

ਜਿਸਕੈ ਮਸਤਕਿ ਹਾਥੁ ਗੁਰੁ ਪਰੈ ॥ ਮੈਂ ਦਾਸੁ ਭਏਸਾ ਕਾਹੇ ਕਰੈ ॥ ਜਨਮ ਮਰਣ ਕੀ ਚੁਕੀ ਕਾਣਿ ॥ ਪੂਰੇ ਗੁਰ ਉਪਰਿ ਕਰਥਾਣ ॥੨॥

6 JANUARY 1989

SHAHEEDI

BHAI SATWANT SINGH JI BHAI KEHAR SINGH JI

Our Salutations to the Lions of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who upheld the honour of Khalsa Panth by punishing Indira Gandhi for disrespecting and launching an attack on Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib



SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB JI ACADEMY



BACKGROUND

Shaheed Bhai Satwant Singh was born in 1962 in the village Agwaan Kurd, district Gurdaspur, located 3km from the India – Pakistan border

Father : Sardar Tarlok Singh and

Mother : Sardarni Pyaar Kaur,

Siblings : Gurnam Singh and Waryam Singh were elder brothers, younger brother Swaran Singh and sister, Ranjit Kaur.

Bhai Sahib was educated to a higher secondary level at Dera Baba Nanak School.



IN POLICE SERVICE

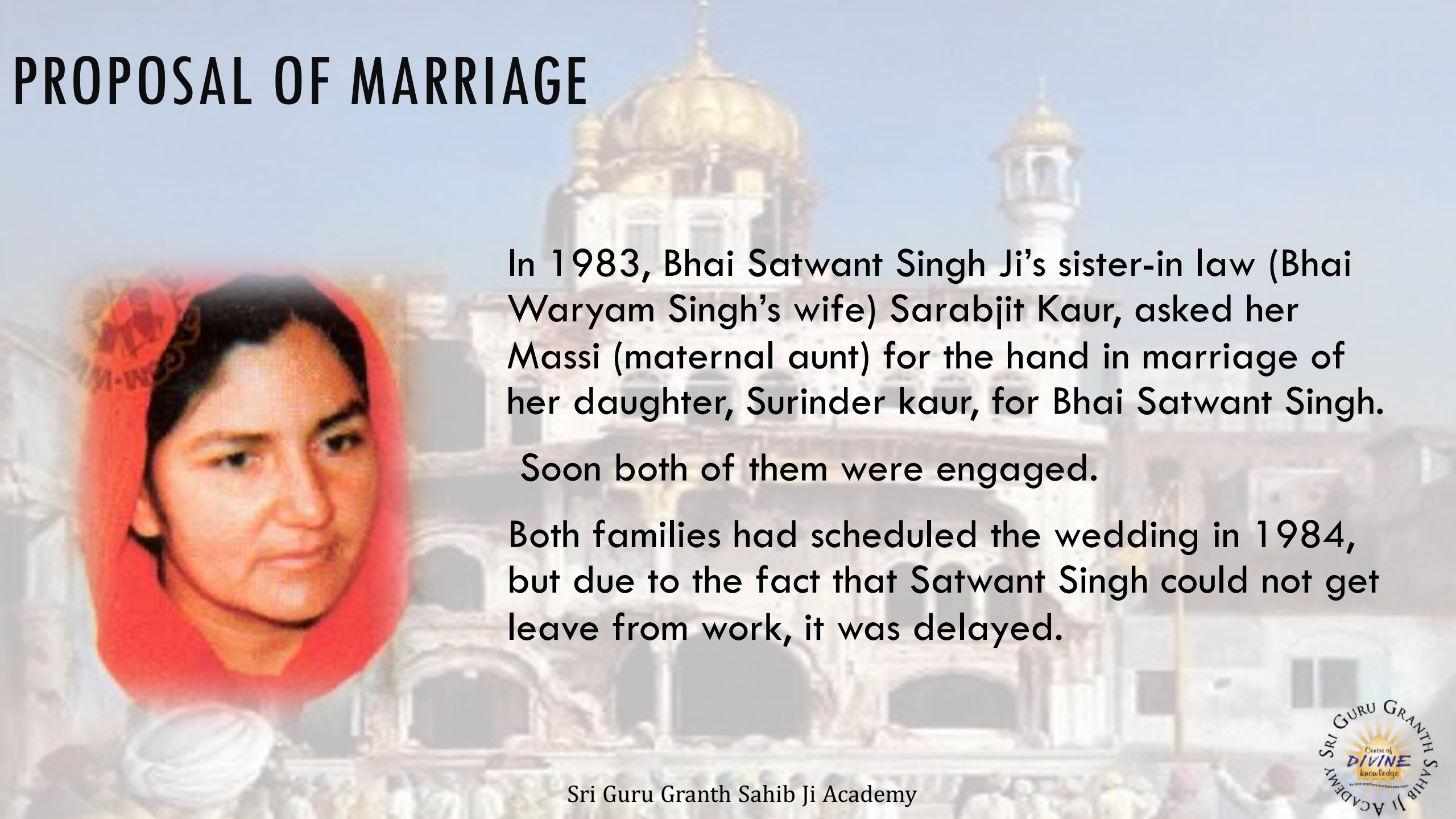
Bhai Satwant Singh joined the police and in 1981, moved from Burail jail in Uttar Pradesh to a new posting with the Delhi Armed Police.

He was a very handsome young man, and an excellent sharp shooter. As a result he was later posted to the personal protection force of the Prime Minister.

From the period of 1981 to 1984, he was the personal bodyguard of Indira Gandhi.



PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE



In 1983, Bhai Satwant Singh Ji's sister-in law (Bhai Waryam Singh's wife) Sarabjit Kaur, asked her Massi (maternal aunt) for the hand in marriage of her daughter, Surinder kaur, for Bhai Satwant Singh.

Soon both of them were engaged.

Both families had scheduled the wedding in 1984, but due to the fact that Satwant Singh could not get leave from work, it was delayed.

