

# Guru Teg Bahadur Ji

1621-1675

# Early Life

- Born on 1st April, 1621 in Amritsar
- Parents: Guru Hargobind Ji and Mata Nanki ji
- Siblings: Baba Gurditta Ji, Baba Suraj Mal Ji, Baba Ani Rai Ji, Baba Atal Rai Ji and Bibi Veero Ji.
- Named as Tyag Mal. The Sikhs began to call him Teg Bahadur after the battle of Kartarpur against Painsa Khan in which he proved to be great sword-player
- Had a regular schooling from the age of six. He learnt classical, vocal and instrumental music. Bhai Gurdas Ji also taught him Gurbani
- Apart from the schooling he was also given the military training like horsemanship, swordsmanship, javelin throwing and shooting. He had witnessed and even participated in the battles of Amritsar and Kartarpur.
- Was married to Gujri Ji on September 14, 1632
- Soon after the death of Guru Hargobind Sahib, Mata Nanki Ji took him and his wife (Gujri) to her natal village (Baba) Bakala near the river Beas

# Stay at Baba Bakala

- It is a totally wrong conception (as some historians point out) that Guru Sahib got constructed a solitary cell in his house where he often used to meditate God.
- Going as per hukam in Gurbani: "There can be no love of God without active service", he was involved in selfless service
- During the stay at Baba Bakala, Guru Tegh Bahadur paid visits to many holy and historical places like Goindwal, Kiratpur Sahib, Haridwar, Prayag, Mathura, Agra, Kashi (Banaras) and Gaya.
- Guru Harkrishan Sahib (on the eve of his death), uttered only two words "Baba Bakala" meaning that his successor would be found at (Baba) Bakala. With this announcement near about twenty-two imposters and self-appointed successors sprung up in the small village Bakala.
- Makhan Shah Lubana, a rich trader and a devout Sikh from Tanda district, by Guru's kirpa discovered Guru Teg Bahadur Ji in all this confusion
- This incident ravaged Dhir Mal and he with the hired ruffians, attacked Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib. A bullet hit Guru Sahib and when the Sikhs learnt about this attack, they retaliated and took possession of (Guru) Granth Sahib lying with Dhir Mal. But Guru Sahib returned it to Dhir Mal while forgiving him.

# Visit to Amritsar

- Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib with his entire family reached Amritsar (about November, 1664) to pay obeisance at Harmandir Sahib, but the masands of the holy place shut its doors against him and he was not allowed to enter.
- Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib did not pressed or forced his entry but returned calmly and reached Kiratpur Sahib via Vallah, Khandur Sahib, Goindwal Sahib, Tarn Taran Sahib, Khem karan. Before reaching Kiratpur, he also visited Talwandi Saboke, Banger and Dhandaur. It is to be noted that wherever Guru Sahib went, there he established new Manjis (preaching centres of Sikhism). Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib reached Kiratpur Sahib in May 1665.
- In June 1665 Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib bought some land from Raja of Bilaspur near Makhawal village on the bank of River Satlej and founded a new town Chak-Nanki after revered name of his mother Nanki. Later this town was renamed as Sri Anandpur Sahib.

# Tour towards East

- After a brief stay at new founded town, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib set out for a long journey towards the east in order to strengthen the Sikh nation by setting up new preaching centers and renewing the old ones. It was his second missionary tour.
- Guru Sahib reached Mathura and then Agra and from here he reached Allahabad via Etawah, Kanpur and Fatehpur. He also visited Benaras and Sasaram and then reached Patna in the month of May 1666.
- This is where Guru Gobind Singh ji was born on Dec 22, 1666
- Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib proceeded further towards Dacca via Mongair, Calicut (now Kolkata), Sahibganj and Kant Nagar in October 1666. But before leaving for these places he made necessary arrangements under the supervision of a devout Sikh lady known as Mata Paidi for the safe stay of his family members at Patna during the rainy season.
- At all the places Guru Sahib halted, Satsangat and Kirtan (recitations of Verses from Aad Granth) were held daily and religious sermons were delivered. Many prominent Sikhs like Bhai Mati Dass Ji, Bhai Sati Dass Ji, Bhai Dayal Das Ji and Baba Gurditta Ji, supported Guru Sahib in religious sittings during these tours.

