Facsimiles of Core Compositions in the Earliest Manuscripts of the *Dasam Granth*

Gurinder Singh Mann
University of California, Santa Barbara

The following pages contain thirty-one facsimiles comprising seven compositions. The photographs of the *Jap* ("Meditation"), *Saviyye*, ("Panegyrics"), *Benati Chaupai* ("Supplication in *chaupai* meter"), *Shabad Hazare* ("Hymns Multifaceted"), and *Zafarnama* ("Letter of Victory"), which constitute the contents of the *Dasam Granth* that are known among the Sikhs, come from the *Anandpur Birh*, the earliest extant source of the writings from the period of Guru Gobind Singh. As a document prepared at the Sikh court at Anandpur, its text manifests a great degree of pride and enjoyment on the part of its makers.

The photographs of the *Ugradanti* ("The Fierce Toothed [Goddess]"), which is part of the daily prayers of the Nihangs and the Namdharis, are taken from a manuscript known in scholarly literature as the *Patna Birh* (1698) presently at the Takhat Harimandar, Patna. Whether this was prepared in 1698, or it is a copy of the one prepared then, may be open to question, but this is the earliest text of the *Ugradanti* that has come to my notice. I am grateful to Joginder Singh Ahluwalia of Richmond, California, for making these photographs available for our use here.

Lastly, the photograph of the *Parchi Mirabai Ki* ("Introduction to Mirabai"), from the *Pothi Prem Ambodh: Parchia Prem Bhagata Kia* ("Book of Ocean of Love: Introductions to the Saints of Love") composed in 1693, come from MS 1193 (1787) presently at Panjab University, Chandigarh. With margins drawn in gold, this manuscript created by "Das Gurbaksh" is one of the most charming specimens of Gurmukhi calligraphy of its period. The details of the appended photographs are:

Title	Source	Folios	Pages
1. *Jap*	*Anandpur Birh*	15-17b	286-291
2. *Saviyye*	*Anandpur Birh*	17b (Opening), Text: 18b	291-292
3. *Chaupai*	*Anandpur Birh*	244 (Opening), Text: 402b	293-294
4. *Shabad Hazare*	*Anandpur Birh*	238b-239	295-296
5. *Zafarnama*	*Anandpur Birh*	Unnumbered	297-300
6. *Ugradanti*	*Patna Birh*	320-322b	301-306
7. *Parchi Mirabai Ki*	MS 1183, Panjab U.	1 (Opening), Text: 39b-48	307-311

I hope that the facsimiles appended here will serve as a useful point of reference to fully appreciate the accuracy of the translations of these compositions available in Section II of the volume.