

# AWAAZ

16 Feb 1987

Special NEWSLETTER

## ASHES TO GLORY

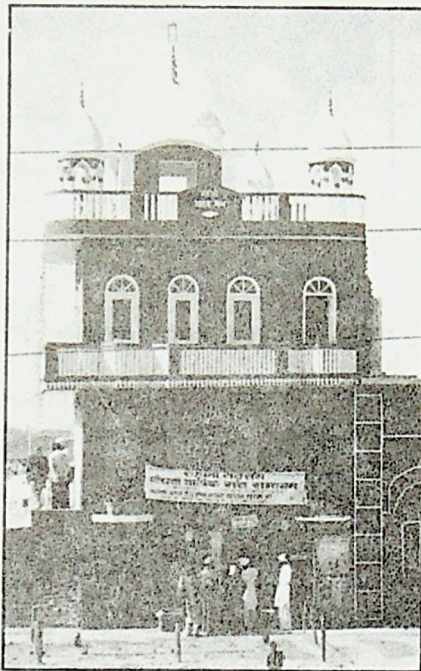
Devotees of Sachkhand Nanak Dham will be celebrating the Foundation Day of Das Dharam on February 16 at their centres around the world. This is despite the fact that the main centre at Loni in Uttar Pradesh is still in police possession, which nearly two-and-a-half years after sectarian violence erupted in the wake of the Gandhi assassination forced them to evacuate.

### LOOTING AND BURNING

The Loni centre was attacked by a 1000 - strong crowd on November 1st 1984 and 11 devotees living within the grounds were murdered as the mob went on the rampage in a frenzy of looting and burning. After destroying several buildings in the compound, the mob turned their attention to the main residential building where Spiritual Master Mahraz Darshan Das along with all of the senior officials and many devotees were seated. A number of devotees died, during their final and desperate struggle to safe guard the Master and officials.

### SANITY DESCENDED

Almost as suddenly as it began the mob seemed to stop in their tracks, and as sanity descended, the appalling barbarity and senselessness of their acts began to dawn on them. Later that evening



SACHKHAND NANAK DHAM - LONI  
UTTAR PRADESH

devotees report seeing large flame-coloured clouds rising from the grounds drifting into the sky. The Master and his followers left barefoot with only the clothes on their backs amid the raging fires which had by now engulfed the whole compound.

Despite this major setback, the mission of Sachkhand Nanak Dham has continued to grow. Mahraz Darshan Das was invited to attend the Vishva Ekta Sammelan World Conference held at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham in 1984, and has subsequently held two other Peace On Earth conventions and sent delegations to Kenya and Holland.

### SPIRITUAL WORK

Throughout his absence from India, Mahraz Darshan Das has been in constant contact with his followers, who have established a smaller centre at New Mahabhir Nagar in Delhi, and continued their social and spiritual work in the community. The Sachkhand Nanak Dham youth body - Yuva Das Dharam recently spearheaded a big anti-drugs campaign.

Now after months of hearings in the Indian courts and inspite of the many barriers created by the local police and government officials, Sachkhand Nanak Dham is about to begin rebuilding at Loni. The news will end the months of anxious waiting for many devotees and is proof that the message of Universal Love of Humanity taught by Hazur Mahraz Darshan Das goes from strength to strength.

OH LORD!  
GRANT ME GREATER  
HARDSHIP  
SO THAT MY BODY  
BECOMES IMMUNE  
TO SUFFERING

MAHRAZ DARSHAN DAS

# The Beginning

The scientific world was thrown into top gear at the prospect of recording the solar eclipse of 1980.

While the learners gazed skywards, the superstitious took cover indoor, dreading the consequences of exposing themselves to the rays of the eclipse.

Mahraz Jee gathered his followers on this auspicious day and directed that activities should resume as normal. 16 February 1980, will be remembered in the annals of history, when the Master dictated that the followers and anyone who cared to, should utter the slogan "Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala". The Master professed that the slogan is your shield against all and any calamities, and layed the principles of service to Humanity.

The Universality of the principles are evident in the following, five principles which form the foundation of the mission:

**Sach**  
**Sidak**  
**Sarbat Da Bhala**  
**Sadh Sangat**  
**Shahadat**

Then, almost a year later, at the conclusion of the Maharudar Jug, on the 19th October 1981, the Master gathered the followers at 2.29 a.m. 3 men and 2 women, in response to the Masters questions, announced that the name of the mission should be "Das Dharam".

Eye witness reports confirm the Master as concluding "It is the first time in history that a decision of such importance has included women".

In such humble gatherings, the mission of Das Dharam took form and to date, its following and programmes have taken momentous steps forward for the service of individuals, communities and the Nations as a whole.

## IN FOCUS

### HIS HOLINESS MAHRAZ DARSHAN DAS



**Mahraz Darshan Das - Founder/Patron of Sachkhand Nanak Dham was born in the village of Batala, Punjab, India on the 7th December 1953.** His father Pandit Jagan Nath and mother Chanan Dei were extremely poor and he experienced at first hand the pangs of hunger and poverty.

