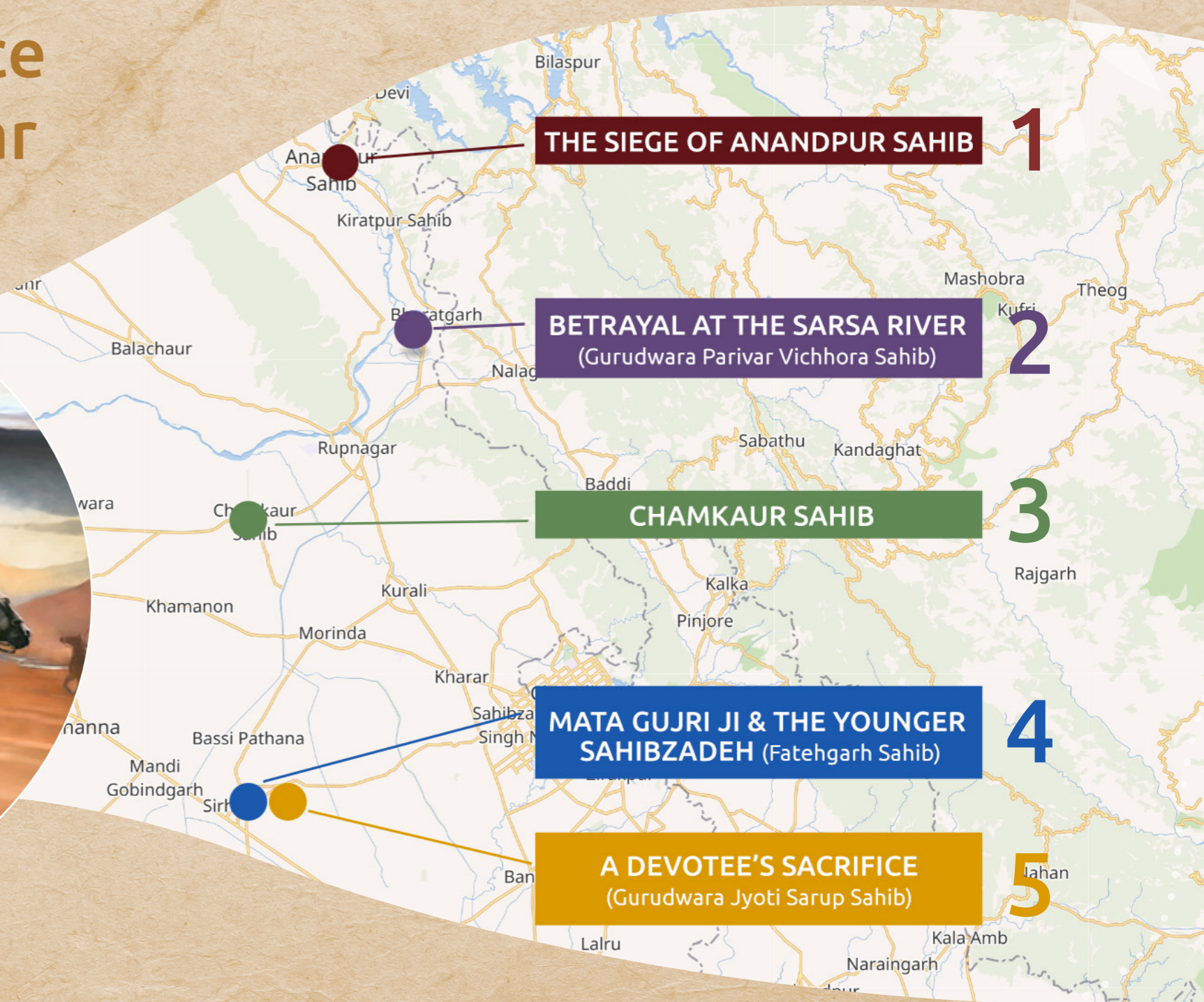


SHAHIDI WEEK

The Tale of Sacrifice
and Valour of Chaar
Sahibzaadè



THE SIEGE OF ANANDPUR SAHIB 1

BETRAYAL AT THE SARSA RIVER
(Gurudwara Parivar Vichhora Sahib) 2

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2024 YEAR END FUNDRAISER GIFT

WE HONOR THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICES MADE BY GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S FOUR SONS

Shahidi Week is a time of deep reflection and remembrance for Sikhs all over the world.

