

## NEWS FROM GOBIND SADAN

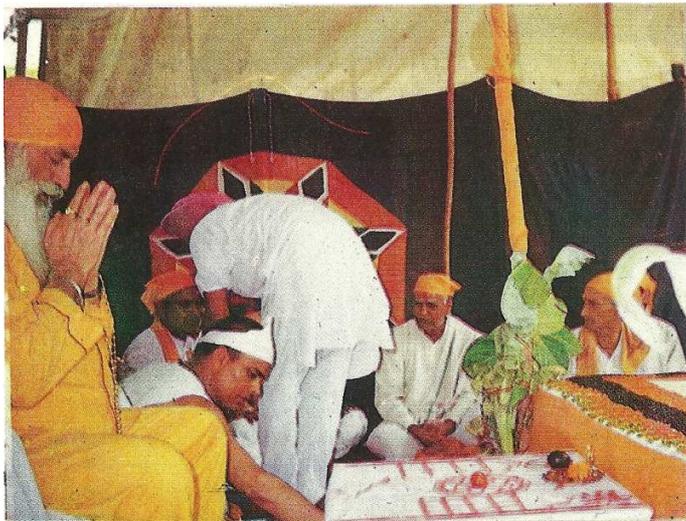
Gobind Sadan, Gadaipur, via Mehrauli, New Delhi  
110030, India (ph. 91-11-680-2251)  
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### Chandi di War, with love

Gobind Sadan is ringing with praises of Durga Mata, the Supreme in Her feminine aspect. It is said that when the gods became too proud, they lost their kingdom to the demons. Indra, king of the gods, appealed to Durga Mata for help. Empowered by all the gods, she defeated the demon forces and returned the kingdom to Indra. Her great power is represented by the tiger on which she rides.

The story of this epic battle appears in the ancient Sanskrit scripture *Mar Kande Puran* and also in Guru Gobind Singh's *Chandi di War*. Guru Gobind Singh's version is rich in loving detail. Elsewhere in his *Dasam Granth* he explains from inner vision that in honoring Durga (also known as Chandi and Bhawani), one is worshipping the one God: "Firstly, God is Father of everyone. From Him came powerful blazing splendour. This was called Bhawani, Who has created the entire cosmos." Guru Gobind Singh also wrote, "To bless the people, bring goodness to the earth, and kill the demons, Oh God, You Yourself are Chandi."

The order has come to repeat Chandi di War 125,000 times at Gobind Sadan, and devotees are doing so night and day, with increasing enthusiasm and interest. At the same time, 31 Hindu pandits have been called in to recite *Mar Kande Puran* and perform worship of Durga for 10 days at a special havan. The very stones of Gobind Sadan are now saturated with Her Name.



Babaji prays as pandits prepare for Durga puja

### What is mantra?

Baba Virsa Singh encourages both sangat and pandits to do the recitations loudly with great energy and love so that they will create vibrations in the outer environment and will gladden and concentrate the mind. "What is a mantra?" he asks. "It is not a matter of ritualistic conduct - how it is to be read, which way one should turn one's face, how one should stand, whether one should stand here or there. The point that has deeply impressed my mind is this: From whose mouth have the mantras come? From those who were united with God. They were written in scriptures, and then when those words are read, the vibrations are created. Before, there was nothing. Then the mantra came out of someone's heart, appeared on the person's tongue. Wherever that arrow was directed, it pierced. If the person said, 'Become stone,' the other immediately turned to stone.

*This thing has been on my mind every day. When something is on my mind, I do not leave it; I go to its depth. I do not look at what amount will be spent or how much energy will be consumed.*

*It was ordered, 'Recite Chandi di War.' I have seen in my life that when it is ordered, 'Go and recite; your path will be cleared,' the person may already have been doing that recitation for 20 years, but when this order is given, later he comes and says, 'I have been blessed.' From that day he has got peace of mind.*

*My mind asks, 'What then is recitation?' It has been created by the Power who spoke to me. But by giving the command to recite, it has had an effect. The pandits have been reading this mantra and performing havan for their whole life, but up to today they have not met the Power.*

### Two stories

*Today as I was sitting, the Goddess came and blew the conch. I did not know the significance of blowing the conch, for I am not a literate person. I told the head pandit, 'The Goddess has blown the conch today.' He knows what this means, for he has read the scriptures. He replied, 'It was our duty to blow the conch before starting the puja.' But they did not. No one came to remind them to do so. Thirty one pandits were sitting there, but She is not meeting these thirty one pandits. Yet they have unnecessarily designated themselves authorities and said, 'The Goddess is ours.'*

