

Guru Harrai Ji

1644 - 1718

Family and general info

- Born: 3rd March 1644
- Parents: Baba Gurditta Ji (son of Guru Hargobind Ji) and Mata Nihal Kaur (aka Mata Ananti Ji)
- Spouse: Mata Kishan Kaur
- Children: Sri Ram Rai Ji and Sri Har Krishan Sahib Ji
- Continued the tradition started by Guru Hargobind Ji and maintained an army.
- Never himself indulged in any direct political and armed controversy with the contemporary Mughal Empire. Once Guru Sahib was coming back from the tour of Malwa and Doaba regions, Mohamad Yarbeg Khan, (son of Mukhlis Khan, who was killed by Guru Hargobind Sahib in a battle) attacked the kafla of Guru Sahib with the force of one thousand armed men. The unwarranted attack was repulsed by a few hundred Saint Soliders of Guru Sahib with great courge and bravery. The enemy suffered a heavy loss of life and fled the scene.

Contributions

- Established an Aurvedic herbal medicine hospital and a research centre at Kiratpur Sahib.
- Once Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Shah Jahan fell seriously ill by some unknown disease. The best physicians available in the country and abroad were consulted, but there was no improvement. At last the emperor made a humble request to Guru Sahib for the treatment of his son. Guru Sahib accepting the request, handed over some rare and suitable medicines to the messenger of the emperor. The life of Dara Shikoh was saved. The emperor, whole heartily thanked and wanted to grant some “Jagir”, but Guru Sahib never accepted.
- Maintained a zoo also.
- Established 360 Sikh missionary seats (ManJis).
- He also tried to improve the old corrupt Masand system and appointed pious and committed personalities like Suthre Shah, Sahiba, Sangtia, Mian Sahib, Bhagat Bhagwan, Bahagat Mal and Jeet Mal Bhagat (also known as Bairagi), as the heads of ManJis.

Respect of Bani - Ram Rai incident

- Guru Har Rai Sahib faced some serious difficulties during the period of his guruship. The corrupt massands, Dhir Mals and Minas always tried to preclude the advancement of Sikh religion. After the death of Shah Jahan, the attitude of the state headed by Aurangzeb towards the non-muslims, turned hostile.
- The emperor Aurangzeb made an excuse for the help rendered to prince Dara Shakoh by Guru Sahib during the war of succession and framed false charges against Guru Sahib and was summoned to Delhi. Ram Rai Ji appeared on behalf of Guru Sahib in the court. He tried to clarify some misunderstandings regarding Guru Ghar and Sikh faith, created by Dhirmals and Minas. Yet another trap, which he could not escape, was to clarify the meaning of the verse "Miti musalmaan ki.." form Asa Di Vaar.
- Ram Rai, in order to please the emperor and gain more sympathy replied that the text had been needlessly corrupted by some ignorant person and inserted the word Musleman instead of word Beimman (dishonest).

Respect of Bani - Ram Rai incident

- The actual meaning of the tuk is: *the human soul is not bound to the physical structure or the body of a person. The physical material of the bodies of both Hindus and Musalmans face the same fate and it is a universal truth. The soul leaves the body immediately after the death and it does not remain in the grave waiting for doom's day. And the earth consumes the body-material in due course of time. It is a rational and scientific view of Sikhism.*
- When Guru Har Rai Sahib was informed about this incident, he immediately excommunicated Ram Rai Ji from the Sikh Panth and never met him, though he later pleaded repeatedly for forgiveness. Thus Guru Sahib established a strict property for the Sikhs against any alteration of original verse in Guru Granth Sahib and the basic conventions set up by Guru Nanak Sahib.
- This teaches us how much respect and importance Guru Sahib gave to Gurbani.

Guru Harkrishan

- Guru Harraji's son, Sri Harkrishan Ji was made the 8th Guru
- Guru Harrai Ji passed away on 6th October, 1661 at Kiratpur Sahib

Sources:

- <http://www.gurmatacademy.org/gurus/guru-harrai-ji/>
- <http://sgpc.net>