From December 20 to 27, we honor the ultimate sacrifices made by Guru Gobind Singh Ji's four sons—Baba Ajit Singh Ji, Baba Jujhar Singh Ji, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji, and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. These brave souls chose faith over fear and stood against the oppressive Mughal Empire led by Aurangzeb. Their story of courage and resilience continues to inspire Sikhs everywhere.

This week is not just about looking back at history; it is about connecting with the



spirit of sacrifice that forms the core of Sikh teachings. Each day of Shaheedi Week tells a chapter of immense courage and faith. Let's travel back to 1705 and relive the heroic journey of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, his family, and the Sikh community through this challenging time.



THE SIEGE OF ANANDPUR SAHIB

1

BETRAYAL AT THE SARMA RIVER
(Gurudwara Parivar Vichhora Sahib)

2

CHAMKAUR SAHIB

3

MATA GUJRI JI & THE YOUNGER SAHIBZADEH
(Fatehgarh Sahib)

4

A DEVOTEE'S SACRIFICE
(Gurudwara Jyoti Sarup Sahib)

5

THE SIEGE OF ANANDPUR SAHIB

1

It all began at Anandpur Sahib, a tranquil town nestled in the Shivalik hills. This is where Guru Gobind Singh Ji and his Sikh army stood their ground against a coalition of Mughal forces and Hindu Hill Chiefs. For eight long months, the fort at Anandpur Sahib was under siege. By December 1704, the Sikhs were in a dire state. Food and water were completely cut off, and survival meant eating leaves from trees. Even the royal elephant, a gift from the Raja of Tripura, succumbed to starvation.

The enemy forces offered a peace treaty, swearing on their sacred texts that they would allow safe passage if Guru Gobind Singh Ji and his Sikhs left the fort. Despite knowing their deceitful intentions, Guru Ji agreed, moved by the unbearable suffering of his people. On the night of December 6-7, 1705, the Sikhs left Anandpur Sahib, embarking on a journey that would test their faith and resilience.

Anandpur Sahib, also known as Anandpur, means "City of Bliss." It is a historic city located in the Rupnagar district of Punjab, India, at the foothills of the Shivalik range and close to the Sutlej River. It was home to the ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, and the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. In 1699, Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth here, marking it as a pivotal place in Sikh history. The city is also home to Takhat Sri Kesgarh Sahib, one of the five sacred Takhts (seats of authority) in Sikhism.



Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anandpur_Sahib

BETRAYAL AT THE SARSA RIVER

2

As the caravan, which included Guru Ji, his family, and about 460 Sikhs, approached the icy Sarsa River, they were ambushed. The Mughal forces and Hill Chiefs broke their oath and launched a ruthless attack. The chaos led to the separation of the group. Guru Ji's mother, Mata Gujri Ji, and his younger sons, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji, were separated from the rest. Gurudwara Parivar Vichhora Sahib, now stands at the site where this painful separation took place.

Parivar Vichora Sahib is a Gurdwara located on the banks of the Sarsa River in India's Rupnagar city. It marks the heartbreaking events that took place after the Sikhs had to leave Anandpur Sahib, symbolizing the painful separation of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's family and followers.

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parivar_Vichora



THE BATTLE OF CHAMKAUR

3

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, along with his elder sons, Baba Ajit Singh Ji and Baba Jujhar Singh Ji, and a small group of devoted Sikhs, reached Chamkaur.

Chamkaur Sahib is known for two historic battles, the First Battle of Chamkaur (1702) and the Second Battle of Chamkaur (1704), fought between Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the Mughal forces. This town, located on the banks of the Sirhind Canal, is about 15 km from Morinda and 16 km from Rupnagar.

