

**LANGAR HUKAMNAMA 1935**  
**HUKAMNAMA CONSPIRACY!**  
**[Editorial From The Sikh Bulletin November 2003]**

When a Sikh speaks of a Hukamnama he or she is commonly referring to the Hukamnama taken from Guru Granth Sahib, whether it is the one relayed worldwide from Darbar Sahib, from the neighborhood Gurdwara or from the scriptures at home. The Encyclopedia of Sikhism defines it as: "A compound of two Persian words *hukam*, meaning command or order, and *namah*, meaning letter, refers in the Sikh tradition to letters sent by the Gurus to their Sikhs or *sangats* in different parts of the country. *Currently, the word applies to edicts issued from time to time from the five Takhts...*". It is the latter that is now the center of controversy.

**If we examine the hukamnamas during the period of most recent three Jathedars, Ranjit Singh Ghataura, Puran Singh and Joginder Singh Vedanti, they were not only controversial but also part of a grand conspiracy.** It is also clear that the unquestioned supremacy of Akal Takhat in the hearts and minds of Sikhs has been abused by corrupt politicians to silence their critics and win personal favors from Delhi at the expense of the Panth through appointments of yes-men subservient to them as Jathedars. They have used these incompetent weaklings to pass hukamnamas that serve their agenda and annul those that bring them grief. They have further succeeded in making the position of the Jathedar of Akaal Takhat synonymous with the Akaal Takhat itself. **Herein lies the danger.** *Even the most educated Sikhs can be misled into believing that any opposition to any 'hukamnama', right or wrong, from Akaal Takhat is tantamount to disrespect to the seat of Almighty and therefore 'anti - Panthic'.* **It is this 'anti-Panthic' ruse that master manipulator Manjit Singh Calcutta is now using against those who are organizing the October 26<sup>th</sup> Conference at Chandigarh.** Tribune News Service carries the following in its Amritsar, October 5, 2003 edition:

**"Sammelan challenge to Takht says Calcutta.** Dubbing the proposed 'World Sikh Sammelan' as 'anti-Panthic' the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) today decided to take up the issue in the Dharm Prachar Committee and executive committee meeting, scheduled to be held at Fatehgarh Sahib on October 10. Meanwhile, Mr. Manjit Singh Calcutta, Chief Secretary, SGPC (honorary), held a meeting with Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti, Jathedar, Akal Takht, to discuss this topic even as Akal Takht Secretariat and SGPC offices were flooded with letters from all over the world opposing the 'World Sikh Sammelan' scheduled to be held at Chandigarh on October 26. Mr. Calcutta said that it was a matter of concern that certain Sikh leaders, who considered themselves to be an authority on Sikhism, had openly challenged the age-old institution of Akal Takht and its 'Hukamnama'. Mr. Calcutta said that such a development amounted to divide the Sikh masses. Mr. Calcutta said that if the organizers of the proposed 'Sikh Sammelan' went ahead with the function, it would be considered as a direct challenge to the 'sovereignty' of Akal Takht. He said the SGPC and its Dharm Prachar Committee might recommend to the Jathedar to declare the organizers as '**Tankhaiya**' (guilty of religious misconduct). The SGPC alleged that the proposed sammelan was being held by certain anti-Panthic forces, which was clear from the agenda

given to the press. Mr. Calcutta said that no Sikh could tolerate any challenge to Akal Takht. Akal Takht had already convened an emergency meeting of Sikh clergy here on October 8 to discuss the proposed Sikh Sammelan. Akal Takht sources had already made it clear that the organizers of the proposed conference would have to **face the music** as it was being held after the excommunication of Mr. Gurbax Singh Kala Afghana from the Sikh Panth. **The Sikh Students Federation had also announced that ‘come what may’ the proposed Sikh Sammelan would not be allowed to be held.”**

Could these people who are declaring World Sikh Sammelan on October 26, 2003 as direct challenge to Akaal Takhat Sahib explain to the Sikh Panth who is supreme? Shri Guru Granth Sahib or Akaal Takhat? If Guru Granth is the supreme and eternal Guru of the Sikhs then they should be taking action against any challenge to SGGS first rather than perceived challenge to the Akal Takhat. The side-by-side ‘*Parkash*’ of so called Dasam Granth and SGGS at Takhat Patna Sahib and Takhat at Hazoor Sahib is grave challenge to the supremacy of SGGS. They have either lost all sense of proportion or they are helplessly following the dictates of their political masters. Rather than taking action against the culprit Jathedars for this blasphemous act they punish Gursikhs like Mohinder Singh Romana who object to it.

