

ਗੁਰ ਕੈ ਭਾਣੈ ਜੇ ਚਲੈ ਦੁਖੁ ਨੁ ਪਾਵੈ ਕੋਇ ॥੩॥



SHAHEEDI DIHARRA

BABA BANDA SINGH JI BAHADUR

# MEETING SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI

Upon reaching Nanded in 1708, while on a hunting expedition, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji reached the Ashram of Madho Das and sat on his Bed.

One of his followers informed Madho Das of this and He furiously using his powers, tried to lift the bed and remove Guru Ji from it.

Upon failing, he fell down at the feet of Guru Ji and plead for forgiveness.



# DIALOGUE WITH SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI

- Madho Das pondered upon the words of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and as he pondered, the veil lifted from his mind and he saw at last the truth of his own position. He had heard about the brutality of Mughals but deliberately shut his mind to it. He looked up to Guru Ji's eyes but could not find the words to speak.
- Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji smiled and said, **"There is no need for you to speak, I have seen my answer in your eyes."**
- Madho Das asked, "Why have you come to me?"
- Guru Ji replied, **"I have come because I need you."**
- Hearing this, Madho Das fell in Guru Ji's feet and said, "I am your Banda who is waiting for your command."
- Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji stood up and reaching down, lifted him up and put his arms around him while saying, **"Rise, Banda. Your place is at my side, not at my feet. Your rightful place is not here in an Ashram but at the head of a band of men fighting this oppression and cruelty that has come to blight all our lives."**

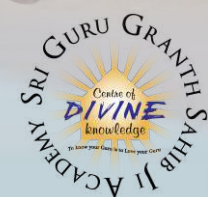


**Guru Ji:** Almighty has given me the command to establish the path of truth in this world. Your duty will be to destroy the glory of the Mughal Empire that is widespread across the country. Tell me, will you join me to complete this task?

**Madho Das:** You are my Master and I am your Banda (Slave). I shall never refrain from completing the task you have bestowed on me. I will wage wars against the Mughal Empire under your command and destroy thousands of Mughals. With your blessings, I will adorn weapons and fight wars against the tyrants.

**Guru Ji:** I have given you this command which is equivalent to gold. Recognise Punjab as my own country and destroy all those who have strayed away from the path of truth. I am giving you the responsibility of this glorious Panth. Thus, the general of my Sikhs. You have called yourself my '**Banda**' and you will be well known by this name in the future. No one will be able to stand against you, gruesome battles will happen between you and the tyrants and you will always be victorious."

# THE COMMAND



# MADHO DAS TO GURBAKSH SINGH

- Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji after blessing Madho Das with His blissful glimpse and giving him the command to destroy tyrants, prepared Amrit.
- Upon administering Amrit to Madho Das, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji said, “I give you the name Gurbaksh Singh. It is an apt name because you are indeed, for me, a *bakshish* (blessing) from Almighty. But in my heart I will always think of you with the name you gave yourself, Banda. May you always be my Banda Singh Bahadur.”
- Guru Ji continued, “I enjoin upon all my followers to give Banda Singh Bahadur complete and implicit obedience in the time to come.



# BLESSING BABA BANDA SINGH BAHADUR

- While sitting in the congregation, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji said, “As a pledge and token of my faith in him and of my faith in our final victory, I bestow upon him 5 arrows from my quiver.”
- Suiting the action to the word, Guru Ji pulled out 5 arrows from His quiver and passed them to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur. He fell on his knees and took the arrows from Guru Ji while touching them on his forehead in reverence.
- Other than the arrows, Guru Ji blessed Baba Ji with a War Drum (Nagara) and a Nishan Sahib. Apart from that 5 Singhs were appointed to fight oppression alongside Baba Banda Singh Bahadur. The 5 were, Bhai Binod Singh, Bhai Kahan Singh, Bhai Fateh Singh, Bhai Baaj Singh and Bhai Ram Singh.



# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - 1

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
<b>05 Oct. 1708</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur left Nander with Bhagwant Singh Bangeshari's caravan.
<b>Oct. 1709</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur covers a distance of more than 1500 K.M(Travelled through Khan Desh, Mandsaur, Ajmer, Phulera, Churu, Bharatpur and reached Bangar Desh.
<b>Nov. 1709</b>	Captured royal treasury of Kaithal.
<b>26 Nov. 1709</b>	Captured Samana and appointed Fateh Singh as the Governor of Samana.
<b>Dec. 1709</b>	Captured Ghuram, Sanour, Thaska, Tahnesar, Dahmala, Shahabad, Mustafabad, Kunj Pura and Kapori.
<b>Dec. 1709</b>	Captured mighty Sadhaura and killed Osman Khan, Governor of Sadhaura and renamed it as Ajaibnagar.
<b>Jan. 1710</b>	Stationed at Lohgarh and made it as Sikh State Capital.
<b>12 May 1710</b>	Sarhind most powerful province of Mugal Empire captured by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur.
<b>July 1710</b>	Returned to Lohgarh.
<b>11 July 1710</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur captured Saharanpur and Buria was renamed as Gulab Nagar.
<b>Aug. 1710</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur captured Muzaffar Nagar.
<b>Sep.-Oct. 1710</b>	The Muslim priests of Lahore declared jehad against Sikhs.

# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS -2

Date	Events
26 Dec. 1710	Emperor Bahadur Shah and encamps near sadhaura. Baba Banda Singh Bahadur closed doors of Lohgarh and moved with his army to conquer the other parts of Punjab including Lahore, as the Mughal army was engaged at Sadhaura. Raja of Nahan Bhup Parkash was arrested and Mughals were never able to capture Lohgarh.
Jan. 1711	Married to Sushil Kaur d/o Ruler of Chamba.
04 Feb. 1711	Emperor set out for Saharanpur and Buria; Khan Khanan, Munaim Khan indisposed; Baba Banda Singh Bahadur supported by 8000 horsemen and foot soldiers were still in hill, status well prepared to give a fight; but due to heavy snow, passage blocked and hill chiefs could not arrest him; Movement of the emperor not certain but there was a rumour that he will go to Guru ka Chak ( Amritsar) via Ludhiana.
01 Mar. 1711	The Banda has encamped near Saharanpur; fear of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur is so wide spread that the Mughal officials and general public do not move out of the cities.
06 March 1711	Informed that Rustam Dil Khan assisted by Hamid Khan and isfandyar Khan has been deputed to chastie Baba Banda Singh Bahadur who had appeared in the hills of Kulu; it is said that an army of 40000 soldiers at his command; The impact of Sikh uprising was very severe in the direction of Lahore.
07 March 1711	It referred to the politics at the Mughal court, dissensions and disunity among the princes; the Sikhs have established complete sway up to the outskirts of the Lahore, consequently city's outer market has moved inside the city.
18 April 1711	On response to an enquiry it reported that Raja of Nahan has been put in the prison of Salimgarh (Delhi); the emperor arrived in Chhat-Banur, bridge over Sutlej getting ready; animals of the people of Sadhaura taken away by the Sikhs; Vanjaras community of that place helping the Sikhs.



# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - 3

Date	Events
09 May 1711	It stated that Baba Banda Singh Bahadur has established himself at Kalanour; the Hindus and Muslims joined his armies; the Emperor has crossed the river Sutlej and advanced towards Kalanour; Mohammed Amin Khan along with Raja Mohkam Singh has been assigned expedition against the Sikhs.
13 June 1711	It referred to a report from Agra that Kharag Singh and other Sikhs have been captured; from them a letter of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur written to the Rajput chiefs was recovered; such type of negligence is very harmful and in future be careful; Baba Banda Singh Bahadur is said to have gone towards Lakhi Jungle with a motive to reach Ajmer.
02 July 1711	Emperor remarked that though two encounters had taken place but the Mughal army failed to capture Baba Banda Singh Bahadur; no Mughal noble dares to march against the Sikhs; strategy to fight the Sikhs that one column of Mughal army be stationed towards the east of river Beas and another in the foot hills of Shivalik; the Emperor ordered the Rajput chiefs to take position on the left bank of river Sutlej and chastise Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in case he appear there.
30 July 1711	Instead of presenting at Mughal court, the Rajput chiefs were ordered to move quickly and take position at Sadhaura.
22 Aug. 1711	Referred to consultations over the issue of royal order regarding jagirs to Rajas; the Emperor would stay for a couple of months in Lahore; Baba Banda Singh Bahadur has moved towards Sadhaura.

# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - 4



<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>
<b>30 Aug. 1711</b>	The writer advised Raja Jai Singh to prevail upon Raja Ajit Singh for counseling him to render the Mughal service with zeal; the Emperor has ordered the Rajas to confront with Baba Banda Singh Bahadur at Sadhaura, liquidate him and earn the royal favour.
<b>07 Dec 1711</b>	Informed that Mahabat Khan has asked the Rajas to stay for a few more days at Sadhaura in order to capture Baba Banda Singh Bahadur; however before the Gurjbardar arrived the Rajas had departed.
<b>Jan. 1712</b>	Ajay Singh the son of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur was born at Lohgarh.
<b>May 1712</b>	It informed that Baba Banda Singh Bahadur has reoccupied Lohgarh; fort the Sikhs thanas established; Mohammed Amin Khan engaged for fighting; now he is prepared for an attack on Lohgarh.
<b>April 1713</b>	Mohammad Amin Khan and Abdus Samad Khan has taken position near Lohgarh; Baba Banda Singh Bahadur encamped inside the fort; ready to give tough fight to Mughal army.
<b>06 Aug. 1713</b>	Lohgarh besieged by the Mughal army; In heavy downpour; the Sikh strategy of war fare and under fortification of Lohgarh; sudden Sikh attacked on the Mughals suddenly.

Source: [www.lohgarh.com](http://www.lohgarh.com)

# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS - 5

Date	Events
<b>27-29 Aug 1713</b>	It referred to Abdus Samad Khan's plans to raid Lohgarh and Stargarh; clashes between the Mughal and Sikh forces and losses on the side of Mughals; impression about Abdus Samad Khan that he was a coward and there is no unity among the Mughal nobles.
<b>Dec 1713</b>	As strategy of war Baba Banda Singh Bahadur again left the fort and escaped hill area.
<b>Sep 1714</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur returned to the plain area of Punjab again.
<b>Feb 1715</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur captured Batala and Kalanour.
<b>19 March 1715</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur reached Garhi of Gurdass Nangal.
<b>April 1715</b>	Mughal besieged the Fort of Gurdass Nangal.
<b>07 Dec 1715</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and his companions were arrested.
<b>27 Feb 1716</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and Sikhs were imprisoned in Salim Garh Fort at Delhi.
<b>05 March 1716</b>	Execution of 700 Sikh prisoners started.
<b>09 June 1716</b>	Baba Banda Singh Bahadur was executed along with his son Ajay Singh, who was only 4 and ½ years old.

Source: [www.lohgarh.com](http://www.lohgarh.com)

# THE SIEGE OF GURDAS NANGAL

- Mughals upon receiving the report on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1715 surrounded Gurgas Nangal where 8,000 Sikh were defending the fort
- the garrison resisted the siege for 8 months against 100,000 Mughal troops under the gruesome conditions. Qamar-ud-Din Khan, his son Zakhriya Khan & Daler-i-Jung

Then on 17th December, 1715, Abdus Samad took an oath on Quran that he would not allow any killing by his men, if Baba Banda Singh Bahadur opened the gate to the fortress. When the gates were opened, the Mughals betrayed and rushed in to spear or stab as many as three hundred Sikhs cold bloodedly.

**Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji along with Sikh soldiers was arrested on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1715**



# ARREST

- **About 200 were captured alive and handcuffed in twos.** Banda Singh had chains round his ankles and his wrists, and was then locked in an iron cage.
- This is the list of confiscated items belonging to the Sikhs from the fort as supplied by Kanwar, the author of the Tazkrah: 1,000 swords, 217 small swords, 114 daggers, 278 shields, 173 arrows, 180 matchlock rifles, 23 gold seals, 600 cash and a handful gold ornaments.

The only reason for the arrest was that a true warrior, Baba Banda Singh Bahadur trusted the treacherous Mughals



# MARCHING INTO LAHORE



The parade was led by musical band consisted of Mughal troops holding 3000 Sikh's heads on lances followed by an elephant with Banda Singh in cage with two army officers. He was completely bound in shackles, handcuffs, a thick chain around his neck and another tied-up with an official's waist behind it 200 Sikh captives bundled on camels and donkeys.

- Zakhriya Khan kept Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and his army in Lahore for around two month in order to increase the number of arrested Sikhs to please His King Farrukhsiyar (the son Bahadur Shah).
- The possession went through the Lahore Bazaar towards the palace. **Along the way, innocent Sikhs and some Hindus were slaughtered and were added to the 300 Sikhs slayed in Gurdas Nangal.**
- On **25<sup>th</sup> February 1716**, Baba Banda Singh along with 740 Sikh Prisoner arrived in Agharabad.
- Cartload of slain heads were filled to instil fear and to demonstrate their power.



# THE PROCESSION



# MARCHING INTO DELHI

- The cavalcade to the imperial capital was a grisly sight. Besides **740 Sikh prisoners in heavy chains, it comprised seven hundred cartloads of the heads of the Sikhs with another 200 heads stuck upon pikes.**
- 700 carts of loaded Martyred Sikh heads
- On 26th February, 1716, this procession neared Delhi, and King Farrukhsiyar ordered his Minister Mohammed Amin Khan to go out to receive them and to prepare them for a suitable display in the town.





# THE PROCESSION FROM SALT MARKET TO RED FORT DELHI

- On the **29th February 1716**, the citizens of Delhi had lined the streets in full force, to get a good sight of the show.
- **First marched 2,000 soldiers each holding a Sikh head impaled on his upright spear.**
- Next followed Banda Singh's elephant. A gold-laced red-pointed turban was placed on his head, and to add further mockery to his plight, a bright printed scarlet shirt was slipped on his body. Then came 740 prisoners (500 had been collected on the way). These men were chained in pairs and thrown across the backs of camels. Their faces were blackened and pointed sheepskin or paper caps were clapped on their heads. Behind this line came the Mughal Commanders, Mohammed Amin Khan, his son Qamar-ud-Din, and his son-in-law Zakaria Khan.



