
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Sikh Temple, West Sacramento

-Special Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Edition-

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 1998

*Dear Students & Parents,
Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa, Wahe
Guru Ji Ki Fateh.*

*Continuing our last year's
tradition of a newsletter, here is the
Sunday School's first newsletter of
1997-98. The special edition of this
newsletter is issued to celebrate Sri
Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Gurburb.*

*The Sunday School students have
studied, researched, and analyzed
the life and mission of Guru Gobind
Singh Ji. They have written these
essays themselves, with
encouragement from their teachers
and parents.*

*We are proud to present this
marvelous collective effort. We are
certain that this newsletter will be a
showcase for the Sunday School and
will also encourage the students to
do even more in the future.*

- Prabhjot Singh Sethi

Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Message | |
| Ruby Rehal | 1 |
| The Tenth Guru | |
| Jaspreet K. Buttar | 1 |
| Saint & Warrior | |
| Manpreet & Amanpreet S. Grewal. | 1 |
| Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Family | |
| Bhavneet Kaur..... | 2 |
| Uch Da Pir | |
| Gurjit S. Dhillon..... | 2 |
| Guru Gobind Singh Ji & Final Form | |
| Of Sikh Faith, Ramit S. Sethi.... | 2 |
| Guru Gobind Singh Ji | |
| Aman Chohan | 2 |
| Historical Perspective | |
| Jaspreet K. Mundy | 2 |

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Message (1666-1708)

Ruby Rehal

Guru
Gobind
Singh
believed in
Guru
Nanak's
philosophy



of equality, freedom of liberty and
religious worship. He encouraged
people to believe in one, and only one
god. He was the supreme leader of
courage, sacrifice, love, and service of
humanity.

Guru Gobind Singh introduced the
spirit of "Saint-Soldier," called
"Khalsa," who are easily identified by
five symbols called the five K's. These
are *Kes* (long hair), *Kangha* (hair
comb), *Kirpan* (a small sword), *Kachha*
(underwear), and *Karha* (steel bracelet).
Guru Gobind Singh baptized five brave
men, known as the five *pyare*. He took
them into a tent and gave these items to
each of them. This was the Guru's way
of introducing the 5 K's to the rest of
the Sikhs.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a very
courageous person. He taught everyone
to believe in one god, to
follow their leader, to obey the laws, to
love each other, and be willing to
sacrifice one's life. He and his family
had to do just that.

> "Message" Continued on Page 3

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION

To provide education to the
children relating to the Sikh
religion, moral, spiritual,
and cultural traditions, and
the Punjabi language. The
educational curriculum will
enable the students to read,
write and speak Punjabi. In
addition, this program will
teach them the Sikh
religion, its ethics, history,
and way of life.

The Tenth Guru

Jaspreet Kaur Buttar

Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on
December 22, 1666. His father's name
was Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, and
mother's name was Mata Gujri. He
was nine years old when his father was
put to death. Guru Gobind Singh Ji
was the tenth Guru of the "Khalsa
Panth," which was founded by Guru
Nanak Dev Ji.

SAINT & WARRIOR

Manpreet and Amanpreet Singh Grewal

Guru Gobind Singh Ji was a warrior
and a saint. He was a great father and
above every thing, he was the last
living guru. He has sacrificed his
family for our religion.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Family

Bhavneet Kaur

Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth guru. He was born at Patna Sahib in state of Bihar in India. His father's name was Guru Tegh Bahadur, and mother's name was Mata Gujri. Guru Gobind Singh had three wives: Bibi Jito, Bibi Sundri and Bibi Sahib Kaur. Guru Gobind Singh had four sons: Baba Ajit Singh, Baba Jujhar Singh, Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh. He fought several battles against Mughal monarchy and hill chiefs. Two *sahibzade* attained martyrdom at Chamkaur Sahib in District Ropar in 1704 and last two were bricked alive at Sirhind Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab in the same year.

Uch Da Pir

Gurjit Singh Dhillon

Guru Gobind Singh Ji gave final form to the Sikh faith and created Khalsa by baptizing the five *Pyaras* (Beloved Ones). He was a poet of distinction, a patron of learning, spiritual leader of eminence, great warrior with commanding and magnetic personality, and a unique nation builder. The five *Pyaras* were Daya Singh, Dharam Singh, Muhkam Singh, Sahib Singh, and Himat Singh.

After the battle of Chamkaur, Guru Gobind Singh came to Alamgeer as a result of a daring rescue by Pathan brothers Ghani Khan and Nabhi Khan. Guru Gobind Singh was presented as "Uch Da Pir" (Great Saint of Islam) to the Moghal army.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji & Final Form Of Sikh Faith

Ramit Singh Sethi

Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on December 22, 1666 at Patna Sahib in Bihar. His given name was Gobind Rai (it was later changed to Gobind Singh). The tenth Guru's early schooling was done at Patna. His uncle, Sri Kirpal, taught him the Sikh scriptures and Gurmukhi. His athletic abilities inspired all.

In his childhood, he showed evidence of leadership and activeness. He would play games like soldier, and would always divide his playmates in two groups. He would be the leader of one group and the other group would have a leader of their choice. He would match the two groups in acts of skill and courage.