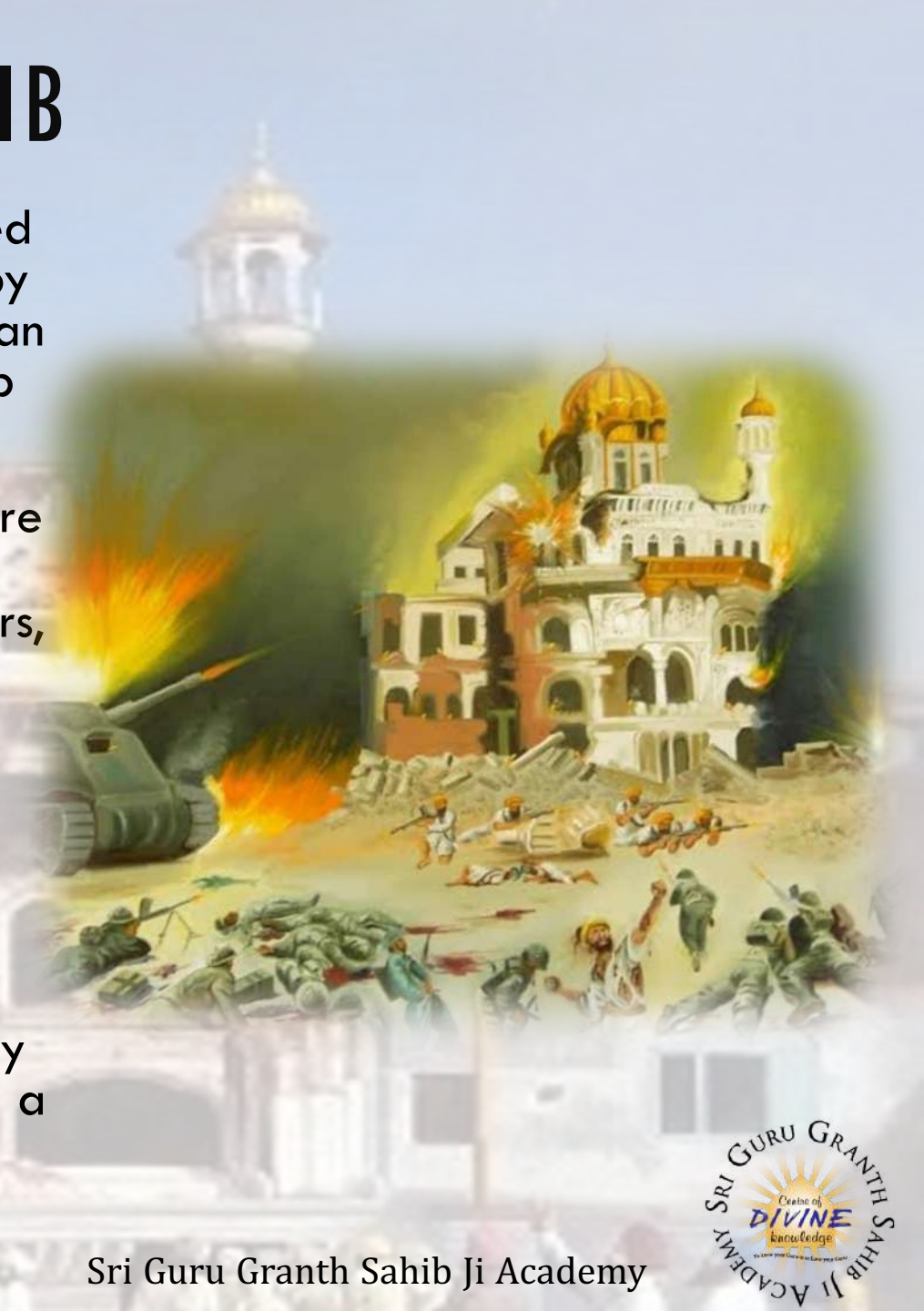
THE ATTACK ON SRI HARMANDIR SAHIB

In June 1984, the world was shocked with devastating action ruled by Indira Gandhi to launch a full scaled war on the Sikh Nation by attacking Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Akal Takht Sahib and more than 40 historical Gurdwaras, on the sacred day of the Shaheedi-purb of Sri Guru Arjan Dev ji.

A huge army under the command of the most senior Generals were dispatched to surround Amritsar cutting off all communication, movements and supplies. Heavy artillery including rocket launchers, tanks among others were dispatched.

The day of attack was carefully selected during the maximum crowd of sanggat from all around india and abroad. Hence thousands of innocent pilgrims including elders and children who came to pay respects during the Shaheedi of Guru Arjan Dev ji, was killed in cold blood.

Sri Akal Takht Sahib was desecrated by tanks. This army action by Indira Gandhi ignited a fire in the heart of every Sikh. It was like a great challenge had been placed before the Sikh Nation. Which were condemned by worldwide Sikhs



Bhai Beant Singh Malowa visited some of his relatives during his holidays. During this time he met his uncle, Bhai Kehar Singh (Phuffer ji) he had good understanding of Sikhi. Bhai Beant Singh was in a state of shame, mixed with anger and depression.

He asked, "Phuffer ji, will Waheguru send a Sukha Singh and Mehtab Singh to avenge this sin of desecration of Sri Darbar Sahib?" Upon listening, Bhai Kehar Singh ji said while handing him a book on Sant Jarnail Singh Ji Khalsa Bhindranwale, "Do not grieve. If you love Sikhi, then you need to know that giving (sacrificing) your head, and taking a head for Sikhi are equal. After all, someone has to be the sons of Sukha Singh and Mehtab Singh. They took Khande de Pahul Amrit from Sahib Siri Guru Gobind Singh, and then went and took the head of Massa Rangar in August 1740 to stop the desecration of Sri Darbar Sahib and became legends in Sikh History. We need to remember them, and become like them."

These words from his uncle were like a spear in his heart. Now Bhai Beant Singh approached Satwant Singh, the young Singh responded "Elder brother, for this sacred task, not only this life, but even if I have to sacrifice several lives, I would to kill a brutal murderer like Indira Gandhi!"