# Appendix: English Report of Banda Bahadur's Arrival as Captive at Delhi

*Extract from letter of John Surman and Edward Stephenson from Delhi to Robert Hedges, President and Governor of Fort William, etc., Council in Bengal, dated 10 March 1716 (OS,=20 March 1716), printed in C.R. Wilson, ed., The Early Annals of the English in Bengal, VII(2), The Surman Embassy, Calcutta, 1911, reprint, 1931, pp. 120-21. Spellings as in the original.*

The great Rebel Guroo .....his whole attendance which were left alive being about Seven hundred and eight all severally mounted on Camels which were sent out of the City for that purpose, besides about two thousand heads stuck upon poles, being those who died by the sword in battle. He was carried into the presence of the King, and from thence to a close prison, He at present has His life prolonged with most of his mutsuddys in hopes to get an Account of his treasure in the several parts of his Kingdom and of those that assisted him, when afterwards he will be executed. For the rest there are 100 each day beheaded. It is not a little remarkable with what patience they undergo their fate, and to the last it has not been found that one apostatized from this new formed Religion.

The Honourable Robert Hedges Esq.,  
President & Governor of Fort William, & Council in Bengal,  
Honourable Sirs, etc.,  
We wrote your Honour on the 7th ultimo since which we  
have received no letters.

The great Rebel Guroo (Banda Singh) who has been for these 20 years so troublesome in the Subaship (Suba) of Lahore is at length taken with all his family and attendance by Abd-us-Samad Cawn the Suba (Subedar, i.e., Governor) of that province. Some days ago they entered the city laden with fetters, his whole attendants which were left alive being about seven hundred and eighty all severally mounted on camels which were sent out of the City for that purpose, besides about two thousand heads stuck upon poles, being those who died by the sword in battle. He was carried into the presence of the King, and from thence to a close prison. He at present has his life prolonged with most of his mutsuddys in the hope to get an Account of his treasure in the several parts of his Kingdom, and of those that assisted him, when afterwards he will be executed, for the rest there are 100 each day beheaded. It is not a little remarkable with what patience they undergo their fate, and to the last it has not been found that one apostatized from his new formed Religion.

Dilly  
March the 10th 1716.

We are,  
Honourable Sir & Sirs,  
Your most obedient humble servants,  
John Surman,  
Edward Stephenson.

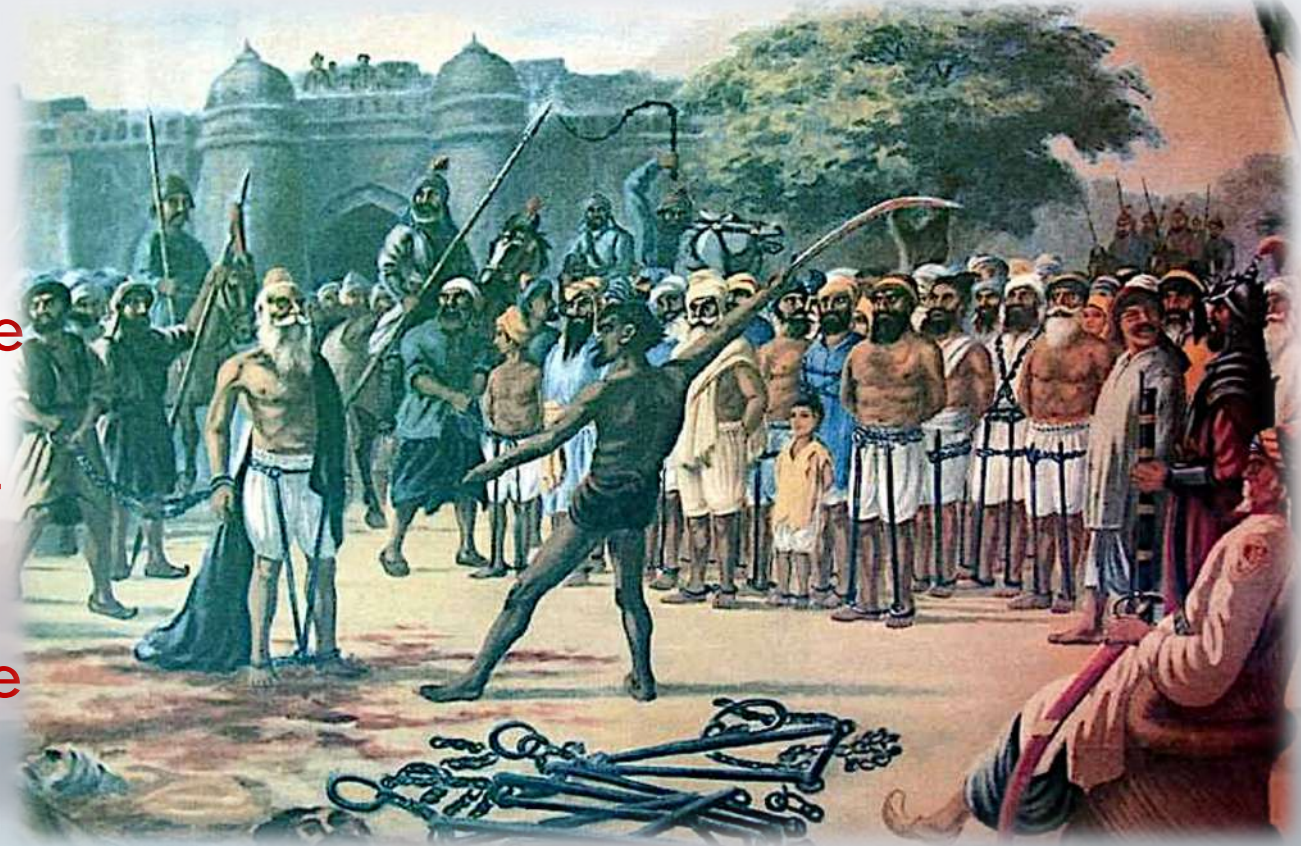
Cojee Seerhand assenting.  
Hugh Barker, Secretary.

# SIKHS IN HIGH SPIRITS

- However humiliating their plight, there were no signs of dejection or remorse on the faces of these Sikhs. In the words of **Mohammed Harisi**, author of the **Ibratnama**, who was on the spot that day:

"The crowds were pressing forward to get a better view many were enjoying the sight and taking hilarious jibes at them. But nothing changed the air of calm and resignation on the faces of those Sikhs.

There were no signs of bitterness or dejection anywhere. They appeared to be happy with their lot, and were actually joined in groups singing their Guru's hymns.



# BHAI BAAJ SINGH

- Born in a Rajput family at Mirpur Patti, a village in Amritsar district.
- Cousin of Shaheed Bhai Mani Singh Ji
- Received Amrit from Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji
- Joined the army of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and ranked as a General.
- Battles fought:
  - Battle of Sonipat
  - Battle of Samana
  - Battle of Chappar Chiri (Sirhind)
  - Battle of Jammu
  - Battle of Jalalabad
  - Battle of Lohgarh
  - Battle of Gurdas Nangal



# BRAVERY OF BHAJ BAAJ SINGH

- After his arrest along with Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, Farrukhsiyar (Emperor of the Mughal Empire at that time) mockingly asked, “Where is the brave Baaj Singh? Where has his bravery gone now?”
- Bhai Baaj Singh who was standing close by replied, “I am Baaj Singh. Your men have tied both my hands and feet with iron chains. Open one of them and you will see my bravery.”
- Farrukhsiyar ordered the feet of Baaj Singh to be freed so he wont be able to do much. However, Bhai Baaj Singh using his feet, snatched a sword from a nearby soldier and killed 16 men on the spot.
- The emperor fled in fear.



