

Guru's Support to the Hill-Rajas

Soon afterwards, these hill Rajas were attacked by a force of the Subedar of Sirhind, under Alif Khan, for not paying tribute to the Emperor of Delhi. The Rajas decided to fight instead of paying up. In dire straits, Raja Bhim Chand supplicated the Guru for help. The Guru forgave the Rajas their previous misdeeds and decided to help them, keeping in view the thought of national unity, and utterly disregarding his personal grievances against them. He did not want to crush the Hindus by siding with the Muslim rulers, nor to remain aloof and be a silent spectator to their humiliating rout. He made peace with them and sent a force of five hundred foot-soldiers and horsemen under Dewan Mohri Chand and Daya Ram. The Imperial Army was defeated and thereafter peace prevailed for three years when Guru Gobind Singh had no occasion to draw his sword against any one. He devoted this time to the crystallisation of his thoughts and schemes and giving them a practical shape. He also kept on providing spiritual food to his Sikhs by his sermons and by engaging them in devotion of Akal. He did not, however, ignore to keep their martial spirits alive.

In the Bhadon of Samat 1745 (1688 A.D.), the Satrap of Lahore, sent a force under Rustam Khan. The hilly streams were in rash owing to the rainy season. The area was lashed by tempests and heavy rains. This forced the army to turn back without engaging in a single skirmish. The stream that had compelled the army to turn back was named the 'Helper Brook' by the Sikhs. After some time, Rustam Khan reinforced by some more men and weapons, attacked the Rajas again but was defeated. It is said that the Guru had sent three hundred men under Bhai Nagina Singh to help the Rajas. At last Aurangzeb had to send his son Muazzam Khan to bring the Rajas under heel. Muazzam personally went to Lahore and despatched a big army under Mirza Beg, a nobleman. Mirza Beg defeated the Rajas, devastated their territory, depopulated their habitations and humiliated their subjects in many ways. The Guru had remained at his hilly retreat, but the Muslims plundered the village of Anandpur also, as described by him in his biographical piece *Vachitar Natak*.