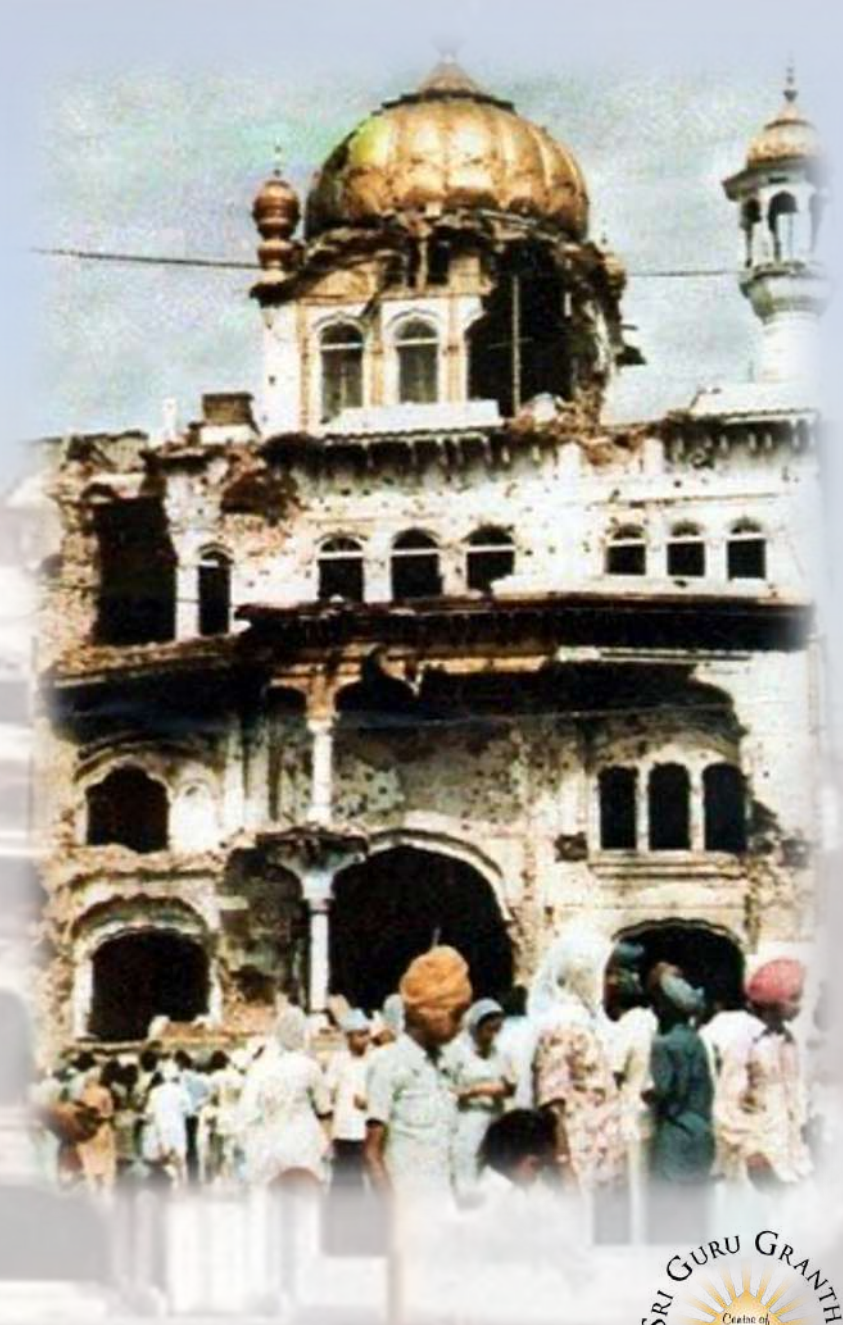
SHAHEED BHAJ BEANT SINGH JI



THE INTOLERABLE SIGHT

Before proceeding further Bhai Beant Singh and Bhai Satwant Singh wanted to see with their own eyes the brutality of the government during Operation Bluestar in June 1984. Upon witnessing the destruction of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, they made their minds up and proceeded to Sri Darbar Sahib and did ardas, “Oh Akaal Purkh, give us strength!”

After seeing the state of Sri Darbar Sahib, both Satwant Singh and Beant Singh returned to Delhi back to their duty. On 24th October 1984, Beant Singh and Satwant Singh took Amrit at a Gurdwara in Delhi. Neither were particularly knowledgeable on Gurbani, but Operation Blue Star and the legend of Sukha Singh and Mehtab Singh were foremost in their mind. This is what led them to take the blessing of Amrit.

