

# The Hemkunt Sage at the Godavari@

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@ India's reivers: Ganga, Jamuna, Sutlej and Godavari have a mystical connection with the life of Guru Gobind Singh, who was born at Patna on the banks of Ganga, meditated at Paonta, founded the Khalsa at Anandpur and spent his last days at Nander, on the banks of the Godavari.

O sister! how should I describe the pose

That He stood there on that day for glory,

And was too majestic even for a king to choose

As He sat there on the bank of Godavari.

And carefree dangling His feet began to play  
With the frolicking waves, as if with toys,  
In what mood He sat there - this I could not say  
But sister, He certainly knew how to enjoy!

And lo! the river began to sound like a lyre  
When a wave of Godavari in its gyre,  
Touched those feet and became a vibrant wire  
And the news spread all along like fire.

Then, to kiss His feet there was a mad race  
As waves after waves were set in motion,  
From snowy heights the Hemkunt Sage the Deccan to grace  
And for joy the whole river was in commotion.

O His feet soft like silk and white as snow  
Could be seen immersed like diamonds clear,  
For which the Godavari was blessed as we know  
And remembers Him to this day for a so dear.

What the river received reflecting aglow  
Was not the Buddha image of stone's rigidity,  
But drawn in purest water turquoise blue aflow  
His quivering shape was of timeless musicality!

Drunken waves saluting that rolling did uncurl  
As they saw a buoyant form never seen nor known,

Such was Guru Govind Singh - a rare pearl  
Whose poesy has a rhythm and style of its own.