**It is interesting to note that not only do Akali Dal parties grow like mushrooms, so do Sant Smajs and Sikh Student Federations. It is equally interesting that those calling themselves Akalis are not really Akalis, those calling themselves Sants are not really Sants and those calling themselves Sikh Students are neither Sikhs nor Students. Following is a news item in The Tribune News Service, Amritsar, October 4, 2003 from one such Sikh Student Federation:**

**“Federation vows not to allow Sikh conference.** ‘The Sikh Students Federation’ today announced that it **won’t allow** the supporters of excommunicated Sikh Gurbax Singh Kala Afghana to hold the proposed World Sikh Conference in Chandigarh on October 26. Addressing a press conference here today, **Mr. Gurcharan Singh Grewal**, the president of the federation, alleged that the proposed conference was a direct challenge to the authority of Akal Takht. He said to spread awareness among Sikh masses on the issue, the federation would organize a seminar on October 14 at Bhai Gurdas Hall here. The general secretary of the federation, **Prof. Sarchand Singh**, said a six-member committee had been formed to meet all Sikh organisations and the Akal Takht Jathedar in this regard”.

It was Jathedar **Ranjit Singh** Ghataura who popularized the term ‘*sarkari*’ Jathedar for his successor, Jathedar **Puran Singh**, but in essence all three were *sarkari* Jathedars, he of Delhi Govt. and the last two of Badal Govt. Ranjit Singh exonerated Tohra and Vedanti exonerated Badal and yet no two people have done more harm to the Sikh nation than this duo. In that they were helped by none other than **Manjit Singh Calcutta** whose sense of ‘Panthic-sewa’ is so strong that in spite of legal challenges to his position as Mr. SGPC he is prepared to work as ‘honorary Chief Secretary’. It was he along with Ahluwalia (then Congress MP now BJP) who engineered the appointment of Ranjit Singh as Jathedar of Akal Takhat while in prison, his release in 1996 fully three years before the

300th Tercentenary of The Khalsa so that he could plan its failure and issuance of visa to the United States in Dec. 1998, a visa that was clearly a violation of United States' laws. Visa waiver would have been legal but not the visa. Now that Ranjit Singh has served the purpose, he has been discarded as is the fate of Manjit Singh when RAW would consider him a liability rather than an asset.

A two issue publication called “**Kaumi Dard**” carried a story in its second and last issue of January-March 1997 under the heading ‘**Sant Baba Amar Singh Ji Barundi Walian Vallon Pakhandian Nu Sakhat Tarhna**’. It was a clear case of pot calling kettle black. In that Amar Singh pledges to obey every order emanating from Akaal Takhat. We knew immediately that that did not bode well. Master stroke of all the hukamnamas that Ranjit Singh was made to issue was the notorious *langar* hukamnama which the readers are familiar with. But what probably they are not familiar with is that its application was to be selective with British Columbia, Canada and especially a Gurdwara in Surrey the real target. At that time seven British Columbians were excommunicated, one of them even murdered and one did not have the courage of his conviction and appeared at Akaal Takhat. Two of them are still Presidents of the same Gurdwaras. Ironically the most recent excommunicatee, S. Gurbakhsh Singh Kala Afghana, is also a British Columbian. This is such a blessed land!

**On April 25, 1935 five Sikh scholars had a meeting of the ‘Dharmik Slahkar Committee’ of the SGPC and passed a resolution authorizing placement of chairs in the Gurdwaras in foreign countries.** Full text of that resolution and the names of participants are given below in Punjabi. Ask yourselves a question: Is Ranjit Singh any match for Kahn Singh Nabha, Prin. Jodh Singh, Prof. Teja Singh, Prof. Ganga Singh and Jathedar Mohan Singh? Ranjit Singh can overturn their resolution without winking an eye but no one can over turn his? No one can overturn Vedanti’s *hukamnama* but he can overturn all of Puran Singh’s? This SGPC Dharam Parchar Committee that Manjit Singh Calcutta is threatening the potential participants in the Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> conference with is really an **Adharam Parchar Committee** consisting of derawalas and sold out intellectuals. **If there is a split in the Panth the entire responsibility lies with this committee, Manjit Singh Calcutta, Tohra and Badal.**

ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਸਲਾਹਕਾਰ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੀ ਦੂਜੀ ਇਕੱਤਰਤਾ, 25 ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ 1935 ਨੂੰ ਦਿਨ ਦੇ 11:30 ਵਜੇ ‘ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਸਿੱਖ ਮਿਸ਼ਨਰੀ ਕਾਲਜ ਦੇ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰੇ ਵਿਖੇ ਅਰੰਭ ਹੋਈ। ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਸਾਹਿਬਾਨ ਨੇ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਿੱਤੇ:-

1. ਸ੍ਰ: ਬ: ਸ੍ਰ: ਕਾਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਨਾਭਾ
2. ਪ੍ਰੋ: ਜੋਧ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
3. ਪ੍ਰੋ: ਤੇਜਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
4. ਪ੍ਰੋ: ਗੰਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
5. ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ

ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਵੇਰਵੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਸਰਬ-ਸੰਮਤੀ ਨਾਲ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਹੋਈ:-

(ਸ) ਗੁਰੂ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਤੇ ਕੁਰਸੀਆਂ

“ਯੂਰਪ ਜਾਂ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਆਦਿ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਕਿ ਧਾਰਮਿਕ ਅਸਥਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੁਰਸੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਬੈਠਣ ਦਾ ਰਿਵਾਜ ਹੈ ਐਸੀ ਥਾਈਂ ਜੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਉੱਚੀ ਥਾਂ ਤੇ ਕਰਕੇ ਜੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਕੁਰਸੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਬੈਠਿਆ ਜਾਏ ਤਾਂ ਕੋਈ ਹਰਜ ਨਹੀਂ।”

ਪੁਸਤਕ ‘ਪੰਥਕ ਮਤੇ’, ਸੰਪਾਦਕ ਕਿਰਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ (ਡਾਕਟਰ), ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਕ ਡਾ. ਮਾਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਿਰੰਕਾਰੀ ਰੀਟਾਇਰਡ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਸੀਪਲ ਮੈਡੀਕਲ ਕਾਲਜ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ॥ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਵਾਰ : 2002, ਕਾਪੀ : 500॥

A true Sikh is he who makes society's, truthful's and weak's problem his own just as the Gurus did. That is what Prof. Gurtej Singh and his companions have done. **To me they are the true Sikhs.** They are not challenging Akaal Takhat. They are questioning the qualifications, method of hiring, firing, duties, responsibilities and abuse of power that the Jathedars have assumed. (See 'Save Sikhi To Be Saved' p.4) We are hearing stories about Atty. **Gurcharanjit Singh Lamba** calling up those associated with Missionary Colleges and threatening them with excommunication if they attend the conference on 26<sup>th</sup> as if it is he who makes decisions about who to excommunicate, which probably he does. We have **Manjit Singh Calcutta** practicing *stick and carrot* policy with some prominent educators i.e. first threatening them and then offering SGPC funds to author a book. There are others engaged in similar acts of intimidation and falsehood. We will tell you about them in the next issue.

It is appropriate here to look back at the editorial in the July 2000 issue of The Sikh Bulletin:

### **Sikhi Reform Movement**

In the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century we find ourselves facing the same problems as the founders of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Singh Sabha Lehr and the 20<sup>th</sup> century Akali Lehr. The former saved Sikhi from annihilation in post Ranjit Singh era and the latter liberated Gurdwaras from the Mahants. The tasks before us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are to reform Sikhi and then propagate it among not only those who are born into Sikh families but also among the people of other faiths and no faiths. Deras have flourished at the expense of Gurdwaras. In the vacuum created by the absence of SGPC missionaries in the villages and the world stage, Babas, Sants, Shiromani Sants and yogis have replaced Mahants and in most cases flourished with the covert and not so covert support of the SGPC officialdom. As is clear from the events of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000 gathering at Akal Takhat convened by the acting Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti not much has changed. Only strategy has changed. Jathedar Ranjit Singh, after a long period of throwing his weight around, had called a 'Sarbat Khalsa' consisting primarily of Sant Smaj when he realized his days were numbered. Vedanti is being smarter by creating an image of Panthic involvement in the beginning of his tenure of office. This is the same person who got every 'Who is who' of SGPC to praise and endorse his compilation of the *vulgar and blasphemous* book, 'Gurbilas Patshahi – 6'. (See Sikh Bulletin of May and June 2000 for critical analysis of that book. It was Manjit Singh Calcutta who financed its publication at the expense of SGPC).

In a mature and civilized society leaders step aside when they have made blunders whether advertent or inadvertent. That unfortunately is not the case with us. Jathedar

Vedanti, although saying all the right things, sounds hollow because he gave in to Badal's pressure not to name RSS for its anti Sikh Activities. Jathedars Kewal Singh and Manjit Singh have already admitted to condoning wrong doings of and signing along with Jathedar Ranjit Singh. As far as the fence sitter Giani Mohan Singh is concerned, read about it on p.2 of June 2000 Sikh Bulletin. These four gentlemen who were in the forefront of this May 14th event must leave the stage. They are not going to do that voluntarily, nor are they going to be removed by the present hierarchy that appointed them in the first place. **What is needed is a rebellion in the ranks of the SGPC and SAD that we in diaspora should support. Alternative is complete break with Punjab and creation of our own SGPC in diaspora as proposed in the June 2000 Sikh Bulletin.**

Hardev Singh Shergill