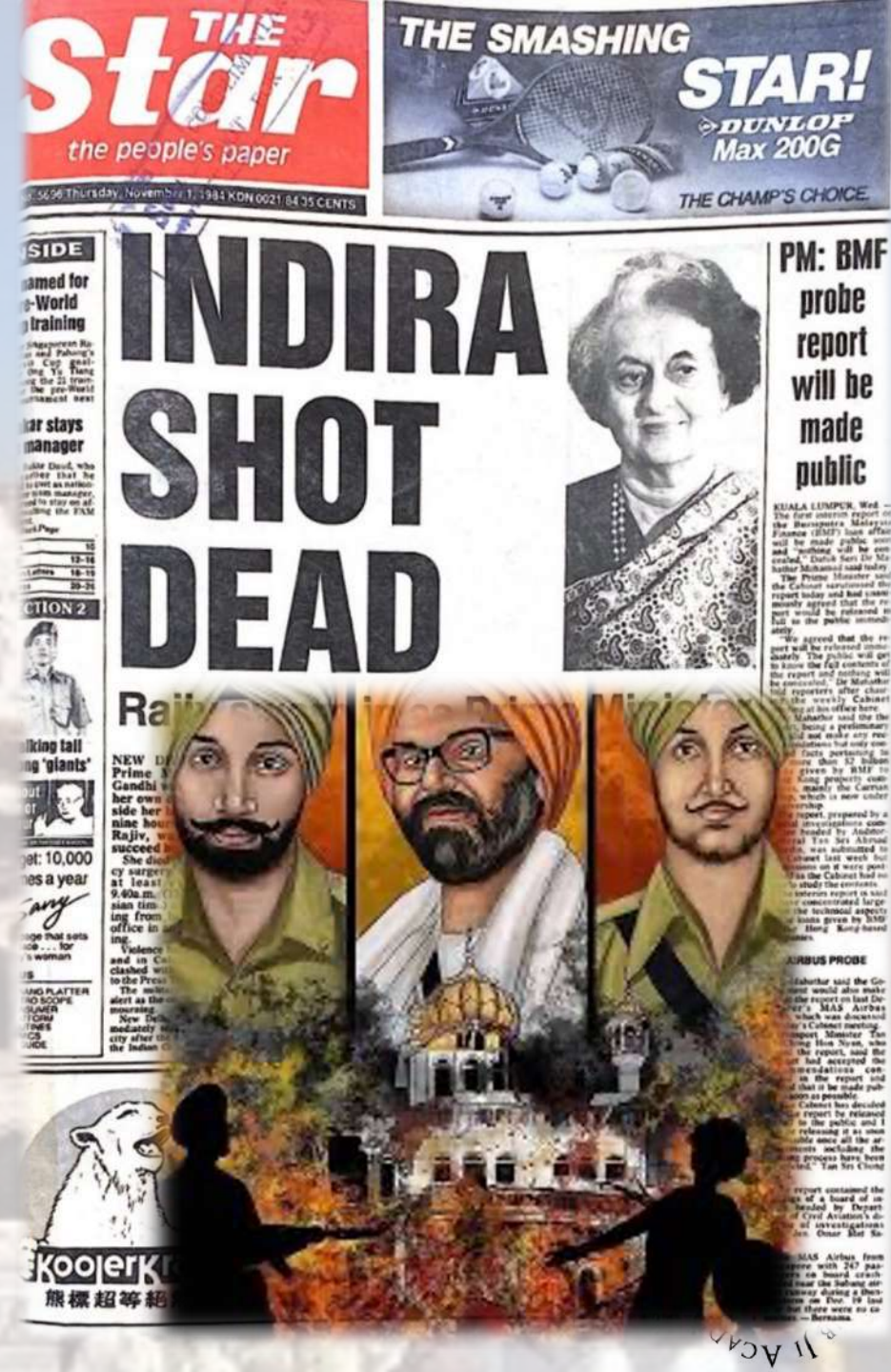


RETALIATION

On the morning of 31st October 1984 at 9am as Indira Gandhi walked from her house to her office at Safardajung Road. Bhai Beant Singh shot her 5 times with his service revolver. Bhai Satwant Singh at the same time lifted his Thompson Staingun and shot 30 bullets.

Seeing Indira Gandhi fall, all of her PA's and ministers ran for their lives. The Indo-Tibetian Border Police commandos, who also guarded the grounds would not come close.

Both Singhs shouted "Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akaal!!".



THE POST EXECUTION



After completing their divine task, both placed their weapons on the floor as they did not have any intention to escape nor hurt anybody else. Observing both Khalsa of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji armless, the other guards come and arrest them.

Both Singhs were taken to a room, while they waited for a senior officer to interrogate them. While waiting, the commandos started swearing at the Singhs and disrespected Guru Sahibs. Not tolerating this, Bhai Satwant Singh slapped the commando, and a struggle ensued, in which Satwant Singh grabbed the commandos handgun. The other commandos started shooting at the Singhs. Bhai Beant Singh attained His martyrdom on the spot from the gunshot wounds. Bhai Satwant Singh was seriously injured.

On arrival of a senior officer, Bhai Satwant Singh was taken to hospital. The officers wanted to know who else was part of the conspiracy. They did not know that these Singhs were on their own with the sole purpose to avenge the attack on Sri Darbar Sahib, Sri Akal Thakht Sahib, and the 40 Gurdwaras, the Sikh genocide including brutality on woman, children and elders

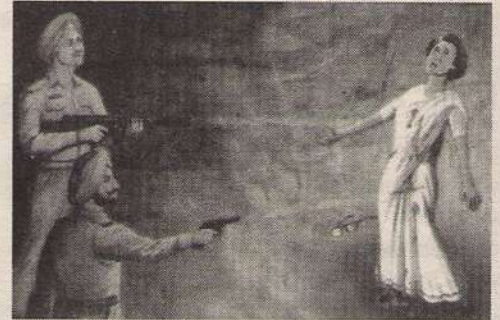
ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਪੁਛਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਕਿੰਨੀਆਂ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਲੱਗੀਆਂ !

ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ 'ਤੇ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ 31 ਗੋਲੀਆਂ 'ਚੋਂ 30 ਲੱਗੀਆਂ, 23 ਸਰੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਵਿੰਨ੍ਹਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਨਿਕਲੀਆਂ, 7 ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਹੀ ਰਹਿ ਗਈਆਂ ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ/ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼ ਬਿਊਰੋ

ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਸਾਬਕਾ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦਾ ਕਾਤਲ ਭਾਈ ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਨ ਲਈ ਉਤਸੁਕ ਸਨ ਕਿ ਮਰਦਮ

ਨੇਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਕਿੰਨੀਆਂ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਲੱਗੀਆਂ ਸਨ। ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦੀ ਲਾਸ਼ ਦਾ ਪੋਸਟ ਮਾਰਟਮ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਏਮਜ਼ ਦੇ ਡਾਕਟਰ ਨੇ ਇਹ ਦਾਅਵਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਵਰਨਣਯੋਗ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦੇ ਸਰੀਰ ਉੱਤੇ 30 ਡੂੰਘੇ ਜ਼ਖਮ ਸਨ। ਇਸ ਵੇਲੇ ਏਮਜ਼ ਦੇ ਵਾਰੈਂਸਿਕ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦੇ ਮੁਖੀ ਦੇ ਅਹੁਦੇ 'ਤੇ

