

Navin Paneeri

Stories from the life of Guru Gobind Singh

Volume - 1



Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan

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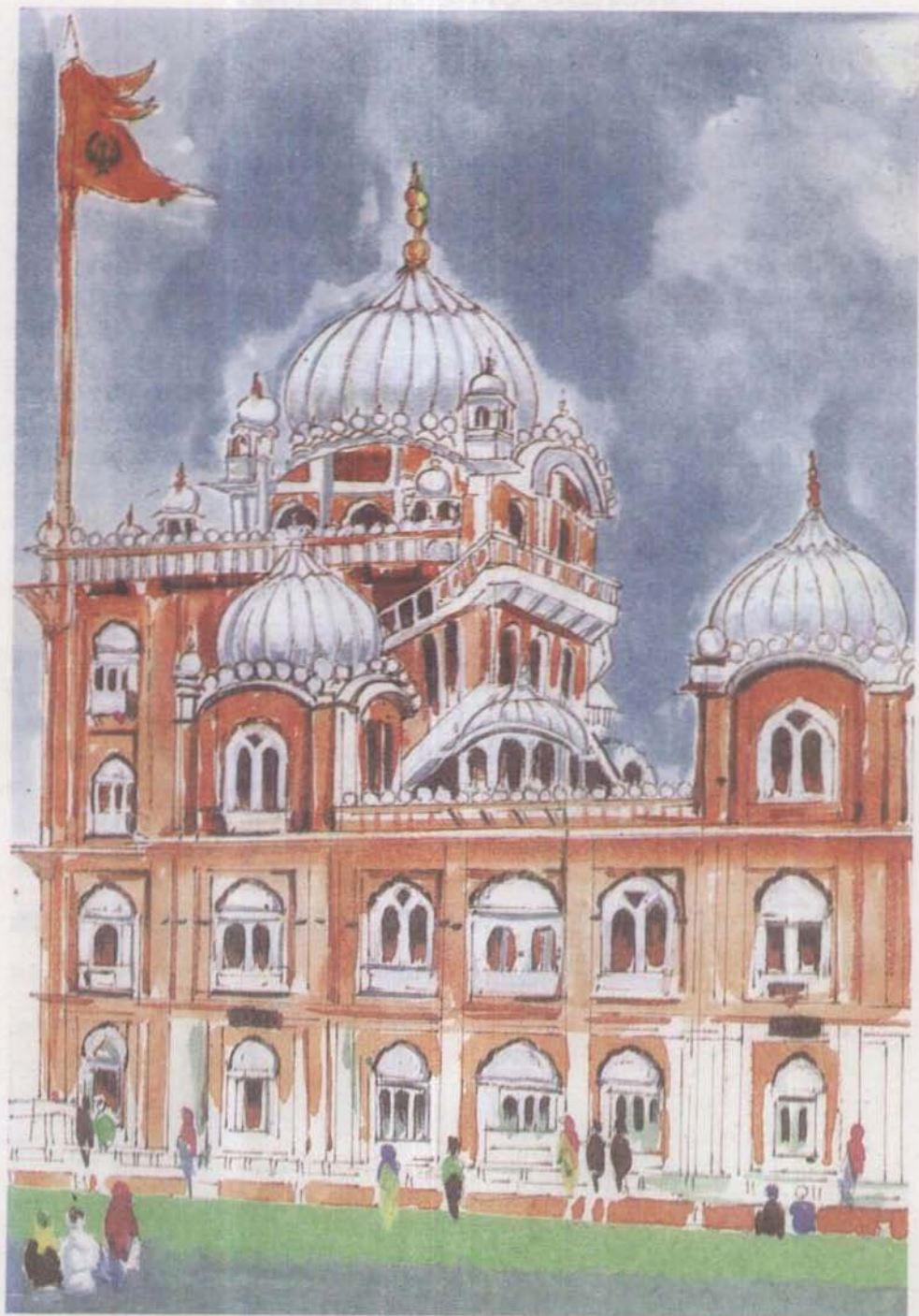
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SACRED CITY OF PATNA

Guru Gobind Singh is our Tenth Guru. He is also called the Tenth Nanak, as he embodied in himself the spirit of Guru Nanak Dev. He was born in 1666 A.D. at Patna, the capital of the state of Bihar in India. He was the only child of Mata Gujri and Guru Tegh Bahadur, the Ninth Guru.

After becoming the ninth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Tegh Bahadur founded a new city and named it Anandpur. After that he embarked upon journey across India. Guru Nanak Dev had travelled throughout the length and breadth of the country. Wherever the Guru Sahib went a Sikh congregation would come into existence. Guru Tegh Bahadur had to go to Kamrup, the present state of Assam. The Guru Sahib reached Patna, which is located on the banks of the Ganges and is situated at a distance of more than one thousand two hundred and fifty kilometers from Amritsar. At Patna, the Sikh congregation warmly welcomed the Guru Sahib. They held him in the highest esteem, loved him deeply and insisted that the Guru Sahib stay at Patna for a long time. Later, he left for Bengal from where he was to proceed to Assam.

His mother Nanaki, his wife Mata Gujri and her brother stayed back at Patna. The Sikh congregation at Patna built a beautiful mansion for their stay. Gobind Rai was born at Patna Sahib. Messengers were sent to Assam and Punjab to convey the news of the birth of beloved child. The Sikhs in Punjab were overjoyed to hear the news and celebrated his birth with great enthusiasm.

THE SAINT AND THE HOLY CHILD

A Muslim saint, Bhikhan Shah, lived in a village near the city of Karnal in Haryana. He had meditated on God for a long time and performed a lot of penance. People thought that he was God Himself in human form. He got the news of the birth of Gobind Rai while he was absorbed in deep meditation in his own village. During his meditation he saw a beam of light and the image of a newborn child. He realized that a holy man, beloved of the Lord, had come to this world.



The beam of light came from the East. With his mind's eye he saw Gobind, the newly born child at Patna. Bhikhan Shah was a Sufi saint. He decided to have a glimpse of the divine child. He asked his disciples to look after his monastery and accompanied by a few close associates, embarked upon a journey to the East. After walking on foot for hundreds of miles, at last he reached Patna. There he made enquiries regarding the family of the holy child. Every body in the city knew the location of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji's mansion. He reached the Guru Sahib's abode without much difficulty.

He requested to have a glimpse of the holy face of the divine child. With great affection, uncle Kirpal Chand brought the child to the door. By that time a large number of the disciples of the Guru Sahib had also gathered. They too wished to see the child. Bhikhan Shah bowed to the child in deep reverence and placed all the gifts that he had brought, before the child. He had also brought two tiny earthen vessels. Holding these in both hands he took these to the child. To the amazement of his disciples as well as Bhikhan Shah the Gobind Rai placed his tiny hands on both the vessels.

Overwhelmed with reverence, Bhikhan Shah once again bowed and touched the feet of the blessed child.



When Bhikhan Shah came out, his disciples as well as the members of the congregation requested the Sufi saint to explain the riddle of the earthen vessels. He said, "When the idea flashed across my mind that God in human form had come down to earth, I felt that the holy child will side with either the Hindus or the Muslims. I thought if the blessed child supports the Hindus, he would destroy the Muslims. With this doubt in mind I got these two vessels made and placed these before Gobind Rai. But the holy child embodies the divine spirit of the Creator Himself. He has answered my question by indicating that he will come to the rescue of both. I have fully realized that this child shall fight against tyranny and uproot it completely. He will help those Hindus and Muslims who stand for truth and justice.

Soon the people in the entire country knew this incident. People in large numbers flocked to Patna to have a glimpse of this wonderful child who was in fact the embodiment of the divine light.



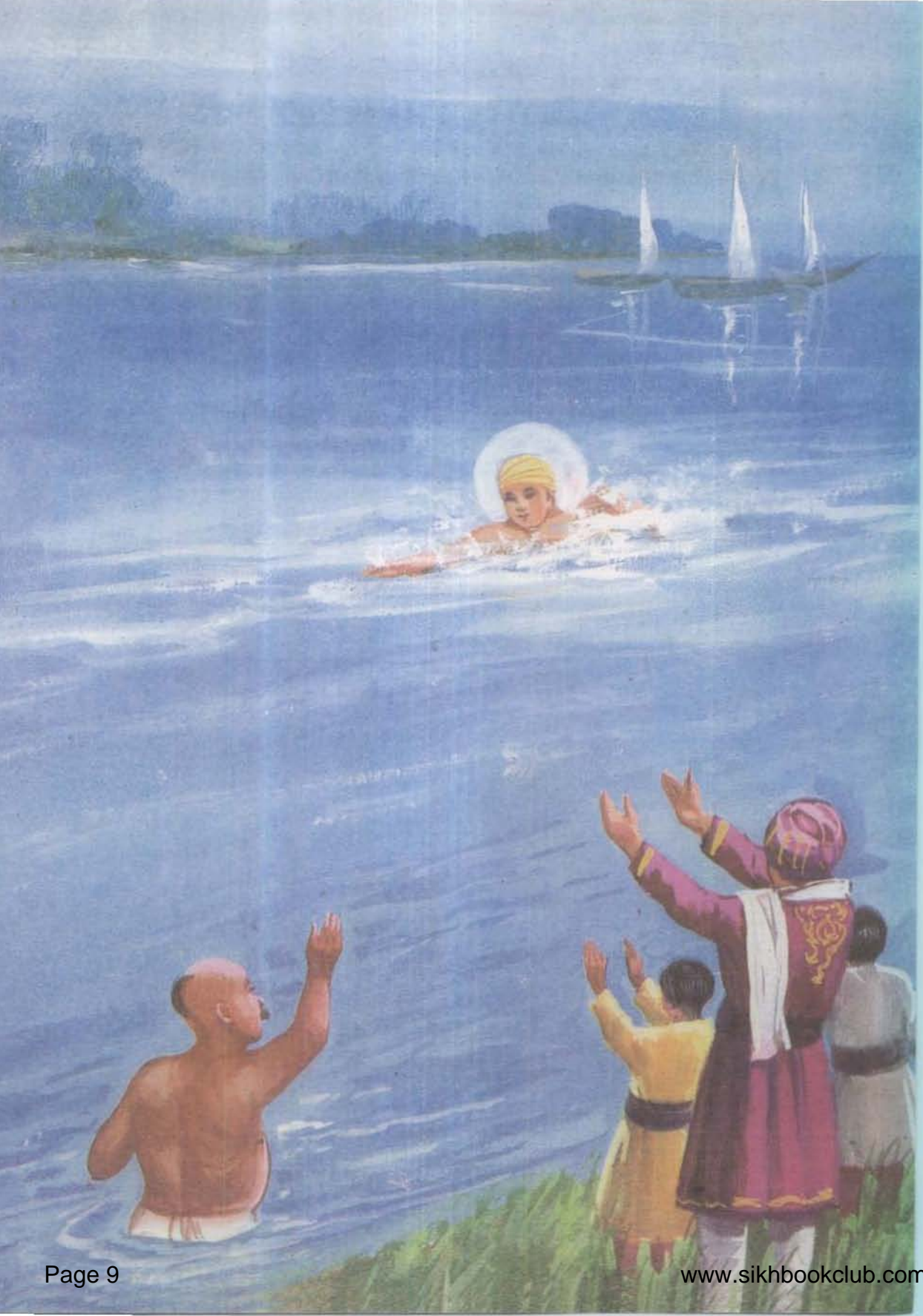
CHILDHOOD ANTICS

During the very first month of his childhood all were amply convinced that Gobind Rai was not an ordinary child. Ordinarily children cry when they feel hungry or are placed in the cradle by their mothers. But this divine child would never cry. A fascinating smile ever played on his lovely face. He lovingly smiled at whosoever called him.