# IMPRISONMENT IN DELHI

- Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and his 26 commanders including Baj Singh, Fateh Singh, Ram Singh and Gulab Singh were held captive under Mir-i-Atish surveillance.
- Remaining Sikhs were assigned to Sarbrah Khan Kotwal and were ordered to be killed

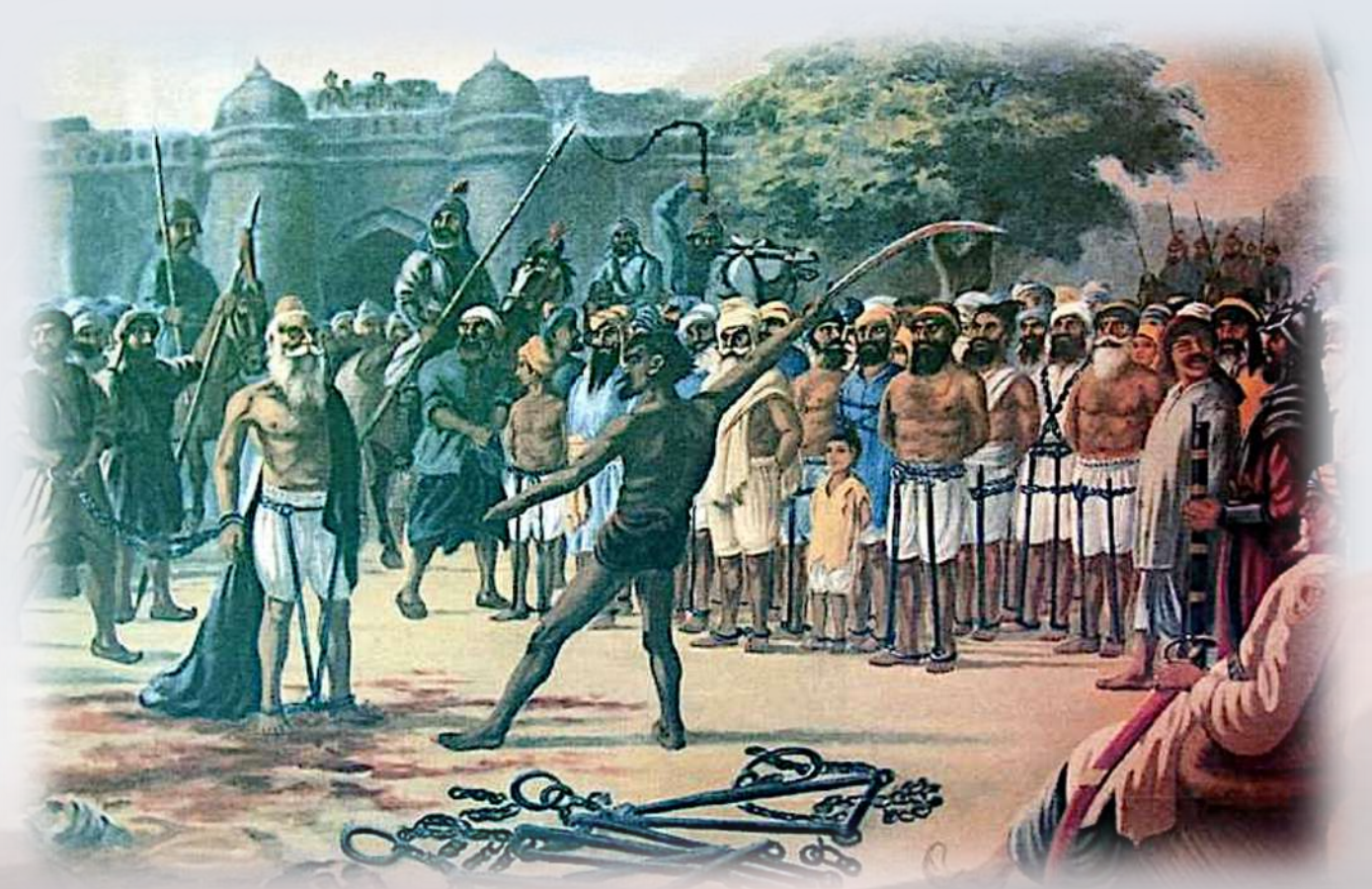


The gate where Baba Banda Singh Bahadur attained martyrdom

# MASSACRE OF SIKHS

- 22nd Rabi-ul-Awwal, 1128 AH (5th March, 1716)– **The first batch comprising of 100 Sikhs were brought onto a platform in front of Kotwali.** Kotwal read royal proclamation "Prisoners, you have a right to choose between Islam or death. Those who embrace Islam shall be pardoned while others shall be killed."
- No one accepted.
- Such was the courage and calmness of Sikhs that they would even joke with the executioner and thanked him for it was he who would send them to their beloved Guru's abode. He is our '**Mukti-Daata**'

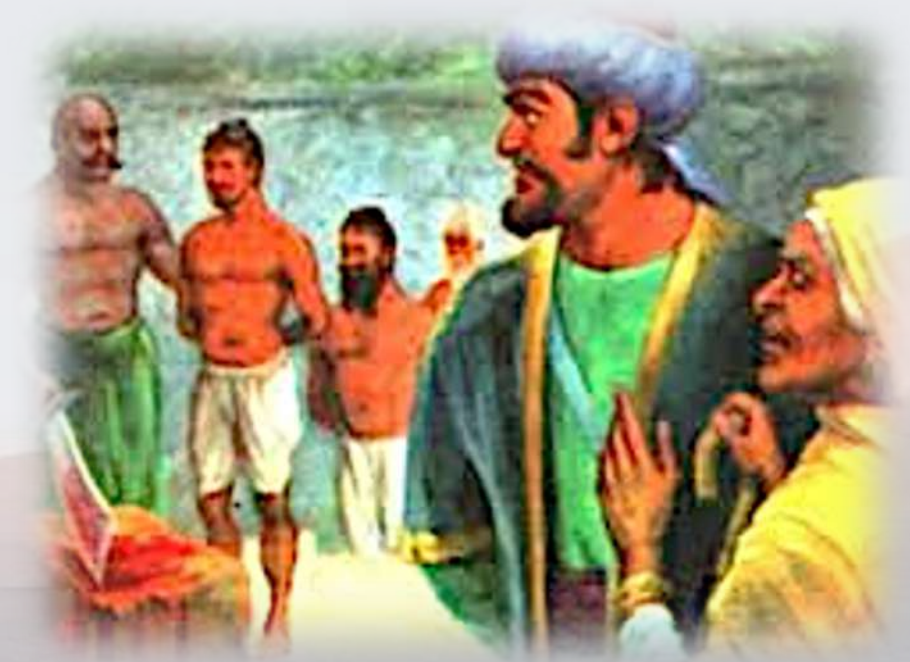
Whoever is called, steps forward, says affirmative no to Kotwal's offer, looks around with radiant smile, bids Fateh to his companions and places his neck under the executioners sword.



