

5 Poh 1761
Bikarmi (1704 CE)

THE SIEGE OF ANANDPUR SAHIB

THE BEGINNING TO A SERIES OF UNPARALLELED SACRIFICES

ATTACK ON ANANDPUR SAHIB

- 5th Jeth 1761BK (Mid May 1704CE) Raja Ajmer Chand with other Hill Rajas surrounded Sri Anandpur Sahib
- Mughals deployed 125,000 soldiers under the command of General Saide Khan supported by Wazir Khan of Sirhand.
- Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji defended with an army of 1,700 Sikhs under the command of Ran Singh, Syam Singh, Alam Singh, Narang Singh, Udhe Singh, Binod Singh, Kan Singh, Bhai Daya Singh, Bhai Dharam Singh, Bhai Himmat Singh, Bhai Mokham Singh, Bhai Sahib Singh and Baba Ajit Singh

GENERAL SAIDE KHAN

- Saide Khan was the brother of Nasiran (the wife of Pir Buddhu Shah of Sadhoura).
- He was aware of the greatness of Guru Gobind Singh Ji but he insisted to have a one-to-one fight with Guru Ji.
- The next day (early morning), Guru Gobind Singh rode His horse all alone towards Saide Khan's tent and called for him.
- Guru Ji asked Saide Khan to pick a weapon of his choice & to have a one-to-one fight.
- Saide Khan looked at Guru Ji and immediately fell on His feet and said I am defeated by the merciful glance of Yours. Guru Ji blessed him with spiritual enlightenment.
- Immediately, Saide Khan left his tent and was never found again.

GENERAL RAMZAN KHAN

- Ramzan Khan took over Saide Khan's position.
- Next day, he fired canons towards the fort during Asa Di Vaar and Guru Ji told Sikhs to calmly sit in the Sangat. The cannons failed to fatally damage the fort and there were no casualties.
- Ramzan Khan challenged Guru Ji, for a face to face battle. Guru Ji accepted the challenge and asked Ramzan Khan to strike with his arrows,
 - the first arrow missed through the side
 - the 2nd arrow went above the shoulder
- Guru Ji then launched His arrow which went through Ramzan Khan's forehead.
- Mughals were defeated badly and Wazir Khan then requested for a larger army from Aurangzeb.

1761 (1704CE) – ANANDPUR SAHIB

- Aurangzeb dispatched an army of more than 1 million soldiers from the following districts to siege Anandpur Sahib including all the forts build by Guru Gobind Singh;
 - The entire Army of Delhi under its Governor Khwaja Mardud
 - The army of Sirhand under its Governor Wazir Khan Khan
 - The army of Lahore under its Governor Dilawar Khan
 - The army of Kashmir under its Governor Jabardast Khan
 - The army Peshawar under its Governor Hakam Khan
 - The army of Malerkotla under the command of Sher Mohamad Khan
- All the 22 Hill Rajas forged alliance with Mughals in attacking and surrounding Anandpur Sahib. They dispatched more than 300,000 soldiers

THE SIEGE OF ANANDPUR

- The entire Anandpur Sahib town was surrounded from all sides cutting off any access.
- All essential supplies were blocked with the aim of compelling Guru Ji to surrender
- The radius of enemy forces was more than 25km occupied by soldiers with tents for their army and artillery.
- The people who were staying around Anandpur were looted daily by the Mughal soldiers.

ANANDPUR DEFENCE

In order to defend Anandpur Sahib, Guru Gobind Singh Ji divided His 1,700 forces as follows;

- Guru Gobind Singh Ji – Fort Anand Garh
- Baba Ajit Singh Ji – Fort Loh Garh
- Baba Jujhar Singh Ji – Fort Kesh Garh
- Bhai Hari Singh, Bachittar Singh & Bhai Udhe Singh – Fort Fateh Garh
- Hol Garh and Tara Garh were unprotected as the risk was low.

GEOGRAPHIC OF ANANDPUR – DEFENCE

Geographic

- Two hills on either sides
- 3 directions were circulated by Satluj River
- All other land was sunken land

Defence

- Cannons were set
- Some low treat areas as Mughals were using land forces.