*Why did the Goddess appear to me? Because God has already cleared my mind. In it there is no doubt, no rejection, of any of the prophets. I understand that these powers are all of God. I have no religion. Our religion is love. These powers are shown to me, and I tell you, to demonstrate that this position is correct.*

A Muslim who says Namaz five times a day and has done the pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj) declares himself an authority. He also states, 'I am a Muslim where Babaji is a Sikh.' When I was in Kashmir, several Orthodox Muslims were present. The mullah, a hajji, became very angry because women were offering food to me. As I was leaving and was just about to step into my jeep, a very strange thing happened. Hazrat Moiduddin Chishti, the great saint of Ajmer Sharif, appeared and said to me, 'That mullah's mother promised to offer a sheet for my tomb. She has died, and he has not offered the sheet. Tell him that he should go and offer the sheet — he knows that.' I said to the mullah, 'Your mother promised to offer a sheet for the tomb of Chishti. Please recollect. Go and offer the sheet.' He admitted it, took my hand, and started kissing it.

I told him, 'Chishti has not met you and reminded you. You have unnecessarily made yourself an authority, but Chishti does not recognize you. You think I am not a Muslim, but here there is no question of Islam. It is a question of gyan (the clear vision of enlightenment). Hazrat Chishti came to me to prove, 'I am not of any religion. I am standing beside anyone with muhabbat (love). I am not with anyone who creates sectarian divisions. Tell him.'

### **No one is successful**

A person thinks with the brain, but when one looks with gyan, one asks, 'What has happened?' The one whom we call Goddess Devi, the one whom we call Lord Krishna, the one whom we call Lord Rama, the one whom we call Hazrat Mohammad, the one whom we call Guru Gobind Singh — this is one Power. When a mantra is recited with no feeling of love for this Power, that mantra will never have any effect. It is as if someone is holding a gun with no ammunition in it. He may press the trigger, and there will be a click, but if there is no bullet, it will not strike anybody.

A mantra has arisen from Power. If a person's tongue lies throughout the day, if his thoughts are of deception, if he always begs, if he never loves, how will that mantra work through him? Mantra is a very pure thing. When a mirror is kept near the fire, smoke will accumulate on it and one cannot see one's face in it. One can see one's face only when the mirror is clean.

Seeing that the recitations and prayers of the pandits and kasis were bereft of power, the Guru said, 'Many people are uttering the mantras, but nobody has achieved success. The power of the religious "authorities" is finished and the devil has become powerful.'

Light comes from mantras. A mantra is like the sun. Everywhere these mantras are being recited, but the sun is not visible on the earth. Clouds have obscured it. There have been great conflicts about this between the prophets and the religious 'authorities.' The Guru says, 'The pandit may have put a very lovely mark on his forehead and worn a loin-cloth, but in the world he holds a dagger in his hand and

has become a butcher.' He has begun reading mantras in order to take offerings. He has started giving instructions to the world but not following the instructions himself. God's light should be glistening in his heart, like a diamond in a ring. Only then can one be called a religious authority.

### **The masters and chelas are blind**

The Guru says, 'When the master is hungry and poor, what will the servant eat?' Only if the master has provisions will the disciples receive them. If the master is blind, the disciples will also act blindly. The Guru says, 'The religious "authorities" criticize others and habitually tell lies. They just follow their own minds.' Their disciples will also criticize others blindly. They will say, 'My sacred thread (of Hindus) is good but your Namaz (prayer of Muslims) is not.' On the other side, they will be blindly saying, 'No - the sacred thread is useless but my Namaz is good.'

Sometimes a great storm arises in my mind — What is all this that is happening? Every day I see that people have made themselves religious authorities, but they are actually in ignorance. It is a definite thing that a recitation will have an effect only when there is a feeling of love in you. Otherwise, it makes no difference whether you are reciting a mantra or singing movie tunes.

At how many places is the Guru Granth Sahib being continually recited? How much devotional music is being sung in the world? There are huge crowds in the temples. But the people's thoughts and actions are not being shaped by the messiahs, nabis, or prophets. They are of Satan. The Nabi Hazrat Mohammad, Guru Gobind Singh, Jesus — all messengers stood on the foundation of love. There will be no cruelty in the mind of the person who has faith in the Holy Qur'an, in the Bible, in the Torah, in the Guru Granth Sahib, in the teachings of Lord Buddha.

What is Namaz? Prayer? Puja? Scriptural recitation? Meditation? They are for controlling our troubled mind, for burning our inner weaknesses, our evils. They are for drawing us toward God so that the merciful gaze of that Great Power may be cast upon us. The whole of religion is based on love and God's mercy.