Ordinary children bend their back while learning to crawl. But unlike them Gobind Rai would crawl without bending his back. While sitting, he learnt to crawl. He learnt to walk effortlessly. Unlike other children, he would never falter. He was very different from other children. Every one felt that the child had extraordinary self-confidence. The way he learnt to crawl and walk clearly indicated that he was an unusual and extraordinary child.

When he was three years of age he used to gather children from the neighbourhood and distribute his own toys amongst them. He would organize them into groups and teach them to march and he himself would lead them. He was fond of making the children form a column and march together like men in the army.

His uncle Kirpal Chand remained with him to keep watch over his activities. Once he went to a riverbank to play with children and entered the river. When the uncle saw Gobind Rai in the river, he was frightened. But soon he saw the child swimming ashore. When he narrated the whole incident to Mata Gujri, she was worried but uncle Kirpal Chand told her not to worry. He said that Gobind Rai learnt how to swim in the Heaven itself. He is destined to give deliverance to millions of people; no river has the capacity to drown him.



LORD OF THE PLUME

As a child Gobind Rai was exceptionally handsome. He fascinated one and all. His mother and grandmother would dress him in the finest clothes. His mother had longed to have a son for years. Naturally, she showered affection on him and lovingly looked after him. Many rich residents of Patna were devotees of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Wealthy ladies used to present beautiful clothes and toys to the Guru's child. His mother loved to see her son grow into a strong handsome young man. She would make Gobind Rai don a small turban.

Once a woman devotee brought a plume (*kalgi*) made of feathers studded with precious pearls. Mata Gujri liked the plume and attached it to Gobind Rai's turban. Donning it, the child went out to play. Since then the people started calling him lord of the plume (*Kalgidhar*).



A WOMAN BLESSED

It was the talk of the town that the son of Guru Tegh Bahadur had divine powers. Whatever he said came out to be true. All desires of the devotees blessed by him were fulfilled.

Devotees started flocking to him to ask for boons.

One day some women disciples came to Gobind Rai. They expressed their admiration for him. They told him that among them was a woman who had a keen desire to have a child and prayed that Gobind Rai bless her. The beloved child said, "If she is destined to become a mother, she will give birth to a child. Why should I say so?"

Once again that woman came to Gobind Rai in the company of other women. She prayed to be blessed by him. Mata Gujri called the beloved child and said, "She is a devotee of your revered father, bless her that she begets a child". "How can she get blessings in this way? She owns a fleet of boats. She should give one to me. She would be blessed with not one but five sons". He touched her head with a stick that he carried at that time.

She went home and spoke to her husband and presented a beautiful boat to Gobind Rai. As time passed she became the mother of five sons.



MERCIFUL MISCHIEF

A poor woman used to live in the neighbourhood. She would make a living by spinning thread. She was very poor. The child Gobind Rai playfully scattered her cotton balls and the thread spun by her. When he played this mischief for the second time the poor woman went to Mata Gujri and complained against him. Mata Gujri gave her a lot of money to compensate. Showering blessings on her she would leave. This happened many times. Once Mata Gujri said, "Dear me, why do you play mischief on this poor woman?" Gobind Rai smiled and said, "What you give her is much more than what she can earn after labouring for months." Mata Gujri understood why he was indulging in that playful mischief.



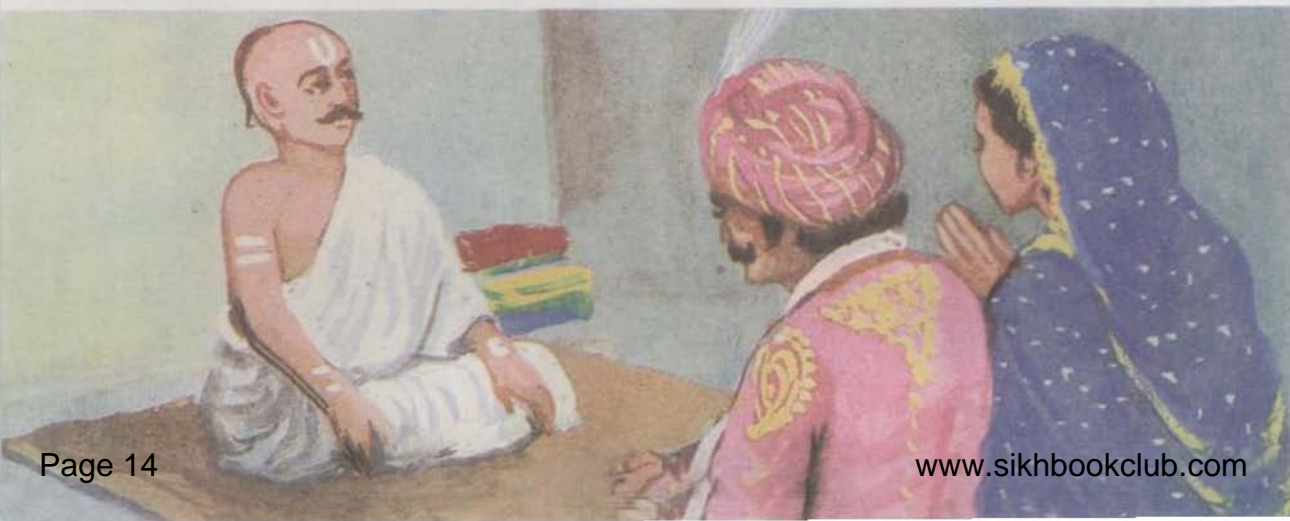


GURDWARA MAINI SANGAT

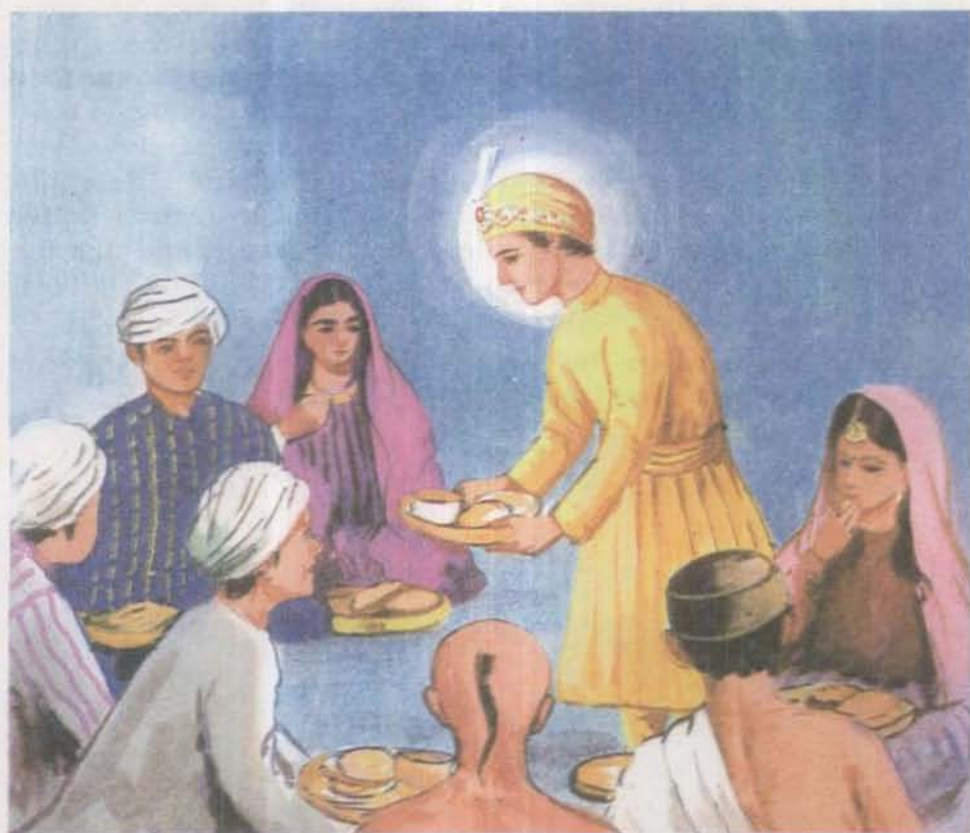
Pundit Shiv Dutt used to meditate on the banks of river Ganges. One day while he was completely absorbed in meditation, he felt that the child Gobind, playing with other children on the banks of the river, was no ordinary child. There was something divine about him. He was the very incarnation of the Lord. Once he saw that the child pushed a leper into the river. As the leper came out of the river he had been fully cured. Pundit Shiv Dutt became a devotee of Gobind Rai.

