

92/HSS

Deg Teg Fateh

Panth Ki Jeet

❧ EK ONKAR WAHE GURU JI KI FATEH ❧

“Main hun Param Purkh Ko Dasa
Dekhan Aio Jagat Tamasha.”

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Short History Of GURUDWARA SRI PAONTA SAHIB

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KALGIDHAR ADARSH



Deh Siva bur mohe ihai,

Sub karman te kab-hun na taron !

Na daron ari so jab jaye laron,

Nischai kar apni jeet karon !

Aru sikh boon apne hee mun ko,

Ih lalach hou gun tou uchro

Jab aav ki auoth nidan bane,

Utt hi ran main tub joojh maron.



A Short History **OF** **Gurudwara Sri Paonta Sahib**

Written By :—Giani Bhagat Singh



Gurudwara Sri Paonta Sahib is situated in Himachal Pradesh on the banks of the Jamuna. Many historical & mythological events are connected with this region. Lord Siva was enlightened here when He descended from Kailash Parbat and in Kupal Mochan His sin of the murder was atoned. To help Indra, the King of Swarag (Kashmir), the Goddess Durga traversed her way through this area when she descended from Kailash. Here, Parshuram surrendered before Lord Rama. Nearby, there is the Renuka Lake named after the pious wife of Saint Jamdhagn, and in the vicinity is the Temple of Parshuram. At a distance of about twenty miles is situated the land of Saint Markandey where he had worked for salvation, and his very place is the origin of the river Markanda. The hermitage of Rishi Kalpi also is in its vicinity. In its north-east, at a distance of about 15 miles is Sahansar-dhara, and at a distance of approximately 5 miles in its north-west is the famous land of Saint Ved-Vyas

where he, through his spiritual powers, created wonderful literature. Many legends are in air about this fascinated land. Kila Lohgarh, the first capital of the Khalsa, where Baba Banda Bahadur started the Khalsa coin for the first time, is also situated at a distance of 15 miles from here.

In Moghul period, the political and fraternal power ruined. Some people were gathering under the leadership of Guru Gobind Singh while the others wore the yoke of slavery of the Moghuls, owing their mental-degradation. The hilly Rajas were divided into two parts. Some were pucca toddies of the Moghuls and the others were anxious to see the progressive social powers developing.

To end the jealousy and personal grudges of Tihri-Garhwal, Fateh Shah had usurped some land of Medini Prakash, the King of Sirmur. Both the states had adjoining boundaries. Medini Prakash had consulted his Rajguru — Rishi Kalpi, in the matter who advised him to seek shelter from the Tenth incarnation of Guru Nanak Dev — the salvager of man-kind. Raja Medini Prakash sent his minister, Shobha Ram with an application to Anandpur Sahib. Omniscient Satguru conceded to the request and immediately started from Anandpur Sahib. The

Guru was, then about sixteen and a half years of age. On 17th of Vaishake, 1742, Vikrimi the Guru arrived at Nahan. After staying for sometime at Nahan the Guru set out for Paonta Sahib in context of which he had remarked :—

Desh Chaal Ham Te Pun Bha-ee
 Shahar Paonta Ki Sudh La-ee
 Kalindri Tat Kare Bilasa
 Anak Bhaant Ke Pekh Tamasha.

He summoned Raja Fateh Shah to his presence and made both the Rajas to compromise. The Jamuna was declared as the natural boundary between these two neighbouring States, after which the usurped land was made good to Medini Prakash.

Here was built the fort of Garh-Paonta, in an area of about 100 Ghumaons on the pattern of Anand Pur Sahib. The charm of this place had attracted him so much that he spent a period of about four and a half years in leading the down-trodden on the panth of spiritual-awakening. He had educated the lay-men who made the community-minded proud people bow at Bhangani. He educated the business-community and the poor peasants in arts of game and warfare—and thus salvaged them from the ugly chains of century-old mental slavery.

On this pious land, the Guru recited the Jaap Sahib and had written the Dasam Granth upto Lord Krishna's incarnation. About 10000 chhands, out of 16,000 chhands of Guruji were written at this enchanting place. He had made the others to translate much ancient literature in oriental languages (Deshi Bhasha) and had written the astonishing Original Literature. This place gained a special status among the Literary Institutions of the contemporary India. 46 famous poets were given shelter by the Guru, who had set a record in rewarding the literary persons for their merits and works, by giving-away one lakh of rupees as prizes. He made Dhanna Singh grass-cutter, to defeat the well-known poet, Chandan through the former's versatile poetry.

