritual 'electricity' 'Naam', we have:-

no thought for it

no information about it

no knowledge about it
no need for it
leave alone the question of making an effort.

If some fortunate 'soul' is struck with an intense desire for 'Naam' or 'Hukam', then to acquire this Divine 'gift' he does not get

the correct method
the correct guideline
the correct company of holy (spiritually elevated) souls
the correct path.

The 'so called' sangat keeps such an eager seeker of Truth entangled in the confusion of

the worship of scriptures
rites and rituals
religious fanaticism
superficial knowledge
dry (life-less) philosophies
doubt ridden fallacies
false-actions

and their religious lives just go to waste.

- 1 *Through the blind, ignorant guru, doubt is not dispelled. 232*

- 2 *The disciples, whose guru (spiritual teacher) is blind, too commit blind deeds. 951*

- 3 *Kabir, shave (the head) of the mother of that guru through whom doubt departs not.
He himself is drowned in the four Vedas and drowns his disciples as well 1370*

- 4 *Under the tyranny of their religious books, the Vedas and Katebas, they kept themselves busy in arrogant debates and discussions.
Bhai Gurdas Var 39/8*

- 5 *If the leader is blind, his companions are bound to be robbed of their belongings.
Bhai Gurdas Var 37/28*

Out of the eight million four hundred thousand life forms the human life is considered to be supreme because

Divine gifts such as

1. limitless sharp intellect,
2. discerning power
3. knowing one self,
4. recognising the Creator,
5. discovering the Divine Will,
6. cultivating His Hukam or Command,
7. Abiding by the (Divine) Will,
8. doing simran (meditation)
9. saving oneself from the 'burning ocean of grief',
10. escaping from the burden of 'fate-bound' life,
11. escaping from the Yamas-couriers of death,
12. escaping from transmigration (the cycle of birth and death),
13. deserving enough for Divine Love,
14. loving the Guru,
15. serving the Guru,
16. benefiting from the sadh-sangat (the company of evolved souls),
17. cherishing the relish of the Naam,
18. enjoying the melody of the Shabadh,
19. enjoying the 'intoxication of the Naam',
20. abiding in a state of equipoise or spontaneity

are the blessings upon man by the Infinite Waheguru who gave him His very own form. These gifts (especially bestowed upon human beings) are not shared by any of the other life forms.

- 1 *This is the time (in the human form) to meet the Lord of the Universe
After a long time this human body has been fashioned.* 176
- 2 *Other creatures (life forms) are your water-carriers (to serve your needs).
In this world you are sovereign (the supreme life form).* 374

- 1 *Out of all the 8.4 million species of beings, God blessed mankind
with glory.* 1075
- 2 *Even the gods long for this human body. So vibrate that human
body, and think of serving the Lord.* 1159
- 3 *Of the 8,400,000 life forms, birth as a human is the best.*
Bhai Gurdas V1/3
4. *Among all the births the human birth is the rare one. One should, in
this very birth, liberate himself by surrendering before the Guru.*
Bhai Gurdas V4/1

It is clear from the above lines that human life is the only life form in which, by getting the life's direction from the teachings of Gurbani, we can understand, discover and recognise the Divine 'Hukam' or Command and become comfortable by abiding in His Will.

But the sad thing is that despite reading, worshipping and singing such Bani :-

- 1 We are incapable of knowing, discovering and recognising the 'Divine Hukam or Command'.
- 2 let alone following or cultivating the Will of the Hukam or Command.
- 3 rather, we oppose the 'Command' or 'Will' through our own cleverness and empty intellectual knowledge and interfere in the 'flow' or 'current' of the Command thus getting out of tune from the 'Will'.
- 4 It is in this audacity that we think we are achieving salvation and greatness.
5. In this way in the 'doubt-ridden fallacy' and the 'pitch darkness' of materialism we have forgotten our creator, the Immortal Being and have turned away from the Guru. The dreadful result of this is shown by Gurbani thus:-
5 *O saints, this world has gone astray in doubt.
It has forsaken the meditation of the Lord's Name and has sold
itself to worldly attachments.* 684

- 1 *This world is led astray by doubt and only a rare one understands this.* 558
- 2 *Beguiled by doubt the world wanders about.
It suffers transmigration and death's courier ruins it.* 560
- 3 *This world is born out of love of me-mineness.
The self-willed person remembers not the Lord and continues coming and going.* 161

The eight million four hundred thousand life forms are automatically, unknowingly cultivating the spontaneous flow of the Divine Hukam or Command of their own 'in laid Hukam'.