Fateh Chand Maini, a rich landlord of the city, came to the riverbank along with his wife to meet Pundit Shiv Dutt. They said to him, "Please pray for us to the Almighty so that He may bless us with a son. We have so much property but we have no child who may inherit it." Pundit Shiv Dutt said, "I have prayed many times for you but my prayers have not been answered. Lord's own child is now in the city. He is the son of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. The Lord has bestowed on him all spiritual and worldly powers. Remember him. He shall fulfill all your desires. He is the beloved child of the Lord." From then on, Fateh Chand and his wife would think of Gobind Rai all the time.

Devotedly they meditated on him. One day the beloved child along with his other friends went to the house of Fateh Chand. He sat in the lap of Fateh Chand's wife when she was absorbed in meditation and said, 'Mother'. She opened her eyes, had a glimpse of child's divine face and felt that she had been blessed. She was overjoyed. A deep sense of contentment overwhelmed her.



Gobind Rai played another prank. He said, "Mother I am hungry." "Right now" she said, and asked her husband to fetch sweets and fruits. The child said, "I don't want sweets and fruits. Please give me the food which you cooked." She brought Puris (fried loaves) and gram. Gobind Rai distributed these among his friends and took one himself.



The child and his friends would visit her house frequently and eat fried gram and Puris. Fateh Chand and his wife's desire for a son were fulfilled in this way. Their spiritual longing was also satisfied. They turned their residence into a Gurdwara, which is called Gurdwara Maini Sangat. Puris and grams are served to the devotees in this Gurdwara.

GOBIND GHAT

Pundit Shiv Dutt was a devotee of the *Thakur*. At dawn he would place the idols of the *Thakur* on the banks of the river and offer worship. When he realized that God himself had sent the Gobind Rai to this earth, he started meditating on him. He would have a glimpse of the child during the course of his meditation. Keeping in view his dedication, the child used to come to the banks of the river in the early morning hours and enable Pundit Shiv Dutt to see him. On the days Gobind Rai did not come to the riverbank, Pundit Shiv Dutt would visit the Gurdwara Maini Sangat in the evening to have a glimpse of the divine visage. If he failed to find the child even there, he would go to the abode of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. He would never go back to his home without paying homage to child. Other Brahmins were angry with him for deserting the *Thakur* and showing such devotion to Gobind Rai. However, Shiv Dutt did not pay heed to their protests. He felt happy, contented and blessed.

The riverbank where the Guru Sahib used to come to see Shiv Dutt is known as Gobind Ghat.



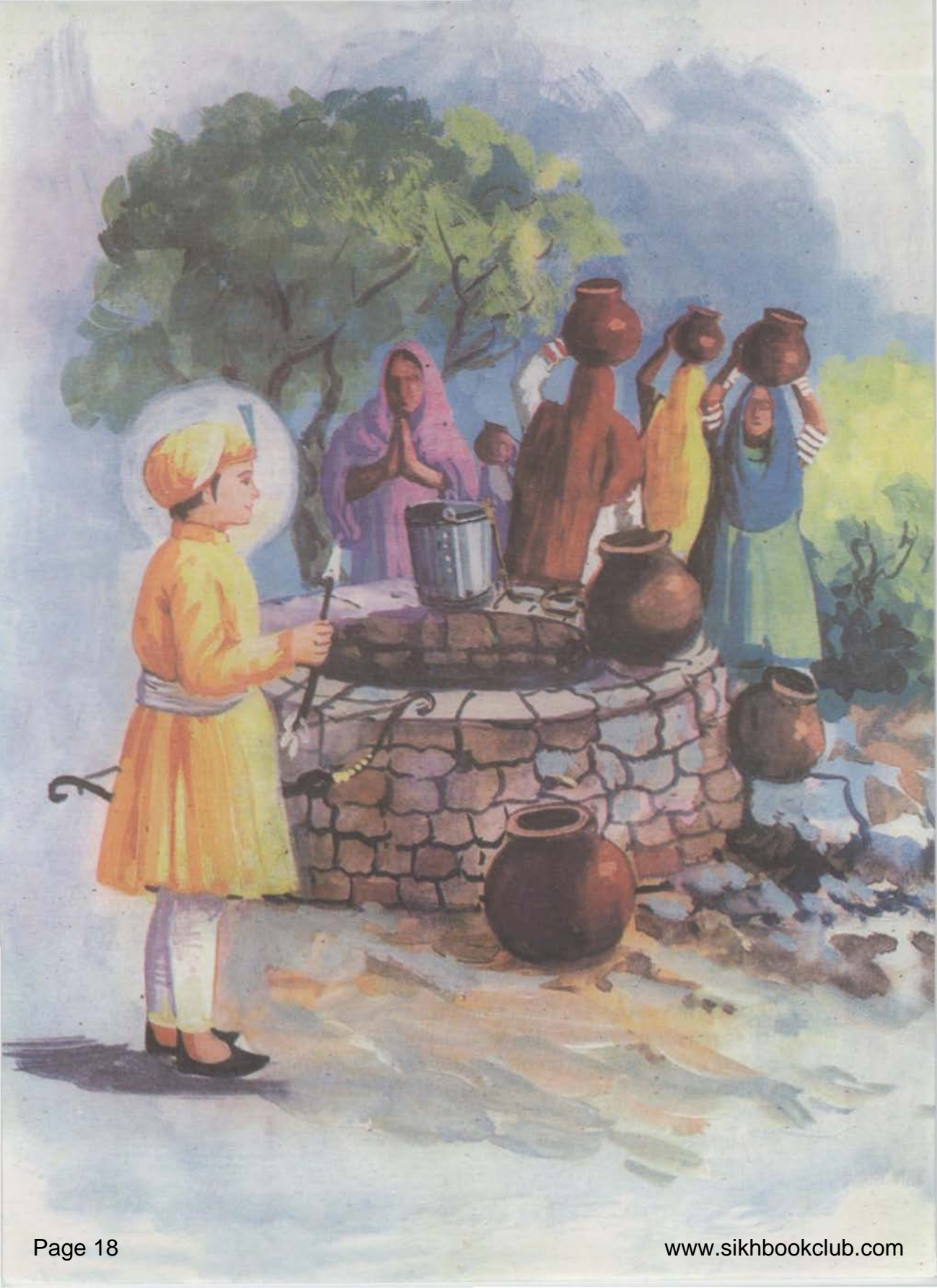
NAWABS OF PATNA SAHIB

Two brothers Rahim Baksh and Karim Baksh used to live in Patna. They had a lot of property in and around the city. They owned many business establishments. People used to address them as Nawabs. When Guru Tegh Bahadur came to Patna Sahib he was fascinated by the seclusion of their orchard and stayed there. The Guru Sahib thought that the orchard was suitable for meditation. The trees in this orchard were withering. But the moment the Guru Sahib entered the orchard these trees became green once again. Thinking that Lord loved the Guru Sahib, the Nawabs became his devotees.

When Guru Tegh Bahadur left for Assam, the two brothers looked after his family. They felt that the Guru Sahib was a prophet. They were very unhappy on the eve of the departure of Gobind Rai from Patna Sahib. The child told them to ask for some boon. They said, "We long to look at your divine visage."



The child said, "My father had told you to recite Jap ji every day in the morning. Please recite and you will see me." The brothers donated a village and the orchard for the upkeep of the community kitchen. To this day these comprise the property of the Gurdwara at Patna.

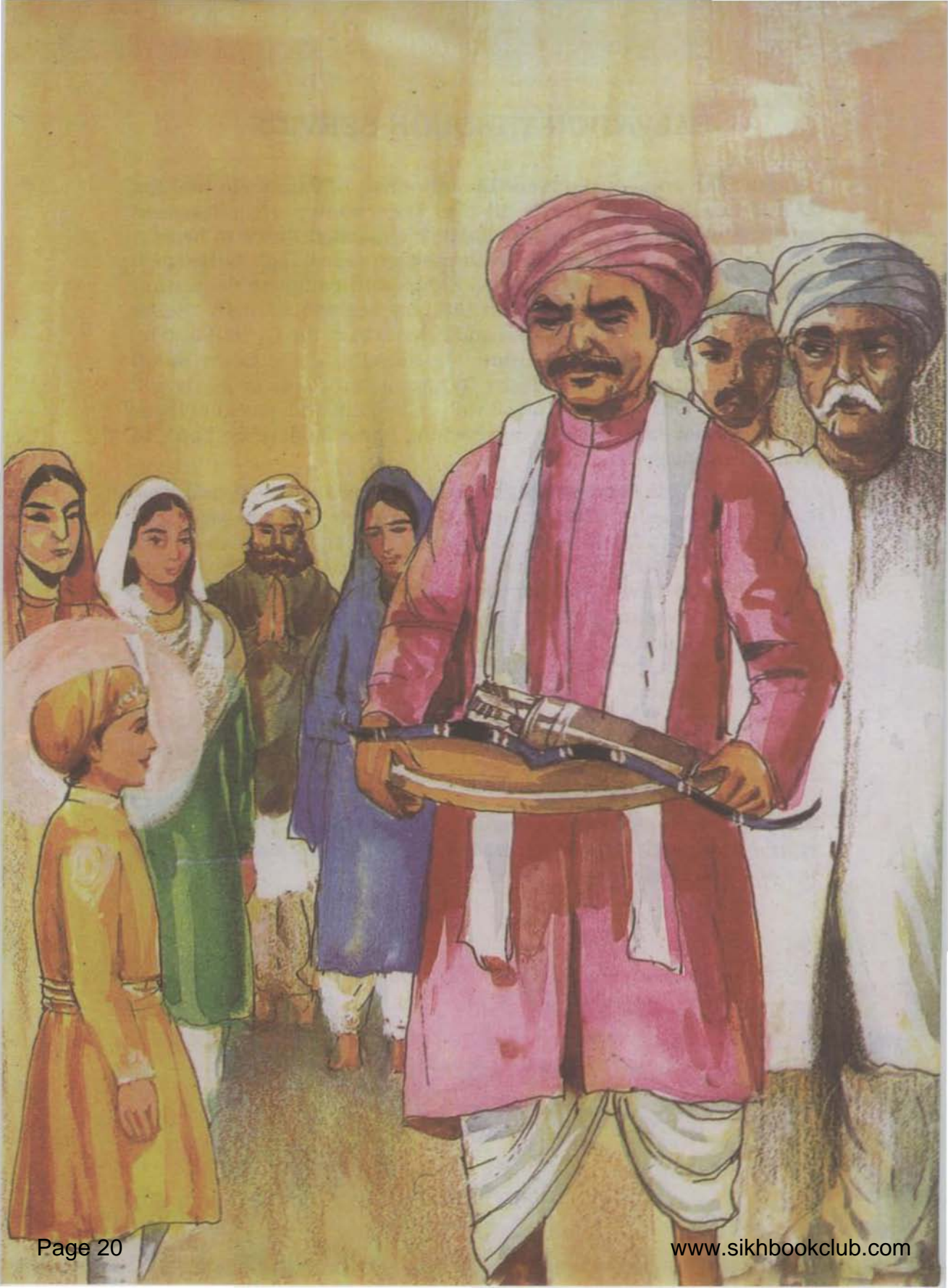


SALVATION THROUGH SERVICE

Jagta Seth was a prominent businessman of Patna. He had his business establishments all over the country. He possessed immense wealth but he had no issue. He married thrice to beget a son who could inherit all his wealth. When Guru Tegh Bahadur ji visited Patna, he served the Guru Sahib with complete dedication and devotion. He used to attend the holy assemblies daily. As he listened to the singing of hymns and discourse of the Guru Sahib he would feel happy and contented. He thought 'If the Guru Sahib blesses me with a son, my desire to have a heir to my property will be satisfied.' One day the Guru Sahib called him and gave him three apples. He felt satisfied and on reaching home he gave an apple to each of his wives.