# A BRAVE SIKH BOY -1

In 1716CE, during the mass possession of Sikhs towards Delhi along with Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, a 19 years old boy who was coming back home with his newly wedded wife was arrested by the Mughal army as he was dressed in a Sikh code. At that time the Mughals were arresting innocent Sikhs along the way to impress King Farrukhsiyar with large number of Sikhs. The Sikh boy was put in prison with other Sikh waiting for their hearing. They were given only two choice either to convert into Islam or to be executed

This Sikh boy was the only son of a widow and she tried all she could to save him. After all attempts failed, she laid herself before the King Farrukhsiyar's elephant. The King ordered the elephant to be halted and allow the old lady to speak. She cried and appealed for her son's life by saying that it has been a mistake as her son is not a Sikh. The King agreed and ordered the son to be brought before him immediately as he was worried that he might have been executed by then.



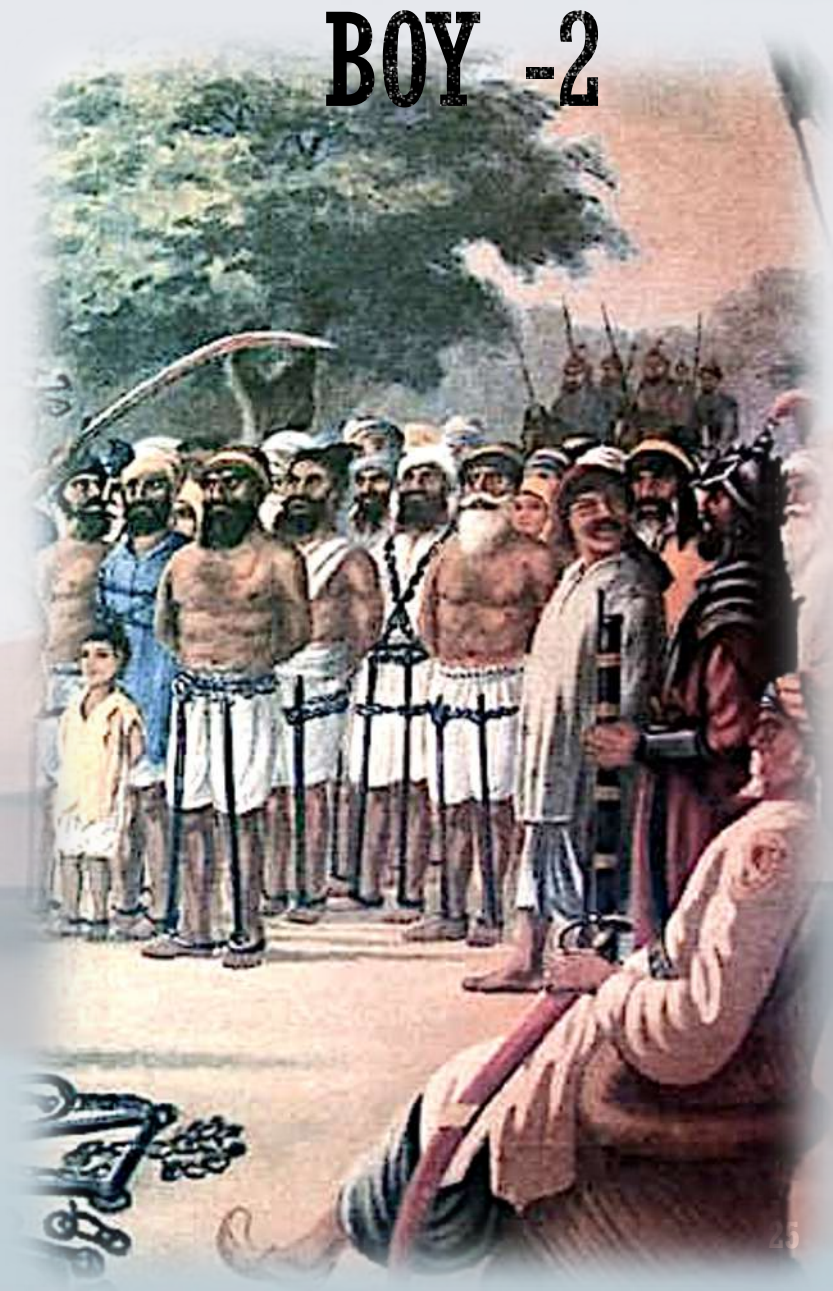


# A BRAVE SIKH BOY -2

The Sikh boy was brought in shackles before the King and he said, 'Hey King, what is the matter? Why am I being separated from my brothers?' The King replied, 'Your mother declared that you are a Hindu and not a Sikh therefore I am releasing you. You may go back with your mother'.

The boy replied, '**I am a Sikh as I have been blessed with Khanda Bhatta Da Amrit and my mother is lying to spare my life, please do not waste time. My brothers are waiting for me in the execution ground and I don't want to miss the honour to sacrifice myself for my beloved Guru, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji**'.

The king felt pity on the weeping mother and said, 'Your mother is not lying and why do you want to die in vain for being a Sikh? Go and enjoy your youthful life with your wife while taking care of your old aged mother'.



# A BRAVE SIKH BOY-3

The Sikh boy replied, 'Hey King, may Khuda (God) shower you with His blessing and be merciful upon you, please do send me back to the execution ground. My mother is trying to save me for this temporary life by sacrificing my faith. I do not want to be separated from my Guru. If you have pity on me and you want to help me then order my execution and send me back to where my brothers are waiting to be executed. I will be very grateful.'

Listening to the Sikh boy, the stoned hearted King said, 'Alright then, I am ordering for your release although you are a Sikh and you may continue to live your life as a Sikh'.

The Sikh boy fell on the King's feet and begged for the order for his execution and he then was sent back to the execution ground and executed along with other Sikhs.



# COURAGE OF SIKHS



C.R. Wilson, a Bengali civilian, has given in his Early Archives of the English in Bengal the following description of the entry of the Sikh captives into Delhi:



*Malice did its utmost to cover the vanquished with ridicule and shame .....  
Without any sign of dejection or shame, they (Sikhs) rode on, calm, cheerful, even  
anxious to die the death of martyrs. Life was promised to any who would renounce  
their faith, but they would not prove false to their Guru, and at the place of suffering  
their constancy was wonderful to look at. 'Me deliverer, kill me first,' was the prayer  
which constantly rang in the ears of the executioner.*

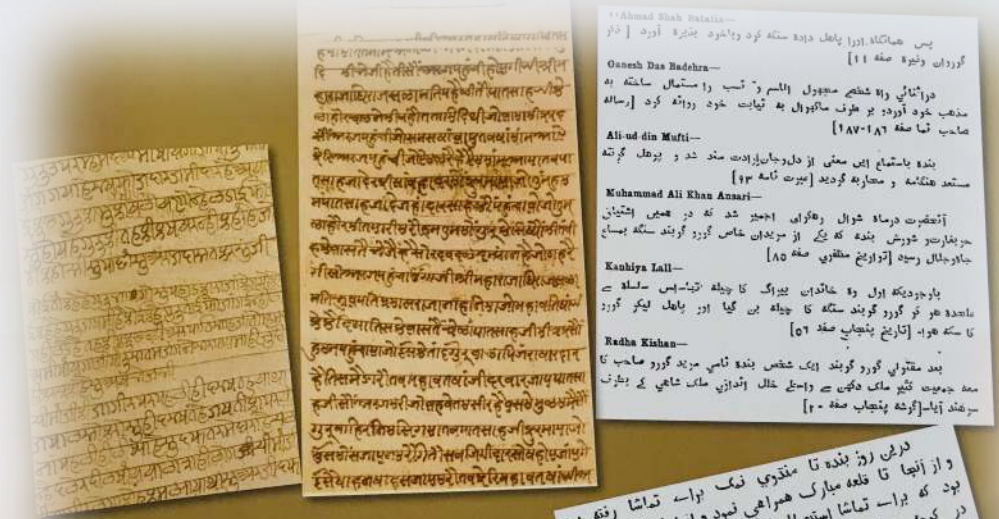
# AFTERMATH OF THE MASSACRE

- After their decapitation, their bodies were thrown into a heap and at night they were taken out of the city in carts and hung upon the trees. Life was offered to anyone who would renounce his faith, "*but to the last*" wrote Surmon and Stephenson, in their letter of the 10th March, 1716, "*it has not been found that one apostatized from the new formed religion*" of Sikhism.
- The Sikhs welcomed death with cheerful faces, and, with the words "*Waheguru! Waheguru !*" on their lips, they joyfully gave up their lives. And, at the time of suffering, their constancy was wonderful to look at, and "Me Deliverer! kill me first !!" was the joyful prayer that constantly rang in the ears of the executioners.



# THE GREAT SACRIFICES

- That gory scene was enacted for seven days until all the ordinary captives had been disposed off. **According to Mohammed Harisi, their bodies were loaded on wagons and taken out of town to be thrown to the vultures. The heads were hung up on trees or on poles near the market-place to be a lesson to all rebels.**
- **Not one from the 700 odd men had asked for pardon.** The jailors next turned their attention to the 20 odd Sardars, including Baj Singh, Fateh Singh, Ahli Singh and Gulab Singh (of Lohgarh fame). **These men were tortured to the extreme and were asked to divulge the place where they had buried all the treasures that had been looted from Sarhind, Batala and other towns during their better days.**



**Asrar-i-samadi**  
A Persian chronicle by an anonymous writer who is now identified as Munshi Jot Prakash attached to the court of Nawab Abd-us-Samad Khan, the governor of Lahore from 1713 to 1726. Written around 1728, the work, which the author claims to be an eye-witness of the events described, dealing with the military expeditions of the Nawab. The work has seven chapters describing the Nawab's victories in a series of battles. In the first chapter occurs an account of the stubborn resistance offered by Baba Banda Singh and his Sikhs from inside the fortress of Gurdas-Nangal. The author showers unreserved praise on the Sikhs for the exemplary courage they displayed in the battle and during the fierce siege they faced.

درین روز بنده تا مقدری نمک برآید تماشای رفته بود و از آنها تا قلعه مبارک همراهی نمود و از اهل شهر کم کسی بود که برآید تماشای استقبال آن ملائین کرده و طرفه هجویی در کوچه و بازارها بهم رسیده بود که مثل آن کتبی اتفاق می افتاد و مسلمانان را سرور و طریقه تمام دست داده-اما آن شقاوت خود اصرار داشتند و هیچ فزوح و خشنوع از آنها بر معلوم نشد-بلکه آنکرمی بر شتران به سرود مشغول بودند و اگر کسی از اهل کوچه و بازار به آنها می گفت خلا شما را خواهند کشت-میفتند و کشتند ما از کشتن می ترسیم و اگر می ترسیدیم چرا با شما این قدر جنگها می کردیم و ما محض به سبب گرفتاری و تقدان آنوقت بدست شما افتادیم و الا حقیقت بازاری ما زیاده از آنچه دیدم آید معلوم شما میشود- [جزا معتدل خارش حیرت ناموس]

# SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1716

- Failing to get any clues after three months, they prepared to put an end to their lives on Sunday, 9th June, 1716. Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's cage was again hoisted on top of an elephant, and he was dressed in mock attire of an emperor, with a colourful red pointed turban on his head. His 4 year old son Ajai Singh was placed in his lap.
- The twenty odd Sardars marched behind the elephant and this special procession then passed through the streets of Delhi, and headed for the Kutub-ud-din mausoleum of Bahadur Shah, near the present Kutab Minar. On reaching that graveyard, the captives were again offered a choice of two alternatives: conversion to Islam or death.



# SIKH GENERALS SACRIFICE

- Needless to say all chose death.
- The Sikh Sardars were subjected to tortures before being executed. Their heads were then impaled on spears and arranged in a circle round Baba Banda Singh Bahadur who was now squatting on the ground.



# PURPOSE

Mohammed Amin Khan, who was standing near spoke as follows: "From your manner so far you appear to be a man of virtue, who believes in God, and in doing good deeds. You are also very intelligent. Can you tell me why you have to suffer all this here?"

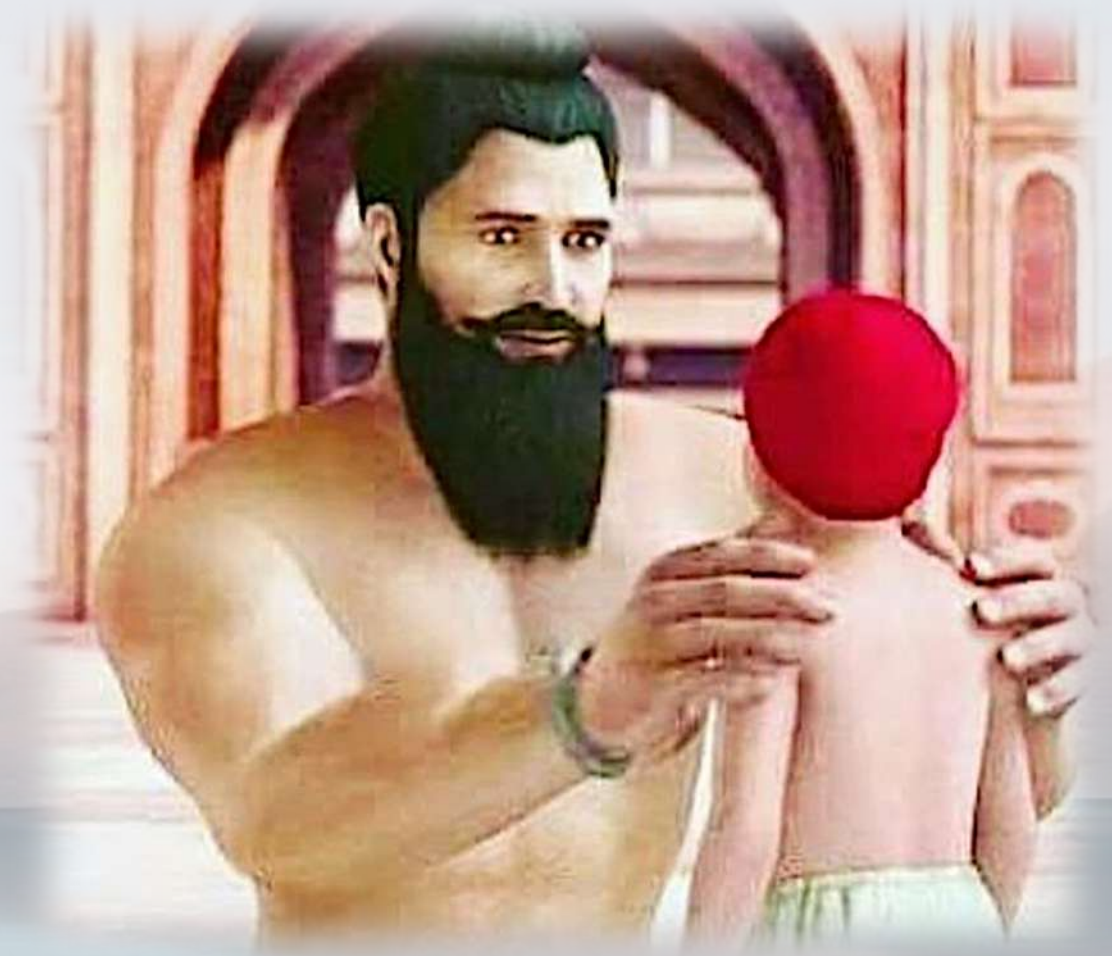
Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's reply was, "When the tyrants oppress their subjects to the limit, then God (Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji) assigns men like me on this earth to mete out punishment to them. But being human, we sometimes overstep the laws of justice, and for that we are made to pay whilst we are still here. God is not being unjust to me in any way".





