

IMPORTANCE OF *GURUDWARA* NATHANA SAHIB

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Abstract

While Guru Hargobind was residing in Malwa region, People from far places were coming there to pay obescience. People from kabal brought two beautiful horse namely. Dilbag and Gulbag to offer to Guru. But during their rest at Lahore, nawab Kasam Beg forcefully took those horse due to which Karodi Mal was sad. Guru sent Bidhi.

Chand to Lohore and he very cleverly brought the horses, one offer the after, to Guru by befooling the men of Kasam Beg. During second time, he also told about the location of Guru Shaib to Kasam Beg. So, sensing the danger, Guru Hargobind shifted to Nathana village where there was a big pond, thorny trees and shrubs all over. People residing in the Malwa region helped Guru in all aspects. Mughal forces attacked them but the battle was won why great warriors of Guru Shaib. Guru Hargobind got performed all the last rites of Sikh soldiers as will as those of the enemy.

The battlefield was converted into religioes place which is know as *Guru Ki Dhab (Gurusar)*. The place, where Guru stayed was also converted into *Gurudwara* by King of Nabha, Hira Singh. The tree *ber* to which Guru tied is horse still stands and has grown into an arbous. People visit the place, to take blessings of the Guru.

A place becomes holy pleasant if it is visited by some saint, hermit or a holy man. This prestige is showered upon village Nathana. Firstly this place became holy with the arrival of Sikh Guru Hargobind Singh later his grandson Guru Har Rai did the honour. *Haji Rattan Nath*, performed prance here for more than 140 years.¹

The actual reason behind Guru Hargobinds residence at village Nathana was the third war with Mughal ruler Shah Jahan. The year of (war) happening its is controversial among historians. The words of different historians is as follows According to Hari Ram Gupta war of Gurusar was fought in 1634, whereas Indu Bhushan Banerjee told it happened in 1631 and the place was either Lehra Mohabbat or Nathana, According to Satbir Singh the war was held in November 1632 and place was Nathana and Giani Gian Singh told it ocured on 17 Dec, 1690, Giani Gian Singh was the first Sikh historian, who wrote about Sikh history with a research perspective. The dates given by him are commonly acknowledged by moderen historians. He

existed 100 years earlier to present era. Therefore the dates provided by him are more authentic.²

Guru ji came to Amritsar after lighting two wars. Bhai Saidas wrote a letter after two months in which he humbly requested to get shifted to Daroli Bhai Bhai Saidas was brother-in-law of Guru Hargobind. He was husband of Bibi Ramo, Sister of Guru's wife Mata Damodari. After some time, Bhai Saidas and Bibi Ramo passed away. After their Guru sent his family to Kartarpur, Jalandhar along with his elder son Baba Gurditta. He himself left for village Bhai Roopa to meet his follower Bhai Sadhu and his son Bhai Roope. with his Sikhs. Congregations were held daily. People came from far off places and paid huge offerings. Once a group came from Kabul which was headed by Tara Chand and Bakht Mal. But historians differ on their name. Some tell them as Bhai Takht Mal and Tara Chand. Whereas Karodi Mal, owner of horses, said they were Dyal Chand and Bakht Mal.³

From 1634 onwards, Hargobind resided in Malwa region. Due to that, people visited him in Malwa from far off places, Learning that Guru is presently living in Malwa the people of Kabul brought various offerings for him. They brought beautiful horses Dilbag and Gulbag for him. This group stayed, at Lahore for few days to rest. Both the horses became talk of the town in Lahore only for their grace and virtues. There Nawab

¹ Max Arthur MacLiff, *Sikh Itihas*, P.257

² Sukhdial sing, *Punjab Da itihias*, P-127

³ Santokh Singh, *Shri Gurpratap Suraj Granth (ed. Kirpal Singh) Bhai Chattar Singh, Jiwan Singh*, Amritsar, 2014, P. 161.