Next year his three wives gave birth to a son each. At that time Guru Tegh Bahadur ji was away from Patna. He took his wives and the three sons to Mata Gujri and presented a large number of toys and precious clothes to Gobind Rai. He said to Gobind Rai, "What will you like to have?" Gobind Rai said that he would like to have a dagger and a bow and arrows. The Seth brought these and presented these to the beloved child. As long as the family of the Guru Sahib stayed at Patna, he would visit them every day and offer precious gifts and feel happy.

When the family of Guru Sahib was about to leave Patna, Jagta Seth made arrangements for the comfortable stay of the members of the holy family at different places to look after their needs. At the time of departure he presented himself along with all the members of his family and said, "How shall I be able to have a glimpse of you in your absence?" Gobind Rai said, "Attend the holy assembly every day and you shall find me there."



DEPARTURE FROM PATNA SAHIB

Guru Tegh Bahadur ji returned from Assam. He stayed at Patna for a few days and left for Anandpur. He asked the members of his family to continue staying there for some more time.

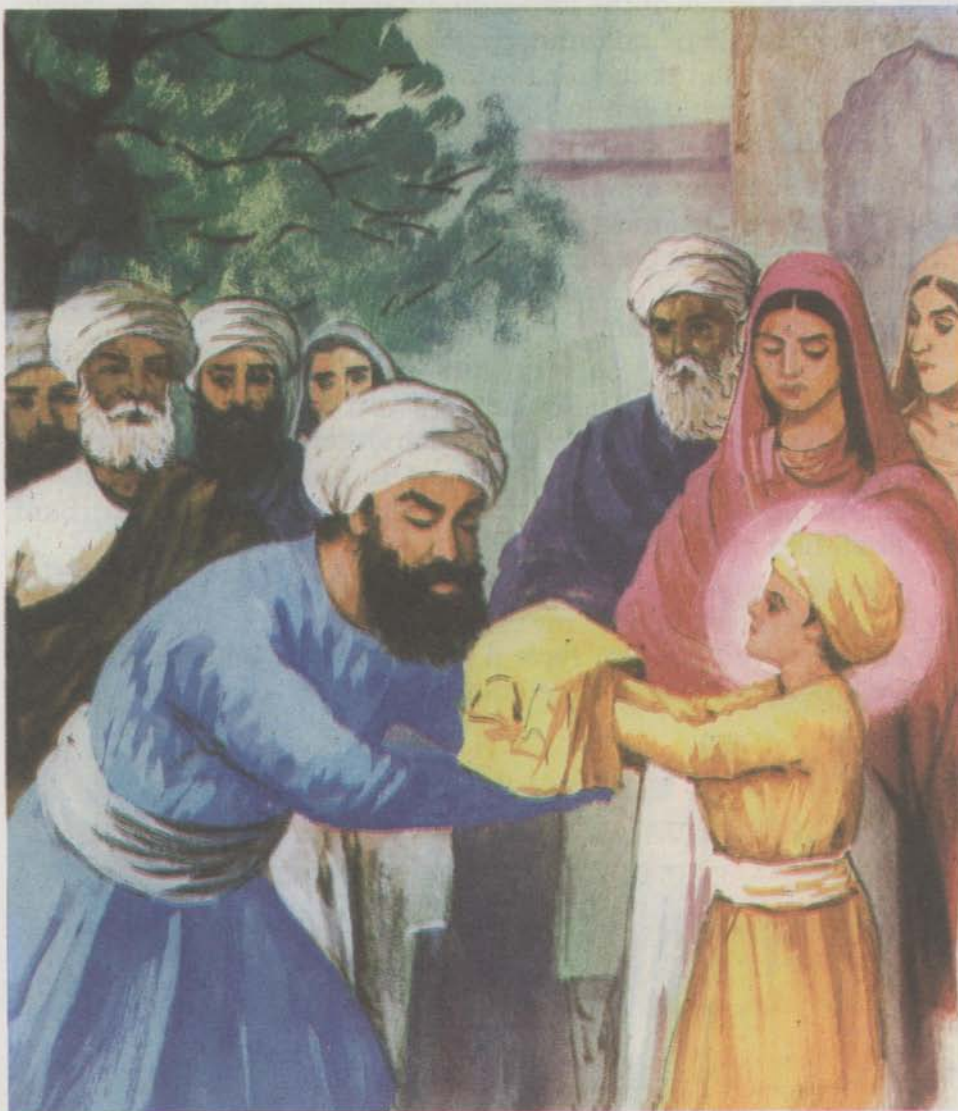
When Gobind Rai was five years of age he would say, "I won't stay here anymore. I want to be with my father." On getting a message from the Guru that the holy family should leave for Anandpur, preparations for the journey were made. When people in the city, the devotees and the members of the family, who dearly loved the child, came to know of the impending departure of the holy family, they were crestfallen and unhappy. Who so ever came to bid farewell to the family was overwhelmed with sorrow. Raja Fateh Chand and his wife held Gobind Rai in their arms and cried like the parents who get separated from their children.

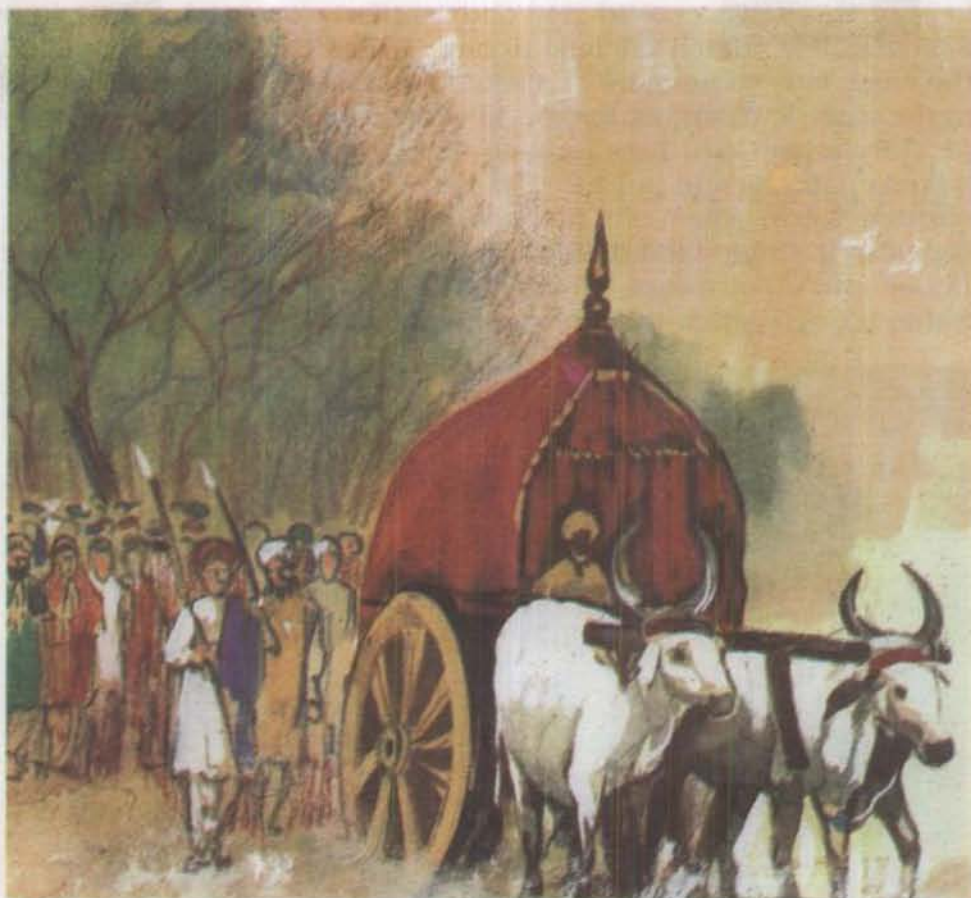
Gobind Rai gave a sword, a dagger and his dress to them and said, "Whenever you miss me, look at these. Serve my friends with food as you would serve me." After the family's departure the Raja and his wife would affectionately invite his friends and serve them with Puris and fried gram.

Pundit Shiv Dutt was very unhappy. Gobind Rai said to him "Every morning, as you offer prayers you will see me. You have attained salvation." He also reassured another devotee Jaita Bhagat and said, "Lovingly recite Gurbani in the morning. Let the remembrance of the Lord be your mainstay. As you recite Gurbani, you shall find me sitting by side."

The congregation made a supplication to Gobind Rai. He said to them, "I am leaving behind my cradle. If you want to see me, look at the cradle. If you want to have a glimpse of my soul, come to the congregation at dawn and meditate on God."

When the holy family left the city, a large number of devotees came to see them off. All of them were overwhelmed at the departure of the Guru with their eyes moist with tears.

