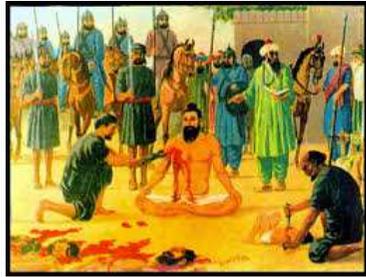


"had really signed her death warrant because the Sikhs have very long memories, and they felt that, that kind of invasion into the Vatican, the mecca of the Sikh faith was intolerable." 249 This view of the Sikh reaction to the Golden Temple's destruction requires the capacity of an outsider to empathize with the sentiments of a demonized minority, unavailable to those who belonged to the Hindu political framework.

MARTYRDOM OF BABA BANDA SINGH JI (9TH JUNE)



Baba Banda Singh and his close associate General Baj Singh attained martyrdom at Delhi on 9th June 1716 at a site near Qutab Minar and mosque of Khawaja Bakhtiyar Kaki. His flesh was pinched apart with pincers and worst still, the heart of his tender son Ajai Singh was removed (See picture above) and thrust into Babaji's mouth. Eventually young Ajai was mercilessly martyred by cutting into pieces

before Babaji's very own eyes. But Baba Banda Singh, the embodiment of steadfastness remained true to his faith till his last breath.

Sikh Youth Winning Gold at Asian Youth Athletics Championship 2015

Sikh runner Beant Singh made Sikhs worldwide proud after winning gold at the Asian Games in the 800m race with 2015's fastest time in the world of the youth category. Beant Singh clocked in at a blazing fast time of 1.52.26. Beant Singh took things to the next level right from the start after clocking 54 seconds in the first lap. He led the entire race from beginning to end at the Qatar Sports Club stadium in Doha, Qatar. "I was feeling really good for this race and I have been



preparing really well for this competition, so to win is a great satisfaction," he said. "I have only been in athletics for a short time, two or three years. I was a wrestler before and I was picked for a national team camp by Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar. It was at this moment that I noticed I had a talent for middle distance running and I was encouraged to switch to athletics. Beant had won silver in the National Open Athletics

Championships last year at the JN Stadium in New Delhi, his first senior national medal, in 800m with a time of 1:51:08 which was a new national record in the youth category. "Next stop for me is the IAAF World Youth Championships in Cali. I have set big expectations. I want to beat the Indian national record there. I know I can run under 1:50. I have done it in training and I aim to run it at the championships," he said.

Guru Arjan Dev Ji's Shaheedi Gurburab

Akhand Path Aramb 0500 am 19.06.2015

Akhand Path (Bhog 0800; Kirtan 0800-1200 & Guru ka Langar) 21.06.2015

GURPURABS & PROGRAMME April - June 2015

Gurgaddi Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji (Sunday Prog. 14 June) 11.06.2015

Shaheedi Guru Arjan Dev Sahib Ji (Sunday Prog. 21 June) 16.06.2015

On first Friday of every month Youth Program held at Gurdwara Sahib from 6-8pm



Nit Chardi Kala

NEWSLETTER OF SIKH GURUDWARA PERTH

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(Jeth-Haar 547 Nanakshahi)

June 2015



Guru Arjan Dev Ji - The First Sikh Martyr

Guru Arjan Dev Ji was the First Sikh martyr who gave his life for the sanctity of Gurbani and Sikh Faith. His growing prestige roused the jealousy of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. Guru Ji was asked to change the text of Guru Granth Sahib to include the praise of his prophet. When this order was refused by Guru Ji, he was arrested and subjected to extreme physical torment. He was seated on red hot iron plate and hot sand was poured over his head. After three days of severe torture, Guru Arjan Dev Ji was thrown into the river Ravi to inflict more pain on him and therein he disappeared. **Gurdwara Dera Sahib** (see photo) was built to commemorate Guru Ji's Shaheedi. (Martyrdom).

SIKH GURUDWARA PERTH, 10 Cheltenham Street Bennett Springs WA

What I Have Learned From 1984

(Excerpts from an article written in 2010 by Mai Harinder Kaur)

