

## **Guru Arjun: The Martyr Extraordinary** *Khushhal Singh, I.A.S. (Retd.)\**

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Hail Guru Nanak who the Lord's light had blazed,  
Passed it to Angad, Amar and Ram Das,  
That light Ram Das Guru to Arjun Dev pass'd;  
Guru Arjun Dev thus all wisdom trailed.

A spirit hallowed and divine, pious and calm  
In meditation on His Name, ever singing  
Devotional hymns in His praise, bringing  
An air of peace and poise, calm among a storm.

Humble, with the milk of human kindness,  
Whom sweet appeared all doings of the Lord,  
Whether pain or pleasure, peace or discord;  
All his allurements only were righteousness.

Hari Mandir, midst a Sarovar, he made  
And a holy Poethi of Gurus' hymns  
Also of devout saints Hindus' n' Muslims -  
Reciting which all sins and sorrows fade.

Prithi's intrigues, nor Sulhi's threats deterred  
His fearless spirit, steadfast and truthful,  
Hence flock'd to him Hindu and Muslim faithful;  
But the zealotic put him in fetters.  
His magnanimity, steadfast and rock-hard,  
And absolute, unshakable faith in God  
Led him on to the path of Emperor's nod  
To the earthly end of a divine bard.  
A furnace burning hot, on it his throne  
On a skillet, a cauldron to bathe in water  
Boiling, and fiery sands from above as powder;  
In poise sits there Lord's own - without a groan.  
'Convert to Islam': they had sought in barter;  
Those tyrants did imagine that this would kneel  
Frightened; that immortality in steel,  
The fountain-head of all future martyrs.

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