

Guru Gobind Singh's Prophecy about the British Rule

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*The prophetic prescience of our holy Guru Tegh Bahadur, and how gloriously it was fulfilled to the letter in due course is now too well-known to the civilized world to call for a discussion here. It attracted the attention of the Press in 1903, when a Sikh prayer was held in honour of the late King Edward's coronation Darbar, and attended by the Sikh Maharajas/Rajas/Reises, respectables and masses at Sees Ganj Delhi, the very spot where the Ninth Guru fell martyr to the cause of piety and peace. Then again in 1911, in honour of the auspicious occasion of the Coronation Darbar of His present Most Gracious Majesty, King Emperor George, a magnificent Sikh procession and prayer was held at Delhi which in its pomp and splendour far surpassed the function of 1903. As on the front wall of the Seesganj Temple, the centre of the celebrations, were emblazoned the words, 'Here lies the martyr Sikh Guru, who prophesied the advent of the British in India, they attracted the attention of each and every passerby, from His Excellency the Viceroy down to an ordinary official and individual. They were also noted by the representatives of the Foreign Press, and most probably by the agent of Reuter too, and have been referred to in the official accounts of the Darbar. It is, therefore, needless to say that the prophecy of the 9th Guru became a most interesting topic in those days, being talked over and discussed everywhere as such. Those fond of research went to the documentary evidence on which this wonderful information was based and its oldness satisfied everyone as to its unquestionable authenticity, so much so that our present popular Viceroy and Governor General, His Excellency Lord Hardinge of Peishurat, referred to it in his Delhi State Enty Darbar Speech in 1912 saying that the great Sikh prophet foretold approach of *an empire greater than the great Mughal*. History has the following account in the connection:-*

One day as Guru Tegh Bahadur was at the top storey of his prison, the Emperor Aurangzeb thought he saw him looking towards the South in the direction of the imperial *zenana*. He was sent for the next day and charged with, the grave breach of oriental etiquette and propriety. The Guru replied, "Emperor Aurangzeb, I was on the top storey of my prison, but I was not looking at thy private apartment or

at thy queens. I was looking in the direction of Europeans who are coming from beyond the seas to tear down thy *Pardas* (veils) and destroy thy Empire. The Sikh writers state that these words became the battle-cry of the Sikhs in the assault on the mutineers in Delhi in 1857, under General John Nicholson, *and that thus the prophecy of the 9th Guru was gloriously fulfilled.* (The *Sikh Religion* by Macauliffe, Preface as well as Volume IV, quoting the *Suraj Prakash*, which is the oldest work on Sikh history.)

As we have already said, the prophesy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur has now become well known throughout the civilized world, but what his illustrious son and successor 10th Guru, foretold about this blessed Raj is known only to those selected few who are thoroughly acquainted with the Sikh history and have carefully scrutinized the Sikh annals, and we are afraid that among the European writers few except the late Mr. Macauliffe ever knew of it. And the most interesting feature is that Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur simply prophesied the advent of British nation in India, whereas Sri Guru Gobind Singh foretold about the British rule and did so more than once to wit, reference to the prophecy of his Divine Father, he and his inquisitive Sikhs, *‘then shall the English com and their glory increase’* while *‘the glory of the Turks shall fade away.’* (Sikh Religion by Macauliffe, Volume V, page 107 based on *Surak Prakash*, III, Chapter 37). Again when Bir Singh, Madan Singh, a Rajput chief, and Sham Singh visited the Guru, the last one had pointed out to him that the Muhammadans and Hindus were very numerous, and how could the Sikh’s who were a few contend against them, much less hope to obtain empire, the Guru replied:–

“What God Wileth shall take place? When the army of Turks cometh, my Sikhs shall strike steel on steel. The *Khalsa* shall then awake, and know the play of battle. Amid the clash of arms, the *Khalsa* shall be *partners in present and future bliss tranquility, meditation, virtue and divine knowledge.* Then shall the English come, and *joined by the Khalsa rule as well in the East as in the west.* The holy Baba Nanak shall bestow all wealth on them. The English shall possess great power and by force of arms take possession of many principalities. The combined armies of the English and the Sikhs shall be very powerful as long as they rule with united councils. The Empire of the English shall vastly increase, and they shall in everyway attain

prosperity; wherever they take their armies, they shall conquer and bestow thrones on those who assist them. Then in every house shall be wealth, in every house happiness, in every house rejoicing, in every house religion, in every house learning and in every house a woman.”

Can there be a cleaver and more definite apocalypse than this? The 10th Guru not only foretells the advent of the British but also explicitly forecasts what the Sikhs will do in association with them, not only in India or Asia but also in France, Germany and Italy, and explained about two centuries before the blessings of the present humane rule, viz., wealth happiness rejoicing religion learning etc... and how completely this prophecy has been fulfilled, has been witnessed even by children in the present age of trade, peace, justice, reform and education. That the valiant sons of the Great Guru are now fighting in the west under the blessed British Flag, has certainly given the finishing touch to the beauty with which the prescience has been fulfilled up-to-date.

Sceptics may point out it is a mere story concocted by the late Mr. Macauliffe. But they will be perfectly satisfied when they know that Mr. Macauliffe did not add a single word to what he culled from the *Suraj Prakash* on the subject as that great work being older than the English rule in the Punjab, none could venture to doubt the veracity of its version. Its author *Bhai* Santokh Singh was born in 1825 A.D. or say 90 years ago, when the Sikh monarchy under Maharaja Ranjit Singh being in its fullest swing, none could even dream of the English so much prospering and the Sikhs fighting under their flag. The Sikhs rather fought against the English, a score of years after that, and it was a dozen of years after still (in 1857) that they joined with them against the mutineers. There can, therefore, be not a shadow of doubt as to the truth of the statement being unchallengeable throughout, and every Sikh and admirer of the Tenth Guru should feel proud that Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur foretold the advent of the British and Guru *Kalgidhar* forecasts their work in India, over a century and a half before they actually became a paramount power. In our future issues we will show how the Sikhs have always proved faithful to their Guru's commands in this Connection.