Remains of the walls of Anandpur

THE FIRST 6 MONTHS

- The food supply exhausted, small group of Sikh warrior would go and break the Mughals circulative curfew to bring in food in small quantity.
- Sikhs remained in Chardikala with frequent encounters with Mughal forces
- Mughals failed to scare the Sikhs and Guru Ji into surrendering
- Mughals were bearing huge costs maintaining a extensive army

THE GURU JI'S ARROW

- The surrounding army was kept at a distance of 3 Koh (7.5 km) away from the Anandpur fort.
- One day Wazir Khan and Jabardast Khan were sitting on a bed under a Simbal tree playing cards.
- Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji launched an arrow from Fort Anandgarh which is 7 miles (11.2km) away which hit on their bed leg, with the shock of vibration both dropped on the ground and looked at each other. Wazir Khan said that they were lucky that Guru Ji missed His target otherwise they would be dead. Acknowledging the distance and a close hit they did not admire Guru Ji's skill but instead concluded that Guru Ji has miraculous powers.
- During that instance Guru Ji launched another arrow with a note which hit the earlier arrow in the center, piercing through the arrow symmetrically. The note read to clear the misunderstanding, Guru Ji said that this was not a miracle but warfare skill which needs immense training and practice.



THE REASON FOR HARDSHIP

- Once a Sikh came with a Paras as gift to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji with intention to help Guru ji financially so that he can sustain His army.
- Guru ji threw the Paras into a pond and the Sikh was very upset, Guru Ji showed His bath place and the entire earth was turned into gold.
- The Sikh still was upset and Guru Ji told that he should have informed that the Paras was dear to him however taking a pity after observing his disappointment Guru ji said, 'Go and get your Paras from the pond'. He immediately took a dip into the pond to search for his Paras, but he was wonderstruck to see the entire base of the pond was filled with Paras.
- He came out empty handed and realized that Guru Ji is the sole creator so he owns the entire wealth and ask why He is going through all the hardship along with the Sikhs?
- Guru Ji said,

'I am giving an oppurtunity to my Sikh to do penance through this siege (8 months), those who are serving through this hardship with intention (to fulfil desires) shall become Kings and those who are serving selflessly shall merge into my form.'



BHAI KANHAIYA

- Bhai Kanhaiya (1648 - 1718) was a Sikh of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. He was born in a Dhamman Khatri family of Sodhara near Wazirabad in Sialkot district and his father was a wealthy trader.

Once Guru Ji said, ***“These brave Sikhs are saying that you go and feed water to the enemy and they recover to fight them again – Is this true?”***

Bhai Kanhaiya Ji replied ***“Yes, my Guru, what they say is true. But Maharaj, I saw no Mughal or Sikh on the battlefield. I only saw You.”***

Guru Ji said “Bhai Kanhaiya Ji, you are right, you have understood the true message of Gurbani.”

