

## **The Last Aspect of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur's Struggle According to Gurumukhi Sources**

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### **Abstract**

The research paper deals with the last aspects of Banda Singh Bahadur's struggle according to Gurumukhi Sources. The Gurumukhi Sources analyzed are written by Ratan Singh Bhangu, Giani Gian Singh and Kesar Singh Chibber. All the writings provide a different and contrasting about the last Battle of Banda Singh Bahadur's battle i.e. Battle of Gurdas Nangal. The last phase of Banda Singh Bahadur's struggle begins from the time of Emperor Farooqshiar. At this time Banda Singh Bahadur was under attack by the Mughal generals from all side. This paper deals with the analysis of prominent Gurmukhi writings on this last struggle of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

*Keywords:* Battle, Mughals, Sikhism, Gurdas Nangal.

### **Introduction**

December 1712 by then Banda Singh Bahadur had reached the peak of his power. This was the time when Emperor Jahandar Shah was sitting on the Mughal throne of Delhi. Although Badshah Bahadur Shah, the father of Jahandar Shah, had snatched Sirhind and Fort Lohgarh from Banda Singh Bahadur, he could not remove Banda Singh Bahadur from the Punjab at all. Even after the loss of Sirhind and Lohgarh, Banda Singh Bahadur had established himself in the hill states of the Punjab, from where he periodically carried out his attacks in the hilly areas like Anandpur Sahib, Kiratpur

Sahib, Hoshiarpur and present day Gurdaspur. In the early years of 1712 CE, Emperor Bahadur Shah began to suffer from mental disorders due to signs of old age. He was dead by February 1712 by this time Banda Singh Bahadur had recaptured all the lost territories which he had already conquered. That means he had again conquered Lohgarh, Sirhind, Jalandhar Doab, Majha di Riarki. After the death of Bahadur Shh, a fierce battle was fought between his sons for the throne. At this time Banda Singh Bahadur had had firmly established their foothold on many areas of the river Ravi from Yamuna onwards. In this battle, Bahadur Shah Zafar's elder son became the

king of the Mughal Empire of Delhi but he was totally incompetent. Therefore, during his reign, anarchy spread throughout the Mughal Empire. This anarchy helped Banda Singh Bahadur to gain a foothold in the eastern part of the Punjab. But Jahandar Shah was deposed by Farooq Siyar in January 1713 AD. He was captured, imprisoned and killed in the same year. So, in 1713 AD. A new era of the Mughal Empire had begun in the early years of the 19th century. Farooqshiar was a capable king. As soon as he ascended the throne, he gave instructions to take stern action against Banda Singh Bahadur. As a result, the last phase of Banda Singh Bahadur's struggle begins from the time of Emperor Farooqshiar. At this time Banda Singh Bahadur was under attack by the Mughal generals from all sides. Although this time was December 1715 AD. was running until. December 1715 AD Banda Singh was arrested in 1715. This was the last aspect of his struggle. Although there is not a single opinion in the early Gurmukhi writings about this last aspect. All the original writings differ on this point. The details of these original writings are further reviewed:

### **Ratan Singh Bhangu**

This is the narrative which can be obtained from the writings of Ratan Singh Bhangu. By the way, Bhangu's entire writing is full of mythological and fictional things. Bhangu did not give any details about the fort of Gurdas Nangal. This description was given by the editor only in the form of headline above and also in brackets. . Bhangu is always showing the man to be a victim of the tricks of the Turks. Whenever the Turks want to deceive the man, Bhangu immediately shows the man falling into their trap. When the Turks surround the man in the fort, according to Bhangu, the man has no idea of the Turks' siege. When they are completely surrounded, one realizes that they have been surrounded. Then they can do nothing. There was nothing to eat or drink inside. That is why Singh dies of starvation. Then the way Bhangu has portrayed the condition of the hungry Singhs is ridiculous. At last, the broken man is forced to surrender to the Mughals. In this way Bhangu has tried to make the man completely incompetent as a leader.

### **Kesar Singh Chibber**

This is a brief account of Kesar Singh Chibber's presentation of the last phase of Banda Singh Bahadur's struggle. Although there are some historical errors in Chibber's writings, his

writing as a whole provides a lot of historical information about this aspect. According to Chibber Farrukhshiar was conquered in 1775 B.C. He is said to have received the throne of Delhi in the Bikram year 1718 AD. This is incorrect. Farrukhshir ascended the throne of Delhi in January 1713 AD Chibber also writes that two faujdars, Samash Khan and Bajid Khan, were fighting against Banda Singh Bahadur but were killed in the end. Abdus Samad Khan in March 1713 AD was appointed as the Governor of Lahore. He had besieged and arrested Banda Singh Bahadur with great success. Chibber's statement that Banda Singh and his associates were arrested and sent to Delhi is also correct. Chibber has mentioned Gurdas Nangal's Fort as Gurdaspur's fort but the present city of Gurdaspur did not exist then. The city was built in 1855 AD. And was founded by the British. Therefore, this city was not even in the time of Kesar Singh Chibber. Thus, although Chibber has written Gurdaspur only, which may seem wrong at first glance, but Chibber means only Gurdas Nangal. Overall, Chibber's writing is very informative.

### **Giani Gian Singh**

Since Gian Singh is the last of the early Gurmukhi writers, his writing is modern. Although his narrative is mostly based on the writings of Ratan Singh Bhangu, Gian Singh has tried to look at the whole narrative from a logical and historical point of view. Gian Singh had seen the writings before him and has given details of them in a few places. As in one place he is quoting the writings of Khafi Khan. Gian Singh, despite getting information from Ratan Singh Bhangu, did not make one-sided statements like Bhangu. The whole story of Mata Sundari Ji joining hands with the Mughal government against the man is based on Ratan Singh Bhangu but Gian Singh has narrated it in a better way than Bhangu but there is more logic and modernity in presenting Gian Singh's narrative than in Bhangu. Gian Singh has also given dates related to some of the battles of man but these are almost all incorrect. Gian Singh's struggle began in 1721 AD. leads to this is incorrect. The last siege of Banda Singh Bahadur took place in April 1715 AD. Began to wear and ended in December 1715 AD. It happened in June 1716 AD. Banda Singh was martyred in These dates are found in contemporary Persian writings and are described very clearly by William Irwin and Ganda Singh in their respective writings.

## Conclusions

What we find in the original Gurmukhi writings to shed light on the last aspect of Banda Singh Bahadur's struggle is not a one-size-fits-all matter. Each text gives different information than the other. Second, even this discrepant information is unreliable. Many things are imaginary and hearsay. There is no logic in anything. Kesar Singh Chibber alone is giving some logical and concrete information. Its text is very concise. Ratan Singh Bhangu have written in detail. The more detailed they are, the more imaginative and biased they are. It seems that Ratan Singh Bhanguare writing against the man. Because there is a lot of contradiction in their writing. Ratan Singh Bhangu proves the man to be an incompetent leader. Bhangu writes the whole story in such a way that it has no historical significance. Gian Singh has certainly described the last aspect of Banda Singh's struggle in a somewhat logical manner and has given some historical color to his writing. But its years are wrong. In the end it can be said that there is utter despair in the original Gurmukhi writings about the last aspect of Banda Singh Bahadur's struggle

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