Guru Tegh Bahadur's family started for Punjab in February 1672. He learned Sanskrit, Persian, and the Sikh Scriptures. One day he came home and found his father and a group of strangers looking gloomy. He asked his father why he was sad. Guru Tegh Bahadur replied, "These people are Pandits from Kashmir and they have been forced to either become Muslims or they will be killed. They have come to me for advice. My idea is to have one holy man sacrifice himself, but how and where to find such a one is the reason you are seeing me in this state." Gobind Rai then said, "If you are looking for such a man, who would be better than yourself? The Guru thought about this and he finally consented. He was arrested in July 1675. He was taken to Delhi and publicly executed on November 11, 1675. His execution was to protect the Hindus from the Muslim tyranny.

Guru Gobind Singh gave the final form to the Sikh Faith and created Khalsa by baptizing the five *Pyaras*.

He was a great warrior with a commanding and magnetic personality.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji

Aman Chohan

Guru Gobind Singh Ji was the tenth and the last Guru. He created the "Khalsa," also called the Saint-Soldier. He gave permanent Guruship to the Sikh Scriptures and called it Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The Khalsa became the role model of all the disciples of the Guru. The last Guru was a person who combined the qualities of his most illustrious predecessors. He was highly educated, skilled in horsemanship and the use of arms, chivalrous and generous in character.

On Baisakhi day in the 1699, the Guru ordered his Sikhs to assemble before him in Anandpur Sahib, as was customary at this festival. He asked them to come forward who would give their heads to the guru. He made this request and one Sikh came forward, and was lead into the Guru's tent. The Guru reappeared alone, with a bloodstained sword. Four other Sikhs followed this example. They became the *Panj Pyaras* (Beloved Five) as they are now called. The members of the new brotherhood, which was called the *Khalsa* (Pure Ones) were also instructed to wear five *kakar* symbols: *kesh* – uncut hair; *kangha* – a comb; *kara* – a steel iron wrist bracelet; *kirpan* – a sword and *kachhera* – short breeches. The initiated men took the name Singh (Lion). Guru Gobind Singh Ji also finalized the compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib so that the sikhs would have to find no more gurus.

Historical Perspective

Jaspreet Kaur Mundy



Sri Guru Gobind Singh was the tenth and the last guru of the Sikhs. He was born in 1666 in the town of

Patna. He lived

with his parents and his grand mother, the widow of the sixth Guru Hargobind Ji.

He was brave, good at sports, and always filled with a joy of living and loving God. In addition, he was a thinker and a poet.

In guruji's mind, there were three main dangers that endangered Sikhism. The first was part of the Sikh community. Sikhs fought among themselves. Some of them broke away into caste system. The second danger was the Moghuls who were starting a ruthless fight to wipe out all religions in India, except Islam. The third danger was the hill *rajas*. As guruji's army grew and his followers were seen riding around wildly, these hill chiefs felt that a new danger was now appearing and frightening their Hindu religion. This led to the first Battle.

The first battle that guruji fought in was the battle of Bhangani against the hill rajas. It was fought in 1686 when guruji was twenty years old. It began with an elephant. This elephant was a gift to guruji, but Raja Bhim tried to take it away by force.

Guruji has described this Battle in his own writings and it is said that the war cries of his men sounded like thunder and the dust from the

horses hooves was like a cloud over the sun. The victory was guruji's and his men.

For twelve years until 1699, guruji lived in peace at Anandpur Sahib. They were the most important years of his mission. During these twelve years, he succeeded in reorganizing his community so well that the face of Sikhism was changed

Guru Gobind Singh Ji decided that the time had come for his greatest task. He knew he must give his followers something to put in the place of the old traditions and gods which he had taken away from them. At last he worked out a way which he knew would succeed. He would make it into a saint-soldier faith!

On Baisakhi day in 1699, guruji baptized the sikhs, and started the Khalsa. At the age of 42, guruji's soul emerged into eternal life. Before his last breath, he declared that there would be no living guru after him. Guru Nanak Dev Ji had said that one needs a guru for guidance. Guru Gobind Singh Ji pronounced that from now on all the teachings of the past nine gurus will be in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. He said these last words "Let my kitchen always be open to feed the poor, and don't let anybody worship me, or build a shrine for me. He who does so is cursed."

Guru Gobind Singh, and still now, we read the Guru Granth Sahib, remembering all the years, of which Gurus lived, turning the Sikh religion into what it is today.

This Newsletter is published by:

Punjabi Sunday School
Sikh Temple Sacramento
2301 Evergreen Avcnue
West Sacramento, CA 95691

For comments, please contact:
Prabhjot Singh Sethi
(916) 990-9040

"All modes of redressing a wrong having failed, the raising of a sword is pious and just..."

-Guru Gobind Singh Ji

> *'Message" Continued from Page 1*

After Guru Gobind Singh, there were no more Gurus. Instead Guru Granth Sahib became the next "Guru."

The Guru Granth Sahib is a holy book, in which poems written by six of the ten gurus are compiled. After

