

One may have a hand-written copy of the eighteen Puranas and be able to recite the four Vedas by heart, one may bathe on auspicious days, give to each according to the rules prescribed for each caste, fast and observe regulations day and night; one may be a qazi, a mullah, or a sheikh, a yogi, a jangam, or one wearing ochre robes ... but without the understanding (which comes from meditation upon the Nam) all are bound and driven off (to the abode of Yam).... Caste and status are futile, for the One watches over all.

-Guru Nanak, translated by W. H. McLeod, "Basant 3, Asa 3, Adi Granth (Guru Granth Sahib)" (circa 1520-1539, first compiled in 1604, translated into English in 1968) excerpt.