ਤਾਇਨਾਤ ਡਾ. ਟੀਡੀ ਡੋਗਰਾ ਉਸ ਵੇਲੇ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਪ੍ਰੋਫੈਸਰ ਸਨ, ਜਦੋਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਹੋਰ ਮਾਹਿਰਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦੀ ਲਾਸ਼ ਦਾ ਪੋਸਟ ਮਾਰਟਮ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ। ਡਾ. ਡੋਗਰਾ ਨੇ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਇਕ ਖਬਰ ਏਜੰਸੀ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਕੱਦਮੇ ਦੀ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਜਦੋਂ ਇਸ ਇਸਤਰਾਸਾ ਦੇ ਗਵਾਹ ਵਜੋਂ ਪੇਸ਼ ਹੋਏ ਸਨ, ਉਸ ਵੇਲੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਾਹਮਣਾ ਭਾਈ ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। ਰੋਸਟ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਉਹ ਬਾਬਰੂਮ ਗਏ ਤਾਂ ਉਥੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੁਲਾਕਾਤ ਭਾਈ ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਈ ਸੀ। ਡੋਗਰਾ ਨੇ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਉਥੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਅੰਗ ਭਰੇ ਲਹਿਜ਼ੇ ਵਿਚ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਮੁਆਫ਼ ਕਰੋ ਡਾਕਟਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ, ਮੇਰੇ ਕਾਰਨ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਤਕਲੀਫ਼ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਉਸ ਨੇ ਡਾ. ਡੋਗਰਾ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਲਹਿਜ਼ੇ ਵਿਚ ਪੁੱਛਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਕਿੰਨੀਆਂ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਸਨ, ਹਾਲਾਂਕਿ ਡਾਕਟਰ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ। ਵਰਨਣਯੋਗ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਤਲ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਹਮਲਾਵਰ ਭਾਈ ਬੇਅੰਤ



ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਤਾਂ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਮੁਲਾਜ਼ਮਾਂ ਨੇ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ ਜਦਕਿ ਭਾਈ ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ 10 ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਲੱਗੀਆਂ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਨੇ ਗ੍ਰਿਫ਼ਤਾਰ ਕਰ ਲਿਆ ਸੀ। ਭਾਈ ਸਤਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਹੋਰ ਸਹਿਯੋਗੀ ਭਾਈ ਕੇਹਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਲ ਫਾਂਸੀ ਦੀ ਸਜ਼ਾ ਸੁਣਾਈ ਗਈ ਅਤੇ 6 ਜਨਵਰੀ 1989 ਨੂੰ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਫਾਂਸੀ ਦੇ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ। ਡਾ. ਡੋਗਰਾ ਨੇ ਦੱਸਿਆ, 'ਸ਼ੁਰੂਆਤ ਵਿਚ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਪੁਲਿਸ ਮੁਲਾਜ਼ਮ ਤੋਂ ਪਤਾ ਲੱਗਿਆ ਕਿ ਗੋਲੀ ਲੱਗਣ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨੂੰ ਏਮਜ਼ ਲਿਆਂਦਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ। ਮੈਨੂੰ 31 ਅਕਤੂਬਰ 1984 ਨੂੰ ਢਾਈ ਵਜੇ ਪੋਸਟ ਮਾਰਟਮ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇਕ ਡੋਨ ਆਇਆ। ਮੈਂ ਉਸ ਵੇਲੇ ਡਾ. ਸਹਾਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਡਾ. ਪੀਸੀ ਦੀਕਸ਼ਤ ਦੇ ਕੋਲ ਸੀ।' ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਤਿਆਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਪੋਸਟ ਮਾਰਟਮ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਖਮਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਖੂਨ ਵਹਿ ਜਾਣ ਕਾਰਨ ਹੋਈ। ਡਾ. ਡੋਗਰਾ ਨੇ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਹਮਲਾਵਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਇੰਦਰਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ 'ਤੇ 31 ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਸਨ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿਚੋਂ 30 ਉਸਨੂੰ ਲੱਗੀਆਂ। 23 ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਤਾਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਰੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਵਿੰਨ੍ਹਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਨਿਕਲ ਗਈਆਂ, ਜਦਕਿ 7 ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਸਰੀਰ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਹੀ ਰਹਿ ਗਈਆਂ।

THE BULLET — AS TOLD BY SANT BABA THAKUR SINGH JI

...The ITBP guard who shot him had pumped at least four-five bullets in him and they were lodged in such critical parts, it was not possible to extract them without killing him. We were handed over a bandaged, angry and **very good looking man**. (Ref: Black Warrant by Sunil Gupta & Sunetra Choudhury)

The Government had saved Bhai Satwant Singh's life, but did not remove one bullet which was lodged near his spine continuously causing him great pain. Despite this and other inhuman treatment during interrogation, Satwant Singh always maintained that there was no conspiracy, and the two were acting alone. He said, "This is our Khalsa tradition to avenge those who try to desecrate our holy places. We were happy to take this task. The Sikh Nation will be proud of us."

Sant Baba Thakur Singh ji Khalsa visited him in Tihar jail and Satwant Singh told Baba Ji that last night Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji came to him in the jail cell and took the bullet out of his spine. Bhai Satwant Singh ji was in high spirits (chardikala).



IN TIHAR JAIL — A STATEMENT BY SUNIL GUPTA

...At 5 foot 10, he stood taller than most others and had a ruddy complexion - what we Punjabis described as gabru jawan. He could not walk because of his injuries and was completely isolated from the other two accused.

A special watchtower and police post was created just above these cells. Ward number 1 was cordoned off to everyone else and the jail deputy superintendent was put on his dedicated duty. Because Satwant had a number of surgeries, the ward was more like a hospital room and that there were doctors who would alternate eight-hour shifts.

One was Dr. Ashwini Gupta who told us how critical his situation really was. The other doctors were from Deendayal Upadhyay hospital and Ram Manohar Lohia hospital. They would sit by his bedside tending to his medical needs while the jail official would write everything down and send reports to intelligence officials.