The Battle of Bhangani

The daughter of Raja Fateh Shah of Tihri-Garhwal had been engaged to the son of Raja Bhim Chand, a Toddy of Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb, who encouraged Fateh Shah to fight the Guru for no apparent cause. In this context, the Guru had described in 'Vichitra-Natak' as follows :—

“Fateh Shah Kopa Tab Raja
Loh Paraa Hum So Bin Kaja”

This battle was fought at Bhangani at a distance of about seven miles from Paonta Sahib. Under the command of Sango Shah, and the other commanders of the Guru's forces, fought the Generals like Jeet Mal, Gulab Chand, Mahi Chand, Ganga Ram, Lal Chand, Daya Ram, Uncle Kiipal, Nand Chand, and Sahib Chand.

After Sango Shah's fall in the field, the Guru took the command in his hands.

On the enemy side were : Fateh Shah Garhwalia, Raja Dadwalia, Raja Chandel, Nazabat Khan, Hayat Khan, Bhikan Khan, the Hilly chiefs and other warriors of the Royal Army.

This battle had been described by the Guru in 'Vichitra-Natak' in a heart-rendering manner. In this battle were killed two sons, one nephew and hundreds of disciples of Pir Budhu Shah of Sadhaura, the Guru's brother (Bhua-ka-Beta). Sango Shah and other warriors alongwith Jeet Mal fell martyrs.

Many hilly Rajas were killed alongwith their armies and the people who had been fortunate enough to escape, took to their heels. The Guru came out victorious in a splendid way and he thanked the Akal-Purukh for that in the following manner :—

“Bhaee Jeet Meri, Kirpa Akal Keri”

This battle was fought for thirteen days. The Guru's army consisted of about 4000 men while that of the enemy had a huge number of about 25000.

The success achieved in the first battle which he won, had been described by the Guru as under :—

Runang Jeet Aai
Jaiang Geet Gaye
Sabhe Soor Harkhe
Dhanung Dhar Barkhe.

Immediately after he won this battle Guru proceeded for Anandpur Sahib.

The Main Events of this Battle.

1. There dwelt about 500 Sadhus in the vicinity of the fort of the Guru who were fed, clothed from his Langar. They had fled when they heard the news of the coming clash. Only one out of them all remained behind who killed many an enemy with his Kutka—a wooden article used for taking exercises. His name was Baba Kirpal.

2. Some five hundred Pathans were employed by Pir Budhu Shah of Sadhaura in the service of the Guru. About 400 or all of them betrayed him and

joined the armies of the enemy. On hearing this the Pir joined the Guru along with his sons, relatives and some seven hundred disciples and fought bravely.

3. By virtue of his devotion and the grace of dust of Guru's feet, a resident of Paonta Sahib, Lal Chand by name and confectioner by trade, plunged into the battle with his 'Khoncha' and fought with conspicuous gallantry.

4. Though he gained victory over the hilly Rajas, and he could have controlled their territories easily, even then he left for Anandpur Sahib where he built the City on the land purchased by his father, the late Guru Teg Bahadur.

5. The victory had such an encouraging effect on the Guru's armies that their joys knew no bounds and they, even, did not stay at Paonta Sahib.

Reforms in Kapal-Mochan.

The Kalgidhar Guru left Paonta Sahib for Kapal-Mochan where a historically important Fair was held. He preached the Gospel of Truth to the people and reformed the mischief-makers.

The Games of the Lions and other Beasts

In the neighbourhood of Paonta Sahib, there

are many dense forests in which the game-lovers and adventurers hunted. The cowards who feared artificial-killing were fed by the Guru with elixir of courage and he trained these people in warfare and the art of the Sword.

In this context these are the Holy words :-

“Teh Ke Singh Ghane Chun Mare-e
Roj Reecheh Bahu Bhanti Bidare-e”

Darshan to Baba Ram Rai

Owing to his mis-deeds, Baba Ram Rai the, eldest son of Guru Har-Rai was outcast from Guru-Ghar. He dwelt at Dehradun. To make amends for his past mistakes, Baba Ram Rai prayed to the Guru through a message, who bestowed the Baba with His Holy Appearance (Darshan) in a boat at Rampur-Ghat, a place at a distance of about 3 miles from Paonta Sahib in its north-west. The Baba complained to the Guru against the dirty customs prevailing among his disciples and told him many other secret things. After the Darshan, Baba Ram Rai declared his followers as Man-Mukh and the Sangat of the Guru as San-mukh Sangat and thus, gave up his claim of being the Guru. His denouncing of the claim of being a Guru irritated his disciples, who had already

gained power. They immolated him, Baba Ram Rai while he was sitting for devotional prayers (Samadhi). After this dreadful event, Mata Punjabkaur, wife of Baba Ram Rai, prayed to the Guru for help, who on receiving the message, went to Dehradun and punished the evil-doer sadhus according to their individual sins.