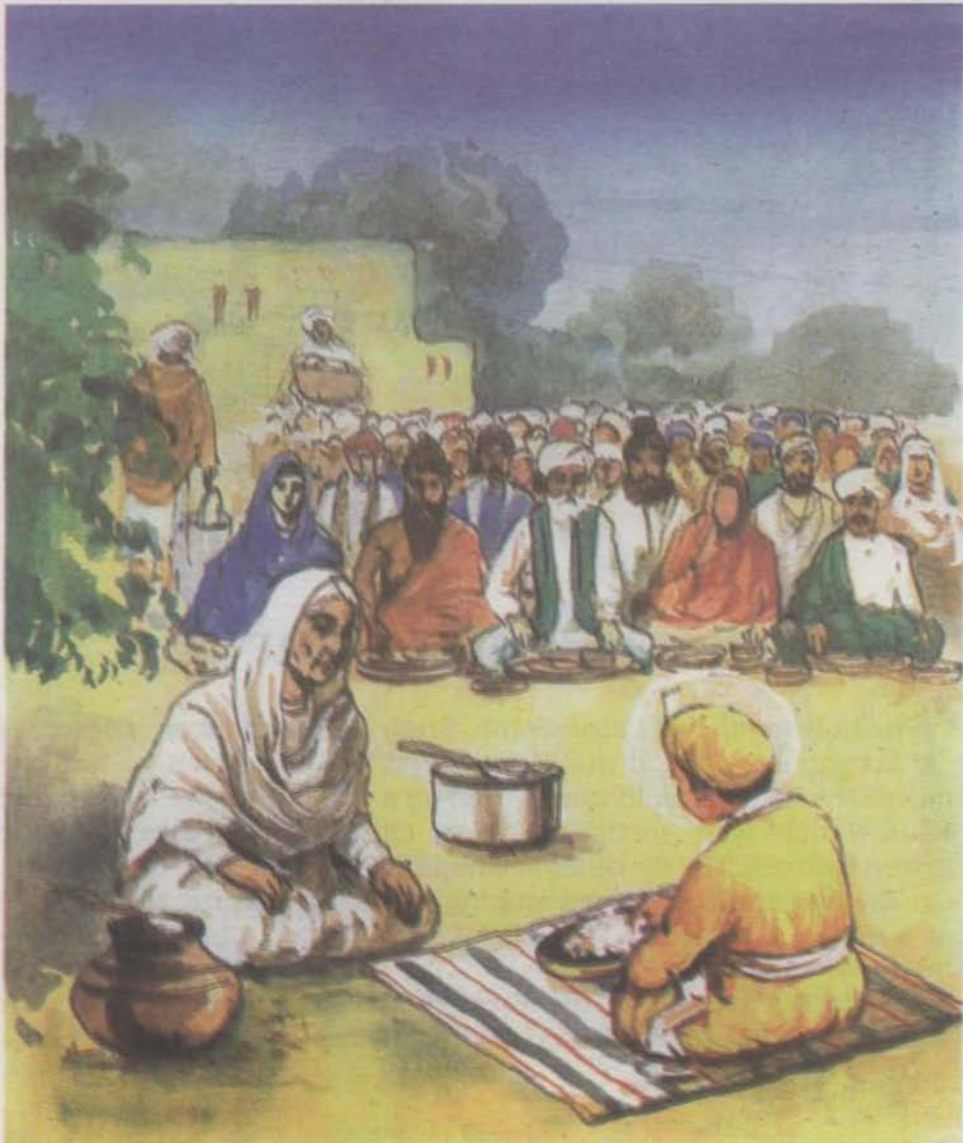




THE OLD LADY OF DANAPUR

The holy family left Patna Sahib. Such a large number of devotees accompanied them that it appeared that a caravan was on the move. The beloved child was carried on a palanquin. Mata Gujri and Mata Nanaki were carried in litters. Others travelled in carriages driven by oxen. The devotees accompanied the party up to Danapur. On the way they continued singing hymns. Danapur was situated at a distance of twenty miles from Patna Sahib. Jagta Seth had a business establishment there. He had made arrangements for the comfortable stay of the members of the holy family and all the devotees. But Gobind Rai said, "When my father visited this place, a

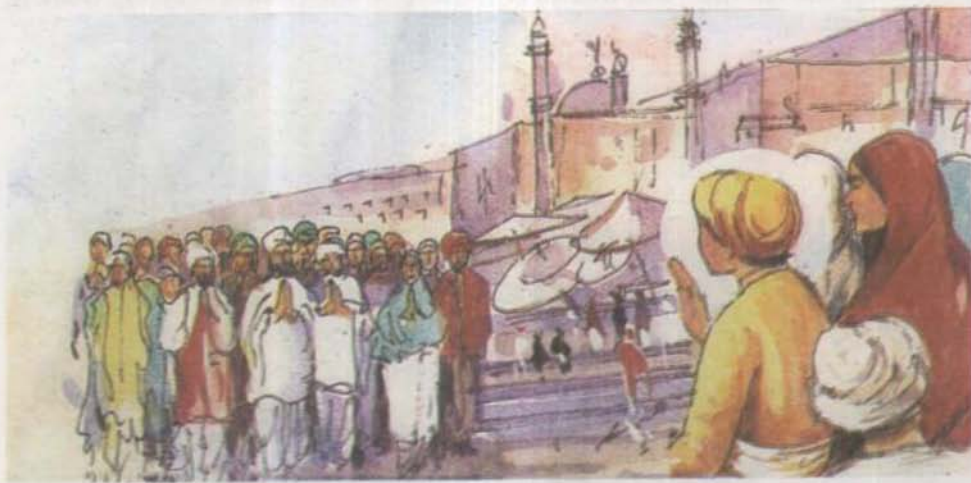
lady of this town cooked rice and lentils in an earthen pot and affectionately offered the food to him." When Gobind Rai said this, the same lady came there and said, "I have cooked rice and pulses in the same earthen pot for you in which I had cooked the porridge for your father Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. For the rest of devotees I have baked chapattis and pulses." The lady had carefully kept aside the earthen pot in which she had cooked the porridge for Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. Gobind Rai blessed the lady. The old lady converted her house into a Gurdwara, which is still known as Gurdwara Handi Sahib (Congregation the Earthen Pot).



BELOVED LORD AT BANARAS

The Sikh Gurus, especially Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, were extremely well known throughout the country. The Guru Sahib's family and their companions had to halt at all towns and villages on the way. People would flock to them in large numbers and listen to the singing of hymns. After the day long travel they used to halt for the night's rest at some town or village. After leaving Danapur the holy family reached Benares (Varanasi) after many days. Earlier Guru Tegh Bahadur had also stayed there. The place where he used to meditate still exists in the form of a Gurdwara. The holy family halted at the same spot.

Bhai Gurbaksh was the leading Sikh missionary there. He came to see the Guru Sahib with a large number of devotees and offered many gifts. Gobind Rai accepted all the gifts and distributed these among the needy and the poor. Bhai Gurbaksh respectfully said with folded hands, "You only accept the offerings but distribute all the gifts." Gobind Rai said, "I accept the gifts, which the devotees bring with so much love and affection. It gives me greater pleasure if these gifts are used by the poor and needy people." Listening to these words, the devotees were wonderstruck. They bowed before him with reverence. Gobind Rai stayed at Banaras for a number of days and discussed spiritual matters with reputed scholars and religious leaders of the town.



FROM ALLAHABAD TO AYODHAYA

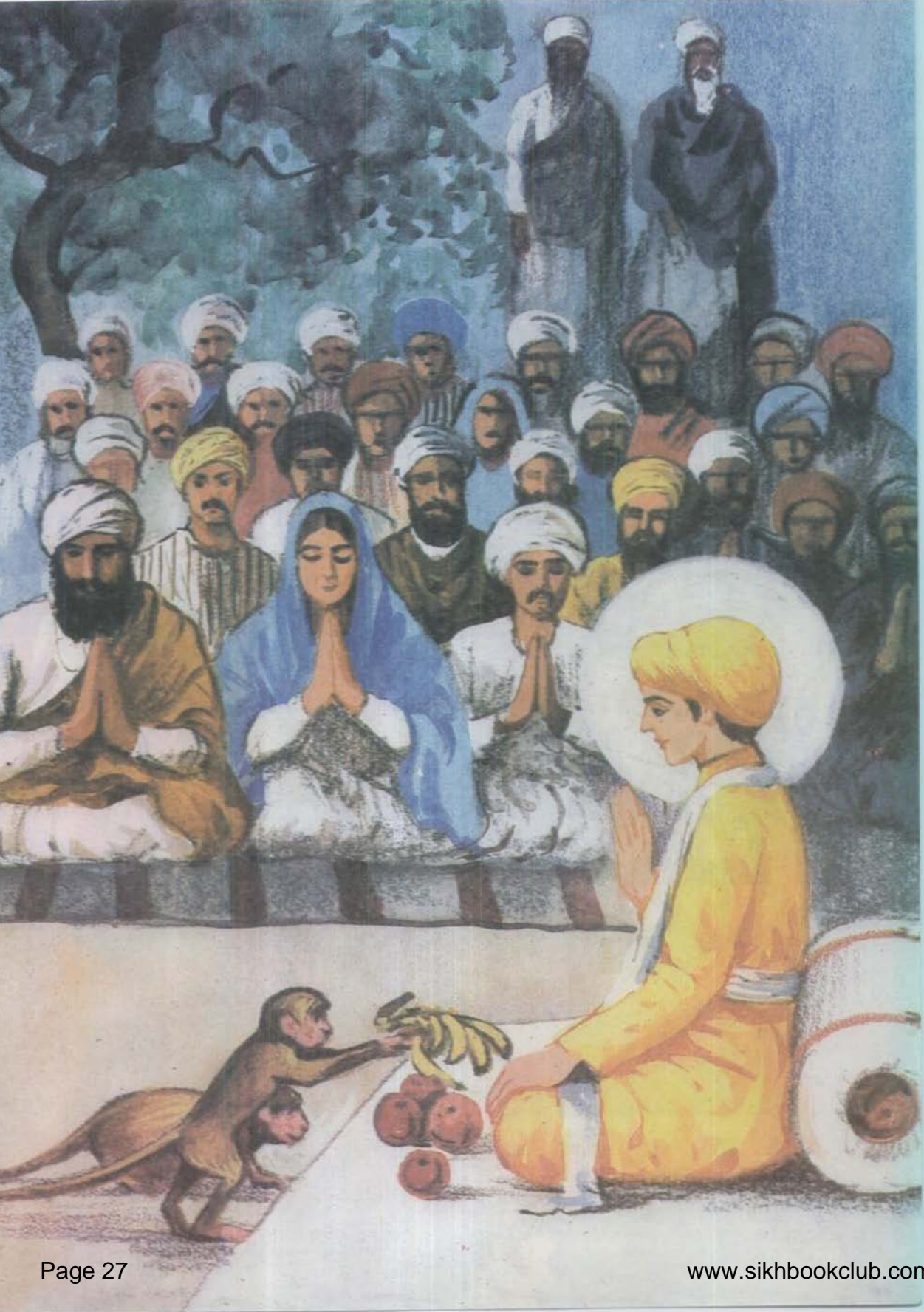
From Benares the members of the family reached Prayag. Here three rivers merge with one another. This is why this place is called Triveni. The river Jamuna joins rivers Ganges and Saraswati that flows underground, joins these rivers. This city was later named Allahabad. On his way to Patna, Guru Tegh Bahadur had stayed in a house in a street called Mayapur. The child also stayed in that very house. A large number of devotees lived there. The child blessed a rich businessman who was issueless. A son was born to him.

