

ABSTRACTS OF SIKH STUDIES

(Special Issue on Guru Arjan Dev ji)

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GURU ARJAN DEV JI & SIKH MARTYRDOM

PROF. JASPAL KAUR KAANG

This Issue of the Journal *Abstracts of Sikh Studies* is a Special Addition, dedicated to Guru Arjan Dev ji's remarkable contribution, Martyrdom and Legacy. Guru Arjan Dev ji's Martyrdom in 1606 holds immense significance in Sikh history and theology. It marked a significant point in the Sikh struggle for freedom and justice, inspiring future generations to resist oppression and fight for their rights. Guru Arjan, the first Guru martyr in Sikhism's sacrifice underlines the importance of standing up for one's beliefs, even in the face of intense adversity and serves as a powerful symbol of resistance against oppression and injustice, inspiring people worldwide. The distinctiveness of Sikh martyrdom lies in its unique blend of spiritual conviction, moral courage, and social activism. Sikh martyrs embodied the principles of *miri-piri* – the harmonious balance between spiritual and temporal responsibilities – as they fought against tyranny, defended the rights of the marginalized, promoted interfaith understanding and cooperation. Their legacy continues to inspire Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike to work towards creating a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world. As a symbol of resistance against oppression and a testament to the human spirit's capacity for resilience and sacrifice, Sikh martyrdom remains a powerful and enduring force for positive changes.

We hope that the Journal will provide a nuanced understanding of Guru Arjan Dev ji's phenomenal life and legacy. Our scholars have researched and referenced authentic sources to shed light on the significance of Guru Arjan Dev ji's martyrdom, clarifying misinterpretations that have arisen over the times. We are grateful for their intense efforts to preserve the integrity of Sikh history and theology.