It is very dangerous that Sikhs say the Guru has gone, that Muslims say the Prophet has gone. If he has gone, why are you worshipping him? If the Goddess has gone, why are you daily worshipping Her? The Goddess has gone nowhere. She is sitting in us. She is Master of our thoughts. She knows what we are doing.

In reality, God is one, not two. We are dividing God because we are not enlightened. The Goddess is not in human form; She is all-pervading. But you must develop the sight which can see Her. You will be blessed by reciting Chandi di War. The whole creation is remembering Her. The very earth and skies are chanting God's Name, but you cannot see. "

### **Baba Dayal Singh passes on**

On June 16, Baba Dayal Singh died suddenly and peacefully of a heart attack in his 70's. He was one of the early followers of Baba Virsa Singh, from the time when Babaji's beard had just started to grow. At that time, Babaji and his followers all slept side by side on the floor in his village. In recent years, Baba Dayal Singh served as a manager of Shahi Data Darbar, a very holy community under Babaji's protection in Delhi, which encompasses the tombs of two great saints. Of Baba Dayal Singh, Babaji says, "He did so much tapasya; he was no ordinary person."

### **Letter to the Pope**

Baba Virsa Singh has begun sending strong letters to people around the world in positions of responsibility. Recently, for instance, Babaji sent an inspired letter to Pope John Paul II, in reference to the pope's announcement that he would try to reunite Christians of all denominations. Babaji congratulated him for this effort but suggested, *"My inner feeling is that if we study the teachings of Jesus deeply, we will see that Jesus's words were not just for one caste or religious community. For instance, he spoke of the Holy Spirit. What is it? The Holy Spirit pervades throughout Creation. Why then should we think of uniting just one group? Why should not the whole world be united? Christianity has become a group, but Jesus was not just for one group of humans. He was healing the air, the trees, the animals, the whole Creation. Why are we not speaking of the biggest issue?... When all the prophets have spoken as one, why should we divide them? Throughout the world, why don't we recognize that we are children of one Father?..."*

*The prophets and messiahs did not work by thinking and reading books. Theirs was the power of love and the light of inner wisdom. To heal these sectarian divisions, God does not need to use any force. He has already united the entire Creation by His mere gaze, His Word, His thought. If we are to name Him, shall we not call Him Great? If we are to make a request of this greatest Power, why don't we make a big request?"*

### **Three sacred celebrations converge**

On the evening of June 4th, a crowd gathered at Jesus's Place, where Jesus has appeared to Baba Virsa Singh and others, to celebrate three sacred occasions which fell on the same date. One was the completion of 125,000 repetitions of Guru Gobind Singh's *Jaap Sahib*. Another was Shavuot, the Jewish celebration of the day when Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. The third was Pentecost, the Christian celebration of the occasion when the Holy Spirit descended like fire upon the apostles of Jesus after his

death and resurrection, so that Jesus's power began to work through them.

Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar spoke about Shavuot and sang Psalms of David from the Bible, including Psalm 150: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

Joyce and Jyotsna Paul spoke about Pentecost in striking tones and roused the audience to proclaiming, "Praises to Jesus! Thanks to Jesus!"

Far into the night, Baba Virsa Singh sat under the open sky near the flower-bedecked, candle-lit cross speaking of the coincidence of these three events. He said, *"I did not know that we would finish 125,000 Jaap Sahibs on the same day as these days of Moses and Jesus. But Guru Gobind Singh knew from the day we started. It was a hidden thing."*

### **The Holy Spirit**

*All the prophets and messiahs have told us that they remain firmly attached to the Holy Spirit, which is always within you, always with you. It will never leave you.*

*When we meditate, when we pray, when we worship, when we recite scriptures, what is this thing that appears within us? It does not come from outside. The Holy Spirit is within ourselves. However, it is obscured by our karmas — our anger, our ego, our ignorance, our criticism, our hurting others. When we meditate, when we pray, that filth within us disappears, and the light which is called the Holy Spirit becomes apparent.*

*All the prophets have spoken of this Light. Guru Gobind Singh said, 'That light is everywhere, is only one; it cannot be increased, decreased, or divided.' Guru Nanak also says the same thing, Jesus says the same thing, Moses says the same thing. Then why are we divided? We do not act upon what they have told us. If we follow their teachings, we will celebrate the holy days of all the prophets, for they are for the whole world.*