For those who don't know me, a brief introduction. I am now a 58 year old Internet addict, writer and budding artist, of sorts. Twenty- six years ago, there was no Internet, I wrote occasionally and my artwork was primarily tie-dying my husband's turbans. The events in India radically changed my life. My husband, my son and I were visiting there from Canada in the spring and summer into the autumn of 1984. We were "questioned" by the Punjab police in Amritsar during the time of the Blue Star Massacre. They stopped when the word came down from some higher-up to leave the Canadians alone. Of the three of us, I got either the best or worst of it there, depending on how you look at it. As it turned out, we were in Delhi when Mrs. Gandhi was executed. We were attacked. We fought. My two men, along with two brothers and two cousins, achieved shaheedi. I survived. Who got the best or worst of it depends on how you look at it. After 26 years, I think it is time for us to start thinking about what we have learned - or should have learned - from this whole experience. I have a tendency to be personal, a tendency that I will indulge here. I will write what I, Harinder Kaur, called Mai, have learned. I first want to make one thing very clear. I miss my men. I have missed them now for nearly 26 years. It has taken a long time, but I have come to the realisation that, if I grieve, I do not grieve for them. They are fine. They achieved shaheedi in righteous battle. I miss them, but I cannot wish that it happened otherwise. What kind of person would I be to want to deny them the best of all possible deaths? They lived and died "with [their] hearts striving upward." They played the game of life and won. They reached that "far, unattainable sky." My greatest regret is that it was the Hukam of Vaheguru that I not share that honour. Which brings me to the most important idea, the Hukam of Vaheguru. The knowledge that whatever happens is the Hukam of Vaheguru is what has sustained me, brought me through everything. Everything is perfect. Everything happens exactly the way it needs to. I admit that is often hard to see and, sometimes, hard to remember, and sometimes, even harder to accept. and sometimes, even harder to accept. Akaal Purakh doesn't share with me all the reasons for these things. In fact, It doesn't share with me the reasons at all. It has to be enough for me to know that the reasons exist and I can usually find some of them if I look hard enough. I know that others interpret the Hukam of Vaheguru differently. More power to them! This is what it means to me, my interpretation based on my own experiences. For me, very bad things are usually learning experiences, unless I refuse to learn. (I am sometimes stubborn. After all, I am half Punjabi.) I hardly recognise the young woman I was on 31 October 1984, even less the person I was on 5 June 1984. She was a sweet young thing who had lived an enchanted, wonderful life. She was happy and pretty and mostly carefree, a good mother, a loving wife, a devout aspiring Khalsa. She had it all. But she lacked depth. As he lay dying, in our last conversation, I asked Mani, my husband, "Has it all been worth it?" He laughed. Honestly, he laughed. "Yes, hell, yes!" He was right. We had lived a life most people would never have dreamed possible. A great chardi kala life. And in a few hours, it was irrevocably destroyed. It was not easy to adjust. So how did I do it? One of the unadvertised gifts that Guru Gobind Singh ji gives his kids at Amrit is an infinite well of chardi kala. I admit that sometimes it gets hidden, but it's always there. Even if the kid breaks their Khalsa vows, it is still there. Chardi kala is the most distinctively Sikh of all virtues. It is a natural outcome of knowing that, contrary to appearances, all is as it should be. I know, I know. I have to keep reminding myself of this. I know from my own experience that this works. So those are the two main things I have learned personally from the 1984 experience. Hukam of Vaheguru and chardi kala. If I were not to live in chardi kala, acknowledging the Hukam of Vaheguru, my life would be a betrayal of the sacrifice of these two Gursikhs, my husband and my son, and worse, would be a waste of the life left to me here on earth. One thing more. I also learned that being a Sikh is the most important thing in my life, in fact, my whole life summarised in one word. **Sikh. WHY TRY TO FIT IN? YOU WERE BORN TO STAND OUT!**

OPERATION BLUE STAR – LESSONS TO LEARN

This month we remember those valiant souls (Sikhs) who laid down their lives for the sanctity of our Shrines. Every day in our Ardas we remember Sikh martyrs including those who died for the above mentioned cause. The attack started on the 3rd June 1984, the day Sikhs had gathered in large numbers at Golden Temple for Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. The operation lasted three long days. Though only a handful, the Sikhs defended their holiest Shrine till the last. Thousands of innocent Sikh women, men and children also lost their lives. This was war waged on the Sikh Nation by an ungrateful people. The basic idea was to teach the Sikhs a "Lesson" which eventually proved to be a very expensive and unfruitful experiment for India. Though irreparable damage was done to the Sikh psyche, Sikhs have again bounced back onto centre stage worldwide. However from this recent most dreadful chapter of Sikh history, we must learn some lessons:

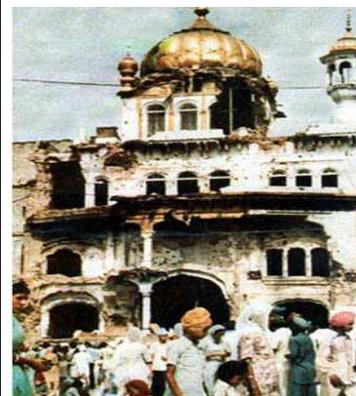
1. Go back to Gurbani – Guru Granth Sahib, in thought, word and deed
2. Learn to have an introspection to detect our failings, deviations and then correct them with the dictates of our Gurus.
3. Get rid of Jaat-Paat and treat all with dignity and respect. Live in humility avoid ostentations and care for downtrodden Sikhs.
4. Follow the Sikh Maryada as ordained by our Gurus - Amrit Chaakna, Naam Japna, Kirt Karni & Vand Chaakna.
5. Pray at Amritvela (early morning prayers), contribute to Daswand (10% of your earnings to charity), and shy away from ill-gotten wealth

Guru says: "**Jhaalaghe uth naam jup nis basur araadh; Karha tujhe na biapee nanak mitae upaadh**" (Get up early in the morning and engage yourself in Naam simran and later remember the Vaheguru all the time. This way you will never be tormented and all obstacles will vanish)

Ghalughara: Operation Blue Star - A Retrospect

Ram Narayan Kumar - Eminent writer and analyst.

Excerpted from the author's monograph submitted to Green College, Oxford.



The assault against the Golden Temple, codenamed Operation Blue Star, was launched on June 3, 1984, the martyrdom day of Guru Arjun who, as we earlier observed, had got the foundation of the Temple laid by a Muslim divine four hundred years ago and was the first of the Sikh Gurus to die in defiance of the Mughal Empire. The assault, which the Sikhs themselves call the *Ghalughara*, had been diabolically conceived not only to scathe the Sikh psyche, but also to make the "sufficient moral effect from a military point of view on those who were present, but more especially throughout the Punjab." That is how Brigadier Dyer had explained his intention when he came to Jallianwala Bagh, near the Golden Temple, to disperse an illegal assembly sixty-five years ago on April 13, 1919. Dyer had acted impulsively on his own. The Operation Blue Star was not only *envisioned and rehearsed in advance, meticulously and in total secrecy*, it also aimed at obtaining maximum number of Sikh victims, largely devout pilgrims unconnected with the political agitation. The facts should speak for themselves. Stanley Wolpert, the author of *Nehru: A Tryst with Destiny*, said "**when the tanks rolled into the Golden Temple**", Prime Minister Indira Gandhi,