Mahraz Jee was born with small locks of hair which as they grew longer, fell to the front of his forehead. Whenever they were brushed backwards, they took the form of a hooded snake, similar to the image of VISHNU being sheltered by a seven headed snake. This remarkable feature attracted the attention of many yogis and faqirs, who paid homage to the small boy whenever their paths crossed his.

As a small boy Mahraz Jee attended the local school to receive his basic education. During this time he suffered a severe head wound and lost a lot of blood. Aware of the financial burden, medical costs would place on his parents, he merely bandaged the wound. Inevitably, he fainted and when asked by the local doctor, "Why did you endure so much pain?", he replied, "I will have to endure pains for the rest of my life".

In spite of his mothers urgings, Mahraz Jee refused to attend any of the local temples. He did however

pay great attention to his fathers teachings. In particular, his love of the motherland and nationalistic ideals, stem from his fathers brief, but memorable childhood encounter with freedom fighters prior to India becoming Independent.

At the tender age of 13 years, Mahraz Jee had his first spiritual revelation. He chose to reject the call because he felt that he lacked in age and was not spiritually inclined. When 17 years old, and working in the city of Jalandhar, he received another visitation. This time Mahraz Jee accepted his calling and on the 15th August 1971 he performed his first discourse and service.

On the 15th June 1973, he established a permanent centre in Batala, Punjab. This was followed in June 1977 by the establishment of a settlement in Delhi. Later, in September 1982, the Birmingham centre was established in England.

Humanitarian ideals of the highest standards form the basis of his philosophy and he continues today, despite the many hardships to profess His Divine message of Love, Peace, Unity, and Sacrifice which are the inherent needs and ideals of all Humanity.

# Once....

Once .. on another birthday celebration at Loni Dera, Delhi, a middle-aged women in dusty clothes was standing in the queue. The midday sun was quite hot but nonetheless people were slowly moving forward with their own offerings.

She had in a knot, tied in her headscarf - 4 pisas as offering. Every now and then, there was a surge forward as people tried to move forward, which would disrupt the flow. Devotees acting as stewards would then control the surge and try to keep the congregation moving.

From the platform afar, Mahraz Jee, watching saw the women in the rush being pushed in and out of the queue a couple of times. He got off the platform and walked up to the women.

"Lets have your sewa", he said. Astonished, the women unknotted her headscarf and placed the 4 pisas in Mahraz Jee's palm. Placing the pisas in his pocket Mahraz Jee went back to the platform.

That night Baba Kulwant Singh enquired of Mahraz Jee, "Why did you get up, walk straight up to that women even though there were hundreds of others, and personally ask for her offerings".

"The faith and devotion in her 4 pisas was greater than your 4 rupees", replied Mahraz Jee.

Mahraz Jee then explained, "Even if you come here empty handed, without any offering, yet come with love and devotion in your heart. Your visit in love and devotion, even if only for a few minutes, will bring you unexpressable happiness which is more valuable than all the wealth in your possession".

# 7th December Celebrations

Over a thousand devotees braving the cold weather, attended the birthday celebrations of Hazur Mahraz Darshan Das at the Handsworth Leisure Centre. Dedications were presented in song, speeches and poetry from the young to the old.

In commemoration, Das Bhupinder Singh in conjunction with the International Group - Walsall, have released a cassette titled - **Hum Karne Aye Lokh Bhali**, which also happens to be the title track and the lyrics of which are by Mahraz Darshan Das. Other tracks include lyrics by Das Joga Singh (Chacha), Komal and Bhupinder Singh.

Mahraz Jee responded initially by replying to questions raised by earlier speakers with recitations of his own poetic verses.

Then he carried on "..... if you attain happiness celebrating my birthday, then make an effort to attain happiness in your own lives. Sachkhand Nanak Dham and Das Dharam is like the constantly running river. Although a thousand sewers may empty into the ocean it none-the-less remains an ocean.

Sachkhand Nanak Dham is an ocean. Das Dharam is the sun. Its messages are the cool rays of the moon. Its Das's are the stars and the whole a scenario of the heavens.

Here on the earth, Das Dharams' Das's become the pillars of communities and Nations. Become the foundation stones not the buildings. If you decide to become the buildings then surely, some one else will have to lay the foundation.

All those who come to Sachkhand Nanak Dham and the gifts you bear are a sign of Love. Now is the time to take up arms of Love. Never take up foreign arms. Never prepare yourselves to kill but be prepared to die. Dying is a difficult task but the easiest of tasks to kill. When death is faced, the bravest of brave shudder at the impending prospect.

Wear the attire of Love, with which - even if kings, Nations

and others do not attain Peace, then you yourselves should be able to attain Peace. For when you are at peace with yourselves, only then will there be peace elsewhere. How can you prescribe peace for others when you are not at peace yourself. What indeed will he give others - one who cries for personal Love".

Mahraz Jee, then pointed out that faults within the mission should be brought to the attention of the congregation but from the stage.

