

Contribution of Guru Gobind Singh Ji in formation of the Khalsa Panth & its Aims for development of Sikhism

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Abstract

Punjab is one of the enrich state in cultural and political outlook since number of centuries. As the same way, it is place where Sikhism is founded. Guru Gobind Singh is founder of Khalsa Panth which has shaped Sikhism in single rosary. Khalsa Panth provided a political and religious vision for the Sikh community. It shapes the Sikh community into one determined direction. Guru Gobind Singh removed Guru Pratha System and Guru Granth Sahib Ji would be considered as last Guru and would be treated as Guru in the future aspects. So it is generally observed that Khalsa Panth is the way for Sikhs to lead the life with perfect manner. This paper shows about the initial study of formation duties and aims of the Khalsa Panth.

Keywords: Cultural, Political, Sikhism, Community, Khalsa Panth, Guru Granth Sahib.

Introduction

Punjab is one of the enrich state in cultural and political outlook since number of centuries. As the same way, it is place where Sikhism is founded. Guru Nanak Dev Ji is first Guru of Sikh Community. Guru Gobind Singh whose name was Guru Gobind Rai was considered as tenth & last Guru of Sikhs. He was son of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib ji who had given his life sacrifice for preservation of Hindu religion from the tyranny of Mugal Empire Aurangzeb. Guru Gobind Singh was a divine messenger, a skilled warrior, a poet, a philosopher. He organized & molded the Sikh religion into its present shape. He led them to follow spiritual route to attain union with Waheguru under the institution of Khalsa fraternity. He also trained them to be self defendant and guard the helpless against injustice, suppression and tyranny of Mugal. Guru Gobind Rai was set out to accomplish God's spiritual mission started by Guru Nanak Dev ji of creating 'Khalsa Panth'.

He selected the day of Vaisakhi for this historic action. We can say that "Khalsa" is referred to the entire group of people. They would have taken an active decision to follow the way of life laid down by Guru Gobind Singh. It teaches Sikh people how to lead the life or managed by the Khalsa community. They are self-managed according to their democratic and collective wishes.

In early 1699, few months before the Vaisakhi day, Guru Ji invited to the Sikh all over the country to join the special Vaisakhi Diwan in Anandpur Sahib. Guru Gobind Rai appeared there to guide them. He raised his naked sword in the air and Shouted, "My dear Sikhs! Today I need a head. My sword wants to taste the blood of a Sikh. Is there any among you who is ready to offer his head to me." The crowd listened and wondered why the Guru asking for a head. This amazed and horrified many. It was a deep silence there. Some were looking for the way to escape. For the moment, no one came forward. Guru Ji repeated the same demand of a head again. On Guru ji's third call, a Sikh named Daya Ram, a Khatri by caste from Lahore came in front of the Guru with head bowed and hands folded. Firstly, he begged apology for not responding the Guru's first call and then humbly uttered that his body and soul belonged to the Guru. Guru ji took him to tent. A few minutes later the crowd heard a big sword sound. Guru ji came back with blood smeared Sword. The situation grew more amazing. It became difficult for some to breath. Guru ji repeated the same call for another head.

Five Beloved Ones (Panj Pyare) assumed new names as:

- Daya Ram (Bhai Daya Singh)
- Dharam Das (Bhai Dharam Singh)
- Himmat Rai (Bhai Himmat Singh)
- Mohkam Chand (Bhai Mohkam Singh)
- Sahib Chand (Bhai Sahib Singh)

Guru Ji knelt before Panj Piyare and requested them to bless him with Amrit so that he could become the member of Khalsa Panth and from Gobind Rai to Gobind Singh. This signified that the Guru gave all the glory to the Khalsa and the importance of Amrit from which Guru himself did not want to be deprived of. This is the reason why Guru Gobind Singh Ji is referred as "Aape Gur Chela" i.e Guru as well Disciple at the same time.

Guru Gobind Singh initiated the Five K's tradition of the Khalsa

- Kesh: Never cut the hair
- Kangha: A wooden comb
- Kara: An iron or steel bracelet worn on the wrist.
- Kirpan: A sword
- Kacchera: Short breeches

Guru Gobind Singh Ji also announced a code of discipline for Khalsa warriors. He declared that A Khalsa who breaks any code of conduct is no longer a Khalsa. He also gave the Khalsa 52 Hukams or 52 specific

additional guidelines while living in Nanded in 1708. He banned Tobacco, eating meat slaughtered according to Muslim ritual and sex with Muslims was forbidden. He condemned alcohol or any type of drugs for true Khalsa. The Khalsa also agreed to never interact with those who followed rivals or their successors.

Duties of Khalsa

A true Khalsa has following duties

- He must be an honest.
- He will treat everyone as equal.
- He will meditate on God
- He maintains his fidelity, resist tyranny and religious persecution of oneself and others.
- He practices of arms every day for defending rulers.

The Dal Khalsa fought against the Mughals and the Afghans, eventually resulting in the establishment of a number of small republics called Misls (autonomous confederacies) and later in the formation of the Sikh Empire.

Main Aims of Khalsa Panth

There are some aims of Khalsa Panth. These are as above:

- The Panth has always existed as a community within other social groups.
- The Sikhs would live within harmony with their local societies all over the world.
- It believes in purity and Spirituality.
- It believes in the theory of truth, beauty and goodness.
- It believes in thoughts, speech and action among all classes of people equally.
- It is free from the clutches of priests.
- It believes to follow in teachings of Guru.
- It believes in Naam Japna which is the foundation stone of Sikh spirituality. This movement is deadly against superstition.
- It is in favour of abolition of Tabacoo, eating meat slaughtered and alcohol or any type of drugs
- It unfolds disciplined spontaneity and an unwilling blissful confidence (Chardi Kala) in the Khalsa.

Conclusion

So it is clear that the Khalsa Panth provided a political and religious vision for the Sikh community. It shapes the Sikh community into one determined direction. Guru Gobind Singh removed Guru Pratha System and Guru Granth Sahib Ji would be considered as last Guru and would be treated as Guru in the future aspects. So it is generally observed that Khalsa Panth is the way for Sikhs to lead the life with perfect manner.

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