Even when his injuries healed, no other prisoner could interact with him. The warder would take a group of prisoners who would do the cleaning and leave without exchanging a word with Satwant.



About *Black Warrant*



A day after leaving his secure job with the Indian Railways, Sunil Gupta landed up at his new workplace expecting to change the world. The Superintendent dismissed him saying there was no vacancy. In his excitement at becoming Assistant Superintendent of Prison (ASP) in one of Asia's largest jails, Sunil had not counted on office politics blocking his way.

But on that blistering summer morning in May 1981, a quick fix emerged. A suave youngster dressed in a suit and tie appeared and volunteered to help Sunil out. Within an hour, he had an employment letter in hand and an opening for Sunil miraculously appeared. For the next three decades Sunil Gupta would be an integral part of Tihar Jail, one of the world's largest and most notorious. He would learn that his referee and fixer was one of the world's most wanted, Charles Sobhraj, the so-called bikini killer whose victims had washed up on beaches around the world over, mostly dressed in swimwear.

But even this spectacular entry into the jail city would pale in comparison to Sunil's experiences to come. This is the story of those intense three decades, and the myriad characters who together provide a panorama, criminal and political, of India during that period.

andolan

CONFLUENCE

ROLI BOOKS

BHAI SATWANT SINGH & KEHAR SINGH IN TIHAR JAIL

...he (Bhai Satwant Singh Ji) could be seen spending time walking or enjoying a game of football with his own security team.....

It had six cells and even had a spacious playroom where the VIPs who would come decades after Satwant Singh, would enjoy playing their own games. Because of its seclusion, the other more miserable inmates had no idea how the better off ones lived.

....The other two accused (Bhai Kehar Singh & Balbir Singh) were lodged in a different area of the same jail. Kehar Singh, being almost 30 years older than Satwant, looked like any other government babu. Being short in height at 5 feet 4 inches, it was very easy to miss him. He gave us no trouble at all and was like a religious preacher - either reading books of faith or just lying in his bed. If he ever came out of his cell, he would quietly chat with some of the guards and then return to his bed. (Ref: Black Warrant by Sunil Gupta & Sunetra Choudhury)

PANTH STOOD FOR BHAI SATWANT SINGH & KEHAR SINGH

The amazing thing is that none of the families abandoned the three accused and continued to visit them throughout their trial and were with them through the entire process to commute their death sentence. Maybe this was because the communities that they came from were sympathetic to the cause that the killers stood for.

Whatever their reasons, they never gave up on these men.

(Ref: Black Warrant by Sunil Gupta & Sunetra Choudhury)



Bhai Satwant Singh Ji's family and his fiancée, Bibi Surinder Kaur were only allowed to meet him 3 times.

BIBI SURINDER KAUR

The authorities witnessing his Chardikala which improved his health and a glow on his face, they wanted torture him mentally by restricting visits by his family and Panthic figures.

They stopped his fiancée from visiting him, stating that she can only visit once they have married. Bibi Surinder Kaur decided she would do Anand Karaj (marry) with Bhai Satwant Singh and if he is allowed then she will marry him with his photo, so that they could not use this excuse.

Bhai Satwant Singh's father, Sardar Tarlok Singh advised her, "Dear daughter, we will marry you to our youngest son Swaran Singh as there is no hope that Satwant Singh will ever be free!

Bibi Surinder kaur replied, "Bapu ji, a woman only ever loves one man. I have already accepted Satwant Singh as my beloved husband. He is my husband, and I am his wife. That is how it shall remain. The brother of Satwant Singh, will be my brother."



PERSISTENCE

The matter of Anand Karaj with Bhai Satwant Singh Ji's photo was referred to Sri Akaal Takht Sahib as this was never done before. The Jathedar tried to convince Bibi Surinder Kaur to change her mind to which she replied,

“Singh Sahib ji, you are right. I am very sure that Bhai Satwant Singh will sentence death penaty. Both our families had earlier decided to marry me and Satwant Singh. Due to Satwant Singh not getting holidays, the wedding was delayed at the last moment. However if Satwant Singh killed Indira Gandhi after our marriage, then he would have been sentenced to be hanged as well. I, as Satwant Singhs wife would have had to see every hard time in the future. My husband, Satwant Singh did a Great and brave task! The integrity of the Sikh Nation, its dastaar, was ripped off by Indira Gandhi and she stamped on it with her feet in June 1984. My husband took the dastaar of the Sikh Nation and replaced it back on its head. Even in my worst dreams, I could never turn my back on such a Great man. It can never happen! I have accepted Satwant Singh as my husband. I will never let a stain come on his Dastaar. I am proud to be honoured as the wife of a great warrior of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and I will spend my whole life as the widow of Satwant Singh!”

THE ANAND KARAJ

The Panth then decided to allow the Anand karaj of the photo of Satwant Singh with Bibi Surinder Kaur, considering the persistence and commitment Bibi Surinder kaur, in the presence of Sri Guru Granth sahib ji.

According to the Panthic hukam on 2nd May 1988, Satwant Singhs father, Bapu Tarlok Singh, his mother, elder brother and wife, left their house with a of Satwant Singh for the house of Sardar Virsa Singh. In the presence of Sahib Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji, Bibi Surinder Kaur married the photo of Satwant Singh. In the afternoon, the Doli of Bibi Surinder kaur left the residence of Sardar Virsa Singh for the house of Bhai Satwant Singh.