But the human being is the only creation which despite:-

1. having sharp intellect,
2. having analytical power,
3. having the teachings of gurus and avatars (God in human form),
4. reading, hearing, singing Gurbani and displaying knowledge, the human being is still

uninformed
foolish
ignorant
inattentive

about the Divine Hukam, or on purpose the human being is

indifferent
careless
pretending
audacious.

For this reason the human being is the only creation which most of all

Suffers
Burns in the 'greif-ocean of fire'

gets fried in the pyre of worries,
writhes in jealousy and duality,

is restless in desires,
is physically sick,

is mentally sick,
is bound by 'action and reaction',
is at the mercy of Yamas.

- 1 *The foolish apostates are the captives of materialism and continue roaming about in it.
Burned by desire and bound by their past deeds they round & round like the oilman's ox.* 800
- 2 *The sinners commit evil deeds and then bemoan and bewail.
Nanak, as the churning staff turns the curd, so does the righteous judge churn them.* 1425

Although God made the human being higher, better, perfect and supreme, but we, using our given intelligence through bad company have acquired ignominious (shameful) desires, entangled ourselves in materialism and are living according to our own will in the realm of materialistic doubt ridden fallacy.

The surprising and distressing thing is that the human being through his own cleverness and cunningness is falling from the God given high, pure, supreme, sovereign human creation are gliding towards hell; and through his low, disgusting desires, he is ruining himself by becoming lower and more worthless when compared with the eight million four hundred thousand other life forms.

It is the human being, who through his

self interest
meanness
duality
jealousy
enmities
cheating

corruption
 extortion
 swindling
 fighting
 quarrelling
 tyranny

etc is beguiled in numerous disgusting vices, is bringing shame to God given lofty-pure humanity, is turning away from Divinity and is becoming ungrateful for God's blessings and gifts.

In fact we ourselves are denying and turning away from that humanity which we received as our Divine heritage.

What is ridiculous is that despite our turning away from (God), our decline or degradation, we go about egoistically puffed up and regard ourselves as virtuous. Bound by the action-reaction of our egoistic cleverness and cunningness, we commit sins and become victims of Yamas (the couriers of death).

The surprising thing is that whereas the 8.4 million life-forms are automatically cultivating the inlaid 'Hukam' or command without possessing any discriminatory or analytical power, the human being, despite possessing sharp intelligence and analytical power is incapable of knowing, accepting and cultivating the Divine Command.

This means that to:-

understand
 know
 discover
 recognise
 accept
 cultivate

'Hukam' (or Command), it is not sufficient to have intellectual:

understanding
 knowledge
 cleverness
 cunningness
 reasoning
 devices
 expertise
 philosophies
 fanaticism.

Because of this despite possessing sharp intellect and the power to judge and differentiate we are incapable of discovering, accepting and cultivating the Divine Command. This is so because the 'inlaid-hukam (or command)' is the play of the 'Divine Realm' which is beyond our superficial intelligence and philosophies.

This spiritual 'Hukam or Command' can be discovered, recognized and accepted only with the innermost consciousness of 'intuitional light'. According to Gurbani, the 'intuitional light' can only be achieved through meditation with the innermost consciousness.

But this is the play of pure, internal, spiritual realm, which is beyond our understanding and grasp of our materialistic intellect. In the spiritual realm the 'wings' of the intellect are burnt with the light of the 'Naam' and the mind is crippled.

- 1 *O, where should I go. There is bliss in my very own home.
 My mind now wonders not. This mind has become a cripple.* 1195
- 2 *I have become lame footed, for the True Guru has pierced me with His
 arrow.* 1374
- 3 *On seeing (or experiencing the Divine), the consciousness of the mind
 disappeared.
 The intellect of the intellect disappeared, the mind has no mind left.*
Bh. Gur Kabir Savyyeh
- 4 *Keep living O Gyani_r(referring to one who thinks he is knowledgeable), as a captive in the in
 the realm of intellectualism.*
(cont. next page...15)

While we (one the other hand) soar in the regions of emotion and intuition.
Bh. Vir Singh

It is so distressing to know that the human body which God:-

1. made in His own form,
2. Himself assumed in the form of gurus and avatars,
3. created so many gurus and avatars for (man's) salvation,
4. provided such Bani to give direction to life,
5. made the King of the entire creation,
6. blessed with all gifts of nature,
7. bestowed knowledge of the spiritual realm,
8. bequeathed analytical power and discerning intelligence,
9. provided the methods to come out of the doubt ridden fallacy of materialism,
10. conferred the awareness of the real home, the abode free from grief,

has turned away from its Creator, Donor and Gurus. Lacking in faith and becoming indifferent to His comfort - salvation giving 'Hukam' (Command) and 'Naam', man is depriving himself from his own Divine 'Heritage'.