He converted the mansion, in which the holy family had prayed, into a Gurdwara. He donated a large sum of money and gifted an orchard for the upkeep of the Gurdwara and the common kitchen. The Gurdwara is still there and is well known.

Holy assemblies were held in the mornings as well as the evenings during the stay of the holy family. From Allahabad the holy family travelled to Ayodhya. This city is the birthplace of Lord Rama. It was the capital of Avadh and had been ruled by the kings of Suryavanshi dynasty. The child and the members of the holy family camped on the very spot on the banks of a tank, where Guru Tegh Bahadur had stayed.

Many monkeys would come to the place where the child used to sit to bless the devotees. Those monkeys would bow in reverence like other disciples and sit in the congregation. They bowed to the Guru Sahib and offered him fruits and flowers. Along with the devotees, the monkeys continued coming to the child everyday during his stay.

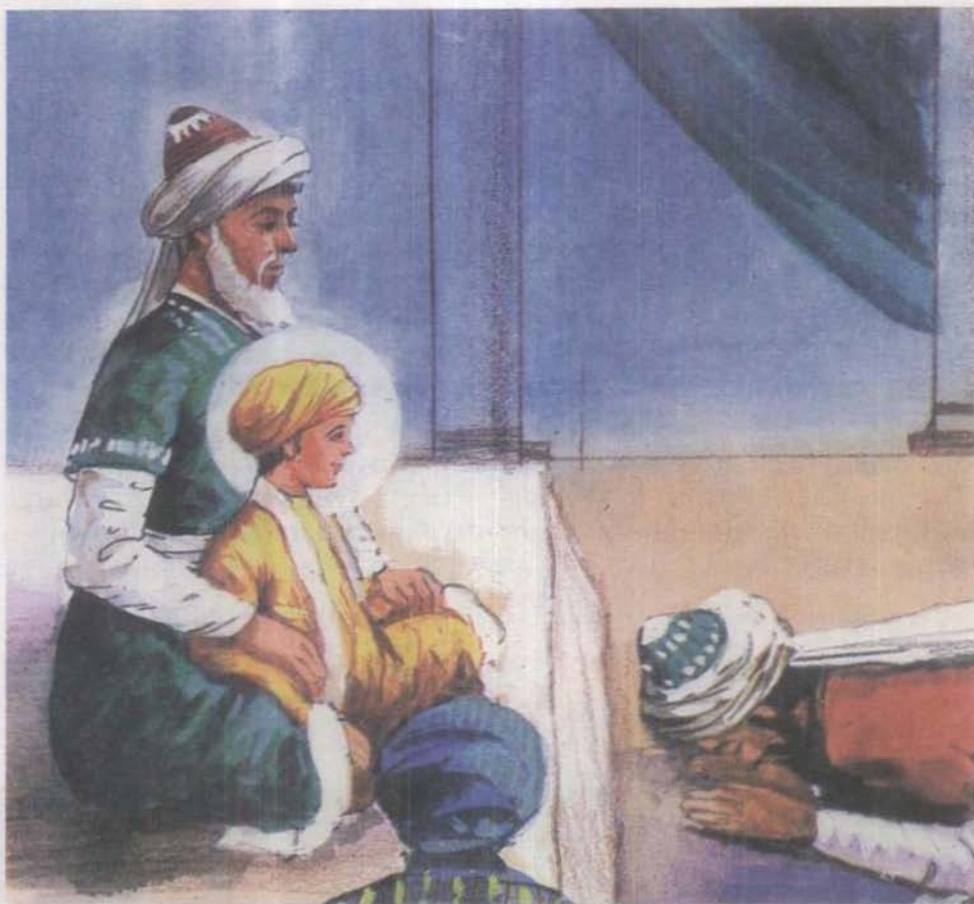




STAY AT LAKHNORE

The holy family left Ayodhya. They passed through Pili Bhit, Dev Nagar, Lucknow, Mathura, Agra and Haridwar and reached Lakhnore - a town situated near Ambala. Here they received a message from Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur that they should stay there for sometime. They stayed at Lakhnore for number of months. Devotees started flocking to Lakhnore, from the neighbourhood as well as from far off places, to have a glimpse of Gobind Rai. All felt that Gobind Rai would grow into a man of great power and strength and take after his grand father Guru Hargobind ji. The child learnt horse riding as well. Here too, he would gather young boys and teach them martial arts and military strategy. With his turban he looked extremely powerful and resplendent.



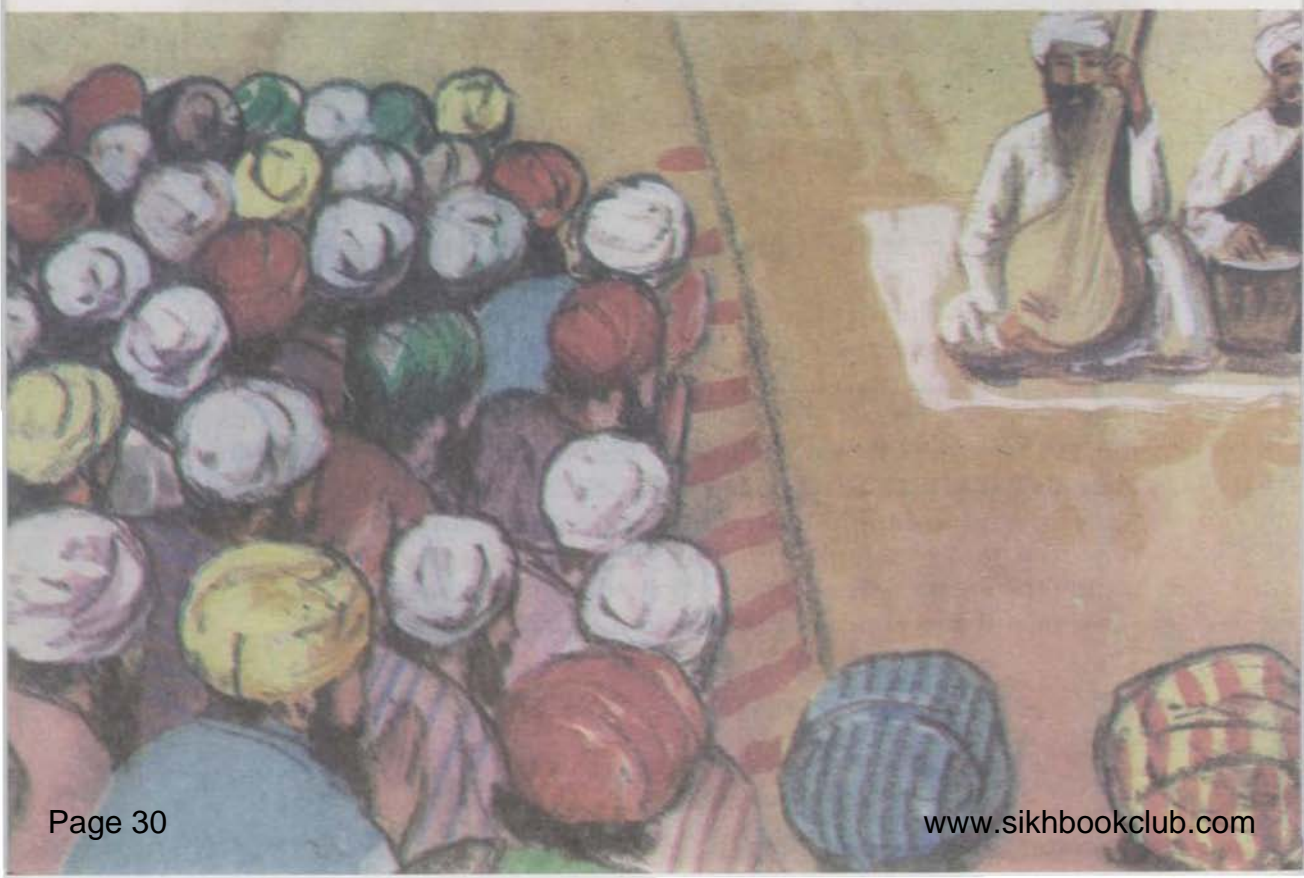


In a village near Lakhnore the water was brackish (salty). With the blessings of Mata Gujri a new well was dug. It had sweet water. When the child wished a baoli, (a well with steps) it was also constructed. Both these memorials still exist. It was here that Bhikhan Shah came to pay his respect once again. He bowed to the Guru Sahib and then lifting him took him to one side and talked to him for a long time. He said to the Guru Sahib, "Confer a boon on me. Let me exist for ever." The child blessed him. Bhikhan Shah had gone to Patna Sahib at the time of the birth of the Guru Sahib. Pir Mir Din said to Bhikhan Shah, "You are a Muslim. Why should you bow to a non-Muslim?" Bhikhan Shah replied, "He is no ordinary child. He is the son of God." Pir Araf Din also realized the divine presence in the child and bowed to him.

