

Doctorji: An Exhibit on the Life of Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind
Exhibit Dates: November 17, 2016 – January 15, 2016

Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind was born on October 3, 1892 into a well-known military Kamboj Sikh Thind family in the village Taragarh/Talawan in District Amritsar, Punjab. His father S. Buta Singh Thind was retired as a Subedar Major from the British Indian Army. His mother Icer Kaur died when Dr. Thind was only a child, but left an indelible mark on him.

Dr. Thind's ancestors had served in the Sikh army of Maharaja Ranjit and before that, in the Marjeeewra Sikh fauj of the 10th Lord and earned a reputation as a warrior family.

S. Buta Singh Thind and his family and relations were very dedicated Sikhs and actively participated in Sikh Morcha for possession of lands belonging to Gurudwara Pheru, at Lahore in 1924 and earlier in Nankana Sahib Morcha in 1921, where out of eighty-six Singh Shaheeds, thirty-two were the Kamboj Singhs. S. Buta Singh Thind was jailed for several years and lost his military pension as a consequence. In this Gurudwara Morcha, S. Buta Singh also persuaded several other Kamboj Singhs, if Shekhupuru, to actively participate in the movement. Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind had clearly inherited his love for Sikhism and humanity from his devoted Sikh parents and relatives.

After his high school graduation in 1908, Dr. Thind attended Khalsa College, Amritsar and obtained his College Degree. While a student at Khalsa College, Dr. Thind studied American history and the literature of Emerson, Whitman, and Thoreau. He developed a keen interest in America and Americans and became inspired to travel to there for higher education and to fulfill his destiny as a spiritual teacher. Dr. Thind left Calcutta, at the age of nineteen, landing in Seattle, Washington on July 4, 1913.

From Seattle, Dr. Thind worked at several lumber mills as that was the only source of employment available. Along with other Sikhs, he eventually settled in Astoria, Oregon, an area known as Alderbrook, where a high concentration of East Indians worked. He worked at the Hammond Lumber Company, called Hoodoo Alley by most of the locals. Despite the low pay Dr. Thind earned enough money to attend the University of California at Berkeley where he studied psychology and philosophy. During his years in Astoria (1914-1921) Doctor became a member of the Gadar Movement, which was formed in 1913 with the objective of freeing India from British rule. He eventually became the Secretary and lectured until 1921 in a peaceful and non-violent manner for India's freedom.

On July 22, 1918, while still an Indian citizen, Doctor joined the US Army to fight in World War I. A few months later Bhagat Singh, "a turban wearing Hindu", was promoted to the rank of Acting Sergeant. He served for a month in his new position when the war ended. He received an "honoring discharge" on December 16, 1918 with his character designated as "excellent".

One of Doctor's goals was to become a lawyer, but there was one primary obstacle – lawyers had to be US citizens. His 22-year struggle for American citizenship occupies an historical place in American Immigration history. U.S. citizenship conferred many rights and privileges but only "free white men" were eligible to apply. Doctor applied in the State of Washington in July 1918, wearing a military uniform as he was still serving in the US Army, and received his citizenship certificate on December 9, 1918.

However, the INS did not agree with the district court granting his citizenship. Doctor's citizenship was revoked in four days, on the grounds he was not a "free white man". Doctor was disheartened, but was not ready to give up his fight for citizenship, and applied again in the State of Oregon on May 6, 1919. The same INS agent official who got Doctor's citizenship revoked the first time, tried to convince the judge to refuse citizenship to this "Hindoo" from India. Eventually the judge took all arguments and Thind's military record into consideration and Doctor received his US citizenship for the second time on November 18, 1920.

The INS agent concluded Doctor's involvement in the Gadar Movement as one the reasons for this denial of US Citizenship as many of the members were prosecuted and convicted of violating the American Neutrality Laws. The INS appealed to the next higher court – the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals based on two questions: "1. Is the high caste Hindu of full Indian blood, born in Amritsar, India, a white person within the meaning of the then current statutes? 2. Does the act of February 5, 1917 disqualify from naturalization as citizens those Hindus, now barred by that act."

Eventually the case was delivered to the Supreme Court and on February 19, 1923 Justice George Sutherland delivered the unanimous opinion the definition if "white" did not correspond to "Caucasian" Indians could not be naturalized. The INS issued a notification in 1926 cancelling Doctor's citizenship for the second time. Finally In 1935 the 74th US Congress passed a law allowing citizenship to US veterans of World War I and Doctor finally received his long overdue citizenship through the State of New York. In 1936 he took the Oath for the third time, ending a twenty-two yearlong year fight for his citizenship.

For 52 years, Doctor lectured throughout the United States. He possessed a sharp wit and a direct manner of speaking, inspiring an audience of an estimated five million. Thousands were initiated as disciples into the Inner Life and discovery of the Holy NAM. "No dogmas, no creeds, no limitations, no secret keys, no mystical fuss, no exotic formulas; we put order in your kingdom of chaos," were the words underlying his printed programs of lectures.

In honor of Doctor's legacy, his alma mater Khalsa College of Amritsar, India offers a "Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind Scholarship Fund", which aids students in need if financial assistance. In addition, Doctor paid for the college education of 86 Indian students here in the United States at Stanford, USC and Harvard.

