

ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਜੀ

Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

A person who sacrifices his life for a noble cause is called a '**Shaheed**'. Guru Arjan Sahib, the fifth Guru Of Sikhs sacrificed his life for the sake of Sikh religion. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Guru of Sikhs not only sacrificed his life for his religion but also saved the Hindu religion from the cruelty of Aurangzeb.

He was born on 1st April 1621 at Amritsar. He was the youngest son of the sixth Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. When Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji came to see his son after his birth along with five Sikh's. He said, "**Our son will be a brave man, master of kirpan and will do a great sacrifice**". He was named as Tegh Bahadur. These words proved right in the future. He proved his mastery for the use of kirpan in the battle of Kartarpur. He was married to Mata Gujri Ji who gave birth to Guru Gobind Singh Ji. After Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, the Gurgadhi was given to Guru Har Rai Ji and later on to Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji, but he did not mind it. He stayed at Baba Bakala (Dist. Amritsar) along with his mother and wife.

He developed the city of Anandpur Sahib. He started for north east of India to spread Sikh religion. He visited Bengal, Assam and many places where Guru Nanak Sahib Ji had also gone. He worked for the welfare of common people. He taught the Sangat to live like brothers, work hard, share their income and remember the Akal Purkh. He generated friendship between King of Assam and Raja Ram Singh without any bloodshed.

Aurangzeb started converting Hindus to Muslims forcibly. Maximum cruelty was on the Pundits of Kashmir. They all gathered at Amarnath and decided to seek the help of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. After listening to their grievances, Guru Ji was deeply thinking, when suddenly the young Gobind Rai who was just nine-year-old came and asked for the reason. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji told about Aurangzeb's cruelty and told that in order to stop this, the sacrifice of a great personality is required. Gobind Rai (Guru Gobind Singh Ji) promptly answered, "**Who can be greater than you**". Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji told the Pandits to convey to Aurangzeb, "**Guru Tegh Bahadur is our religious leader and what ever he does, we will follow him**".

Aurangzeb ordered for the arrest of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji started his journey to preach Sikh religion, awakening among people, preparing them to fight against the cruelty and sacrificing their lives for their religion. The motto of Guru Ji's teaching was, "**Neither be cruel to others and nor bear their cruelty**".

ਭੈ ਕਾਹੁ ਕਉ ਦੇਤ ਨਹਿ ਨਹਿ ਭੈ ਮਾਨਤ ਆਨ ॥ ਕਹੁ ਨਾਨਕ ਸੁਨਿ ਚੇ ਮਨਾ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਤਾਹਿ ਬਖਾਨਿ ॥੧੬॥ (੧੪੨੭)

He got himself arrested at Agra, along with five Sikhs, Bhai Gurdita, Divan Mati Das, Bhai Dayala, Bhai Udha and Bhai Cheema. He was brought to Delhi and was tortured. But Guru Ji remained firm on his own principles. Bhai Mati Das was cut with a saw before him. Bhai Dayala was put in boiling water. Guru Ji was kept in iron cage. Finally Aurangzeb ordered for Guru Ji to select one of his choices. Be a Muslim, Show some super natural power or be prepared for death. Guru Ji rejected all these and said what ever you want you can do. On a fixed day Guru Ji was brought to Chandni Chowk. Guru Ji did his Path of Japuji Sahib and his neck was cut with a sword. Gurdwara Sis Gang is built at that place.

Bhai Jaita took the head of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji to Guru Gobind Singh Ji (Anandpur Sahib). The body was taken by Bhai Lakhi Shah who set his own house on fire along with the body of Guru Ji. Now there is a Gurdwara Rakab Gang Sahib at that place. In this way Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji sacrificed his life for the sake of mankind and showed the way to others, to be firm in their religion. He has also taught to sacrifice for other. If this principle is followed, then there will not be any inter community clashes. Also this was the first sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji from his family for the Sikh religion. Guru Gobind Singh Ji wrote about the sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji as:

"Dharam Heth Saka Jin Keea. Sees Diya Par Sird Na Diya"

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