ARRIVAL AT ANANDPUR

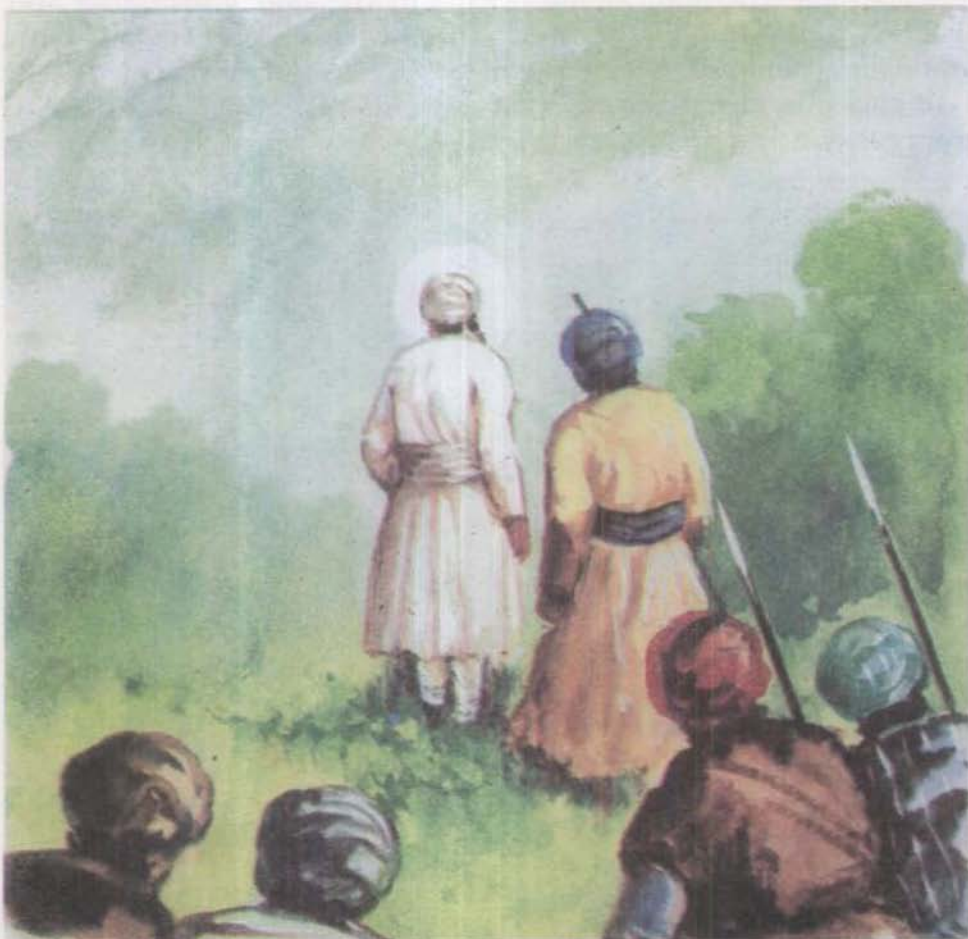
The holy family left Lakhnore and reached Kiratpur. They stayed there for a night. Many collaterals of the Sikh Gurus resided at Kiratpur. Gobind Rai blessed them with happiness. They visited the place sanctified by the presence of the Guru Sahibs. Next day, they left for Anandpur. A large number of devotees chanting hymns came out of city to welcome them. Flowers were showered. People felt blessed to have a glimpse of Gobind Rai. In the midst of the chants of Gurbani the holy family entered the city of Anandpur. The child bowed in reverence to his father Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, who lifted him up.

A holy assembly was being held. Kirtan was being performed. The child was sitting in the lap of Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. A large number of devotees had gathered. They felt blessed by having a glimpse of Gobind Rai.



He said at once, "Go and send this message through the Governor of Kashmir to the Emperor of India, if he can make Guru Tegh Bahadur renounce his faith, all the Hindus from Kashmir will follow him and embrace Islam."

The Pundits from Kashmir were satisfied. They bowed to the Guru Sahib and left for Kashmir. Guru Tegh Bahadur at once issued the order, "Make arrangements for my journey. I wish to leave for Delhi before the summons are received from there." He lovingly looked at the child Gobind Rai and said, "Be careful and get ready for shouldering an immense responsibility." A few days after the departure of the Pundits, the Guru Sahib left Anandpur. A large number of disciples accompanied him.



PUNDITS FROM KASHMIR

It was the year 1675 A.D. Aurangzeb ruled over India. He wanted to compel the Hindus to embrace Islam. He ordered the demolition of Hindu temples. He got mosques built on the very spot where once these temples had stood. The Governor of Kashmir started implementing the cruel religious orders of Aurangzeb with excessive zeal and enthusiasm. A delegation of the Hindu priests from Kashmir came to Anandpur to pray to Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur to help them in that hour of crisis. They related their story of woes and asked him to help them solve their problems. The Guru Sahib thought, "If none came to the rescue of these Pundits, they will either renounce their faith or will be put to death by the cruel Governor." So he said, "This crisis can be averted only if some holy man risks his own life to fight against this injustice".

The nine-year-old Gobind Rai sat by the side of his father and listened to the Pundits as they narrated their story. He said with complete solemnity 'Who else can be holier than you'? Guru Tegh Bahadur was pleased to hear these words of courage and nobility from his son.





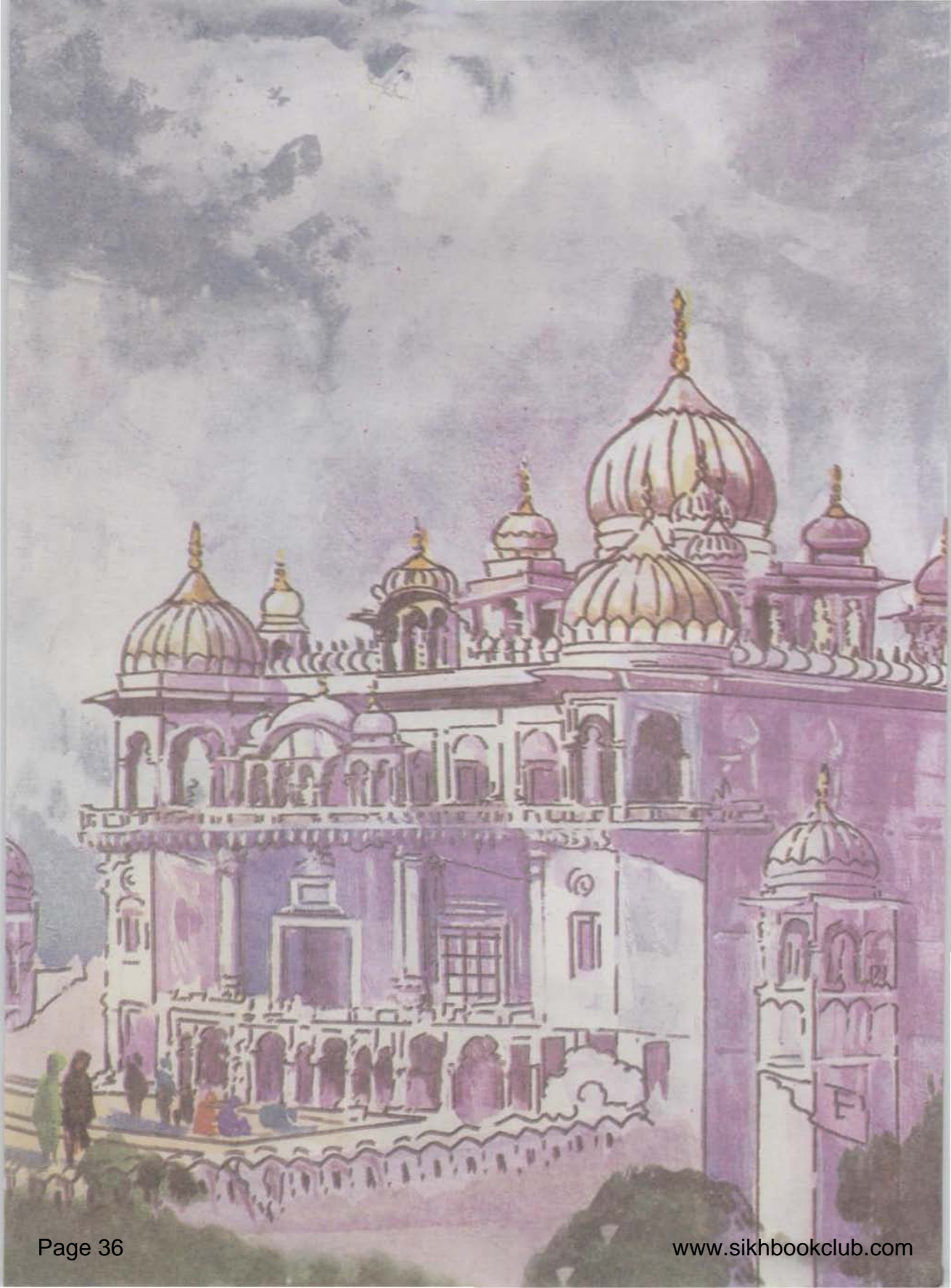
EDUCATION AT ANANDPUR

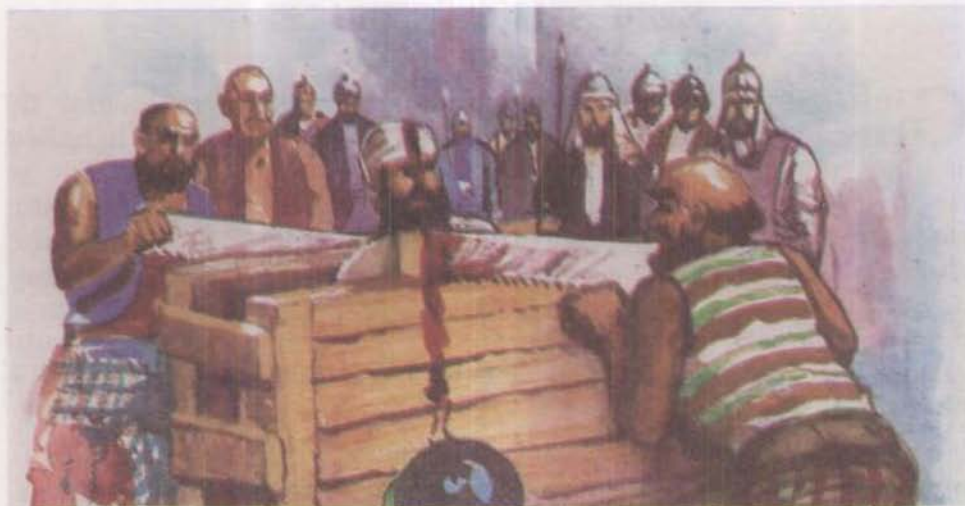
Guru Tegh Bahadur dearly loved his son. He acquired the services of learned teachers to impart perfect knowledge of different languages to make Gobind Rai an expert in the use of these languages. They used to teach him at the mansion of the Guru Sahib. But Gobind Rai was not interested in remaining aloof. He liked the company of his friends. The teachers who came to teach him imparted instruction to his friends as well. In this way the home of the child was converted into a veritable school.

