



Punjabi is traditionally written in two scripts: Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi. Like almost all on this side of that line drawn in 1947 I don't know the latter. But it has long been in my 'in-tray' to learn this script. On my last birthday my wife gave me as a gift a Gurmukhi-Shahmukhi qaida! Using this qaida I made over the next 4-5 days a non-cursive transliteration of the statement and

proof of the simple and pretty theorem of ਬੀਜ ਗਣਿਤ ਦਾ ਮੂਲ ਮਸਲਾ (2017). Inevitably, because I've had no previous experience of any right-to-left script, there are bound to be many syntactical errors, even howlers, in this rushed attempt to transcribe one-by-one the phonetics of some words written in Gurmukhi into Shahmukhi script. So this transliteration is provisional only (and comments and corrections are most welcome). With various other things on my plate however, I don't know if and when I'll find the time to make myself better in Shahmukhi. So, going by the adage that something is better than nothing, I'm posting this as a token of my concern on the cultural divide across the line. Clearly a language limited to sacred texts and stories and songs is not doing well. So I've been taking care as a mathematician to write a lot of my original ideas first in the language in which I think and dream them up, viz. Punjabi (with in each case the posted translation made at least three months after). This incomplete and flawed transliteration will hopefully spur some creative Punjabi mathematician across the line too to do likewise.

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