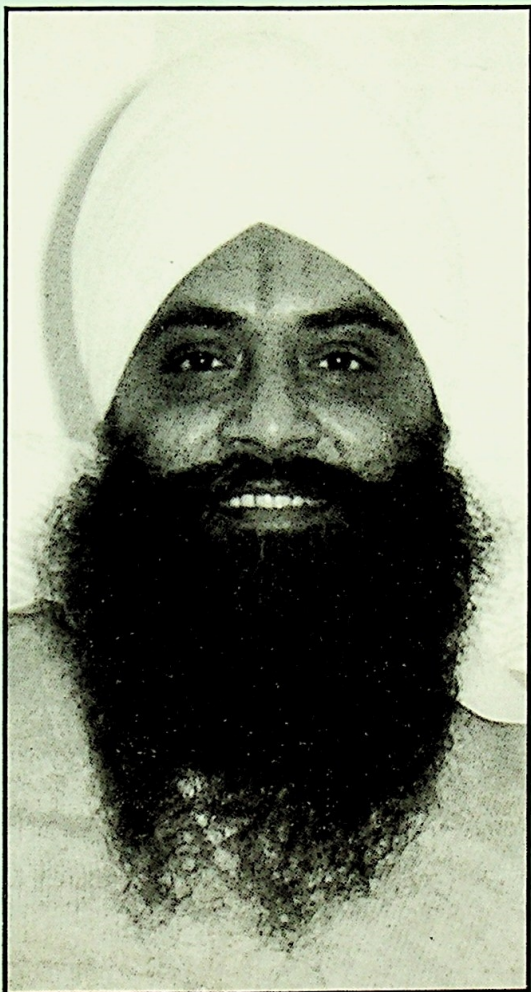




MAN OF PEACE



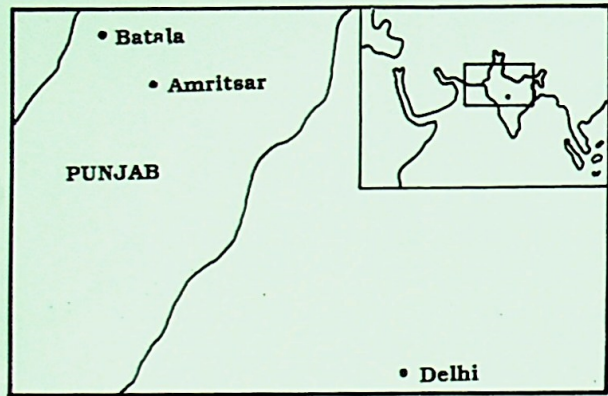
MAHRAZ DARSHAN DAS

**SACHKHAND NANAK DHAM
INTERNATIONAL**

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MAHRAZ DARSHAN DAS

"God has granted life to everyone, but only a few know the true art of living."

There is a small industrial town called Batala in the Punjab in the north of India, just 300 miles from Delhi, to which yogis, holy men and pilgrims journey from time to time.



They go there on pilgrimages to the Kand Sahib temple where the revered guru, Guru Nanak, was married.

Not far from that temple a small boy used to sit on his front door step and watch the passing pilgrims.

When the holy men, faqirs and seers looked closely at the boy, what they saw caused them to bow as they passed by.

That small boy was Darshan Lal Vasdev, a mischievous, likeable boy, whose parents took great care to raise him well.

Before his birth in 1953 his father, Pandit Jagan Nath, was on a business trip to Agra far away from his home, when he was surprised to hear someone on the roadside calling his name.

"Pandit Jee," the stranger called. Astounded, Pandit Jagan Nath approached the man, who took his hand and began to read his palm.

"What are you doing here?" he said. "You should be at home. A great power is to take birth in your house. The palmist said the child would be born that December and his head of hair would clearly distinguish him as someone very special.

Pandit Jagan Nath returned to his home at once. His wife, Chanan Dei, also had a surprising story to tell. While praying, a voice had clearly told Chanan Dei that the child she was carrying had an important mission to perform.

