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SAKA GURDWARA SRI NANKANA SAHIB

*Dr. Harpreet Kaur**

The Sikh History is replete with examples of self-sacrifice for the sake of *Sikhi* and righteousness. Following the teachings of the Guru, the ardent devotees have not shrunk in performing their duties and have not surrendered even when the most heinous kinds of tortures were unleashed on them. They stood like a firm rock and remained steadfast in their deeds and principles.

Undying Legacy of the Gurus

Guru Nanak Dev ji's Bani prepared the people to be steadfast on the path of truth and love and not to bear exploitation and oppression:

ਜਉ ਤਉ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਖੇਲਣ ਕਾ ਚਾਉ ਸਿਰੁ ਧਰਿ ਤਲੀ ਗਲੀ ਮੇਰੀ ਆਉ
ਇਤੁ ਮਾਰਗਿ ਪੈਰੁ ਧਰੀਜੈ ਸਿਰੁ ਦੀਜੈ ਕਾਣਿ ਨ ਕੀਜੈ

(Sri Guru Granth Sahib, 1412)

*Jao tao parem khelan ka chao. Sir dhar tali gali meri ao.
It marag pair dharijai. Sir dijai kan na kijai.*

If you desire to play this game of love with Me, then step onto My Path with your head in hand. When you place your feet on this Path, give Me your head, and do not pay any attention to public opinion.

Guru Arjan Dev Ji emerged as the vanguard to fight against the atrocious political system and unjust social order and religious bigotry of the rulers who were causing misery and suffering to the helpless people. The Guru rejected the offer of Emperor Jahangir to embrace Islam and readily chose to die rather than give away his faith. He laid the tradition of martyrdom in the Sikh history after being subjected to extreme torture and repression at the order of Jahangir. The martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev prepared the Sikhs that the challenge of the fanatics backed by a repressive state power could not be met simply with a passive resistance. His sacrifice filled every Sikh's bosom with the same spirit and they were willing to sacrifice everything for righteousness. He achieved martyrdom and left a glowing trail of sacrifice in the defence of faith.

**Principal, Mata Sundari College for Women, University of Delhi.*

of the Sikh places should be as per the teachings of the Gurus. Subsequently, in the 1930s and 1940s, the complex and building of Gurdwara Sahib was embellished. To reminisce about Saka Nankana Sahib, Shaheed Sikh Missionary College, Amritsar under the aegis of Dharam Prachar Committee of the Shiromani Committee functions, which imparts skills to create Ragis and religious missionaries and every year, a Samagam in the memory of the martyrs who lost their lives in the bloody ordeal is organised.

So, Saka Nankana Sahib provided a much-needed impetus and reforms in the declining religious institutions. The pristine Sikh religious practices were reinstated and Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) as a religious body was established and supported firmly by the votaries.

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