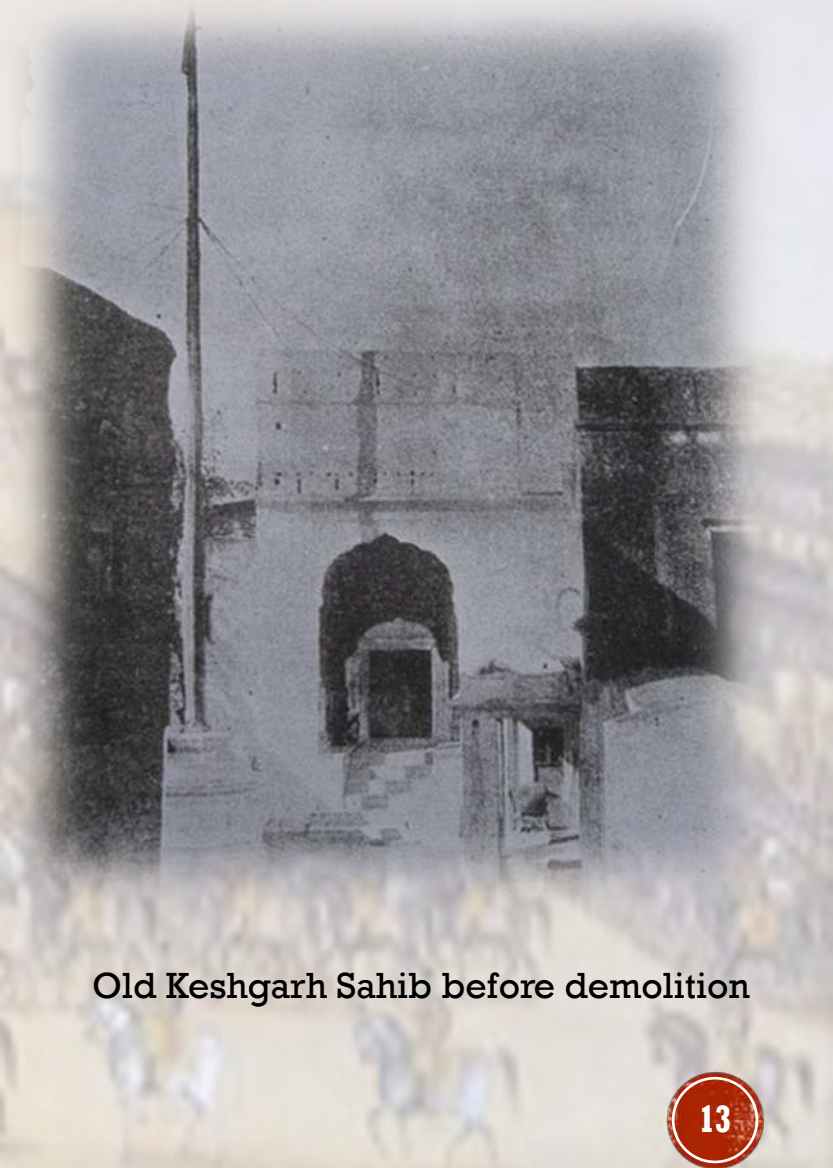


WATER – SATLUJ RIVER DIVERTED

- Mughals blocked and diverted Satluj river adjacent to Anand Garh.
- Guru Ji gave His arrow to a Sikh and said –
‘You shall now go to the Satluj river bank and tell her that we are in the need of water therefore flow as a small drain to our fort.’

After saying this, turn around towards Anandpur walk while making a line on the ground with the arrow to route the river flow and do not look back’.

- Thus water entered the fort even with various efforts of the enemy to divert



Old Keshgarh Sahib before demolition

THE CONDITION WORSE

- 1,000 Sikhs attained martyrdom while defending the fort. Guru Gobind Singh Ji were only left with 700 Sikh army.
- The Sikhs in all the forts were running out of food as the external supply was totally cut-off as Mughals strengthen the forces to tighten all the pathways.
- Sikhs were surviving with one handhold of chickpeas a day. Some would eat tree leafs and bark.
- Some Sikhs couldn't sustain and they ask to be excused to return to their homes.

BHAI BACHITTAR SINGH

- The Mughals army lead by six (6) General and the 22 Hill Rajas army lead by Raja Bhim Chand of Kahlur were losing their ground as the prolonged siege took a serious toll on the expenditure to maintain 1.3 million army without any success. Therefore the moral of their army was depreciating.
- They were desperate and made a hush decision to force break the Loh Garh fort's main entrance, Raja Kesari Chand offered his giant size elephants and army.
- Guru Sahib Ji came to know of this plan and said, 'if they are coming with their elephant we equally have Duni Chand to stop them'. Duni Chand was a hefty well built man, to get ready to face the elephant. But this masand got cold feet and during the night he silently jumped over the fort wall thus he escaped.
- In the morning Guru Ji learned and to replace Duni Chand Guru Ji assigned Bhai Bachittar Singh. He was honoured to be given the task to make a frontal attack on the elephant.
- Instead of waiting for the elephant to attack the gates were opened and Bhai Bachittar Singh rode out on horseback with a Nagni Barcha (spear). He was followed by Bhai Udai Singh and several Sikhs on horseback.
- Bhai Bachittar Singh riding his horse and standing in the stirrups confronted the elephant and in spite of a metal plate tied to its forehead was able to pierce it successfully with his nagni. With lightning alacrity, he attacked again and cut the elephant's trunk with a blow of his sword.
- The wounded elephant shrieked and ran back into the enemy forces causing havoc. In the meantime Bhai Udai Singh had killed one of the hill rajas, Raja Kesri Chand. The battle ensued with heavy losses of **175,000** army and the death of Kesri Chand along with the much prided elephant, Raja Bhim Chand withdrew his forces from the battlefield and fled.