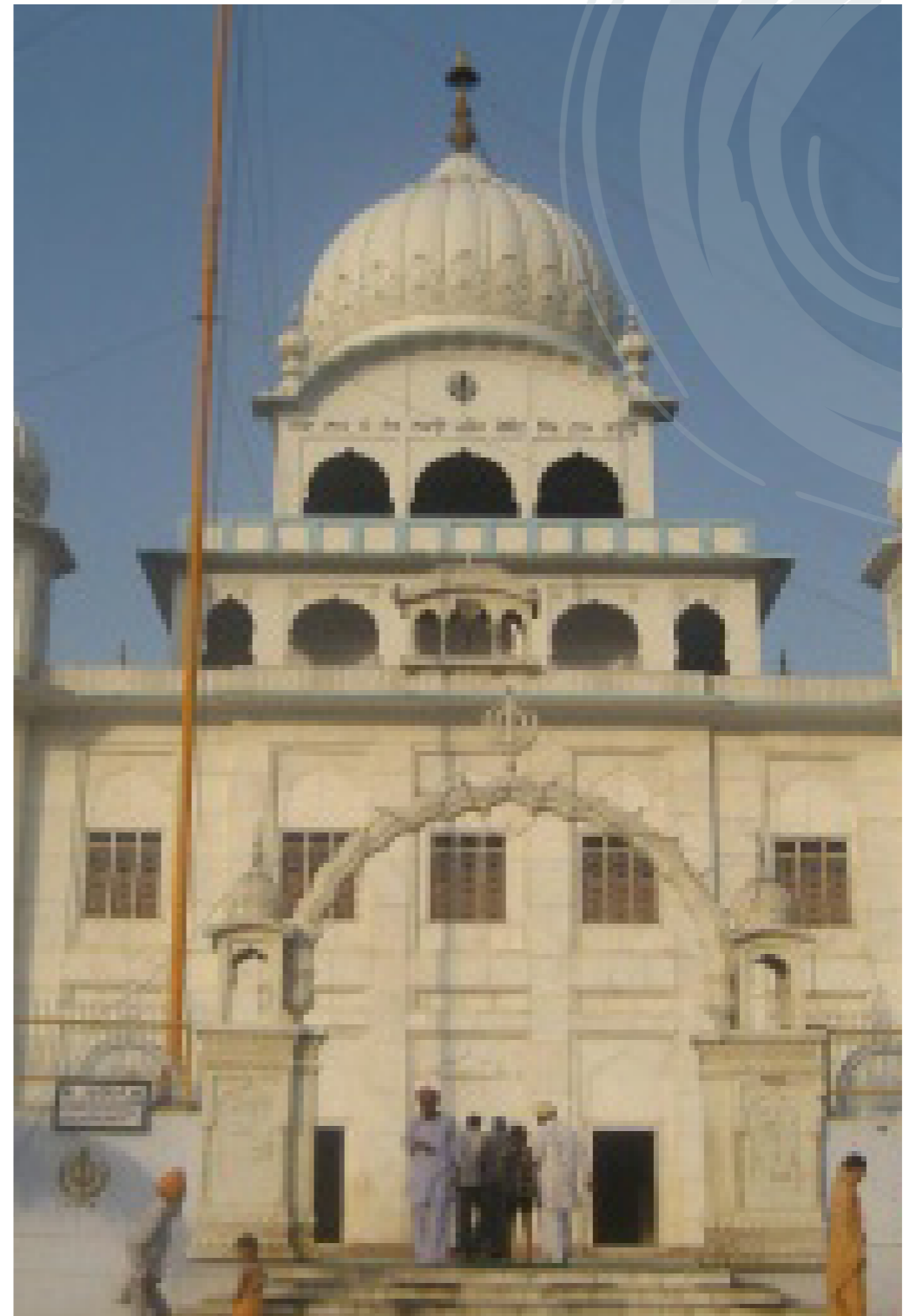
Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamkaur_Sahib

After reaching Chamkaur, the Sikhs with Guru Gobind Singh Ji sought refuge in a mud fort, now known as Gurudwara Katalgarh Sahib. Soon, the enemy forces surrounded the fortress. Vastly outnumbered, the Sikhs prepared for a battle that would become legendary.

Gurdwara Katalgarh Sahib, also known as Katalgarh Sahib, is the main shrine at Chamkaur Sahib. It is located to the west of Gurdwara Garhi Sahib.

Ref: https://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurdwara_Katalgarh_Sahib

Baba Ajit Singh Ji, just 18 years old, led the first charge. He fought valiantly, facing an army much larger in size, before attaining martyrdom. Inspired



“TWO BRAVE SIKHS STAYED BEHIND, DISGUISED AS GURU JI, TO MISLEAD THE ENEMY. THEIR SACRIFICE ENSURED GURU JI’S ESCAPE AND SURVIVAL.

by his brother, 14-year-old Baba Jujhar Singh Ji took the battlefield next, displaying the same courage and dedication. Both brothers laid down their lives, defending their faith and principles.

Inside the fortress, Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the remaining Sikhs held off the enemy until nightfall. Following the collective decision (Gurmata) of the Sikhs, Guru Ji escaped under the cover of darkness. Two brave Sikhs stayed behind, disguised as Guru Ji, to mislead the enemy. Their sacrifice ensured Guru Ji’s escape and survival.



