

Bhai Makhan Shah Lubana at Sea

Hearing the words of the 8th Guru Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji, the Sangat travelled to Bakala to find the next True Guru. However, in Bakala 22 people took advantage of this situation and pretended to be the next Guru, causing confusion and unrest amongst the Sangat.

During this time, there was a devoted Sikh called Makhan Shah. He was an extremely rich businessman who would sell lots of merchandise. He had a large boat where he would place all of his goods and would travel at sea to different locations to trade.

One day at sea an unexpected storm came. The waves became stronger and Bhai Makhan Shah's boat started to travel very fast. It felt as though the boat was flying across the sea! During the storm the winds also became stronger and started to push and rock the boat in all different directions. Bhai Makhan Shah got very worried not knowing what was going to happen to him as his boat was now stuck and had started to sink in the middle of the sea.

Bhai Makhan Shah knew that only Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji could save him now but he didn't know the name of the current Guru or their whereabouts. With full faith and folded hands he started praying to the House of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji to help and save him, his people and his livelihood. "Guru Ji I have given up all hopes and I have full faith in you, my boat is stuck at sea please help us." Everyone else on the boat started to lose hope of survival but Bhai Makhan Shah continued to pray to Guru Ji.

All-knowing, all powerful, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji heard the prayers of Bhai Makhan Shah. Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji knew that Bhai Makhan Shah was praying from his heart. Guru Ji knew to keep Bhai Makhan Shah's love and faith in the House of the Guru, they had to help their devotee Sikh.

Hearing Bhai Makhan Shah's prayers, in an invisible form Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji instantly reached the boat in the middle of the stormy sea. All powerful Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji then lifted Bhai Makhan Shah's large boat from underneath and placed it on their shoulder!

As if by magic Bhai Makhan Shah's boat was lifted and rescued out of the stormy sea and taken out to his next location where he was going to sell his merchandise.

Bhai Makhan Shah knew that he, his workers and his stock had only been saved by the True Guru. With folded hands and gratefulness, in his mind he thanked Guru Ji and said, "I don't know which powerful Guru is currently on the throne of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. However, you have saved us, your servant Makhan Shah Lubana will soon come to your sanctuary to seek your blessings and offer 500 gold coins at your service Oh my Saviour Guru Ji, thank you".

He finished his trip and sold virtually everything he had on his boat at a great profit and in such little time. Bhai Makhan Shah truly believed that this had only been possible with the blessings of the Great Guru. This increased his love and faith in the House of Guru Nanak and now he really wanted to meet the True Guru without wasting any further time.

At this point of time no-one knew who the 9th Guru was. Bhai Makhan Shah Lubana had heard the words of the 8th Guru, Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji "Baba Basahe Je Graam Bakaale, Bann Gur Sangat Sagal Sambaale" that the next Guru is in Bakala. So with his family and workers Bhai Makhan Shah travelled to Punjab in search of the True Guru who had saved him and to offer his donation of 500 gold coins.