CHILDHOOD

Darshan Lal Vasdev was born on 7th December, 1953 with locks of hair already on his head. As he grew, when his hair was brushed forward, it took the shape of the seven headed snake, under whose protection the Hindu power of creation, Vishnu, is always depicted.

When still a young boy, Darshan had an accident in which his head was badly cut. He bandaged the wound himself and it was some time before his parents learned of what had happened. When asked why he had borne the pain in silence, he said, "I will have to suffer pains all my life."

At the age of 13 he had his first spiritual revelation, which he rejected because he felt he lacked both age and knowledge.

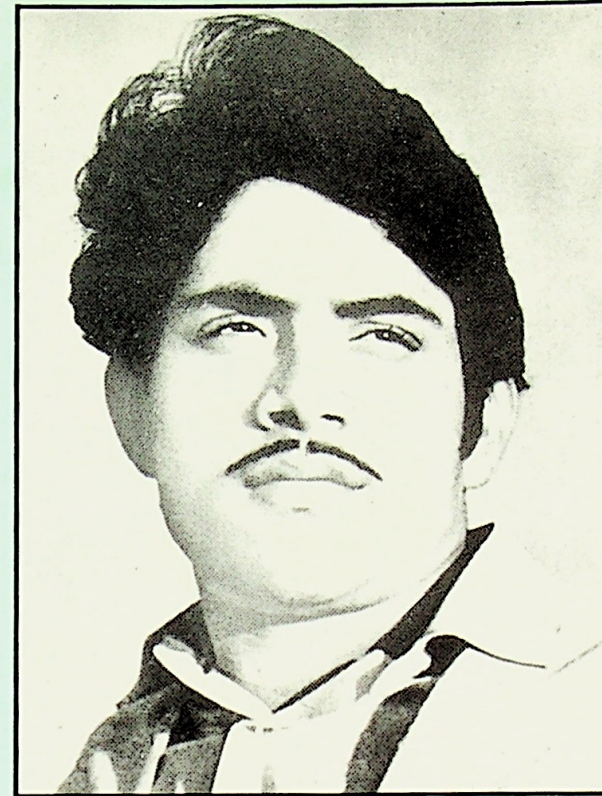
The growing boy had hobbies, which he loved. He became an expert at kabbadi, a complex game, which involves some wrestling and requires great strength and skill. He enjoyed keeping fit.

But his favourite pastime was kite flying, a popular sport in India. He spent many hours skilfully constructing his own. His mother would chide him in his teenage years because often he could not be found. People would come to the house especially to see him even when he was a teenager and he would be on the rooftop flying kites.

Darshan's first job was in the finance department of an engineering firm in Jalandhar, a large industrial town some 40 miles from his family home. But after only a few months there he left. He said that a voice had told him: "This is not the task that God has sent you here to do."

ENLIGHTENMENT

While lying on the rooftop balcony of his aunt's home in Jalandhar, Darshan had a vision of such intensity that he was overwhelmed and lay unconscious for three days. His family were frightened by the strange behaviour of their son. They consulted healers, for they feared that he had become possessed by evil forces. Everyone reacted in the same way. "This is beyond our understanding," they said.



For nearly forty days Darshan ate nothing, taking only liquids. He was restless and withdrawn. But on the 15th August, 1971 a voice said to Him, "There is work that God has sent you here to do. Get up and do it."

On that day Darshan Lal Vasdev called Himself Darshan Das for the first time. He began preaching. People were astounded at His depth of understanding, maturity and knowledge while He was still a 17 year old boy. He had healing powers and it was soon known that whatever He said came true.

He did not sleep at night, but spent the time instead with a number of His close followers until the early hours. He would go to sleep at dawn. His house in Batala was often filled with people, sitting and waiting for Him to wake at midday. For it became known that whoever He looked on when He awoke was healed of all his or her problems and pains.