Kasam Beg forcefully took away the horses and kept them in royal stable. He didn't accept continuous requests of Karodi Mal. People with a sad note moved towards village Kanga, Bathinda, crossing their journey through Amritsar. Karodi Mal was externally grieved of the incident happened in Lahore. When asked by Guru Hargobind some Sikhs told Guru, that Karodi Mal brought two beautiful horses to offer him but during the Lahore stay, Kasam Beg forcefully took away them. That's why Karodi Mal and other people were unhappy.⁴

After taking blessings from Guru Hargobind, Bhai Bidhi Chand moved towards Manila and reached Lahore. He easily found the house of Bhai Jiwan, where Bidhi Chand told him that Guru Hargobind had sent him. On hearing that Bhai Jiwan and said that he felt Overwhelmed that his Guru had chosen him to serve. Bhai Jiwan told Bidhi Chand to take dinner and have rest. He spent the whole night taking care and could give it to Bidhi Chand at warning. He took the instruments and left for Ravi Bank. Getting bush green grass at a place, he started his work.⁵

Early morning Bhai Bidhi Chand reaped green grass from bank of Ravi. He put the grass in net and moved towards city. He reached the market and began to sell the grass. Many customers came but didn't buy due to high price. It was also a plan of Bidhi Chand After few hours, Saundha Khan, inspector of royal fort visited.

He of tenly visited there Saundha Khan was stopped by Bhai Bidhi Chand. His grass was lush green but since he was new in the market Khan asked his name and cost of grass. Bidhi Chand recognised that the man was inspector of fort and he could get to the horses through him. Bidhi Chand replied that a grass-cutter did not bother about names Names were for rich people like him. About the price, He would happily take what ever he would give.

On reaching the fort, he was believed the work of learning the two horses named Gulbag and Dilbag. Bidhi Chand looked at them and begun to feed them. Considering his affection for horses, Saundha Khan kept him on a monthly salary. Bidhi Chand had successfully passed one level. While bringing grass from outside, he used to bring a heavy stone with him, people remained dart of there noise. But became heedless considering it a Rodale. It was a well plan of Bidhi Chand.⁶

In that manner, Bidhi Chand was going to kill there birds with one stone. One to keep the of confusion and second, to get to know the secrets. The guard of the room where the expensive saddle of horses were kept, was very happy with Bidhi Chand

⁴Giani Balwant singh , *Gurdwara Gursar Nathana*, S.G.P.C 2000, P. 5.

⁵Giani Kawal Singh Niradosh, *Do Talwara Badhiyan*, Lahore Book Shop, Ludihana, 2015 P.62

⁶Rai jasvir Singh, *Gurbhari (Guru Hargobind Singh Ji)*, P. 39

because Bidhi Chand used to do his whole work. He gave a special reward to Bidhi Chand for that. One hundred rupees was a pretty big amount at that time. All the workers of fort began to ask for a jest. Fortunately, everything was happening as per the plan of Bidhi Chand.⁷

It was evening than. Bidhi Chand got the keys of the room from the guard, where he got to know all the secrets from him, he waited for everybody to get asleep so he can get to the horses. He made a plan of giving feast to the workers and the inspector also gave the permission which made it an easy game for Bidhi Chand.

They all began to assemble at evening and by the time they all got boozed-up. Meanwhile Bidhi Chand executed his plan. He flew away the horse across the wall of fort. It created a huge noise but everybody again thought it might be crocodile that jumped off the wall of fort. Bidhi Chand threw dust in everyones his eyes. He flew away the horse to Guru Hargobind at Bhai roopa. People gazed at the horse.⁸

Dilbag began to remain sad on being separated from his partner Gulbag. He also refused to eat. Guru Sahib called Bidhi Chand and hold him that the other horse could also be brought by him. Bhai Bidhi Chand bid adieu to Hargobind and left for Lahore.⁹

This time he stayed at Bhai Bahode's house and told about his motive far going there. And requested him to get 2, 3 robes stitched for him. A colander and chain were also arranged. Since soothsayers and explorers usually carry those things. After disguising himself in a unique

manner, he began to take rounds at major places of Lahore. He started preaching that he could find a lost article wherever on the earth. At present, he was unparalleled soothsayer in Hindustan. That rumor reached the royal court. Government officials informed him that Shah Jahan had lost one of his favorite horse. If he would find it, he would be heavily rewarded.