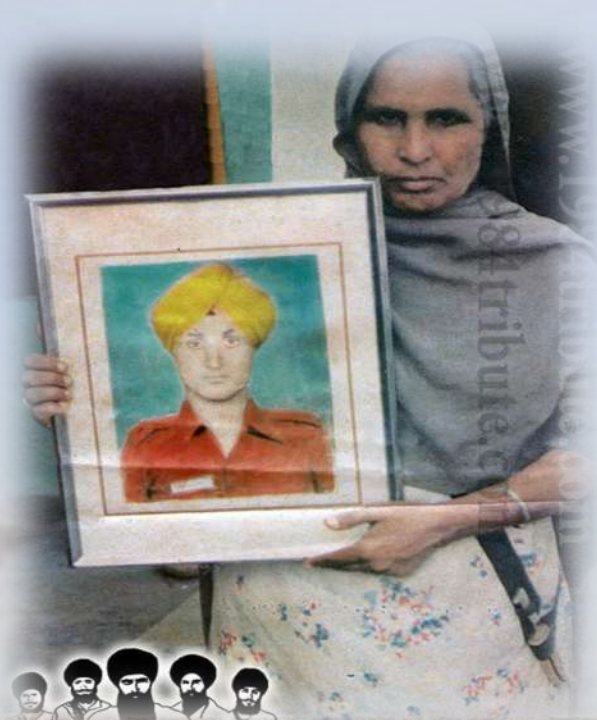
THE TRUTH

.... The accused (Bhai Satwant Singh Ji) were difficult and at times did not even bother to support their own lawyers.

At times P. Lekhi would be arguing for Satwant Singh's innocence and calling the assassination an international conspiracy, and Satwant would cry out,

'I killed her, I don't know why P.N. Lekhi is saying what he is, but I did kill her!'

(Ref: Black Warrant by Sunil Gupta & Sunetra Choudhury)



ROLI BOOKS



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								☒		
		BLACK								
		WARRANT								

CONFESSIONS OF A TIHAR JAILER

||| ||| ||| ☒ |||
SUNIL GUPTA
SUNETRA CHOUDHURY
||| ||| ☒ ||| |||

ROLI BOOKS

THE VERDICT



Upon the death penalty judgement read by the Supreme Court judge to hang Bhai Satwant Singh and Bhai Kehar Singh.

Bhai Satwant Singh and Bhai Kehar Singh made a statement. He said,



“Let any part of my body, after my Shaheedi, be removed and used by anyone (Donor) who may need. However if you need my eyes, let the authorities tell my parents. I have no hatred for any Hindu, Muslim, Christian, neither hatred for any religion. After my Shaheedi, let no Sikh throw any rock at any Hindu. I am not in favour of any retaliation or bloodshed over my Shaheedi. If we do create bloodshed, then there is no difference between us and Rajiv Gandhi. I am proud to be given this sewa that I did! I do Ardas before Waheguru ! If I am blessed with another human life after this, then I ask to be sacrificed in the course of Sikhi again and again. What is one life, if I could I would give up a thousand lives for Sikhi. I am grateful and thankful for the judgement that gave me the honour to sacrifice for my Guru Sahib”

THE COURAGE

His lawyer, Sardar Bhupinder Singh Sodhi was the last person to meet Satwant Singh in Tihar jail. Sodhi said in tears, “Beloved Satwant, I am so sorry I was unable to save you from the death sentence. Now this is the last time we will ever meet.”

Sardar Satwant Singh replied, “Vakeel Sahib, you should be motivating me to be strong. We will meet again. Promise me you will fight my case next time as well!”

Bhupinder Singh Sodhi replied, “Pyare Satwant, I do not understand what you are saying? All your appeals have failed. Tomorrow morning, 6th January, at 6am, both you and Kehar Singh will be hanged.”



CHARDIKALA

Satwant Singh replied, “Vakeel sahib, whenever Waheguru gives me a human life and the honour to be the son of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, I will once again destroy the enemies of the Sikh Nation. Then again you will come and fight my case. Those who believe in truth and human rights, will always have to fight these brutal regimes. I will keep taking births! I will keep killing tyrants (dushts)! You will keep meeting me!”

Seeing Satwant Singh in such Chardikala, lawyer Bhupinder Singh Sodhi says, “Pyare Satwant, Great are you, Great is your Sikhi, I am so blessed to be able to fight a case of a Lionheart, brave warrior such as you. Waheguru ji has blessed me just to have the glimpse (darshan) of you. Any faith that has brave warriors like you; That faith can never be controlled, intimidated or suppressed.”



THE DAY OF HANGING

On 6th January 1989, it was raining. Nature was giving Bhai Satwant Singh and Bhai Kehar Singh a blessing, like one gives a garland around a neck.

The thoughts of the whole Sikh Nation were with Bhai Satwant Singh and Bhai Kehar Singh.

They had taken this most important task, and with it all this heartache had come on them and their families.

Both were in Chardikala as they walked towards the noose. It was like the blessings of the whole Sikh Nation were with them as they walked.

SHAHEEDS OF THE PANTH

The Akal Takht declared Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh as shaheeds or martyrs and in Tihar's history they would go down as the men who shouted 'To Bole So Nihal', as they breathed their last.

(Ref: Black Warrant by Sunil Gupta & Sunetra Choudhury)



In the end, on 6th January 1989, early at 4am, and the authorities walked them towards the noose, their voices could be heard from outside the jail, shouting, "Bole So Nihal ! Sat Sri Akaal !"

SIKHI IS PARAMOUNT

When the executioner placed the noose around Bhai Kehar Singh Ji's neck, He asked for the noose to be removed immediately. The executioner laughed and asked, "Are you afraid of death now?" The warrior replied, "I am not afraid, the noose was over my beard and it would have been pulled out of its roots when I get hanged. This beard belongs to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and I will not tolerate any disrespect towards it. The reason for me to stop the hanging is to place the noose directly around my neck properly."

Then a few moments silence.....As both of them stepped forward and kissed the noose, a very heavy rainfall started.....

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Academy



CREMATION

The Prison authorities did not hand over the bodies of Shaheed Satwant Singh and Shaheed Kehar Singh to their next of kin. Their bodies were cremated within Tihar jail. When the cruel authorities started cremating the bodies, the rain suddenly stopped. Nature was doing its bit to respect the Shaheeds.

As the bodies burned, the authorities did not have the heart to hand them back to the families. The lawyer, Sardar Bhupinder Singh Sodhi said to the authorities, I can understand you have hatred for those spirits who killed Indira Gandhi, but how can you even have hatred for their corpses?