*Instead, we have made forts of religion, for those who have declared themselves religious authorities firmly tell us that Jesus is not like Moses, that Hazrat Mohammad is not like Jesus, that Guru Gobind Singh is not like Jesus. From whence have these ideas come? The prophets never spoke thus. There is no such statement in Sikh scripture, in Bhagavad Gita, or in Ramayana. If we see clearly, in the Torah of Jews there is no statement like this. Instead, the arrival of Jesus was clearly written in Torah, just as the appearance of Lord Rama was previously announced.*

*The Torah, which we call the scripture of Jews, does not belong to one community. Why? It speaks of one God. 'One God' means that God is pervading in all of us. Why then don't we celebrate Jesus's birthday in gurdwaras? Why don't we celebrate Guru Gobind Singh's birthday in churches? We don't celebrate them because of ignorance.*



Babaji speaks of many prophets at Jesus's Place

### **Religious authorities have misguided us**

*This place where we are sitting was not constructed in order to please any people. I saw Jesus standing here giving blessings. Ignore religious authorities. If you see with your inner vision, you will see Guru Gobind Singh in that light. In the same light you will see Jesus, in the same light you will see Moses, in the same light you will see Hazrat Mohammad. But now we are all closing our eyes. If one person wants to please Jesus by speaking ill of Guru Nanak, he will never get anything from Jesus, for Jesus will never say, 'Separate Guru Nanak from me.' Jesus will never say, 'Separate Moses from me.' It is the religious 'authorities' who have separated all of them.*

*In every country, people belligerently say, 'My prophet has no equal.' We have no need for such a base. Why do we say this? Religious authorities have totally misguided us. They say that Guru Gobind Singh has nothing to do with churches, and that Jesus has nothing to do with gurdwaras.*

*How can this be? All the prophets have said there is the Holy Spirit, there is one God; worship God; love God; see God pervading in all people and serve each other. Jesus said, 'If you want to see the Spirit of my Father, the Power of my Father, look for it in the flowers, the mountains, everywhere, for the love of my Father is giving light everywhere.' Guru Gobind Singh, who also called God his Father, said, 'God is in the waters, God is in the earth, God is in the mountains, God is in the cave, God is near and far. Throughout the cosmos, God is the same' Hazrat Mohammad said, 'The One whom I call Allah is in the skies and in the earth, is in the whole universe.'*

*When all the prophets have said the same thing, why are you sitting separately? Until you understand that they are all one, you will never get gnan.*

*What is the dangerous situation with us now? When we go to religious places, the operations that are being conducted are all wrong. What teaching will we get there? Rigidity. Exclusiveness. We don't have the power of vision, of spirituality, of light. Why? Because we have locked up the Light. By contrast, Guru Nanak has said, 'We are all co-related; no one is outside. The One I call God is in the smallest particles, pervading in each and every leaf.'*

*You all know that human life is not long. But you are wasting your life just bowing your head ritualistically. Go after gnan! If you pass a church along the way and they are praying inside, you sit there and listen; praise God there. If there is a mosque along the way and they are reading the Holy Qur'an, sit there and listen. It doesn't matter what is your religion; they are telling the words of God. If there is a gurdwara along your way, don't consider caste or creed; if kirtan or lecture or scriptural readings are going on there, listen to that also. Why? Because all the prophets have said the same thing.*

*Why does the prophet come? When we forget, the prophet comes to remind us: God is one, God is Love, God is Truth and service, keep compassion in your heart. The same thing was told to Moses, to Adam, to Jesus, to Hazrat Mohammad, to Guru Nanak. Why do we separate that family? We separate them because we don't know. When we go to our religious place, the religious authority bombards us directly, saying 'You are different from others. You are higher than all and your master is also the greatest.' But the master never said this. The master only said, 'The Guru dwells in every leaf, in every hair on your body, in every breath.'"*

### **New movie on Babaji**

We are happy to announce the release of an exceptional movie on Baba Virsa Singh. It is a four year labour of love supervised by Radhika and Bindu, daughters of Prem and Swaranjit Singh. The filmmakers have captured extraordinary scenes of Babaji working in the fields, talking, meditating. The film also includes scenes from his childhood village and precious interviews with old followers. This string of beautiful jewels is extremely touching, and it is an excellent overview of Babaji's nonsectarian mission. Copies are available at Gobind Sadan in all Punjabi, mixed Punjabi and English as filmed, and all English, in PAL/SECAM video format.

### **Upcoming celebrations**

August 9th: Prophet Mohammad's Birthday.

August 18: Janamashtmi (Lord Krishna's Birthday).

Gobind Sadan will celebrate these great evenings with lights, scriptural readings, and special langar. It is just possible that Babaji may speak. Everyone is invited.