Baba Ajit Singh – The Khalsa Charge, Art of Punjab, Kanwar Singh

MATA GUJRI JI AND THE YOUNGER SAHIBZADEH

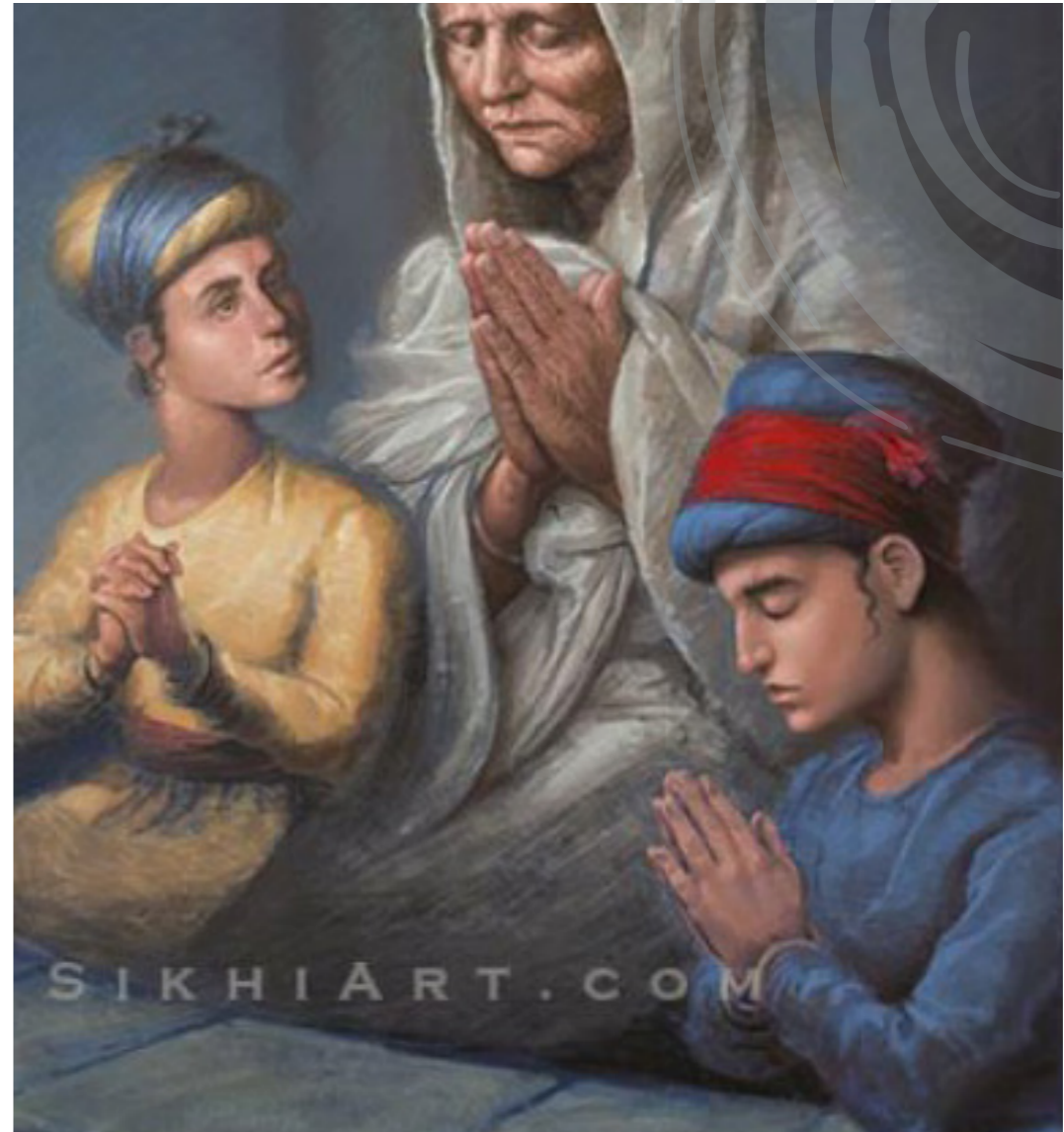
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Mata Gujri Ji and the younger Sahibzadeh, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji, sought shelter with Gangu Brahmin, a former servant. He assured that their whereabouts will not be known to Nawab Wazir Khan's officials.

