



SHAHEED BHAI MANI SINGH JI GATKA AKHARA

Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji

It goes without saying that Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji is one of the greatest warriors and saints the world has ever seen. He was a true saint soldier, someone who would not only conquer the temptations of the mind but would also conquer the tyrants of the world. At age 17 Baba Deep Singh Ji was blessed with Amrit in 1700CE during the first ever Holla Mahalla festival in Anandpur Sahib. After meeting with Satguru Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Baba Ji knew instantly that he must enrol himself into the Khalsa way of life and become amritdhari.

From the age of 17 Baba Ji spent his life reading Gurbani, learning Katha and Shastar Vidiya from Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj. After 4 years of seva, Guru Sahib knew that Baba Ji was going to be a leader of the panth and blessed him with the seva of providing the ink and paper for Guru Granth Sahib Ji to be compiled at Takhat Sri Damdama Sahib (Sabho Ki Talwandi). It was here that Baba Deep Singh Ji and Bhai Mani Singh Ji became the closest of friends, together they would serve Guru Sahib with the utmost respect and challenge each other on the amount of rehat they kept. After the completion of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Baba Ji went with Guru Gobind Singh Ji to Sri Hazoor Sahib and was one of the Panj Pyare that gave authority to Guru Gobind Singh Ji to pass the Gurgadhi on to Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. After completing this seva, Guru Gobind Singh Ji left this world and gave Baba Deep Singh Ji the duty of carrying on the vidiya of Santhiya, Katha, Gatka and Brahm Vidiya (knowledge of God) at Sri Damdama Sahib. Baba Ji was deeply upset that Guru Sahib was going to leave the world and begged for the chance to go with them. Guru Sahib embraced Baba Ji and told him that there would come a time when Baba Ji would need to perform a huge seva for the Panth. Guru Ji said that at some point Baba Ji would need to give his head for the Panth and when that time comes he must not flinch and must carry on with sharda in his heart and naam on his lips. Baba Ji gracefully accepted the hukam from Guru Sahib and left for Panjab.

During his time at Damdama Sahib Baba Ji not only helped Baba Banda Singh Bahadur in his plight to attain Khalsa Raj but he also completed 4 sarroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and sent them to four takhats. News came that the Mughals has once again taken control over Sri Harmandar Sahib; Baba Deep Singh Ji knew that this was the battle that Guru Sahib had mentioned previously. He did an Ardaas and vowed that he would not stop until his head reached Sri Darbar Sahib. Gathered at Taran Taaran Sahib, Baba Ji drew a line on the ground with his 80lb Khanda, given to him by Guru Gobind Singh Ji (it was once Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji's). He asked all the sangat if they were prepared to die for their Guru then they must cross the line, every Sikh that was present crossed the line.

Both armies met each other in battle, with the battleground becoming full of blood. Yakoob Khan and Baba Ji met each other on the battlefield; Baba Ji hit Yakoob Khan's head so hard that he collapsed right there and was killed instantly. Upon seeing this Pathan Jahan Khan confronted Baba Ji, both their heads were cut off as they struck each simultaneously. A Gursikh called out, "Baba Ji, you promised to place your head at the feet of Sri Guru Ram Daas Sahib Ji at Sri Harmandar Sahib." When Baba Ji heard this he picked up his head in his left hand, took up his sword in his right and continued fighting. The tyrants were so astounded by this event that some started to run away, as they left the battlefield they told their fellow soldiers that the General of the Sikhs is fighting without his head.

While fighting, Baba Ji progressed to the parkarma (the outer circle) of Sri Harmandar Sahib, with the Sikhs shouting war cries. Baba Ji placed his head at the feet of Guru Sahib Ji and after completing an ardaas left the world for Sach Khand.