He went inside the fort with clerks. Even inspector Saundha Khan did't recognize him in that new attire.¹⁰

Fortune-teller Bidhi Chand earned their confidence with his big words. Inspector Saundha Khan himself went to the *Badshah* and said that if he could present a soothsayer who would tell everything about the horse. So what else Shah Jahan wanted. Next day the man was presented before the King. When asked by the king, he told that thief was no one but the grass-cutter who intoxicated the workers and took away the horse. I can he could also tell where and with whom it is? But for that he need to create the same scene. Everyone would again get

⁷ Giani Kewal Singh, Nirdosh, *Do Talvaran Badhian*, P. 67.

⁸ *Gurpratap suraj granth* (Dr. kirpal singh) P. 272

⁹ Giani Gian singh, *Gurbilas Patshahi cheevi* (sodhi Teja singh), P. 382

¹⁰ Giani Kewal Singh, Nirdosh, *Do Talvaran Badhian*, P. 70

boozed-up and locked from outside. Exactly that time when the grass-cutter flew away the horse, he would tell him the whole truth.¹¹

At evening the situation was recreated. People got drunk by midnight and again Bidhi Chand worked out his plan. He put the golden saddle upon Gulbag and flew away. As earlier, this time as well Bidhi Chand made a jump from the wall of fort. He took the way to Malwa. Next day he reached Bhai Roopa, where he learned about Guru that he was at village Kangad with Bhai Jodh Shah. Kangad was 3 Koh from Bhai Roopa.

Royal court was set-up when he reached. Guru got impressed with his service and called him '*Bhidi Chand Chhina Guru Da seena*. Bidhi Chand told Guru that he had informed shah Jahan about your present location at village Kangad. And I have also challenged them for war. Therefore, the royal force would definitely come. Hence he must also make arrangements for the save.¹²

Guru went according to Bidhi Chand that the place was not appropriate for confrontation with the Kings army 'therefore, he asked Jodh Rai if he could tell about any desert area or a pond at a distanc of 4-5 Koh from there. It was called pond Nathana village but not single drop of water was found. He may encamp there. Bhai Roopa chand, Bhai Bhagta, Bhai Bhagtu etc, awared him about the geographical condition of the region. In between Mehraj and Nathana there was a open forest which contained huge mounds of sand, thorny trees, and a *Dhab* which was 12 *Ghuma* area. There was no other source of water else than that. Guru Hargobind got immediately convinced on hearing about *Dhab*, dense forest and started moving towards Nathana. They reached the ground of Mehraj with his soldiers. It contained large ridges,

Capparis, Beri, Reru, Jand, Shrubs, Throns Malwians were well aware about its labyrinth but mughals were not Guru encamped near Ratransar *Dhab*. People of Malwa did'nt let any problem arise of *Langar* for Guru's forces.

Milk, Butter everything was provided to them. Guru made all the necessary arrangements before the arrival of royal army.¹³

To take away two horses from royal fort without any bloodshed was an task. So this news spread all over Lahore sixth Guru Hargobind's Sikh Bidhi Chand took away the horses. For second time he even announced his whereabouts.¹⁴

Guru knew that Mughal forces would attack. How come Shah Jahan would tolerate if someone snatched away his things. People were becoming aware about their rights. They

¹¹Max Arthur Macliff, *Punjab da Itihas*, P. 151

¹²*Op cit*: P. 386

¹³Giani Balwant singh, *Gurudwara Gurusar Nathana*, Lacial Guruduwara, Prabandhaki Committee,Nathana. 2000, P. 6

¹⁴Giani Kewal Singh, *Do Talwara Badhian*, P. 75

knew that they need to struggle to get their rights. And Sikhs had become fearless since fifth Guru was made to sit on throne to met large griddle. They merely needed an opportunity which they got by establishing *Akal Takht*.¹⁵

