



SHAHEED BHAI MANI SINGH JI GATKA AKHARA

Mata Khivi Ji

Mata Khivi (1506 - 1582) is the wife of the second Sikh Guru, Guru Angad; she was born in 1506 to Karan Devi and Bhai Devi Chand Khatri in a small town called Sanghar which is now located in the province of Sindh in Pakistan.

Her father was a shopkeeper and trader, and was a popular man in the neighbourhood. His daughter inherited all his finest attributes of generosity and congenial spirit. She was married in 1519, when she was 13 years old. Khivi was married to Bhai Lehna Ji for 20 years before he became the second Guru of the Sikhs.

There is historical evidence that Mata Ji had four children. Dasu, the eldest was born in 1524. Bibi Amro was born in 1532, followed by Bibi Anokhi in 1535 and son Datu in 1537. The family was content and doing well. As the wife of one of the town's richest men,

Mata Khivi must have enjoyed a great deal of respect. Her life was one of luxury and pleasure.

Life would have gone on this way, had it not been for her coming under the influence of Mai Bhirai, who told her about Guru Nanak's teachings. At approximately the same time, Lahina also heard of the Guru through Bhai Jodha, one of Guru Nanak's earliest disciples. Lahina was a seeker of truth, and his curiosity was aroused.

Important contribution to Sikhi

- Is responsible for the establishment of the present-day Langar system.
- Was the wife of the second Guru, Guru Angad Dev and took on the duty of organising the arrangements of offering comfort and hospitality to the many devotees who came from far off places.
- She made the sangat comfortable after their journey to see the Guru.
- Continued to help perfect the langar system until the Guruship of Guru Arjan Dev and the langar became known as "Khivi ka Langar"

Was responsible for the organisation of the Seva system in the community.

She is mentioned by name in Guru Granth Sahib Ji "Balwand says that Khivi, the Guru's wife, is a noble woman, who gives soothing, leafy shade to all. She distributes the bounty of the Guru's Langar; the kheer - the rice pudding and ghee, is like sweet ambrosia." (ang 967)

Mata Khivi Ji had the distinction of meeting five Gurus. She lived to the age of 75; Guru Arjun Dev attended her funeral. Her contributions to the Sikh cause can easily be divided into three parts.

The first period was the twenty years of marriage before Guru Angad Dev Ji succeeded Guru Nanak Dev Ji. This period was a test not only for Bhai Lehna Ji, but for her as well. Any decisions he made affected her very much. Her response would also have affected his actions. She never complained, nor did anything to deter him from his objectives.

The second period of her life as wife of the Guru was extraordinary in its devotion and dedication to the cause. The third and last period would be after Guru Angad Dev Ji left for sachkhand. She continued to nourish the Sikh community and to work tirelessly for that which she now believed in with all her heart.

She had a long productive life. She worked hard and was loved by all. Her good humor and pleasant personality made a large contribution to the spirit of hospitality, which is now considered an essential trait of Sikh culture. She is quite possibly the first woman of her era who ever worked outside her immediate family home and obligations at a time when her children were very young. She handled both roles admirably well. It is time that Sikhs acknowledge her very important contribution.