ZAFARNAMA- AN EPISTLE OF VICTORY & ITS IMPACTS

DR. GURPREET KAUR BRAR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN HISTORY, SIKH NATIONAL COLLEGE,
SRI CHARAN KAMAL SAHB, BANGA, PUNJAB, INDIA.

DR. DHARAMJIT SINGH
PRINCIPAL,
MATA SAHIB KAUR GIRLS COLLEGE, TALWANDI SABO, BATHINDA, INDIA.

ABSTRACT
The Guru sent this letter, Zafarnama to Aurangzeb who had gone to Deccan, through special messengers, Bhai Daya Singh and Bhai Dharam Singh. In this letter, the Guru expressed his views frankly and fearlessly and was very outspoken throughout. It was a master-piece through which the Guru intended to raise the slumbering soul of the emperor. Zafarnama is letter comprising 111 verses or lines in persian language. The first twelve verses are in the adoration of God and in the next few verses the Guru tells the emperor that he had lost all faith in oath on the holy Quran because the Government i.e. “Bakshis and Diwans were all liers.” In spite of all their oaths on the Quran, they had gone back upon their words and had attacked him unawares and inflicted a heavy loss of life and property. The Guru also said: “If your majesty were to stand by your word, the affairs can be easily and sincerely settled. It behavies your Majesty to act up to your written message and promise. I have received your written letter and verbal message. Your Majesty should ease the situation and bring the matter to a peaceful end. He alone is true to his word who is one in thought and word”. Bhai Daya Singh on his way back met the Guru Ji and informed all that they had seen and heard and conveyed Aurangzeb’s last request to the Guru. 19 In the mean while, death of Aurangzeb which took place. The war of succession started among emperor sons. Bahadur Shah appealed to the Guru, through his former secretary, Bhai Nand Lal, who was also a devotee of the Guru, for rendering him all possible help and assistance. The Guru agreed to help him and Bahadur Shah became victorious. After that the Guru reached Nander, on the margin of the Godavari. The Guru continued to stay at Nander, here, suddenly went to the hut of a Bairagi, administered amrit, admitted him into the Khalsa fold and given the name of Banda Singh and sent to him to Punjab. The Guru Ji bade his last farewell with the words Waheguru Ji ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji ki Fateh, immediately after midnight and merged his soul with the supreme soul in the early hours of Katik Sudi 5, 1765 Vikrami, corresponding to 7th of October 1708.

KEY WORDS: Zafarnama, Epistle, Quran, Persian Language

References
1. Zafarnama, verses 53-54, Sau Sakhi, Sakhi No.28;It is difficult to find reference to this context in the mughal records.
2. Sau Sakhi, Sakhi No.28; Singh Ganda, op.cit.,p.1
3. Bhai Sukha Singh, op.cit.,p.77-78
4. It is preserved in the collection of his composition the Dasam Granth.
6. Zafarnama, verses,13,14
7. Ibid.,20,21,23,24,26
8. Ibid., 22
9. Ibid., 45, 46
10. Ibid., 52, 55, 57
14. As quoted by J.N. Sarkar, op. cit., p. 364
15. Ibid.
18. Singh Ganda, op. cit., p. 3; also see The Travels of Guru Tegh Bahadur.
19. Singh Kartar, op. cit., p. 102
20. Senapat, Sri Guru Sobha, XIV, 622
22. Singh Ganda, op. cit., p. 4; Sahib Bilasf Mani Singh, ed. Garja Singh, p. 72
24. Singh Kartar, op. cit., p. 104
25. Bhai Santokh Singh, Guru Bilas Patsahi Dasvin, p. 94
26. Singh Ganda, op. cit., p. 4
28. Singh Ganda, op. cit., p. 8
29. Kirpal Singh, op. cit., p. 31
31. Singh Kartar, op. cit., p. 107
32. Singh Ganda (ed.), Hukamname (Patiala, 1967), No. 63
33. Singh Kartar, op. cit., p. 109
34. Singh Ganda, op. cit., p. 8
35. Kirpal Singh, op. cit., p. 33
36. Irvini, op. cit., pp. 158-59
37. Kirpal Singh, op. cit., p. 33
38. Ibid.
40. Ibid., Irvini, op. cit., pp. 158-59. Some of the Sikh chronicles like Sri Gur Sobha, XII, 6-7 and Singh Giani Gian, op. cit., p. 1004 wrote that the Guru reached at Nanded in the month of Har, Sambat 1764 (corresponding to the early month of the year 1708).
41. Singh Kartar, op. cit., p. 112
42. Singh Ganda, op. cit., p. 11
43. Ibid., pp. 11-12
44. Ibid., p. 12
45. Singh Kartar, op. cit., p. 124
47. Senapat, Sri Guru Sobha, Chap. XVIII, 8-11, 172-76
48. Ibid., 12018, 777-83; Bhai Santokh Singh, op. cit., Rut II, Ansu 19.
50. Singh Kartar, op. cit., p. 126
51. Senapat, Sri Guru Sobha, XVIII, 1921, 32-37, 788-90, 801-06; also see Dhian Singh, Dasam Patsah Ka Antam Kautak, p.4; Guru Sahib Daswen Patshah ke Joti-Jot Samawane Ka Parsang, pp.20-32; Guru Kian Sakhian, Sakhi No.112.