

WHAT IS THE INTENTION?

Gurbani indeed does tell us to be responsibly humble, fair, honest and vigilant of the five thieves. But when assessing a situation in life, there is no such thing as something being simply right or wrong; in essence what counts is the intention of what you are doing. According to Gurbani you are tested according to the intention you have in mind when doing something or making a statement. Thereafter looking at your intention it can be evaluated what is right and what is wrong, what is the truth and what is untrue. Without taking the intention into account you cannot deduce something as being truth or untruth.

**With greed within them, their minds are filthy, and they spread filth around.
They do filthy deeds, and suffer in pain. They deal in falsehood, and nothing
but falsehood; telling lies, they suffer in pain.
- Ang 1062**

Our problem is that we don't look at the intention, when we start looking at the intentions we will understand everything perfectly. Gurbani hasn't given us a way of life, they have given us a point of view. They have given us the lenses' to view each scenario on its own merits. For example, a blind person, he will ask you what directions do I take to get to a certain destination, you will have to verbally guide him and tell him turn left, turn right go straight etc. That is you telling him where to go. But if you are able to pay for him to regain his vision, you won't have to tell him anything. He will walk to the destination himself. Likewise, Gurbani has given us a point of view and at each scenario in our life we make our own decisions based on that point of view.

**O Nanak! Who have obtained Truth are rare.
- Ang 1100**

If you think Gurbani has ordered our way of life to speak the truth always and never to deviate from the truth, then you will be in a lot of problems. For example, at the time of the Shaheedi of the small Sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Gangu went to Morinda and spoke the truth. He said to the Jailors of Morinda that Guru Gobind Singh Ji's mother and two younger sons are in his house - he spoke the truth! But was this truth right in your eyes? When Guru Gobind Singh Ji left Chmkaur Di Garhi, they dressed as a Peer and when asked by the Mughals who they were carrying they claimed Guru Gobind Singh Ji was Uch Da Peer – the Singh's lied here, but was this lie wrong? No!

Hence, you cannot make a decision of something being wrong or right based on the statement or action of the individual. You will have to look at the aim of that statement or action! The intention of Gangu was wrong, even though he spoke the truth, his intention was evil. You cannot merely look at the words spoken by someone and say they are the truth, you will have to look at the intention with the lens of Gurbani and make the decision about something being right or wrong.

**As long as Truth does not enter into the consciousness, the Mansion of the
Lord's Presence is not found.
- Ang 57**

If one person in your town, gets donations to organise the wedding of the poor girl and spends £10,000, is this right or wrong? This is right! But the total amount of donation which was raised was in fact £100,000, he has pocketed the £90,000 for himself. Is this right or wrong? This is wrong, because his intention was to make £90,000 for himself – how did we just say he was right to spend £10,000 getting the poor girl married? This is how we become derailed and feel disheartened when people lie to us and do wrong by us, because we don't look at the aim. Our observation is merely of the individual's actions and statement – not of their intention. We don't take Gurbani's lens and make judgements on their intentions.

When making an assessment of something being right or wrong, you need to look at the intention, the previous history of the individual, what they have done in the past and whether that is according to the teachings of Gurbani – are they responsible people, do they understand the concept of responsibility, do they have an urge to better society and make the world a better place.

You cannot make a judgement on a single action or statement of someone. You will need to look at everything from an analytical point of view and not just follow what you have been told.

Now applying this to where you mention the Nature of Law and Survival of the fittest, Herbert Spencer first used the phrase, after reading Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, in his *Principles of Biology* (1864), in which he drew parallels between his own economic theories and Darwin's biological ones. Developing this theory and applying to the survival of the fittest mind, anyone can survive, whether or not they have a strong physical physique. If our mind becomes strong and resilient in these situations and applies the same formula in deciding what is right or wrong based on the intention with the lens of Gurbani, we will also be the fittest!

For example, the younger Sahibzade in the Court of Wajeeda they were offered gifts, money, lands and all the world's luxury's but what was the intention of Wajeeda? It was one of an evil nature! Hence, survival of the fittest when applied to the scenario of our mind, regardless of age and physical physique, will without a doubt be the fittest surviving.

But us as individuals when communicating with others should be responsible and not take our positions of being a director, business partner, father or Sikh as being mere Statuses. We need to be responsible and do beyond the minimum expectation expected from us.