

A Singhni's Courage

After the assassination of Indra Gandhi on October 31, 1984, Sikhs were butchered across India. This is a story about a Sikh couple living in an isolated village outside of Panjab. The couple was young and was amritdhari. The Singhni wore a Dastar and they had a young child. The Sikh couple had an isolated farmhouse in a Hindu dominated area. When news of the assassination reached the area, and it was found out that Sikhs were being killed, some local thugs also decided it was the perfect chance to loot the farmhouse. The Singh found out about these plans from some well wishers and told his wife that they had very little time and an attack is coming. The Singh advised that they should leave the farm and escape to save their lives. The Singhni however reminded him that they had done Parkash of Sri Guru Granth Sahib on the top floor of the house and how could they run away from Guru Sahib? The Singh again repeated that there is an attack coming and said that their young child would be killed. Singhni jee insisted again that it would be wrong to run away from Guru Sahib and let the mob disrespect Guru Sahib's Saroop. The Singh in frustration then said, "Once they kill us, they will disrespect the Saroop anyway so what is the point of staying here? How we can save the Saroop if we're dead. The best we can do is save ourselves now. There is no benefit in staying! You are being stubborn and stupid."

The Singhni replied that while she had breath in her body, she would not abandon Guru Sahib, even to save her life and while she was alive, no one could dare do any disrespect. With the mob now on its way, the Singh in frustration told his Singhni that she could do what she wanted but he was leaving with their son. He then took the infant and escaped. Singhni jee went to Guru Sahib's room, and did Ardaas. She asked Guru Sahib for protection and for the courage to, if need be, become Shaheed in this seva. She then took a kirpan and waited. When Singhni jee saw the mob arrive, yelling and carrying weapons, ready to attack the house. She came down and stood at the door holding her unsheathed Sri Sahib. All of a sudden, the thugs in the mob began to turn around and run away, looking back in terror and then continuing to run. Singhni jee was confused but amazed at Guru Sahib's kirpa as the mob retreated and did not return...

Some days later, the Singh came back to the village to check on the fate of his wife and their property. He fully expected that his wife would be assaulted and killed and their home looted. As he was nervously walking to his home, a Hindu acquaintance stopped him and asked, "Singh, where did you gather all those Nihangs from so quickly that day???" The Singh was confused and asked, "What do you mean?" The Hindu replied, "That day, when the mob came to attack your house, your wife came out and stood in the door and she was surrounded by so many massive Nihangs who were so tall and carrying all kinds of weapons. Where did you gather all of them from so quickly??" The Singh realized that Shaheed Singhs had themselves come and protected Guru Sahib's Saroop and his Singhni's courage had been rewarded. He went inside the home and begged for forgiveness from his Singhni and told her about how all the villagers were talking about the army of Nihangs that had protected their house.

ਸੋ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੁ ਪਿਆਰਾ ਮੇਰੈ ਨਾਲਿ ਹੈ ਜਿਥੈ ਕਿਥੈ ਮੈਨੋ ਲਏ ਛਡਾਈ ॥