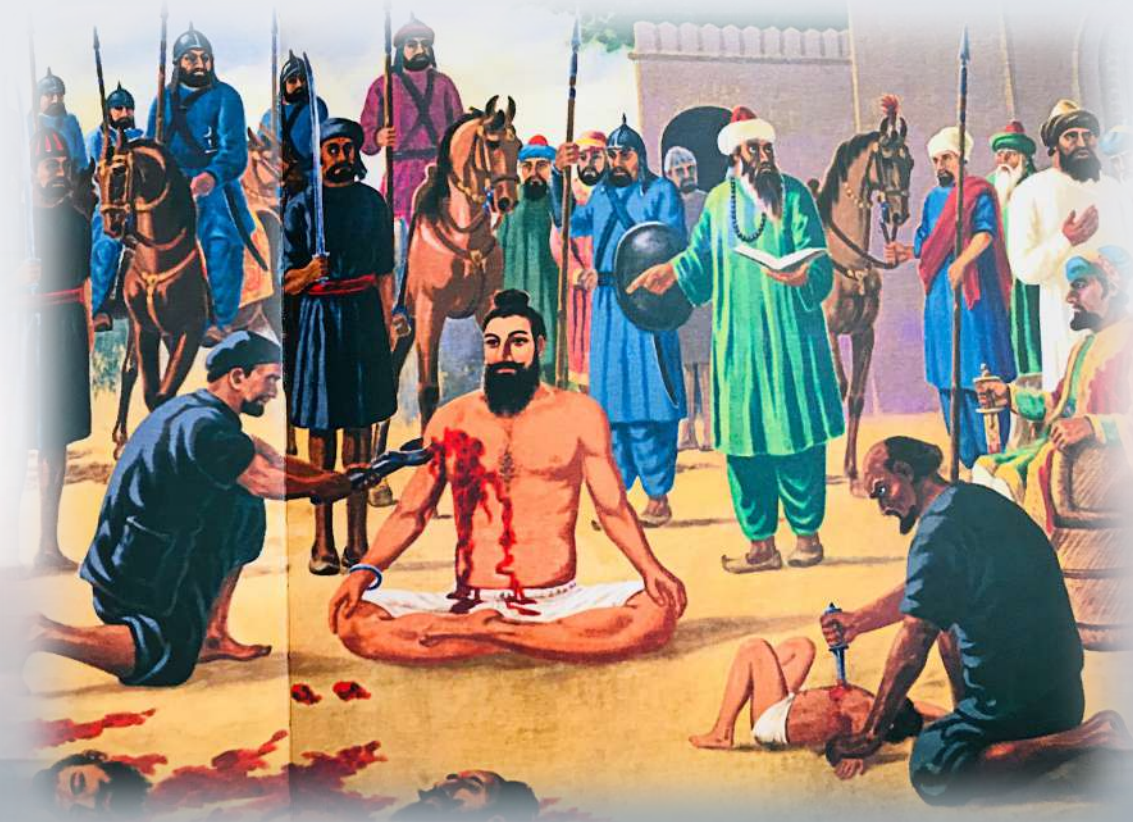
# AJAI SINGH — A GREAT SACRIFICE

- Banda Singh was then given a short sword and ordered to kill his own son Ajai Singh. As he sat unperturbed, the executioner moved forward and plunged his sword into the 4 years old Ajai Singh cutting the body into two.
- Then pieces of flesh were cut from the body and thrown in Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's face. His liver was removed and thrust into Banda Singh's mouth.
- The father sat through all this without any signs of emotion. His powers of endurance were to be tested still further.



# SHAHEEDI OF BABA BANDA SINGH JI

- One of the killing team proceeded further and took one of Banda's eyes out with a sharp knife.
- Another killer cut his left foot off. Then the right one.
- Then followed his both hands that were brutally chopped off.
- Banda was yet unperturbed. His meditative face radiating.
- Next was the turn of red hot twitches and squeezers. Deadly weapons tore lumps of flesh off Banda's body who sat cross-legged unflinching.
- Outraged executioner turned into living monster of death. He took his heavy sword into his hands and struck at Banda Singh constantly.
- Finally there was no body remained at all but pieces of flesh, bones and pool of blood scattered all around.



*(These details of the torture are given in full, by the following writers: Mohammed Harisi, Khafi Khan, Thornton, Elphinstone, Daneshwar and others).*

# MEHRAULI, DELHI

This is the exact location where our great general Baba Banda Singh Bahadur ji was seated and tortured brutally.



This is the place where  
Baba Banda Singh  
Bahadur Ji was detained



*Then he turned again to the emperor:  
“You have sought to destroy Banda Bahadur and you have sought to do so with brutal cruelty. But you have destroyed only his body; you have not been able to extinguish the flame that he lit... You have destroyed his physical frame but with this destruction you have fanned the flame that he lit and made it burn even stronger. You have given him immortality because now his spirit will live forever.”*



Reference: First Raj Of The Sikhs The Life and Times of Banda Singh Bahadur by Harish Dhillon

## SIKH COINS

Sikh Coins were both a commercial necessity and a symbol of sovereignty. Sikh Coins were dedicated to their Gurus. The first Sikh Coin issued by Baba Banda Singh Bahadar from his bastion, Mukhlisgarh in the Sivalik foothills, carried on one side the following inscription :

*sikka bar har do 'aalam  
tegh-i-nanak waahab  
ast fatah gobind singh  
shah-i-shahan sacheha sahib ast.*

*The coin is struck in the two worlds, its bestower being the sword of Nanak. Victory is of Guru Gobind Singh, the king of kings, by the grace of the True Master.*

On the other side were the words :