# Persecution of Hindus by Mughals

- A reign of terror was let loose on the Hindus in India by the Muslim theistic state. The prosecution of Hindus was the most outrageous feature of his reign. Aurangzeb made up his mind to rout out Hinduism from India by hook or crook, and introduced many Islamic fundamentalist programs like special taxes for the Hindu traders, religious tax (Zazia) for non-Muslims. Celebration of Diwali and Holi was forbidden. He demolished many important and sacred Hindu Temples, and erected mosques in place of them. Chronicles state that some Sikh Gurudwaras were also demolished.
- The Muslim Government executed forceful conversions in order to make India, Dar-ul-Islam and to achieve this goal as soon as possible, the Hindu Pandits and Brahmins (the preaching class) of Kashi, Prayag, Kurukshetra, Haridwar and Kashmir were identified for this purpose.
- They were given an ultimatum either to embrace Islam or to be prepared for death.
- It is regretted that all this was done under the very nose of many so-called brave Hindu and Rajput kings and chiefs who were also subordinate to the imperial state of Delhi. They were only silent spectators aiming at their own ends. They even did not raise a minor voice of protest against the nefarious acts of Aurangzeb.

# Sacrifice

- At this juncture, the Brahmins especially the Kashmiri Pandits led by Pandit Kirpa Ram Dutt approached Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib at Anandpur Sahib in May 1675. They told their tales of woe to Guru Sahib and requested to protect their honor and faith. Guru Sahib heard their views and agreed to resist the nefarious act of forcible conversions by peaceful means. After long discussions with the prominent Sikhs and Kashmiri Pandits, Guru Sahib made up his mind to sacrifice himself for the cause of “Righteousness”
- On the advice of Guru Sahib, the Kashmiri Pandits presented a petition to the Emperor and in lieu of this an imperial court of Delhi, issued summons asking Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib to appear in the said court. But on the other hand, before the imperial summons reach Anandpur Sahib, Guru Sahib started his journey towards Delhi after installing his son (Guru) Gobind Sahib as the Tenth Nanak in July 1675. Bhai Dayal Das Ji, Bhai Moti Das Ji, Bhai Sati Das Ji and many more devoted Sikhs followed Guru Sahib.

# Martyrdom

- When Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib reached near village Malikpur Ragharan near Ropar, an imperial armed contingent led by Mirza Nur Mohammad Khan, arrested Guru Sahib and some of his prominent followers. He kept them in a prison at Bassi Pathanan and tortured daily.
- Bhai Mati das ji was martyred by being sawed alive
- Bhai Sati das ji was martyred by being burnt alive
- Bhai Dyal das ji was martyred by being boiled in water
- These sikhs sacrificed their lives but did not turn away from Guru and did not leave their Sikhi Sidak
- The authorities offered Guru Teg Bahadur ji 3 alternatives viz : (1) To show miracles, or (2) to embrace Islam, or (3) to prepare himself for death. Guru Sahib accepted the last. On seeing Guru Sahib adamant and immoveable, the authorities ordered the executioner (Jallad) to sever the head from the body.



# After martyrdom

- After the execution there was a huge storm and it caused confusion and havoc in and around the city. Under these circumstances Bhai Jaita Ji, took away the holy head of Guru Sahib, placed it in a basket, covered it carefully and set out of Anandpur Sahib. He reached Kiratpur Sahib, near Anandpur Sahib on 15th November. He was received with great honour by young Guru Gobind Rai and honoured as “Rangretta Guru Ka Beta.” The cremation of head was performed with full honour and proper ceremonies on the next day. (Gurdwara Sis Ganj also marks the place where the head was cremated.)
- Taking advantage of the same situation the other part of the body of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was whisked away by a brave Sikh Lakhi Shah Lubana a famous merchant and contractor and he immediately built up a pyre inside his house and set fire to it in the evening. Thus whole house including other valuables were burned and destroyed. It is said that a royal police guard arrived at the scene in search of the body, but returned, finding the house burning (Now Gurdwara Rakab Ganj in New Delhi, marks the place.)

# Source

- <http://www.gurmatacademy.org/gurus/guru-teg-bahadur-ji/>
- <http://sgpconline.com/>