1 *He does not remember the Lord in meditation; he is fascinated by the pleasures of corruption.*

O Nanak, forgetting the Naam, he is reincarnated into heaven and hell. 298

2 *In the midst of millions of games and entertainments, the Lord's Name does not come to their minds.*

O Nanak, their home is like a wilderness, that is equal to the lepers hell. 707

3 *Now if he is asked, what can he say?*

He was supposed to have gathered the sublime essence of the Ambrosial Naam, the Name of the Lord, but instead, the mad-man was busy with poison. Pause .

This human life, so difficult to obtain, was finally obtained after such a long time. He is losing it in exchange for a dime.

He came to buy musk, but instead, he has loaded dust and thistle grass.

He comes in search of profits, but he is entangled in the enticing illusion of Maya.

He loses the jewel, in exchange for mere glass. When will he have this blessed opportunity again? 1203

The result of this discussion is that the cleverness and

philosophies of our materialistic intellect,

instead of assisting,
they have become
the cause of obstacle and interference,

in discovering and accepting 'Hukam' or Command.

Subtle, empty, dry intellectual knowledge, entangling us in the thick jungle of philosophies, is derailing us from the spiritual path and taking us far-far away elsewhere.

We cannot come out of the 'confusion' of dry intellectual knowledge on our own. In fact, the more we pound (grind) knowledge or philosophies, the more entangled we get.

1 *Everyone talks about spiritual wisdom and spiritual knowledge. Talking, talking, they argue, and suffer. 831*

2 *By preaching sermons, one's doubt is not dispelled. Everyone is tired of preaching and teaching. 655*

3 *Everyone speaks of wisdom and meditation; but bound in bondage, the whole world is wandering around in confusion. 728*

4 *The self-willed manmukh speaks of spiritual wisdom, but does not understand. Again and again, he comes into the world, but he finds no place of rest. 1051*

5 *Outwardly, they display knowledge, meditation and purification, but within clings the dog of greed. 267*

6 *The world is like a crow; with its beak, it croaks spiritual wisdom. But deep within there is greed, falsehood and pride. 832*

7 *The self-willed manmukh talks about it, but does not practice it. Forgetting the Name, he finds no place of rest. 831*

8 *How rare in the world is that wise person, who practices this. How rare in this world is that scholar who reflects upon this. 413*

Apart from creating an obstacle in the spiritual path our, our empty, dry knowledge

is boosting our egotism. In this way we are moving further and further away from discovering or accepting the Divine 'Hukam' or Command.

The essence of this whole essay can be stated in English as follows:

- 1 *Regard all deeds as futile. Accept that all religions are fruitless.
Without the One Name there is darkness. All efforts are fallacies of
reasoning.* Guru Gobind Singh - Akaal Ustat
- 2 *Without the Naam, what is the use of spiritual wisdom and meditation?* 905
- 3 *The wisdom of the Guru is the treasure of the Naam. The Guru implants
and enshrines the Lord's Name.* 759
- 4 *He alone is a spiritual teacher, who lovingly focuses his consciousness on
the Word of the Shabad.* 831
- 5 *This is the essence of karma, righteous conduct and spiritual wisdom, to
chant the Lord's Name in the Saadh Sangat, the Company of the Holy.* 866
- 6 *The Gurmukh knows the spiritual wisdom of the One Lord. Night and day,
he chants the Naam, the Name of the Lord.* 1050
- 7 *The karma of good deeds, the righteousness of Dharma and the essence of
spiritual wisdom are obtained in the Society of the Saints.* 521

It is clear from the above lines that to discover, recognise, accept and cultivate 'Naam', 'Hukam', 'Will':-

The company of the Sadh Sangat (evolved souls), and
Meditation of the Naam is necessary.

This does not mean that we are shunning intellectual knowledge and intelligence.

- 8 *Wisdom leads us to serve our Lord and Master; through wisdom, honor is
obtained.
In wisdom man makes discovery through reading and in wisdom he is
inspired to give in charity.* 1245
- 9 *The way to meditate on the Lord of the Universe is different.* 381

The defect is in our intellect's 'power of discernment', the colouring (of our mind) or in our goal. The whole thing is about the colouring of our mind or its disposition which can become virtuous, lofty or turn bad, ignoble.