While departing from Lahore, General Lalla Beg took along his faithful Hasan Khan. A group of 35 thousand Mughal soldiers reached Malwa. During the second time, Bidhi Chand told them Bhai Roopa. But on arrival they learned that Guru and his men had left for Kangad. Hasan Khan was sent to spy out. He reached Nathana pond. Where sikh forces were getting really for the war. Though Hasan beg disguised himself as sikh but Bhai Bidhi Chand and Bhai Jodh Shah caught him.¹⁶

Hasan Khan very easily got to know about their war strategies, weapons and bullets etc. Hasan Khan thought that the Sikhs were no way equal to tham. No one got a clue about the intruder Hasan Khan. But Bidhi Chand was familiar with every sikh and Jodh Rai with soldiers he was caught. But Guru released him. Though Bhai Jodh Rai showed dissension that he may tell their information so atleast capture him if not kill. However, Guru sent him back. It left a huge impact upon Hasan Khan and he turned to be a disciple of him.¹⁷

Hasan Khan got so impressed with guru that he began to eulogise about him in front of Lalla Beg. How come a Mughal General would have tolerated this. He dismissed Hasan Khan from services. Hasan Khan went to Guru who respectfully recruited him in his force. On the other hand, Lalla Beg gave 7 thousand soldiers to his brother Kamar Beg to attack on Guru Hargobind.

More over to encourage him it was told that Guru was not having any specialized army but some Sikhs of lower caste to compete with royal forces.

To compete with Kamar Beg's force, Guru appointed Bhai Jodh Rai who stood at bay with his brother Salem Shah and one thousand soldiers. In extreme winter period, Malwa warriors were carrying match rock on their bodies. It created a chaos among royal force. They got puzzled in anxiety. Due to unacquainted with forest area and more over extreme cold led them to confusion. They began to kill their own men in rush misunderstanding them as enemies. One of the part of Guru his force was under the command of Bhai Bidhi Chand.

¹⁵ *Ibid* P. 70

¹⁶ *Gurpratap Suraj Prakash Granth* (Ed. Dr. Ajit singh Aulakh) P. 438

¹⁷ Giani Gian singh, *Gurbilas patshahi Cheevi* P. 391

Those people were sacrificing their lives not for salary but to get acknowledged in the eyes of Guru. They casted out their enemies .¹⁸

In the first attack itself, enemies were uprooted. Some Sikhs got killed by each other due to misunderstanding. During confrontation Jodh Rai killed Kamar Beg by a dart. The news was given to Guru ji. Guru ji was glad over the success and hugged Rai Jodh. On hearing about Kamar Beg's death his son Shams Beg flew into rage. He said that he would take revenge of his fathers death. He took 10 thousand soldiers with him to attack on Sikhs.

Hasan Khan who was a soldier earlier for Lalla Beg and than in Guru's protection told that the young bay who is stimulating the forces, was Kamar Beg's son Shams Beg. He was a brave warrior. Guru sent Bhai Bidhi Chand 1500 soldiers to compete him. Little Shams Beg fought with velour and eventually he got killed by Bidhi Chand. His brother Kasim Beg also fought bravely and killed many Sikhs with his arrows. Guru sent an old but a sword expert Bhai Jetha in the field on expert with sword and easily killed that young man.¹⁹

On seeing that his selected generals were killed, Lalla Beg himself appeared in the battlefield. He fought with him. Lalla Beg was progressing due to which Guru appeared in comparison to him. In such heated atmosphere Guru Hargobind made a stroke with his Khanda and beheaded Lalla Beg.