It was necessary to make him familiar with vocabulary and script of different languages. Guru Tegh Bahadur knew the tasks that the child would be performing in his future life, so the training given to him was tailored to suit his future needs. Training in the use of arms, horse riding, archery, swordplay, shooting and use of guns was imparted to him by Guru Tegh Bahadur himself.

Harjas Rai taught the child the use of Persian and Gurmukhi script. He was a nephew of Bhai Mati Das. Pir Mohammad Qazi was appointed to impart higher knowledge of Persian literature. Bhai Mani Singh, Tara Alam Kirtia, Shamdass, Gulab Rai Mohri Chand, Sango received education along with him. Gobind Rai had a wonderful memory. He would remember whatever was taught to him once forever. Many persons were engaged to look after him as he played. The moment he reached the riverbanks, he would jump into the water and start swimming. He preferred to play those games that needed the display of physical prowess and infused high spirits in the players.



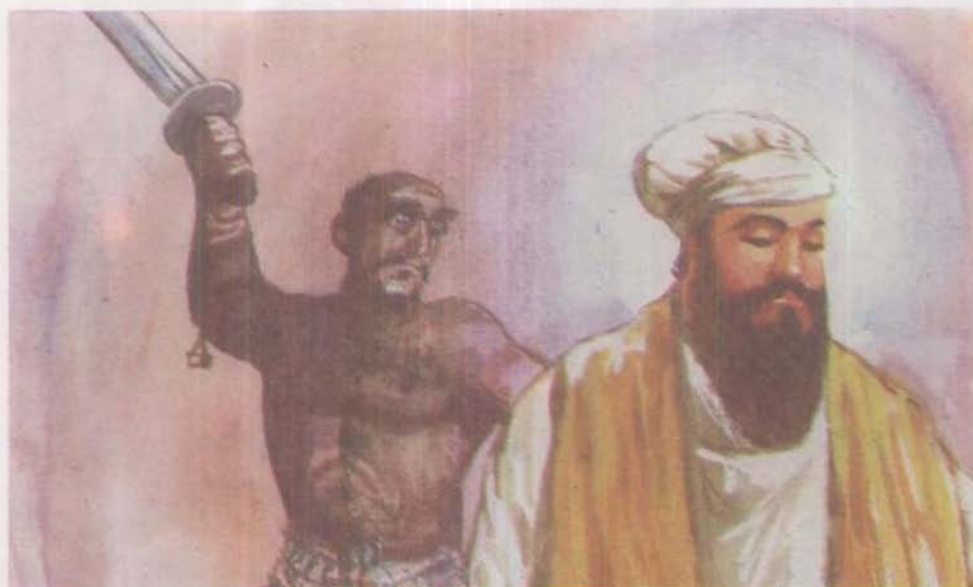




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Cotton was wrapped around the body of Bhai Sati Das and he was set on fire. After that Guru Tegh Bahadur was brought out and asked to sit under a tree near a well and his head was severed from his body.

On the place where the Guru Sahib was martyred stands Gurdwara Sis Ganj. The place where the Guru Sahib had sat and where he was martyred is exactly under the platform where the Guru Sahib Granth Sahib is placed at Gurdwara Sis Ganj.

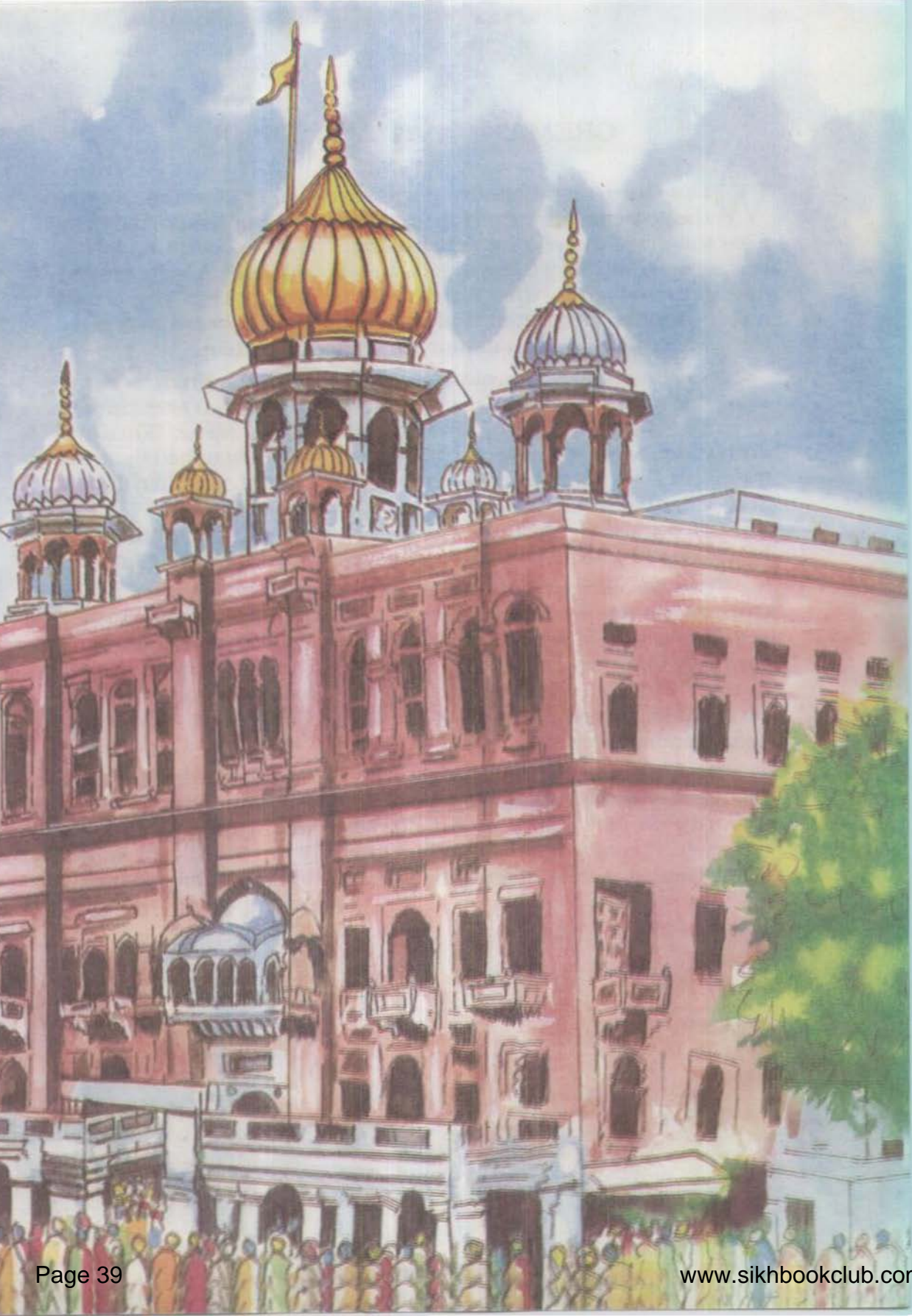


SUPREME SACRIFICE

Guru Tegh Bahadur ji left Anandpur for Agra. On the way he exhorted the people, 'Neither fear nor frighten any one'. He halted at many places in Malwa and addressed congregations. At last he reached Agra. There he was put under arrest and brought to Delhi. He was kept in prison in Kotawali, which has been converted into Guru Tegh Bahadur Niwas next to Gurdwara Sis Ganj. In those days it was the Headquarter of the Kotwal of Delhi. All efforts were made to compel the Guru Sahib to embrace Islam. He did not relent— At last the Qazi issued the orders that the Guru Sahib should be beheaded.

His dear disciple Bhai Mati Das was sawn in front of him to impress upon him that the Government was determined to pursue its aims. Bhai Dayala, another disciple of the Guru Sahib was thrown into a cauldron of boiling water.





CREMATION AT ANANDPUR

When Guru Tegh Bahadur ji was martyred at Chandni Chowk, the government warned the people not to remove his dead body from the place where he was beheaded. The people were told, "If a person dared disobey these orders, he will be killed". A large crowd had gathered when the Guru Sahib was martyred. The crowd included Sikhs also but at that time none came forward to remove the body of Guru Tegh Bahadur for proper cremation.

In a short while the crowd dispersed. Two Sikhs Bhai Jaita and Bhai Uda moved forward. They took the head, made an obeisance to it, wrapped it in a sheet and ran away from the scene. When the authorities came to know of this, soldiers were dispatched to arrest them but they succeeded in escaping from Delhi. Another devout Sikh Bhai Lakhi Shah Vanjara managed to take away the body of the Guru in his caravan of carts and cremated it by putting his house on fire. At this place now stands Gurdwara Rakab Ganj.

They travelled day and night, stayed with the devotees of the Guru Sahib for rest and at last reached Kiratpur. From there they sent a message to Anandpur. When they reached Anandpur, Mata Gujri, Gobind Rai and all the other members of family and large number of the devotees received them. Bhai Jaita and Bhai Uda respectfully placed the head in the lap of Gobind Rai. This was a heart-rending scene.

The head of Guru Tegh Bahadur was cremated with great honour. All the devotees and the members of the family were in grief. A Gurdwara now stands at the site where the Guru ji's head was cremated. It is called Sis Ganj. Thus there are two Gurdwaras known as Sis Ganj, one at Delhi and other one at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab.