

DEGH
TEGH
FATEH

LAST SUNDAY IN WISCONSIN



THE FACTS SO FAR

- Sunday, August 5th, 2012 at 10am
- Gunman enters Oak Gurdwara and proceeds to open fire
- 6 people were killed; 3 are injured



GURBANI REMINDS US

- Ik Onkar
- Sat Nam
- Karta Purakh
- Nirbhao
- Nirvair
- Akal Murath
- Ajuni Saibhang
- Gurprasad
- We are one
- We are true
- We are creative
- We are without fear
- We have no enemy
- Waheguru is timeless
- Waheguru wasn't born
- By the Guru's Kirpa



We have the jot of Waheguru that is in each one of us. The opening of the Guru Granth Sahib is Guru Nanak's wonder of Waheguru. Many of these are attributes that are within us and we through being together in a Sangat can make a reality. This isn't a translation – this is a reminder for each of us.

WITHOUT FEAR (NIRBHAO); WITHOUT HATE (NIRVAIR)

What we control

- We can help the families
- We can be without fear – fearless (nirbhao)
- We can be without hate (nirvair)
- We can come together as a community
- We can learn more about Sikhi
- We can teach others about Sikhi
- We can pledge ourselves to the Guru

What we cannot control

- When a person filled with hate hurts other people

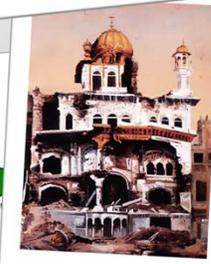
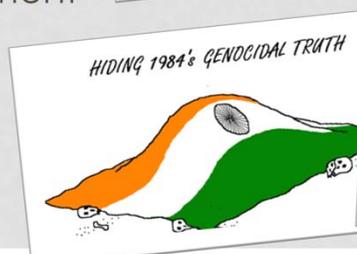


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The list of what we can control is always longer. This is in our power. We can't control what a person filled with anger and hatred does, but we can control how we will react. We will not be afraid; we will not be filled with hate. We can come together and collect money for the families. We can learn more about Sikhi, so that we can be better Sikhs. When we are better Sikhs, we can share it with others. We can even walk the path of the Guru and take the pledge by sipping from the Khanda di Pahul (Amrit).

NOT THE FIRST TIME

- Sikhs hunted out of hatred in the past
- Mughals claimed 3 times that they had killed all the Sikhs
- Indian Government after 1984 tried killing all young proud Sikhs



Unfortunately this is not the first time in Sikh history that people have tried to kill us. The Mughals gave rewards to their soldiers for killing Sikhs. On 3 different times they claimed that they had finished off all the Sikhs. After 1984, the Indian Government gave rewards to their soldiers and police for killing Sikhs. They tried to destroy a community.

MIGHT NOT BE THE LAST

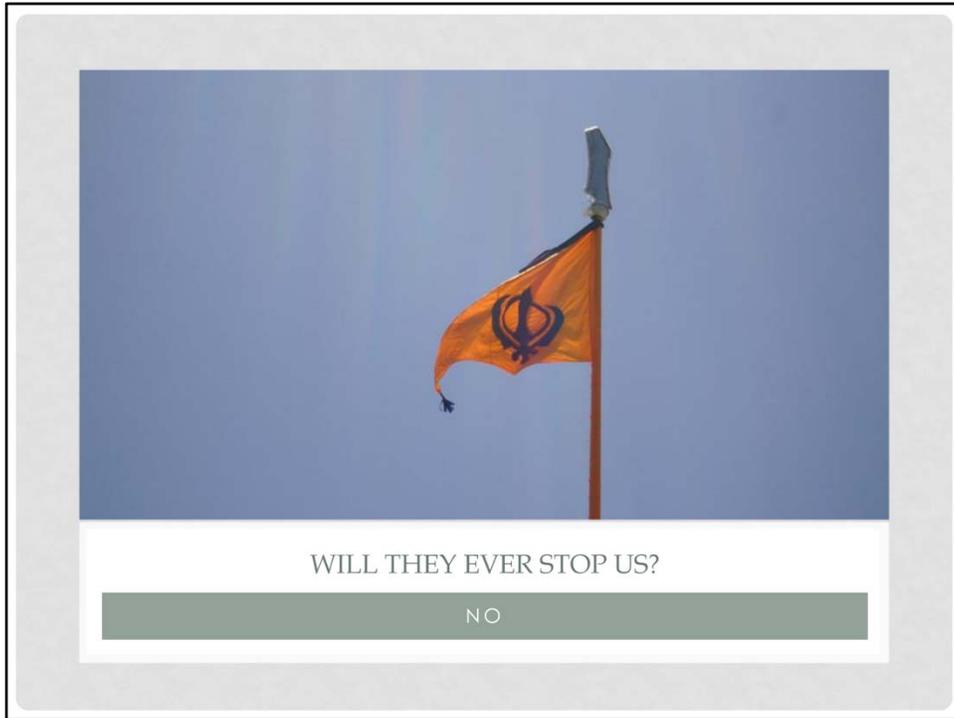
- Sikhs experienced racism and violence in America