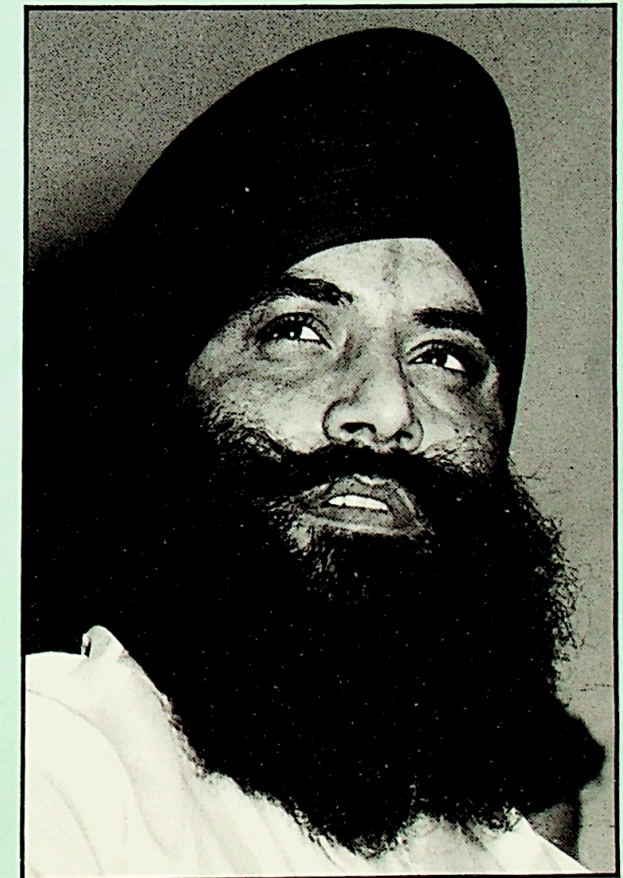
He began travelling regularly between Jalandhar and Batala on a motorbike, which earned Him the nickname of "Motorcycle wallah Baba."

In 1973 after two years of travelling around the Punjab, preaching and healing, He said that He was instructed by God to establish a Dera or gathering place in Batala. He said that a shaft of light indicated where it was to be. People began coming to see Him there from all over India.

They came at first for healing, but they stayed to listen to His teachings and tried to put them into practice.

What He said was simple and straightforward. He urged His followers to love one another, to face and accept their own failings, instead of turning against others. He said that Man had drifted away from God because of his evil ways.

"There is one God and you do not need rituals to know Him," He said. He abhorred religious bigotry and fanatical bloodshed in the name of religion. He encouraged unity, patriotism and allegiance to whatever country in which one is permanently residing.



"But your true home is Sachkhand or heaven," He said. "It is from there that we originate and to which each of us should strive to return. There is only one way to enter God's house and that is to find a Perfect Spiritual Master and to accept His Naam or Word."

At 24 years old He set up a larger Dera in Lonl, District Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh just outside Delhi. It was there that He named the Mission, SACHKHAND NANAK DHAM. His followers began to call Him Mahraz Darshan Das. He appointed Baba Jees, followers He initiated as priests to perform the same duties as Himself, giving satsangs, or holy messages and healing people.

Mahraz Darshan Das gave Naam. There are people from all faiths and religions, Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Sikhs, who came to Him and received His Naam.

In 1979 a London family invited Mahraz Jee to come to England. After a short stay in London and Birmingham He returned to India, but this was the first of many visits He was to make to England.