8TH MONTH

- The Mughals were getting desperate to conclude their siege for the following reasons;
 - The expenses were going beyond their budget
 - Their resources and artillery were exhausting
 - The pressure from Delhi was increasing why a large army failed to defeat a small number of Khalsa army.
- As they failed in direct confrontation thus they decided to deceit Guru Ji through the means of faith.



Qila Anandgarh

1ST LETTER

- The Mughals and Hill Rajas wrote a letter to Guru Ji;
 - Leave the fort and Anandpur
 - We will allow a safe route.
 - We will not harm anyone nor your property
 - We assure you with our respective faith under the oath of our Holy Kuran and cow.
- The letter was delivered by a Qazi and Brahmin priest to Guru Ji's Darbar.
- Guru Ji read the letter and respectfully treated the Qazi and Brahmin.



TRIAL DEPLOYMENT

- A number of Sikhs could not control the urge to leave the fort as hunger was killing them slowly.
- Guru Ji knew the true intention of Mughal and Hill Raja and told that no one shall leave.
- Some adamant Sikhs did not wish to listen to Guru Ji so Guru Ji decided to show the rest on the consequence.
- 10,000 bull-cart full of garbage were deployed from Anandgarh.
- Mughals thinking that Sikhs are coming out from the fort with valuables, attacked and killed the Sikhs but only found garbage
- Violating their own promises, the Mughal soldiers thought that Guru Ji's treasure is being deployed. They attacked the carts and started to fight among themselves to procure the treasure. a large number of Mughal and Hill Rajas soldier were killed



REQUEST FOR ROYAL COMMAND

- An official request was delivered to Aurangzeb by all the stationed Generals in Anandpur to send his royal command to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji to leave Anandpur and He may come back after some time as he wish. The royal command was sealed under the oath of the holy Kuran with Salgram & Cow.
- Sikhs were getting restless and wanted to leave immediately
- Guru Ji asked for the Sikhs who wants to leave to sign a disclaimer (Bedawa) that 'He is no more their Guru and they are no more His Sikhs'



MATA GUJAR KAUR'S ADVISE

- 500 Sikh came to Mata Gujar Kaur and appealed for her to leave the fort along with Mata Sunder Kaur, Mata Sahib Kaur, Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh
- Mata Gujar Kaur Ji assured the Sikhs that Sri Gobind Singh Ji is aware of the situation and will do the necessary. She further advised that they should keep their strong faith on Waheguru.



AURANGZEB'S ASSURANCE

- The next day, the royal command from Aurangzeb came escorted by a Qazi and a Pandit who carried their religious articles to make an oath on behalf of Aurangzeb.
- Aurangzeb assured Guru Ji that by the name of God in the presence of the great prophet I will not betray my oath and you along with your people & treasure shall be deployed to a place of your choice.
- Guru Ji agreed as a respected the Holy Quran of the Muslims, Salgram and Cow of the Hindus. Although He knew that Aurangzeb will never honour his oath.



Guru Gobind Singh Ji assigned two of His cousin brothers to be the caretakers of all the forts surrounding Anandpur Sahib:

- Gulab Singh Sodhi
- Syam Singh Sodhi

Both were the descendants of Baba Suraj Mal.

- Baba Gurbaksh Singh were assigned to perform seva at Damdama where Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji's head was cremated.

The preparation to leave Anandpur started.

ANANDPUR – AFTER CARE