However, Gangu's greed led him to betray them to the Mughal authorities in Morinda. They were taken to Sirhind and imprisoned in the chilling Thanda Burj (cold tower). This tower, now part of Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib, stands as a solemn reminder of their suffering.

Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib is located in the city of Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab, India. It stands as a reminder of the 1710 victory of the Sikhs, led by Banda Singh Bahadur, who captured the city. During this conquest, the Sikhs demolished the fort built by Ferozshah Tughlaq, symbolizing their triumph over oppression.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurdwara_Fatehgarh_Sahib

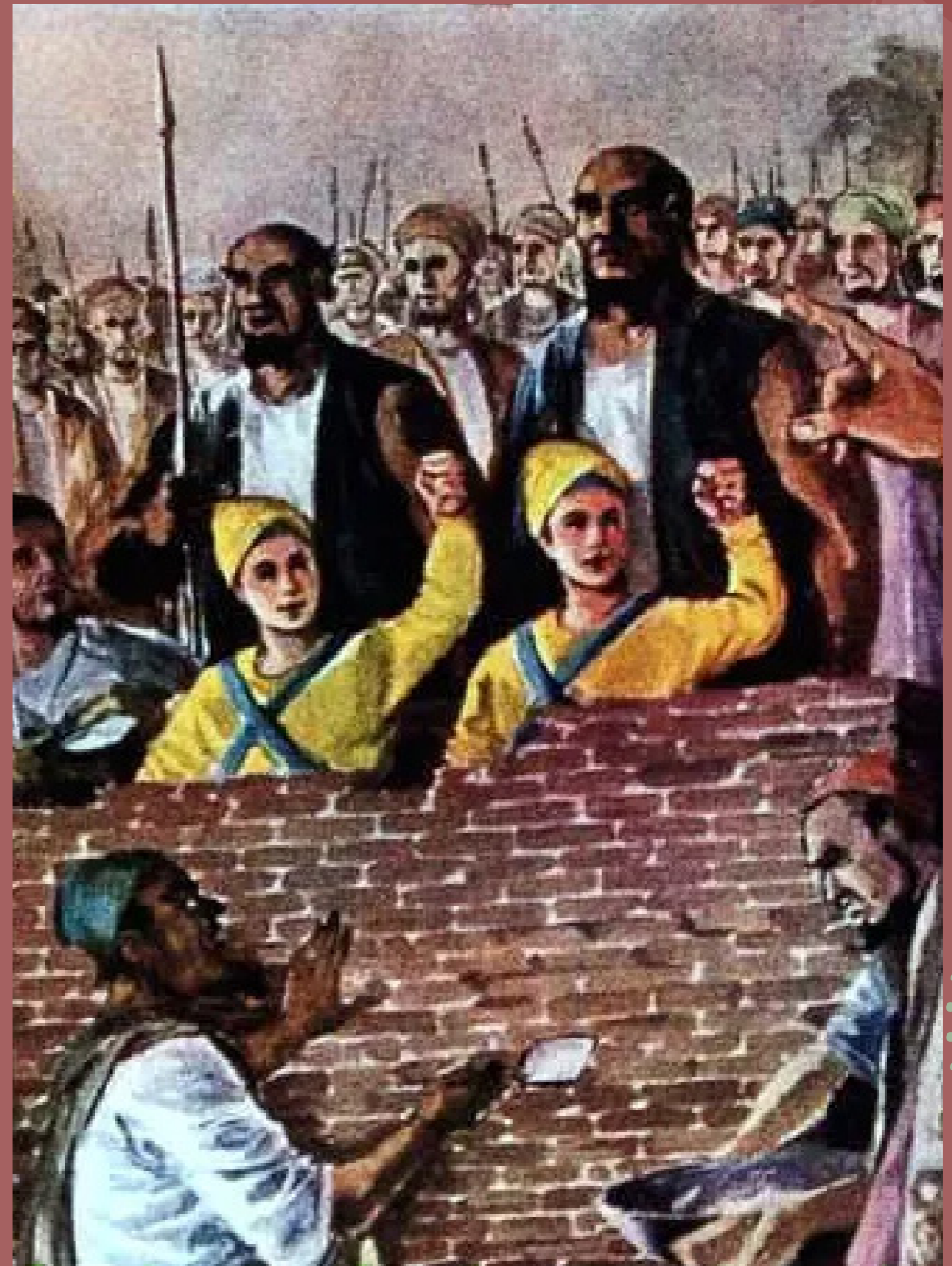


“MATA GUJRI JI, UPON HEARING OF HER GRANDSONS’ MARTYRDOM, EMBRACED HER OWN DEATH...