The Historical Places in Sri Paonta Sahib.

1. Gurudwara Sahib.

At this place the Guru dismounted his horse and set foot. He camped here alongwith his ladies.

The Holy words are :-

Kalindri Tat Kare Bilasa
Anak Bhand ke Paikh Tamasha"

Here, Baba Ajit Singh, the eldest son of the Guru, was born. The legend is in vogue that the building containing the old dome was built by the Sanghnwalia Sardars. The present splendid and huge Gurudwara Building Hall, School Building and about forty residential rooms have been built by the established 'Constructions Committee' of the devotees of Dehradun and Paonta Sahib. The funds for construction of the Gobind Ghat were donated by the Maharaja of Patiala.

Inside the Gurudwara, there is a huge throne upon which the Ancient Weapons present a charming sight. The Granth-Sahib is recited daily. There are in all nine doors of this Gurudwara, four on the inner side & five on the outer-side. But there is also the tenth hidden door, which can only be seen by the experienced devotees.

2. Talab-Asthan.

This served as the Armoury and the Treasury of the Guru. Here he held courts and distributed pays among the Singhs. Thousands of the Sikhs remained in the service of the Great Guru and thousands came from far and wide to worship His Holiness and obtain blessings.

3. Sri Kavi Darbar Asthan

This is a charming place below the above-mentioned places. This is the very place where the Guru held daily Kavi-Darbars but the Kavi-Darbar of Purnima wore a special unique glamour. He wrote many Gospels (Banies) of Jaap-Sahib and the Dasam Granth. On witnessing this solitude and calm place we recollect the adage 'Balihari Kudrat Vasia'. The legend goes that the Jamuna is not permitted to come near this place nor the noise of its current.

4. **Sri Dastar Asthan :—**

5. This is a wonderful site on a hillock, from where the entire scenery of the Jamuna and the neighbouring green hills can be viewed easily. Here the Guru wore his Turban ceremoniously. Here were held the Evening Prayers (Sodai) The Guru gave away prizes to the victorious warriors of the Bhangani Battle here. At this place the Pir of Sadhaura received the gratifying gifts of 'Little Turban', Hair with Kangha (Comb), Little Sword and an Authority Letter.

5. **The Memorial Kalpi Rishi.**

The Guru brought Saint Kalpi from 'Kalpi' in a palanquin. The Rishi spent the rest of his life in the shelter of the Guru. His hermitage is this memorial.

6. **Dasmesh Kund :—**

It is situated below the Gobind Ghat, at the bank of River Jamuna. Mind Body is purified by reciting Jaap Sahib at Kavi Darbar Asthan, after taking bath in its fresh & clean water.

7. **The Rock (Shila) Baba Kirpal Ji Udasi.**

This is situated at a distance of about 3 furlongs to the north-east of the Fort in its outskirts. A huge black Rock of black hue is there, where Baba Kirpal took seat. He was the only sadhu out of a total of about 500 to stay behind in his place and

who participated in the Battle of Bhangani. He killed many a foe and killed Hayat Khan with his Kutka.

8. The Blue Fountain.

Its water is very clear, pure and a tonic. It proves its character as soon as it is drunk. Many diseases are cured by it. This is said to be blessed by the Guru.

9. The Guru's Garden and Lake.

It is a scene worth seeing. The heart is filled with joyful emotions at the very sight of it.

10. Memorial of the Bloody Event.

On 22nd May of 1964, the un-armed Singhs were fired at ruthlessly and aimlessly, while they were going-on with the recital of un-interruptable Recitals (Akhand-Path). As a result, many were sacrificed and many received serious injuries. Guru Panth erected a memorial in memory of these martyres of the Bloody Event. The foundation-stone was laid by Giani Bhupinder Singh, President of Shiromani Akali Dal.

Hola Mohalla (Fair) and Puranmashi (Full-Moon Night).

Both these days are being celebrated since long past. Every Guru-Purb is celebrated and special programmes are given. On the Hola Mohalla and Purnima, Diwans are special attractions to the public because of the fact that the shining moon-light gives the Jamuna waters and the neighbouring hills, a colourful tinge which adds beauty to the lustre. On the Hola Mohalla day, one can witness the sports and pasimes such as feats of valour and different war-weapons, During these celebrations many devotees get their desires fulfilled and are showered with the blessings of the Guru.