Satwant and Kehar executed, cremated

From Our Delhi Bureau
Jan. 6 : Indira Gandhi's assassin Satwant Singh and co-conspirator Kehar Singh were hanged at 8 a.m. today at Tihar Jail. The condemned prisoners' last-minute mercy petitions were turned down by the Supreme Court yesterday. The executions were carried out amid a steady downpour. Balbir Singh, third accused in the case, was acquitted by the Supreme Court after the trial court awarded him the death sentence and Delhi High Court confirmed it.

The curtain, thus, came down today on the four-year-long Indira Gandhi assassination trial.

The bodies of two condemned men were cremated according to Sikh rites in the jail.

The bodies which remained suspended for over 30 minutes from the 18-foot-long manila ropes, were removed after the doctor certified them dead.

Both Satwant, 25, and Kehar, 54, 'appeared composed' as they mounted the scaffolding a few minutes before 0800 hrs.

A high-level meeting was held here this evening to review the situation in the wake of the hanging of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh. Official sources said the meeting was attended, among others, by the Lt.-Governor of Delhi, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, the Union Home Minister, Mr. Buta Singh, the Union Home Secretary, and the Delhi Police Commissioner.

Satwant and Kehar were hanged by hangers Kallu and Fakira as policemen cordoned off and sealed all Tihar Jail approaches, leaving the weeping relatives of both Satwant and Kehar stranded at the Lajwanti Chowk, located at the northernmost part of Tihar. Similar was the plight of a large number of reporters, photographers and cameramen whose attempts to break through the cordon proved futile.

As soon as the clock struck eight, Kehar

Kaur, sister Gurdav Kaur and brother Gurmukh Singh and other close relatives broke into loud chants of "Bole Jo Nihal, Sat Sri Akal" and jostled with the policemen in an attempt to reach the jail premises. Before the chanting began, Rajinder and Kehar's other relatives were speaking to the reporters assembled there. Their emotional plight visibly combined with fear came to a flashpoint when Rajinder, who had tried till the last minute to save his father's life, suddenly started shouting anti-government slogans. But Rajinder's mother Jasbir Kaur and uncle Gurmukh Singh clamped their



Satwant Singh

hands on Rajinder's mouth, saying, "Don't do it. He has become a martyr". When Jasbir Kaur later broke down, Kehar's sister asked her to desist from weeping, reminding her that Kehar had become a martyr.

Initially, the policemen refused to allow Rajinder and his relatives to proceed towards the jail to claim Kehar's body. But when Rajinder and his relatives said that they were going to move the Supreme Court to claim the body, the policemen later relented and allowed Rajinder who was taken to the jail in a police jeep. A few minutes later, Rajinder returned and said he



Rajinder Singh

had been informed by DCP Karnal Singh that the State had claimed privilege over Kehar's body and that his family would neither get the body nor the ashes. But Karnal Singh informed Rajinder that Kehar's personal effects would be handed over to the latter on Saturday.

At this juncture, Rajinder informed the reporters that he was going to move the Supreme Court at least to claim Kehar's ashes. He said: "I am determined to immerse my father's ashes at Kirathpur Sahib". Kirathpur Sahib is a holy place of the Sikhs on the bank of the river Sutlej near Anandpur Sahib in Ropar district in Punjab. It later transpired that both the bodies were cremated in the jail premises where a Sikh granthi had been specially brought for this purpose.

The relatives of Satwant were nowhere to be seen in the morning and Rajinder informed the reporters at the time of execution that Satwant's father, mother, brother and other relatives were camping at the historic Sigraanj Gurudwara and were not being allowed by the police to come out. However, Satwant's father Trilok Singh with his other close relatives arrived at Lajwanti Chowk around 9.30 a.m. Trilok Singh said he would move the Supreme Court for Satwant's body or ashes, but he was not hopeful because "it is the same court which has sentenced Satwant and Kehar to death".

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court later in the day gave an interim order for collecting the ashes of the two by their respective relatives. Kehar Singh's sons Rajinder and Hardip Singh and Satwant's father Trilok and brother Wariam Singh would be allowed to collect the ashes, deposit them in urns and hand them over to the jail authorities for safe custody pending the Supreme Court's verdict on Monday. The granthi would be permitted to accompany them as the ashes have to be collected after religious rites.

Meanwhile, north India was put under red alert following the palpable tension after



JAIL NO. 3 CREMATION GROUND

Once again, the government decided that their bodies should not be handed over to the families. Their last rites had to be done according to their Sikh beliefs. Rules dictate that a cremation can only take place in a designated area.

So we came up with a plan (it is quite remarkable how the government can be innovative in its thinking when it wants to be). We got in touch with the Municipal Corporation and quickly got a piece of land next to Jail number 3 declared as a cremation ground. The bodies were then cremated with dignity. To soften the blow of not being present at the cremation, we organized a trip to Hardwar for the families.

They were accompanied by a senior police officer and the jail deputy superintendent - I really do think that this went a long way in helping the families make peace with the two men's end. (Ref: Black Warrant by Sunil Gupta & Sunetra Choudhury)

THE LAST RITES

Then to further insult the Shaheeds, the authorities dreamed up another stunt. The last wish of both Shaheed Satwant Singh and Shaheed Kehar Singh was that their ashes be taken to Sri Kiratpur Sahib.

However the Police forced the families of these two Shaheeds into jeeps and vans and drove them to Hardwar. Throughout the whole journey to Hardwar, it rained heavily. Then at gunpoint giving the families no choice, the final ardas for the Shaheeds was done. Just as the ardas began, the rain stopped. It was like nature was also paying respect to the Shaheeds.

Bhai Satwant Singh's father, Bapu Tarlok Singh, and the son of Bhai Kehar Singh, Sardar Rajinder Singh, poured the ashes in to the river at Hardwar.



THE PANTH'S HONOUR

Bibi Surinder Kaur lived an honourable life as the widow of Shaheed Bhai Satwant Singh ji and served the Panth

She passed away a few years ago from cancer.

She was widely respected in the Panth for the dedication with which she stayed with Bhai Satwant Singh.



Bibi Surinder Kaur with her adopted son whose parents gave Shaheedi for the Panth