- 1900s
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s
- 9/11/2001
- 8/5/2012
- ????



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Being discriminated against and experiencing violence in America is nothing new for the Sikhs either. When some of our great grandparents first came to California in the early 1900s, many could not get jobs, were not allowed to bring their wives, and weren't even allowed to own land. Near Seattle, there was even a riot against the Sikhs, where local townsmen attacked all the Sikhs in the city and even killed X. In the 1970s, when Sikhs again started coming to the US again in bigger numbers, they were harassed and called names like "terrorist." This continued in the 1980s and even 1990s. Now after 9/11 it has continued, but at least now the media is paying attention.



So were the Mughals, the Indian Government, or even this gunman in Wisconsin successful? NO!

We are still here; we are still proud; we still stand tall. They did not make us afraid; they will not make us afraid.

SPIRIT OF THE SIKH

- Call us weeds, call us dogs, call us snakes, call us whatever you want
- The Spirit of the Sikh was given to us by our Gurus
- The more they cut; the more we grow



All of these people that were filled with hate called Sikhs different names – sometimes they called us weeds, sometimes they called us dogs, and sometimes they even called us snakes.

We laughed. You can never kill off weeds or snakes. The Spirit of the Sikh was given to us by our Guru and it is that spirit that is within each of us. We aren't afraid of anyone. We will come together as a community. When the Mughals said we will cut all the Sikhs down, the Sikhs laughed and replied – the more they cut, the more we grow! One Punjabi poet remarked – Oh What a Plant this Sikhi Is! It grows everywhere! It grows everywhere!

YOUR DUTY



- You are the carrier of the Revolution of Guru Nanak
- Learn about Sikh history
- Learn about Gurbani
- Learn to read Gurmukhi
- Become a leader



It is because of your ancestors and other family that we are still here today. You carry that seed of Sikhi within you. You have to give it sunshine (through learning about the Guru Granth Sahib and Gurbani); you have to give it water (by learning about Sikh history); and you have to give it proper nutrition by feeding it through seva (doing things for the Guru, not just for yourself). Don't wait for your parents, don't wait for your friends, don't wait for your brothers and sisters – do it for yourself.

HOW TO DO THIS?

- Go to a Sikh camp
- Ask more questions at your Khalsa/Punjabi school
- Ask your parents/grandparents stories about the Guru
- Start volunteer clean-up projects
- Get active in existing organizations and projects
- Stand up for others



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Each of us can do different things depending on our age. Read about Sikhi on your own on the internet or reading books, but better is to learn about Sikhi in a group. Go to a Sikh camp. Find out if there is one in your city, if not we can make it happen! Ask more questions at your Khalsa/Punjabi school. Learn more about Sikh history from your parents and grandparents. You'd be surprised at how much they know. Start projects that take an active part in your community. Let's make our Gurdwara nicer; let's make our city nicer. We can start clean-up projects; we can give our old clothes and shoes to those that need it more than us; we have the power to create new projects. There are many Sikh organizations that are doing work like this – get involved! And just as we are going through this, where we feel we are being discriminated and singled out – when you see someone else in your school or at your Gurdwara being teased, bullied, or made fun of – stand up for them or at least tell an adult about it.

DEGH TEGH FATEH!

Degh



Tegh



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The Sikhs have always had the slogan – Degh Tegh Fateh. These are two icons of the Sikhs. The Degh is a large pot, where we cook food and give food to all. It is a symbol of the langar. We always help others. The Tegh is the sword. It signifies truth, justice, honor, and bravery. The degh comes first, but the tegh is right there beside it. So long as we continue the spirit of the degh and keep our tegh, we will always have victory (fateh!). Let's come up with ideas and projects that keep this in mind.



LET'S GET STARTED

