

The Lall Singh Murder

.....The project for the murder of Lall Singh proceeded. The Maharaja, it was also alleged, gave Nanak Singh two pistols, which were "to be handed over to the man I name". According to the same person, a few days later, the Maharaja directed that one of these weapons be given to Ujagar Singh. This Nanak Singh did after taking the precaution of entering a report to this effect in the diary of the City Kotwali at Patiala.

According to Nanak Singh's version of what later transpired, the Maharaja also directed him to proceed to Dhuri and get an application from one Ghandur Singh, an exile from Patiala, to be permitted to return to the State. "The Maharaja," according to him, told him that "Lall Singh and Ghandur Singh were very fast friends and that Ujagar Singh had assured him that Ghandur Singh would be able to persuade Lall Singh to divorce his wife."

Ghandur Singh, accordingly, returned to the State and incidentally to favour.

Soon after this, the Maharaja departed for Europe to attend a War Conference.

According to fact elicited later at the trial, Ghandur Singh told Lall Singh that it was through the help of the British Government that he had got permission to reside in Patiala, otherwise the Maharaja would not have allowed him to enter the State, and that Lall Singh, if he wished, could get his wife through the British Government. Lall Singh naturally welcomed the suggestion and several meetings with Ghandur Singh followed.

As Lall Singh was thus busy trying to procure the return of Dalip Kaur, the time came to carry out the real scheme, viz., the murder of Lall Singh. After much careful thought, it was decided that he should be decoyed by means of a telephone call to the well of Sardar Gurnam Singh, where he should be set upon and murdered.

On the evening of March 28, 1919, at about 9 p.m. Ghandur Singh spoke to Lall Singh on the telephone. Effecting a change in his voice, he introduced himself as one Sardar Narain Singh, a well-known contractor of Delhi. He said he had just come by the evening train, and, as he was again returning to Delhi immediately, Lall Singh should see him at his residence at Lahori Gate.

Not suspecting any foul play, Lall Singh took a bicycle and started off for Lahori Gate. As he passed the bungalow of Ghandur Singh, he was stopped by one Harnam Singh, who was a relation by marriage of Ghandur Singh. Harnam Singh told Lall Singh that he had been posted by Ghandur, and that the message that purported to have come from Sardar Narain Singh had in fact been sent by Ghandur Singh who had just returned after an interview with the Agent and was at the Railway Crossing.

Lall Singh accompanied by Harnam Singh went to the Railway Crossing, where they found Ghandur Singh awaiting them.

Ghandur Singh said he had much to tell Lall Singh and asked where they could talk in private. Lall Singh suggested the garden of Gurnam Singh where they could talk freely little knowing

that he was himself indicating the place of his doom.

In the garden, screened by its ample foliage, as dusk fell, Lall Singh met his end. On a prearranged signal Harnam Singh attacked Lall Singh from behind. Two others, Kartar Singh and Dulla Singh, appeared from their hiding place. Lall Singh was thrown down and an effort was made to strangle him; he shook off his assailants. The plans for his murder had provided for all such contingencies. Ghandur Singh settled the matter by emptying four bullets into him, two into his chest and two into his head. During the night, the body of Lall Singh was taken towards the village of Kadar and burnt on the way.

A cable informed the Maharaja that Lall Singh was dead. The Maharaja, it was alleged later, celebrated the occasion by distributing an ample sum among his A.D.C.'s. Dalip Kaur was now a Maharani *de jure*.

A report was made on 30th Har 1975 (Samvat) at 10 a.m. to Sardar nanak Singh, Superintendent of Police, Patiala, by a servant of Gurnam Singh that Lall Singh was missing. He was directed to the Kotwali to lodge his report.

The Dewan (Raja Daya Kishen Kaul) arrived in Patiala and immediately took a lively interest in the case. According to Nanak Singh, he was sent for to the residence of the Dewan and offered the sum of Rs. 50,000 and the post of Inspector-General of Police on the condition that he would write a report against the Maharaja and hand over the file to him. The Dewan, it is alleged, stated that there was nothing to gain if the Maharaja was involved in proceedings in a court of law, but with the file in their possession, they would always be able to keep the Maharaja in their hands. If Nanak Singh had been party to a dirty conspiracy, he refused to become party to a dirtier conspiracy, he refused to become party to a dirtier conspiracy. The relations between the Prime Minister and the Superintendent of Police, accordingly, ceased to be cordial. Meanwhile on behalf of Government of India, the Punjab C.I.D. was carrying on a private investigation through its own officers headed by Mr. Newman of the Indian Police.

In due course, the Maharaja returned to India. Though some time had elapsed, the Patiala Police had not officially solved the mystery of Lall Singh's disappearance, and Nanak Singh, Ghandur Singh and Ujagar Singh were still at large. As a matter of fact they went to Bombay to meet the Maharaja that if he mixed with Nanak Singh and others, the British Government, who suspected him of complicity in the murder, would be annoyed and he would not be able to save the Maharaja from the consequences. The Maharaja, accordingly, decided not to see his friends, though no doubt he was most anxious to have a first hand report of the affairs, as much as they were anxious to give him such a report.

to be continued...

न्यायपालिका में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार पर बहुत सारे जागरूक नागरिकों एवं अधिवक्ताओं ने न्यायिक अधिकारियों, जजों/ कर्मचारियों के भ्रष्टाचार, अवैध सम्पत्ति तथा विधि विरुद्ध कार्यों से सम्बंधित सामग्री भेजी है।

जिसका प्रकाशन हम आगामी अंकों में इनका वेरिफिकेशन करने के बाद करेंगे।

आपसे अनुरोध है कि जो भी शिकायत/ सामग्री आप भेज रहे हैं उसका प्रमाण अवश्य भेजें। प्रकाशन सिर्फ सप्रमाण भेजी गयी सामग्रियों का ही होगा।

हमारा उद्देश्य न्यायपालिका को भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त करना है न कि किसी को बदनाम करना।

सप्रमाण सामग्री डाक/ईमेल से निम्न पते पर भेजें।

संपादक-

अम्बिका प्रसाद, एडवोकेट, 'जजमेंट आजतक'

हिमांशु सदन, ५ पार्क रोड, लखनऊ, मो.: ६८३६०१०६७७

e-mail : judgementaajtak@yahoo.co.in

जजमेंट आजतक का Digital Edition

इन्टरनेट पर उपलब्ध है इसे पढ़ने के लिए

इसकी साइट

www.judgementaajtak.com

पर जाकर पढ़ सकते हैं

एवं अपने सुझाव, समस्या तथा प्रतिक्रिया सीधे हमें भेज सकते हैं।