

# Peerless is Guru Gobind Singh: “Himself the Master and the Disciple”

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“Guru Gobind Singh was the only son of Guru Tegh Bahadur and Mata Gujri, born at Patna Sahib on December 22nd 1666 (now 5th January due to change in Gregorian calendar). He ascended guruship on 11th July 1675 at the age of 9, months before the martyrdom, in Dehi, of his father Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji spent his first eight years of childhood at Patna, before being taken to Anandpur by his parents. Then upto the age of age of 20 years, the city of bliss - in the foothills of Shivalik range, was his home, where he practiced arms and studied classics to complete his training as a saint-soldier. Through his sermons he always preached equality and love and a strictly ethical and moral code of conduct. He worked on inspirational compositions of divine poetry: Jaap Saheb, Akal Ustat, Swayeye, and a lot of literature of epic tradition such as also Zafarnama - a letter of victory to Aurangzeb.

The holy Sword – known as *Kripan* (Kripa-aan) according to Guru Gobind Singh was never meant to be used for aggression. It was prescribed to be used only in self-defense, and that too when all other means have failed.

## **Why is Guru Gobind Singh called: both the Master and the Disciple?**

It was an historic event on 30th March 1699 (14th April as per change in Gregorian calendar) when Sikhs had gathered at Anandpur, 80,000 strong. It was on this day that Khalsa was created in a dramatic assemblage. Doubtless Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469 -1539). At Anandpur, the Tenth Guru challenged the assemblage and demanded in a thundering voice.

### **“I want one head; is there any one who can offer me his head?”**

No body came forward on the first and second call. But on the third call, one Daya Ram came forward. Guru Gobind Singh took him inside the tent and, soon after, a thud was heard, even as Guru Gobind Singh came out with his sword dripping blood. After Daya Ram, one by one, Dharam Das, Mohkam Chand, Himmat Rai and Saheb Chand volunteered and were taken into the tent. The same scene was enacted. But the sixth time the Guru came out of the tent and called all the Blessed Five. When they came out each and everyone was astonished as they were dressed up regally, with ornamental turbans and Kripans. Guru Gobind Singh said: as they had offered their head to the Guru so the Guru now gave himself to Panth all his glory, and now they would be called as “PANJ PAYARE”.

Then Guru Gobind Singh poured pure water into an iron vessel, adding sweet patashas and stirred it with a double edged sword while reciting the Gurbani. He then stood up and went forward towards the five of them and sprinkled five times the amrit in the eyes and on their head - making them taste same while calling out:

*“Wahe Guru ji ka Khalsa*

*Wahe Guru ji ki Fateh”*

After this holy ceremonial of “*Amrit Pan*” Guru Gobind Singh prayed with folded hands - asking the Panj Pyare to “baptize” him. The Panj Payare were surprised at the Guru’s humility, but then Guru Gobind Singh replied that the five constituted the Khalsa and then

he declared :

**“Khalsa is the Guru and the Guru is the Khalsa” and so there is no difference between me and you - collectively.**

After this holy transformation Guru Gobind Singh prayed for being similarly given Amrit. Thus the Great Master conferred his spiritual authority on the collective Khalsa.

