

Bow Gurdwara Tragedy

“All of you Sikhs, living in the villages and the cities, youngsters, those who call themselves Sikhs, why have you fallen asleep? If someone has set fire to our beloved Guru, Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, and his son just talks and doesn’t do anything, does he have the right to call himself a son of that Guru?”

(Sant Jarnail Singh Ji Bhinderawale)

The Tragedy

- On Monday 16th of March 2009 there was a women’s congregation at Gurdwara Sikh Sangat, Harley Grove in Bow (East London).
- One woman noticed someone enter the Gurdwara Sahib.
- Then a fire broke out in the Sachkhand room.
- Over 10 fire engines and 50 firefighters battled for over 6 hours to bring the fire under control.
- The fire destroyed over 75% of the Gurdwara Sahib complex; the Gurdwara’s roof completely caved in.
- 11 blessed Saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji were burnt due to the fire.
- Sevadars from across the country worked day and night on the daunting Seva of preparing Satguru Ji’s saroops for the Sanskaar (cremation) ceremony.
- It brought tears to the eyes of all to see how the Angs (limbs) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji were burnt and blackened because of the fire, and dripping wet and ice cold due to the water damage.
- Under the guidance of Akaal Takhat Sahib an Akhand Paath was carried out and the Sanskaar Seva took place at Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College Chigwell.
- Sangat from across the country came to pay their respects and witness Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji’s Sanskaar.
- Sadly **out of 750,000 Sikhs** that live across the UK, **only 1,000 – 2,000 people** gathered for the Sanskaar.

Take a moment Saadh Sangat Ji, think... our beloved Satguru Ji’s Saroops were burnt in fire and doused in water – do we feel no pain?

Who is Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji?

It is no use to simply chant the words '**Pargat Guraa Kee Deh**' – 'The Divine Embodiment of all Ten Guru Sahibs'. It is time to bring those words into action in our Gurdwaras.

- **300 years** ago Guru Gobind Singh Ji commanded all Sikhs to accept Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as the Living Embodiment of all Ten Guru Sahibaans.
- **30 years** ago 13 Singhs laid their lives defending the sanctity of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.
- **25 years** ago Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji endured the bullets of the Indian Army...

Yet we forget their sacrifices every moment of every day!

Saadh Sangat Ji an attack on Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is an attack on the whole Panth; **an attack on the Gurus house is an attack on our house.** Just as Guru Arjan Dev Ji sacrificed their physical form by burning in boiling cauldrons whilst red hot sand run down their divine body; just as Guru Teghbahadur Sahib Ji sacrificed themselves to protect righteousness, in the same way Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaaj has sacrificed themselves 11 times in order to awaken the Sikh Panth from its slumber.

Are we going to ignore the fact that ALL Ten Guru Sahibs have sacrificed themselves through smoldering fire and icy cold water 11 times in order to awaken us?

What to do now?

We must remove corruption, lies and the focus on materialism from our Gurudwaras and we must stop Beadbi (disrespect) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji wherever it's taking place. Remember the words of Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji,

"Jin Bhae Adab Naa Baanee Dharaa | Jaanoh(u) So Sikh Nahee(n) Hamaaraa |

He who has no fear or respect of Gurbani is not my Sikh."

The fact that the Police are dealing with the fire as a **simple case of criminal damage to property** shows how we have failed to make the world aware that Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is not a book, rather **Sri Guru Granth Sahib is our beloved Living Guru.** We must keep pressure on the Police to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

We must take the pain of this episode into our hearts and join together as brothers and sisters in the Khalsa. We mustn't be scared to wear the uniform of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji, which is drenched in the blood of countless Shaheed Singhs, read the Baani which flowed from the tongue of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and take pride that our father is Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji. We must not rest till the perpetrators of this heinous crime are brought to justice!

“Kookar Koorr(u) Kamaaeai Gur Nindaa Pachai Pachaan(u) ||

Those who practice falsehood are dogs; those who slander the Guru shall burn in their own fire.”

(Ang 21 Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji)

"Please come under the fold of Satguru, take Amrit, read the Baani and talk among yourselves of the Panth and of the Kesari Nishan Sahib and of your true leader Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji... and when the time comes for confrontation don't kill the poor, don't molest women and don't trouble the old, **BUT DON'T SPARE ANYONE WHO INSULTS GURU JI!**"

(Sant Jarnail Singh Ji Khalsa Bhinderawale)

If anyone has any information regarding the fire please contact Sevadars on **07984275635** or contact Crime-Stoppers on **0800 555 111**

For more information: www.neverforgetbow09.co.uk

At this difficult time please pray for the Panth on www.chaupisahib.org