

Establishing Chakk Nanaki (Anandpur Sahib)

Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji lived in and travelled to many places such as Amritsar, Bakala, Assam, Bengal and Bihar.

In the year 1665 Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji visited Kiratpur Sahib. Whilst there, the king of Bilaspur, Raja Deep Chand died. He was a devoted Sikh and so Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji went to Bilaspur state to give their blessings for Raja Deep Chand. Here the Queen of Bilaspur, Rani Champa offered to donate some land to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and their mother Mata Nanaki Ji, to build and establish their headquarters. With great devotion the Queen wanted to donate the land as a gift but Guru Ji refused to take the land without payment.

In preparation for the future, the land chosen by Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji was surrounded by the river Satluj on one side and hills and forests on the other side. It was a peaceful place to meditate and safe from military disturbances. Guru Ji bought this land and named it after their mother, calling it Chakk Nanaki.

The foundations were laid and Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji called craftsmen to start building shops, homes and religious institutions. Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji also created their own home here which is now called Gurdwara Guru Ka Mahal, Anandpur Sahib. Underneath that home Guru Ji created a basement for meditation which is now called Gurdwara Bhora Sahib, Anandpur Sahib.

One night in Chakk Nanaki a foul smelling demon approached the house of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. He claimed to own the land as he had scared away the strongest of people, forcing them to leave from there. He attempted to scare Guru Ji away, however Guru Ji didn't move and picked up their bow and arrow instead. Guru Ji asked him who he was and he replied, "My name is Demon Makho and I live on a tree with my family. I have been living here for the past 700 years but now your Sikhs have taken over my home."

Guru Ji said, "We won't disturb you, carry on living where you are in peace and we won't say anything to you".

The demon Makho replied, "I can't live near you, as your Sikhs sing Gurbani and we are demons, so every time we hear Gurbani, we become weaker. That is why I have come to you at night because everyone is sleeping."

Guru Ji replied, "If you get scared from Gurbani then you must leave, as the family of the Guru will always stay here. There will forever be Kirtan here and the streets will have thousands of Sikhs."

Hearing this the demon relocated leaving the Sikhs to sing Gurbani.

In the year 1672 Guru Ji moved to Chakk Nanaki and made it their headquarters.

Later on, expanding this town, the 10th Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji changed the town name to Sri Anandpur Sahib meaning City of Bliss. There are many historical Gurdwara's here and one of the five Takhats, Sri Keshgarh Sahib is also located in Anandpur Sahib. This is where the Khalsa Panth was established by Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699.