Ultimately, that fight was won by Guru Hargobind. When king's army left the battlefield, Guru expressed to Jodh Rai to provide treatment to the injured and also cremate the martyred Sikhs under a common pyre. As per Guru's orders, when the martyrs were counted Jodh Rai said that they had 1 thousand 2 hundred Sikhs dead. But it was difficult to count the Mughal army. Since they were 35 thousand in total out of which where dead and some ran away.²⁰

Guru buried the corpses of Beg, his two sons Kasam Beg, Sham Beg and both chiefs Kamar Beg and Kabal Beg with dignity. The injured were treated and dead were buried in a

large pit. The abandoned weapons of warrior Sikhs in the battlefield were collected and preserved where as the weapon of enemy's troop were buried along with the bodies. After feeding the horses, Sikhs prepared *Langar* for themselves and *Karah Parshad* was distributed as a sign of victory.²¹

¹⁸Giani Gian singh, *Gurbilas Patshahi cheevi* (sodhi Teja singh), P .391

¹⁹Lo Cit. P.81

²⁰Satvir singh ,*Gurbani* ,(Jiwani Guru Hargobind ji), P. 118

²¹Giani Gian singh, *Gurbilas pathshahi chhenvi* (Sodhi Teja singh), P. 401

1276 Gursikhs and approximately 16000 royal force attained martyrdom during that war, After the war Guru Sahib cremated the martyrs at *Shahid Ganj*. As per the tradition, Muslims were buried at Damdama Sahib. The general rites of Sikhs were performed at the bank of *Dhab* which got its name Gurusar by Guru himself. A sikh was also appointed for taking its care. Later Guru went back to Amritsar.²²

Guru Hargobind converted the battlefield to a holy religious place. It came to be known as Guru ki *Dhab* or Gurusar.

It is near to village Nathana and 3 miles from Railway station. The King of built a lavish *Gurudwara* at the place where Guru fixed up a camp.²³

Due to the fact that Guru attained victory at this place, it came to be known as Gurusar. *Gurusar* means triumph of Guru. *Sar* could also mean *Sarovar* but here it convey victory. Earlier a natural *Dhab* was there which was the only source of water. At present a Sarovar has been constructed at this *Dhab*.²⁴

Formerly Ramdasiye sikh provided their service here. In 1659, 9 *Godri Vala* sikh built a tower at this place and also acquired a 100 *bhigha* arbour. Afterwards Sukha Singh, Neba Singh, Khadag Singh, and Raja Singh like saints served here. For some period saint Nirmala also served here.²⁵

Hira Singh, king of Nabha, built a beautiful *Gurudwara* at the place were Guru stayed. For a time, saint Raja Singh served here. His devotional songs were really delightful.²⁶

This religious place is approximately at 3Km distance from Mehraj town. Hira Singh built a lavish *Gurudwara* at Gurusar and provided service. For building *Sarovar* (holy tank). a grant of land was donated to this place form the government of Patiala and Nabha. The place where dead bodies of Mughal commanders were buried. A Gurdwara has been built over there. A perpetual flame of light is situated there. A tree *ber* is present where Guru Sahib tied his horse. The tree is lush green still at time and has grown into an arbour. People visit here to take vows.²⁷

While Guru Hargobind was residing in Malwa region, People from far places were coming there to pay obeisance. People from Malwa brought two beautiful horses namely Dilbag and Gulbag to offer to Guru. But during their rest at Lahore, Nawab Kasam Beg forcefully took those horses due to which Karodi Mal was sad. Guru sent Bidhi

²² Bhai Roop Singh, *So Tham Suhava*, Sikh Itihas, P. 65

²³ *Op Cit.*, P.157

²⁴ Sukhdiall Singh, *Guru Hargobind Sahib, Jiwan Yudh Ate Yatravan*, P. 134

²⁵ Tara Singh Nirotam, *Gurwareyan Da SanKhep Haal*, P. 57

²⁶ Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha, *GurShabad Ratnakar Mohankosh*, P. 421

²⁷ *Op Cit.*, P.134

Chand to Lahore and he very cleverly brought the horses, one after the other, to Guru by fooling the men of Kasam Beg. During second time, he also told about the location of Guru Shaib to Kasam Beg. So, sensing the danger, Guru Hargobind shifted to Nathana village where there was a big pond, thorny trees and shrubs all over. People residing in the Malwa region helped Guru in all aspects. Mughal forces attacked them but the battle was won by the great warriors of Guru Shaib. Guru Hargobind got performed all the last rites of Sikh soldiers as well as those of the enemy.

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