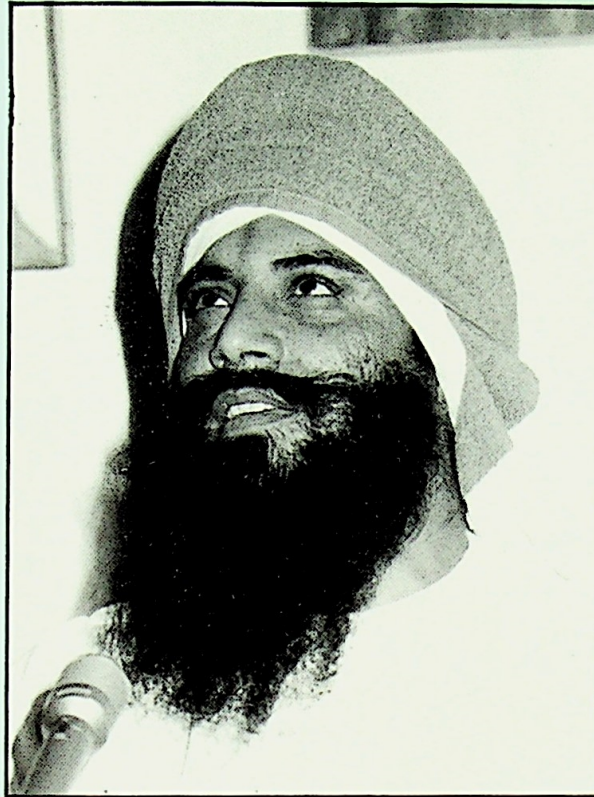
PRACTICAL MISSION

On the 16th of February 1980 a solar eclipse plunged Asia into darkness. Many people in India were frightened and stayed indoors. But Mahraz Jee encouraged His followers to show courage and go outside. On that day He established the worldwide Mission of DAS DHARAM, which is the promise by the children of God to serve mankind on a practical level alongside the spiritual Mission of Sachkhand Nanak Dham. He gave us a slogan, which He said had been given to Him by God for everyone's power and protection. He said that the slogan was not just for His followers, but for all humanity.

The slogan is "NANAK NAAM CHARDI KALA TERE BHANE SARBAT DA BHALA." Everyone should say it in the original Punjabi words, but as a rough translation it means, "In the name of the Supreme Power, do something for someone else in your life."

After that Mahraz Jee began making regular journeys to England. News of His teachings and His healing powers spread quickly. People came from all over England and Europe to see Him.

In 1982 He established a Dera in a converted school in Handsworth, Birmingham. He began travelling all over the United Kingdom. Since November 1984 although He was living in Birmingham, He visited London and the south east of England almost daily, meeting followers and



other interested people. First in the houses of some of His followers and then in church halls and school halls. He also visited Glasgow, Liverpool and other places in both the North and Midlands, travelling over 100,000 miles in the course of a year by car.

His achievements made His mathematics teacher at the government high school in Batala where He had been a pupil years earlier remark, "How has he reached such heights? I remember him with eight or nine boys following him around, never sitting at a lesson or taking study seriously."

Sachkhand Nanak Dham became involved in many charitable activities. In October 1987 Mahraz Jee was appointed chairman of the Abbeyfield Sachkhand Nanak Dham Society set up in conjunction with the Abbeyfield Society, a charitable trust which provides shared housing for the elderly.

He attended the opening by Prince Charles of the 1,000th Abbeyfield house in Camberwell south east London on 16th October, 1987.

On 11th November, 1987 Mahraz Jee was holding His regular Wednesday evening Satsang in a school hall in Southall, Middlesex when He was killed. Three other followers were also shot that day and two of them later died.

Those who truly practised His teachings did not weep for long. He often said: "Do not love my body, but the Power behind me. Life is an unreal image, an allotted time span for a short period. Death is reality."

TEACHINGS

He urged love, peace unity and sacrifice. He said, "A gracious heart is one that forgives others."

He dressed in white, a symbol of His Mission, a sign of surrender to God's Will. But He claimed allegiance to no religion. He never proclaimed Himself to be anything except "Darshan Das, a messenger of God."

He taught us to be vegetarian teetotallers and to avoid drugs. He was outspoken against injustice, any form of bigotry and the breakdown of family life, which He held to be the bonding fibre of humanity.

He proclaimed that God is one. We must first recognise our true self and fulfil our worldly duties within the confines of family life before we can realise God within ourself, as He had done.

Mahraz Darshan Das was married and leaves two sons.

He blessed various followers to continue His message. His Mission continues to flourish and the humanitarian principles on which His teachings were based continue to attract followers from around the world, from all religions and faiths.

Marhaz Darshan Das said, "I have not come to rule nations, I have come to rule hearts."

"God shows Man the True Path when Man is ready and wishes to tread upon it."