



SHAHEED BHAI MANI SINGH JI GATKA AKHARA

Bibi Nanaki Ji – The First Gursikh

Bibi Nanaki Ji was the elder sister of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the daughter of Kalian Chand (Baba Kalu) and Mata Tripta. Bibi Ji was born in 1464 at her mother's home in the village of Chahal, now in the Lahore district of Panjab (Pakistan).

Bibi Nanaki was five years older than Guru Nanak Dev Ji and was the first to recognise His spirituality and became devoted to His ways. Their father did not recognise Guru Nanak Dev Ji as a spiritual leader and would on many occasions become angry. Bibi Nanaki would always protect and defend her younger brother from their father. She was with Him throughout the early years of His childhood. When Guru Nanak Dev Ji was only six years old in 1475, Bibi Nanaki was married to Jai Ram, a revenue official of very good reputation, at Sultanpur. Guru Nanak continued to live at home. He rebelled against any norms that were imposed without a viable reason, especially the unnecessary Hindu rituals and traditions. He loved to be in the company of saints and gave money away to the poor and the hungry. His father despaired of never being able to make him behave and take on a respectable position in the village. And so it was that his father gave up, and at the age of fifteen, Guru Nanak Dev Ji was sent to live with his sister, and to work for her husband. It was Jai Ram who arranged the wedding of Guru Ji to Mata Sulakhani Ji, daughter of Moolchand Chand Khatri and Mata Chando.

Bibi Nanaki herself was childless but she loved the Guru's sons Baba Sri Chand and Baba Lakhmi Das, as her own and would help Mata Sulakhani take care of them whilst Guru Ji was away doing Dharam Parchar.

In 1518, Guru Nanak Dev Ji was in the middle of his tours of India doing Parchar of Sikhi and explaining the importance of Gurmantar. They were close to the village of Sultanpur and visited Bibi Nanaki. Bibi Ji knew her end was nearing and so asked Guru Sahib to stay for a short while longer. As she had wished, she departed this life in the presence of her brother and Guru - Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Three days later, her husband, Jai Ram, also left this world. Guru Sahib performed their last rites.

There is no doubt that the first Gursikh was none other than Bibi Nanaki and the second Gursikh was Mata Sulakhani Ji, Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Wife.

