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Victory of Delhi by Sardar Baghael Singh Ji (1730 - 1802)

Jathaedar S. Baghael Singh Ji captured the area of Shahdra, Delhi and raised a Kesri Nishan Sahib on Mughal's Red Fort.

S. Baghael Singh Ji was a resident of Chubhal, Amritsar. This Sant Sepahi belonged to the "Karohdhi" Misl. In sanmat 1847, working with the Khalsa forces, he attacked and captured Delhi. He received three lakh rupees from the Shah Aalam which he used to build the Delhi Gurudwara Sahib's and acquire their surrounding lands. He returned to Punjab after successful completion of all the historical Gurudwara Sahib constructions. S. Baghael Singh Ji led an exemplary life devoted extensively to Amrit prachar. Many well known Sikh personalities including Patiala's Raja Sahib Singh Ji, received Amrit under S. Baghael Singh Ji's guidance. He passed away on sunmat 1859 in Amritsar. –
(Ref. Mahan Kosh)

In 1727 Nawab S. Kapur Singh Ji took charge of the political affairs of the Sikhs. At that time the Sikh Nation was in disarray. The Mughal Governor, Zakria Khan's policy to annihilate the Sikhs had forced them to disperse towards the hills and jungles.

But it did not take long and the Sikhs once again started to reappear and consolidate their forces. The credit to reorganize the Sikh Polity, and institutionalize it into specific units, goes to Nawab S. Kapur Singh Ji. He realized that the support group was equally necessary to keep the supply-line open for the forces in combat. Consequently, he divided the Khalsa society into two groups. The name of Taruna Dal was designated to the armed forces and the combat troops. Mostly the people under the age of forty were taken in it.

The second, service group, was called Budha Dal. People over the age of fifty were accommodated there. Apart from providing facilities to the fighting forces, the Budha Dal's duties included the protection of the Sikh Religious places, provision of comfort to the sick and needy, and to take care of the women, children and old.

With overwhelming acceptance, people flocked to join both the ranks. Nawab S. Kapoor Singh Ji divided them into five commands and with the passage of time they took the shape of twelve Missals. Initially, Sardar Jassa Singh Ji Ahluwalia was the overall commander of these Missals. Each Missal was assigned various task.

Sardar Karor Singh Ji was the commander of the Missal known as Karor Singhia, after his name. Sardar Baghael Singh Ji, a resident of Gurdaspur District took over the command of this Missal after the death of Sardar Karor Singh Ji.

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The people of Saharanpur were maltreated by Najib-u-Daula, the Feudal Lord. Sardar Baghael Singh Ji gave him a crushing defeat in the first encounter of his command of the Missal. One after the other he indulged in seventeen such confrontations with the scrupulous rulers.

The Mohammedan Chief of Jalalabad had forcibly abducted the daughter of a Brahmin and taken her into his Harem. The Singh's under the command of S. Baghael Singh Ji crossed Jamuna, killed the Chief, Mir Hassan Khan, and got the girl liberated. The girl was duly returned to the parents, but her parents and the Hindu community refused to accept her back on the pretext that she had been defiled by living under Islamic environments. The Singh's, then, assigned her the title of 'Daughter of the Khalsa' and admonished the Brahmins: all the property of any class conscience person, who treated the girl with disrespect, would be confiscated and handed over to the girl herself.

Sardar Baghael Singh Ji's army invaded Delhi first time on January 18, 1774 and captured the area up to Shahdra. In the second invasion which took place on July 1775, they captured the area of Pahar Ganj and Jai Singh Pura. This battle was fought at the place where present New Delhi is situated. Khalsa Army faced acute shortage of supplies for life subsistence, and voluntarily withdrew. The Singh's continued their intrusions from time to time, which made Mughal King, Bahadur Shah, to concede to give the Singh's one eighth of the revenue collected from the area in between Rivers Ganga and Jamuna.

In 1783 the Maratha's abandoned Delhi. The Mughal Rulers foresaw the danger emanating from the progressing English power. To deter the English and to make them to go back, the Mughal King, Shah Alam, wished the Singh's to come back. Taking advantage of the situation, thirty thousand of Sikhs came and encamped at the place of Kashmiri Gate (This place is now known as Tiz Hazari). They planned two pronged attack. One section invaded the Ajmeri Gate and the other one breached the wall of the Red Fort and entered the place, which is now known as the Mori Gate. After a fierce battle the Singh's captured Red Fort, hoisted the Kesri Flag (Nishan Sahib), and put Panj Pyare, including Sardar Jassa Singh Ji Ahluwalia, on the throne of the Delhi.

Shah Alam, through the aegis of his Ministers, Court Official Munshi Ram Dyal, and Begham (Queen) Samoor offered reconciliation with the Singh's and accepted their four conditions:

1. No Mughal Official would indulge in atrocities on the populace.
2. The Mughal King would pay three hundred thousand rupees as a gift.
3. The Kotwali Area would remain the property of the Khalsa Army.
4. Sardar Baghael Singh Ji would trace historically significant Sikh places in Delhi, and would establish Sikh Temples there. Till this work was completed he would stay in Delhi with a constabulary of 4,000 horses. The Delhi Ruler would bear all their expenses. Consequently, rest of the Khalsa Army returned.

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Sardar Baghael Singh Ji set up an Octroi-post near Sabzi Mandi to collect the tax on the goods imported into the city to finance the search and the construction of the Sikh Temples. He did not want to use the cash received from the Government Treasury for this purpose, and most of that was handed out to the needy and poor. He often distributed sweetmeats, bought out of this Government gift, to the congregationalists at the place which, now, is know as the Pul Mithai.

With help of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh old residents of Delhi, Sardar Baghael Singh Ji found and established seven historical places as the Sikh Temples:

1. Gurdwara Sahib Mata Sundri Ji : at the place which was know as the Haveli Sardar Jawahar Singh Ji.
2. Gurdwara Bangla Sahib : A Mansion belonging to Raja Jai Singh Ji existed there once. Guru Harkrishan Sahib, the Eighth Guru had stayed there.
3. Gurdwara Bala Sahib : Last rights of Guru Harkrishan Sahib, Mata Sundri Ji and Mata Sahib Kaur Ji were performed at this place.
4. Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib : The torso of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was cremated here.
5. Gurdwara Sees Ganj Sahib : Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib was martyred at this place.
6. Gurdwara Moti Bagh Sahib : Guru Gobind Singh Sahib sent a message to the Mughal King, Bahadur Shah, by throwing an arrow from this place.
7. Gurdwara Sahib Majnu Tilla : It was established in the memory of a Sikh of Guru Nanak Sahib, named Majnu, Also Guru Hargobind Sahib stayed at this place on his way to Gwalior.

On the completion of all the Gurdwara Sahib, S. Baghael Singh Ji appointed the Bhais (attendant priests) to look after the places and decided to return to Punjab, as well. He was persuaded by Munshi Ram Dyal not to abandoned Delhi once the Mughals had conceded to his authority and supermacy. But S. Baghael Singh Ji replied, "We have been endowed with Kingdom and Destiny by our Guru Sahib. Whenever we wish, we could capture Delhi. It won't be difficult for the Khalsa."

Sardar Baghael Singh Ji once again decided to invaded Delhi in 1785. Shah Alam, scared of Sikhs, signed a treaty with the Marathas. The Marathas initialed an agreement with the Singh's and consented to pay 3 lakh rupees as Gift.

The last days of the life of Baghael Singh Ji are not very conspicuous. Some accounts mark 1800 - 1802 as the years of his demise.

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