Despite the freezing winter and inhumane conditions, the young Sahibzadeh refused to abandon their faith. Nawab Wazir Khan of Sirhind tried to bribe and intimidate them into converting to Islam. When they stood firm, he sentenced them to be bricked alive. Even as the walls were built around them, they recited prayers and held their heads high. When the walls collapsed, the executioners finally took their lives.

Mata Gujri Ji, upon hearing of her grandsons’ martyrdom, embraced her own death. Some accounts suggest she was thrown from the tower, while others believe she passed away in grief. Her steadfast faith remains an enduring inspiration at the Thanda Burj/Gurdwara Mata Gujri.

The fort, called Thanda Burj, was designed to be a cool retreat during the summer. However, in the harsh winter, it became a place of great suffering for Guru Gobind Singh Ji's sons and his mother, Mata Gujri Ji. Here, Mata Gujri Ji collapsed upon hearing the heartbreaking news of her grandsons' martyrdom. Today, Gurdwara Mata Gujri stands at this site, honoring her sacrifice and strength.



A DEVOTEE'S SACRIFICE

The cremation of the Sahibzade and Mata Gujri Ji presented yet another challenge. Wazir Khan demanded gold coins to purchase the land for their cremation. The administrator imposed a condition that the buyer could only acquire as much land as he could cover with gold coins standing vertically. Seth Todar Mal, a devoted Sikh, sold everything he owned to meet this demand, ensuring that the martyrs received proper funeral rites.

It is estimated that at least 7,800 gold coins were required to purchase the land

Gurudwara Jyoti Sarup Sahib, near Fatehgarh Sahib, marks this sacred site and stands as a testament to Todar Mal's devotion.

This Gurudwara is located about 1 km from Fatehgarh Sahib on the Sirhind-Chandigarh road. It marks the site where Mata Gujri Ji, the mother of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and his two younger sons, Baba Fateh Singh Ji and Baba Zorawar Singh Ji, were cremated.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurudwara_Fatehgarh_Sahib



THE SPIRIT OF SHAHEEDI WEEK

Every year, during Shaheedi Week, Sikhs gather at these sacred sites to honor the sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's family. Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib and Gurudwara Jyoti Sarup Sahib become vibrant centers of devotion, filled with prayers, kirtan, and stories of bravery. The legacy of the Sahibzadeh reminds us of the strength that comes from staying true to one's faith, no matter the cost.

Shaheedi Sabha: A Tribute to Chhotte Sahibzade

The Shaheedi Sabha, earlier known as the Shaheedi Jor Mela, is a three-day annual gathering held every December at Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab, India. This sacred event honors the martyrdom of Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji, the youngest sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, whose sacrifice for their faith remains central to Sikh history.

Sabha Schedule

The Sabha spans three significant days:

December 24: Devotees gather at Gurudwara Jyoti Swarup for the Akhand Path, a continuous

recitation of the Guru Granth Sahib, beginning the event with serene devotion and reflection.

December 25: Lakhs of devotees offer prayers at Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurudwara Jyoti Swarup, and Gurudwara Thanda Burj. Deewans organized by the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee feature Sikh preachers, ragis, dhadi jathas who use traditional music and storytelling to retell the history of the Sikhs.

December 26: Shaheedi Diwas, the culmination of the Sabha, sees thousands pay homage at Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib, where the Sahibzadas were martyred. The day unites the community in remembrance of their unparalleled bravery and faith.

Community Participation

The Guru Ka Langar, a hallmark of Sikh values, is organized by local villages. Resources like grains and milk are pooled, with women preparing meals in open kitchens and men serving food to devotees arriving from far and wide. This act of collective service embodies selflessness and unity.

The story of Shaheedi Week is more than a historical account. It is a living tradition that

THE SPIRIT OF SHAHEEDI WEEK

inspires us to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and devotion. As we remember these young martyrs, let their courage guide us in our own lives. Their unwavering faith and sacrifice remind us that even in the face of unimaginable adversity, the light of truth and justice will always prevail.

<https://www.sikhnet.com/news/chaar%C2%A0-sahibzadas-guru-gobind-singh>

<https://www.sikhnet.com/news/untold-story-mata-gujri-kaur-and-chhote-sahibzadeh#:~:text=The%20martyrdom%20of%20the%20Sahibzades,of%20sacrifice%20in%20their%20lives>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaheddi_Jor_Mela

