Guru Nanak bani teaches us that the universe originated from the Absolute Lord and will ultimately merge in Him. He also pervades every thing in the cosmos.

The Gurbani preachers, scholars and intellectuals have been vigorously highlighting this concept of Guru Nanak bani in sikh congregations as well as in literature over the years. In order to convince people, they quote a few relevant verses of Nanak Bani in a casual way. This practice of preaching such an important aspect of Nanak Bani can in no way be considered as 'upright'.

In fact, in order to understand this concept of Nanak Bani in its true perspective one must know as to -

a) how the Absolute Lord created His Ownself?
b) what are the characteristics of the universe?
c) how, when and from where He created the universe? and
d) how and when the universe will merge in Him?

The answers to these questions from Nanak Bani can only be available, if it is studied in a systematic manner and as a whole. This encouraged me to study one of the most important but neglected aspect of Guru Nanak bani.
I was in search of a scholarly person under whose supervision and guidance, the challenging task could be accomplished. Luckily, I met Dr. Lekh Raj Parwana of Punjab Vidhan Sabha and I saw a ray of hope in him. 'To do good to others' is the foremost characteristic of his personality. He earnestly took me to Dr. Darshan Singh, Professor and Head of Guru Nanak Sikh Studies Department, Punjab University, Chandigarh in the middle of 1987. On the recommendation of Dr. Parwana, Dr. Darshan Singh at once accepted me as his pupil.

In the real sense of the word, Dr. Darshan Singh is a sublime Gurbani scholar. He has fully imbued his soul with the saffron colour of Gurbani. I offer my sincere regards and thanks to him, for the guidance and help which he rendered me, even at the cost of his valuable time, in completing the research work.

I was also fortunate enough to have Dr. Surjit Singh Bhatti, Professor and Head of Deptt. of Physics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar as my co-guide. I was immensely impressed by his 'humane' nature and scholarship. I am very much grateful to him for his generous and valuable guidance.
I am also thankful to Dr. G.S. Rawla, Professor, Department of Botany, Punjab University, Chandigarh who has also helped me a lot.

Great acknowledgements to Shri G.S. Bachhan, Director, N.S.S., Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar for showing great interest in my research work and for his valuable discussion on various concepts enshrined in Gurbani.

I am thankful to Shri S.C. Aggarwal, Librarian, Punjab Civil Secretariat who helped me in selecting the relevant books for study.

Thanks to my friends sarvshri Karam Singh, Surinder Singh, Kulwant Singh, Gian Chand, Jagdish Singh and Mohan Lal who helped me a lot in one way or the other.

Also great acknowledgements to the authors and publishers of the books which I have quoted in the research work without their consent.

I am thankful to S. Manmohan Singh for using his English translation of Guru Nanak Hymns.
Besides, I pray to the Almighty that He may bless the above mentioned dear ones with unending joys, happiness and prosperity in their precious lives.

I sincerely and unconditionally apologise for any mistake committed by me unconsciously in interpreting or quoting the holy verses.

( VAS DEV SHARMA )