

Flashback

Sir, This is with reference to the signed brilliant and balanced editorial “1984: A Tragedy Complexified” by Sardar Saran Singh (TSR, June 2008). Needless to add, I was reminded of an incident of those terrible days. I had been observing for long the slogan ‘Raj Karega Khalsa’ written on the boundary wall of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital (erstwhile V.J. Hospital) where I was posted as incharge of the emergency Biochemistry Laboratory.

Suddenly, immediately, after the Operation Bluestar, I noticed that word ‘Raj Karega Khalsa’ had been replaced by ‘Yaad’ reading, thereby ‘Yaad Karega Khalsa’. As was natural, I was hurt by the said ‘amendment’.

It remained there for months together. However, one fine evening, prior to Mrs. Gandhi’s assassination, I discovered that there was another change - the word ‘Yaad’ had given way to ‘Phir Var Karega Khalsa’. And, surprisingly enough, a couple of days later - it happened - Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated!

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Sr. M.S. Batra delivers The Bir Memorial Lecture

We missed you at the Oration last October. I hope you are better now and will soon be able to go about your normal work.

I must complement you on inviting S Manohar Singh Batra to deliver the Oration. You must have read it. The Hall was full, a rare occurrence at 4 pm at the IIC. S. Manohar Singh, very painstakingly, listed out the various types of challenges facing Sikhism. It provoked lot of discussions over tea. I think it was also very educative, as many do not know authentically, what’s being done by others. I do not know if it fits into your (Trust) philosophy, but this Oration could be *serialized* in 2-3 issues of ***The Sikh Review***. Let people think about the points and take whatever action they deem fit in their personal, family or community life. You may not print all reactions or suggestions (as that will clutter ***The Sikh Review***) but, maybe, one two sentences from these reactions/suggestions, ones that are good.

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Editor’s Note:

We hope to print experts from Sr. M.S. Batra’s Bir Memorial Lecture in early 2009.

- S.S.

