



SHAHEED BHAI MANI SINGH JI GATKA AKHARA

Sahibjada Baba Ajit Singh Ji

Baba Ajit Singh Ji was the eldest of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Sunder Kaur Ji's sons. Baba Ji was born in Paonta Sahib but grew up in the city of Anandpur Sahib. A few years after his birth, Guru Gobind Singh Ji created the Khalsa in 1699.

From a young age Baba Ji was taught Sikh philosophy, Gurbani, Katha and Shastar Vidiya. At 12 years old Baba Ji was sent by Guru Gobind Singh Ji to recover the stolen property of the Sangat of Pothohar. Guru Sahib was very keen on ensuring that no member of the sangat be ill-treated or looted and as a result he entrusted Baba Ajit Singh Ji with the duty of returning the possessions back to the sangat. After Baba Ji had completed the task set by their father and Guru, another more difficult task was set. Guru Sahib told Baba Ji that he must fortify and defend the Taragarh fort, which was the first port of attack by the hill chiefs. Baba Ji aged 12 years old led an army of 100 Singhs to Taragarh and secured the fort and waited patiently for the attack that was due to happen at any moment.

In 1703 a Hindu came to Guru Sahib's darbaar and complained that the Mughals had kidnapped his wife. When Baba Ajit Singh heard this he said to Guru Sahib that as Gursikhs of Guru Nanak Dev Ji it is our responsibility to protect women, even if they don't follow Gurmat or Sikhi. Guru Sahib asked Baba Ji what they should do, Baba Ji responded and said that it is only just to bring the Hindu's wife back and challenge the Mughals.

Baba Ji set off with 100 Singhs, they rescued the wife of the Hindu and arrested the Mughals who had captured her. Baba Ji fought in over 6 battles and had many encounters similar to this. He was widely known as the protector of the weak, a hero and a fearless warrior even though he was so young.

During the battle of Chamkaur Sahib in 1705, the population of Singhs had decreased dramatically. Towards the final stages of the battle, as Guru Sahib wrote Zafarnama (a letter to Aurangzeb, claiming that his reign of terror will come to an end) 40 Singhs were left in the fort. They divided themselves into groups of five, and then they would go out, one group at a time, to eliminate the army of the wicked Aurangzeb. Baba Ajit Singh Ji was the Jathedar of one of these groups. He fought heroically and fearlessly and finally completed his lifetime wish of being able to die for the protection of Guru Sahib and the Panth.

After the battle had finished, the Singhs who survived said to Guru Gobind Singh Ji that because Baba Ji was their Sahibjada it would be respectful if they collected his body and completed a proper sanskaar (cremation) separate from the other Singhs. Guru Sahib claimed that if they were to perform a proper sanskaar for Baba Ajit Singh Ji then they would have to perform a sanskaar for all the Singhs that died on the battlefield as each of Guru Sahib's sons were immensely precious to them.