

API

Using the API

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What a client can rely on, what the service does not promise, how to be a good citizen of it, and what you owe the text and its translation when you show them.

<https://docs.gurbanisoul.com/api/using-the-api/>

The API is open: no key, no account, no charge, and read-only. This page describes how the service behaves today and what it expects of a client. It records facts about the service; it is not a contract or a licence.

What you can rely on

- **The text is verbatim and proven.** Every gurmukhi string is the printed line, proven character for character against the source and re-checked in production every six hours (the integrity chain).
- **Answers are pinned.** A golden contract of recorded responses is replayed against every deploy before it goes live; a change to any pinned answer is a reviewed decision, never a side effect (contract and OpenAPI).
- **The legacy shape is frozen.** Bodies under /api are held byte for byte. /api/v1 returns the same bodies with structured errors. A breaking change would get a new major contract version and a new path prefix, not a silent change.
- **One dataset everywhere.** Web, API and the app serve the same pinned database; /api/health reports the commit and db_version of what is running.

What the service does not promise

- **No uptime or latency guarantee.** Production is watched every 15 minutes and rolled back automatically after a failed deploy (quality and observability), but there is no service-level agreement.
- **No CORS.** The API sends no Access-Control-Allow-Origin, so a web page on another origin cannot call it from the browser. Call it from your server and pass the result on.
- **No published rate limit, and no bulk endpoint.** The hosting platform protects itself: a burst of rapid requests from one address can be met with a challenge instead of JSON (the project's own verification scripts have tripped it). Pace your requests, cache what you can, and do not crawl the Granth Ang by Ang in a tight loop.
- **mode and note are for people.** Search's mode names the tier that answered and a note explains a response; both may change wording. Branch on statuses, error codes and data fields (error reference).

Being a good client

- Send If-None-Match with the ETag you were given; readings are cacheable for five minutes in the browser and an hour at the CDN, and a 304 has no body.
- Keep limit to what you will show (at most 200) and page with offset.
- Keep the X-Request-Id of a failing request and quote it in a report: it finds the request in the server log without anything else about you.
- Expect clamping: an Ang of 0 returns Ang 1, a limit of 999 returns 200. Validate your own input if you need to tell the user.

What you owe the text

When you show what the API returns:

- **Show the Gurmukhi exactly as returned.** Do not correct, normalise, shorten or re-order it. A display font may render it traditionally; the characters stay as they are.
- **Cite every line as “Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji · Ang N”**, from the line’s own ang.
- **Label the layers.** translit is a reading aid, not scripture. en is a translation by Dr. Sant Singh Khalsa; show it as a translation, credit the translator, and never present it as the original. Its sources’ terms are recorded in the database and on the English translation layer; the project holds no licence it could extend to you.
- **Do not generate scripture.** If your product uses a language model, quote only lines the API returned, and verify a quotation with /api/verify before presenting it as Gurbani.

The reasoning behind each rule is in the Answer Protocol for engineers.

Privacy

The API logs one line per request: method, path, status, duration and request id. It never records the query string, your IP address or your user agent, so what you search for is not kept (security and privacy). The hosting provider keeps its own standard logs.

Contact

Questions and problems: support@gurbanisoul.com, with the request id. Security issues: follow SECURITY.md¹ and do not open a public issue.

Links

1. <https://github.com/Algorithmos-AI/sggs-platform/blob/integration/SECURITY.md>