The Management of the Gurudwara.

A Committee known as 'Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee' of twenty-two members was constituted on 7th of June, 1964 by a Religious Gathering who manages the Gurudwara affairs. Shri Rattan Singh-a blessed Contractor, is its President.

The Property of the Gurudwara.

600 bighas of land of the Gurudwara is under the custody of the Himachal Pradesh Government and certain tenants, by virtue of a special Act of the said Government. Out of the whole, a lion's share is under the claws of the-former Mahant of the Gurudwara and his near relatives etc.

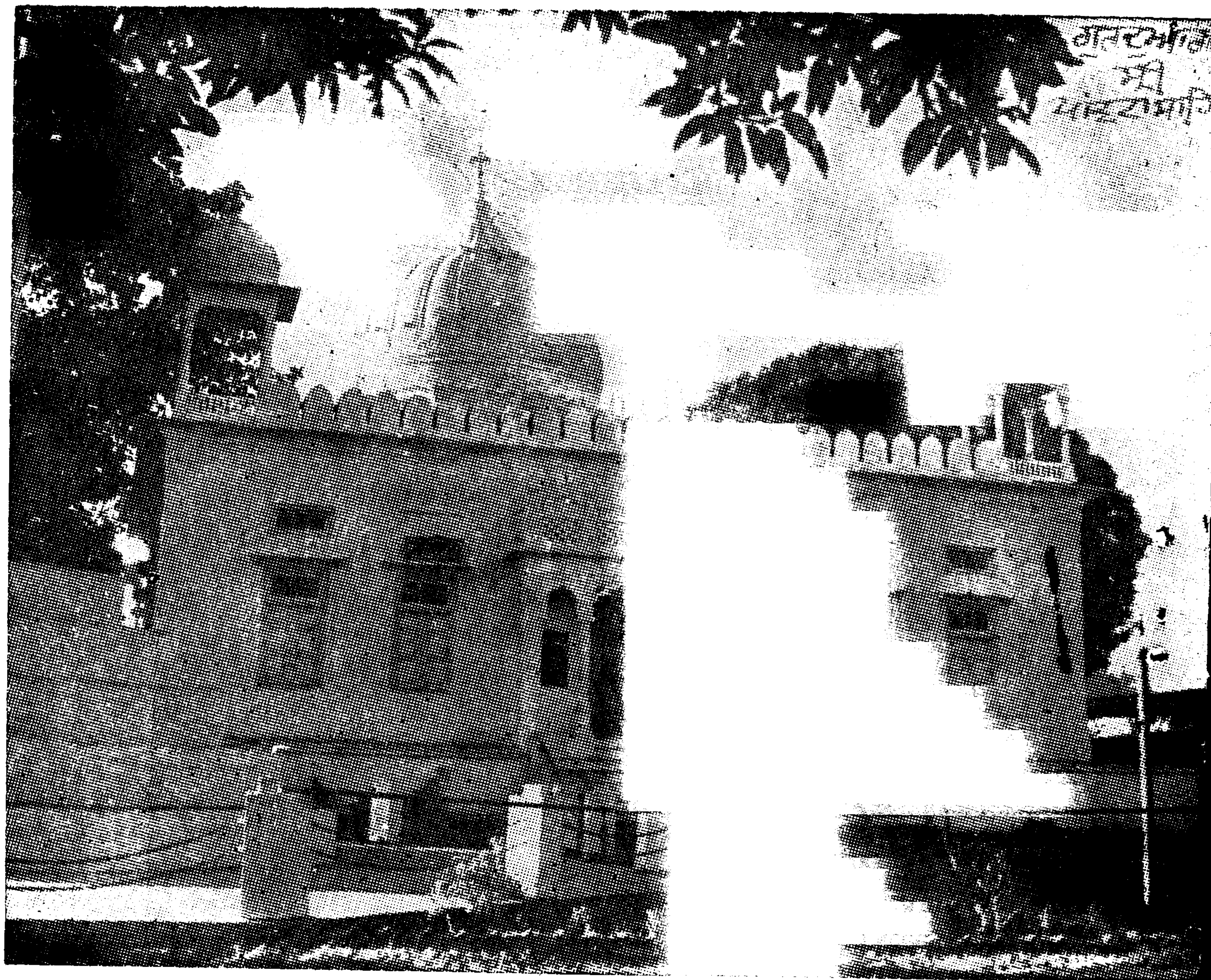
The matter is being pursued to set these lands vacated.

Vahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa
Sri Vahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh.

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