"Accepting personal faults is not cowardice but bravery. I believe that any person who accepts his faults is the bravest of brave. There can be no greater messenger of God. Even the angles bow down to him who accepts his faults".

"Become a Das," Mahraz Jee encouraged, "a friend or brother, but do not become slaves. No matter who the other person is. Slavers are the lowest form of life. Those who give you freedom and interfere not in your lives, must surely be blessed by God.

Democratized you are and democracy you have by the will of God. What?, - in comparison - will nations and men give you."

Looking up, Mahraz Jee uttered, "We are rulers of the heart."

"If you are desirous of doing something for me, then, when you get the chance, say a little prayer to your God, whoever he may be. For mine, I have named Nanak, and pray onto Him "O Lord, if Darshan Das is the lowest of low then give me the opportunity to be like him. If he is good then give me the strength to become as good as him".

Just ask these two things of Him. I am sure that He will provide them for you. Then you can have pride in God and He shall in return be proud of you.

Das Dharams' Das's, Beloved of God and supporters of men, try and recognise the truth. Do not

form friendships for personal gains. My advice to you is that person is not worthy of giving or receiving Love, if he forms relationships for the sole purpose of personal gain.

Your every desire will come true except one, and that is this human birth, if you fall back into the cycle of life and death. So perfect and make good this present life and you shall gain everything in this world. God has given you a golden opportunity to meet him.

You will attain everything, but always recognise and support Truth, even if you have to accept alms to support yourselves".

Ending on a sad but encouraging note Mahraz Jee said "Happiness has no bounds for you today, but I am sad. Sitting here I was thinking, "Hey Nanak, I have lost another year in your service. As you have blessed me in the past, so bless me in the future. My life is shortening not lengthening. What life you have left for me, give it me in your service. Even if I lose every possession I will not lose your love".

Addressing the congregation, he said "Surely you must realise that another year is lost of our union".

"Lastly," on an encouraging note Mahraz Jee confirmed, "the help and support that you give me, if in turn do the same for yourselves, then you will have no shortages in your lives.

Later during the programme responding to the demands of the congregation Mahraz Jee, accompanied by the missions singers, concluded the programme to the sound of music.

# 1987

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

1987 dawned on the devotees and centre at Birmingham in an unprecedented show of emotion gratification. A wave of human faces singing 'Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala', rose up from the back of the hall, to lap up against the Gaddi. Mahraz Jee without doubt the beneficiary of their love and devotion, in turn granted the wishes of all those present.

Devotees from across the country slowly trickled in to celebrate the new year in Mahraz Jee's presence. Although a cold night, the atmosphere was charged with an air of expectations and joy without equal. Having partaken of langar, the congregation made its way into the hall, eager to hear and take part in Mushira by Mahraz Jee.

Starting with old favourites, shabads, hymns from Gurbani, joined in unison by the congregation. "Dhan Ho Nanak, Dhan Ho", lyrics took on a new vocal dimension. A number of devotees requested various shabads to be recited from the Gaddi, which were happily obliged by the master.

Closer to midnight the atmosphere was electrifying and as the clock struck the hour of midnight a chorus of 'Nanak Naam Chardi Kala Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala', rang out from the back of the hall and everyone rose up to greet the dawn of the new year. It seemed as if it would never end, for with the rising chorus, every devotee rose up to their feet to greet and pay homage to Mahraz Jee, who in turn rose to his feet.

For what seemed an eternity, one which the devotees would have no objection to, the congregation made its way to the master to be blessed, make donations and receive offerings - prashad.

Slowly, although many would have liked to remain behind, but were unwillingly drawn back due to their social and economic obligations.

Almost empty, except for a few devotees in the main hall. Mahraz

Jee walked over to the heap of clothes presented to him over the previous year. Calling devotees by name, Mahraz Jee presented them with turbans, cardigans, cloth by the metre and various other items. Delighted the receivers touched the items with their foreheads in respect and humility. He then sat amongst the congregation exchanging answers to their questions. During this session, Mahraz Jee directed that the names of all those present be taken down on a list. The names were picked out at random by an English devotee who had earlier been renamed Das Vinder Kaur - V for Victory as Mahraz Jee puts it. To everybody's surprise, Mahraz Jee presented, to every name called out, a piece of gold jewellery, which had been presented to Mahraz Jee over the year. Over a dozen pieces of gold jewellery of various carats, rings, chains and bangles were handed out.

Surely this must be the strangest of events, gold being handed out without a care in the world. Only he could perform deeds of this magnitude, one who is at peace with himself and at one with God. For there is no shortage in the treasure-troves of God or his messengers.

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## Time to spare

'Awaaz' Newsletter welcomes contributions from the readers. If you can draw, write, interview or take photographs and you have some time on your hands, why not contact Amrik on: 021-554-2422 or write to;

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WE HAVE  
NO ENEMIES

WE ARE  
NOBODYS ENEMY

MAHRAZ DARSHAN DAS