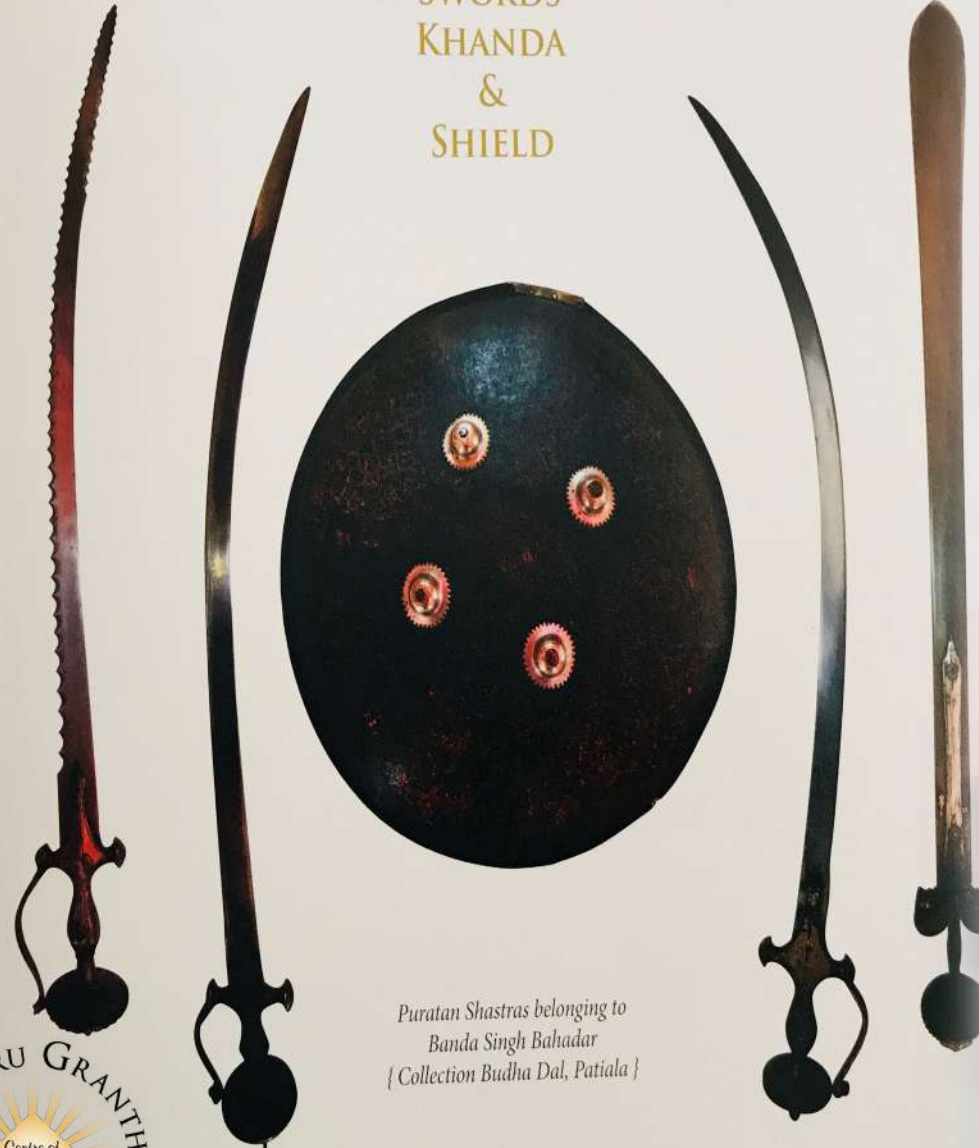
*zarb ba amaan ud- dahe musawarat  
shahr zeenat al takht mubarak bakht.*

*Struck for the security and peace of the world and the walled town of the elegant throne and blessed fortune.*



Baba Banda Singh Bahadar Coin  
{ Obverse & Reverse }

## SWORDS KHANDA & SHIELD



Puratan Shastras belonging to  
Banda Singh Bahadar  
{ Collection Budha Dal, Patiala }

# RELIQS OF BABA BANDA SINGH JI BAHADUR, OUR FIRST KING





HUKAMNAMAS

Edicts by Baba Banda Singh Bahadar urging the Sikh Sangats to follow the Guru's command of singing the Divine Glory and keeping the rahit {code of conduct} bestowed by the Tenth Guru. They implore the Sikhs to join the Khalsa army and to feel Guru's grace.

ੴ ਸਤਿਨਾਮੁ ॥  
 ਸਿਰੀਸਰੋਸਾਹਿਬੀਕਾਠੂਪੁਰੋਸਥਤਖਾਲਸਾ  
 ਜਥੇਨਪੁਰਕਾਗੁਰੁਖੇਹਾਗੁਰੁਗੁਜਪਟਾਜਨਪੁਸਟ  
 ਰੋਗਤੁਸੀਸਿਰੀਅਕਾਲਪੁਰਖੀਕਾਖਾਲਸਾਤੋਪਜ  
 ਤਖੀਆਰਬਾਨਿਕੈ ਚੁਕਮੁਦੇਖਦਿਆਚਰਸਨਿਅਣ  
 ਟਾਖਾਲੋਸਦੀਰਤਰਤਣਾਭਗਤਮਕੁਰਕੀਐ  
 ਸਤੁਕਾਮਲੁਕੇਈਨਾਹੀਖਾਣਾਸੁਮਛੁਈਪਿ  
 ਅਜੁਸਾਹੀਖਾਣਚੇਗੀਗੀਨਾਹੀਕਛੀਅਸਾਸਤਜੁ  
 ਗੁਵਰਤਾਇਆਚੇਆਪਵਿਚਿਪਿਆਪੁਰਣਮੇਗ  
 ਤਕਮੈਜੋਖਾਲਸੇਦੀਰਤਰਤੋਗਾਤਿਸਦੀਗੁਰੁਸਨੀ  
 ਖੁਸੀਕੇਗਾਭੀਤੀਪੋਤੀਸੀਸੁਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਤੁਕਾਮਲੁ

ੴ ਸਤਿਨਾਮੁ ॥  
 ਛਾਈਧਰਮਸਿੰਘੁ ਕਈਧਰਮਸਿੰਘੁ ਕਈ  
 ਟਲਸਿੰਘੁ ਕਈ ਗੋਸਿੰਘੁ ਕਈ ਚੇਕੇਕੇਸਰ  
 ਥਤਰਿ ਅਕਲਪੁਰਖ ਜੀਉਤਿਯਾਯਸਾ ਚੇਕੇਕੇ  
 ਮੰਗਾਗੁਰੁਗੁਰੁ ਜਪਣਾਨ ਸੁਸਿਠੈਗੇ ॥  
 ਚੁਕਮੁਦੇਖਦਿਆਈਧੀਜੇਰਥਿ ਚਾਕਥਥਿ  
 ਆਦਣਾ ॥ ਜੀਸਿੰਘੁ ਆਦੈਕਾ ਚੀਨਿਯਲੁਠੈ  
 ਦੈਗਾਸੀਗਤਿਦਮਨੈਕਪੁਰੇਦੈ ਚੀਨਿਯਲੁ  
 ੴ

# HUKAMNAMAS ISSUED BY BABA BANDA SINGH JI BAHADUR