Acknowledgment from his wife, Vivian Thind:

"He was a man of indomitable will, invincible spirit, and unshakable faith. A knower of God, who lived the life of truth and Divine Purpose giving these principles first place above all else in his life. In March of 1940, we married, and although his lecture tours separated us much of the time, we wrote to each other daily.

He was my Guru in every way: A noble husband, he was a devoted father to our son and daughter, and a respectful loving son-in-law to my parents, whose home has always been with us. When, without warning, (for he was in excellent health) he left us at 4:15pm September 15, 1967. Our loss seemed inconsolable. We discovered gratefully, however, that his very teachings had prepared us well for that loss.

It is in the same spirit of gratitude for our beloved Teacher that we will continue to publish and republish all of Doctors books, manuscripts, and teachings in perpetuity. We know his completed writings will live on and on as a spiritual guide – to his devoted disciples, and for those who are ready to free themselves of conditioned orthodox religious thinking. His writings are for all who yearn for fellowship with the Author of their Being, instead of looking for him externally."

Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind's Teachings

SANT-MAT SCIENCE OF THE SAVIOURS

Saint -Mat Breathes, thy spirit, o sublime and sacred Land of India, whence it emanated. It is the riches, and greatest Heritage of the Sikhs of India granted to them by the founder of their Panth-sat-Guru Nanak. Humanity's eternal gratitude will enshrine Thy memory, o Sant-sat-Guru of Mankind.

Science of the Saviours deals with enduring truths of spirituality and verifiable facts of human psychological possibilities. It is not based on guesses, theories and speculations, but on facts and truths based upon the actual personal experience of the Saviours as They had seen, heard and know to be true. They instruct and direct their disciples to make the same demonstration and reach the same results and come to the same conclusions.

The Science of the Saviours is 100% scientifically accurate and offers to be tested in the same way as every science is tested, and in every case results can be predicted in advance. It is the Science, which connects the individual soul with its Universal Creator and solves all problems of life both here and hereafter.

Sant-Mat Teachings are the oldest Science on this earth, antedating the Vedas by untold ages. It is an exact science. It does not change in time. It was formed, instituted and used by Pooran Purshas, perfected men, who never make mistakes. It is entirely based upon natural law and experience.

Sat-Pursh the Perfect Creator Himself alone is its author and founder

"To know, to Dare, and to Keep Silent"

Master Course in the Teachings of the
SCIENCE OF THE SAVIOURS

Guides and Exemplars of Humanity as Given
by SIKH SAVIOURS MASTER SCIENCE OF LIFE

Evolved by Perfected Beings "Old as the
Earth, New as the Babe" for DIVINE
REALIZATION

"Eternal Truth for everyday life and life
eternal, and ever increasing Prosperity and
Happiness for "Harmony without Discord,
Freedom without Bond, Reality without
Illusion, Satisfaction without Striving, Love
Without Longing, and Life without Death"

"You must never be limited by external authority, whether it be vested in a church, man, or book. It is your right to question, challenge and investigate." There is nothing more sacred than truth, and truth is known by investigation and direct experience and not by dogmatizing on the unknown."

-Bhagat Singh Thind

INVOCATION

"I have always struggled to make myself a man -if I succeed in that I shall achieve success in everything else."

"Accept my work, but do not take my life to be ideal. The lotus grows from the mud, love the lotus and not the mud." Thus, wrote Kamarajiva, the noble ancient sage, scholar and author.

My approach is slightly different in offering mankind my work I say – “Accept my work and also accept my life as an ideal to emulate and excel far beyond. You will love the lotus, it is lovable, but you will have to put up with the mud, because without it, you will have no lotus.”

“I have here only made a nosegay of culled flowers and have brought nothing of my own, but the thread that ties them.”

“The human mind is where everyone live and find his only opportunity for peace, happiness and wholeness. Only the unified mind can see things whole.”

I have written by books and manuscripts, not for the Age only and Posterity but for Eternity.”

NAM THE SOUND WITHIN

Nam—the Holy Name is Shabda, the Word sound. Before creation Shabda was hidden. It was Nameless. Before the Shabda, there was neither sun nor moon, nor akasha or fire. It was nameless. “In the beginning there was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God.” In it, a desire arose and then currents issued forth one after the other, initiating creation.

The sound-current is the most stupendous and vital fact in all realms of nature, and to emphasize its utter importance for salvation of the soul, Saviours have come to our Humanity and emphasized this Great Truth. Every force moving from a static to a dynamic expression must vibrate from the potential to the actual, and vibration is the sound of the current running between, to, and from the universe to the individual.

The great Power of Shabda—sound current—is that like a magnet it pulls the soul upward, and without the soul’s ascension, salvation is not attainable. Shabda, is the spirit sound current, it is substance-quality-vibration, it is life-current which has originally emanated from the Supreme Being and is the only means of taking and raising the Spirit to the Source from which it emanated. Shabda is the bridge that carries the devotee across the chasm of birth and death to the bosom of the Eternal. It is like a ship carrying souls across the oceans of birth and death to the Port of Paradise in the land of Immortality.

Through Dr. Thind's publications, he explains to his disciples and truth-seekers that “Radiant Road to Reality.”