

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



Vol. 857

YOUNG HEROES OF INDIA



Ministry of Culture
Government of India





YOUNG HEROES OF INDIA

Founder Editor: Anant Pai

Baba Zoravar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh

Script: Shakthi Bharathi **Art:** Durgesh Velhal **Colour:** Periasamy Samikannu

Baji Rout

Script: Tanushree Banerji **Art:** Arijit Dutta Chowdhury

Colour: Tithee Dixit, Ritoparna Hazra, Nitin Devendra

Asha Sahay Choudhury

Script: Kayva Gokhale **Art:** Dilip Kadam **Colour:** Venkatesan Muniyan

Dattu Rangari

Script: Surekha S. **Art:** Subir Dey **Colour:** Periasamy Samikannu

Saraswathi Rajamani

Script: Shakthi Bharathi **Art:** Arijit Dutta Chowdhury

Colour: Ritoparna Hazra, Tithee Dixit, Nitin Devendra

Bishan and Harnam Singh Kuka

Script: Kayva Gokhale **Art:** Durgesh Velhal **Colour:** Sonal Goyal and Ibrahim

Kartar Singh Sarabha

Script: Surekha S. **Art:** Arijit Dutta Chowdhury **Colour:** Prakash Sivan, Nitin Devendra, Silambu S.

Tileswari Barua

Script: Komal Narwani **Art and Colour:** Sanjhiya Mayekar

Cover: Durgesh Velhal **Colour:** Amithappachan G.

Layout: Bhavani Nadgonde, Tithee Dixit, Ritoparna Hazra

Editorial Team: Krithika Nair, Shakthi Bharathi, Komal Narwani, Kayva Gokhale

Deputy Art Director: Ritoparna Hazra

Art Director: Savio Mascarenhas

Associate Editor: Tripti Nainwal

Executive Editor: Reena Ittyerah Puri

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd

Printed by Indigo Press (I) Pvt. Ltd

Edition I

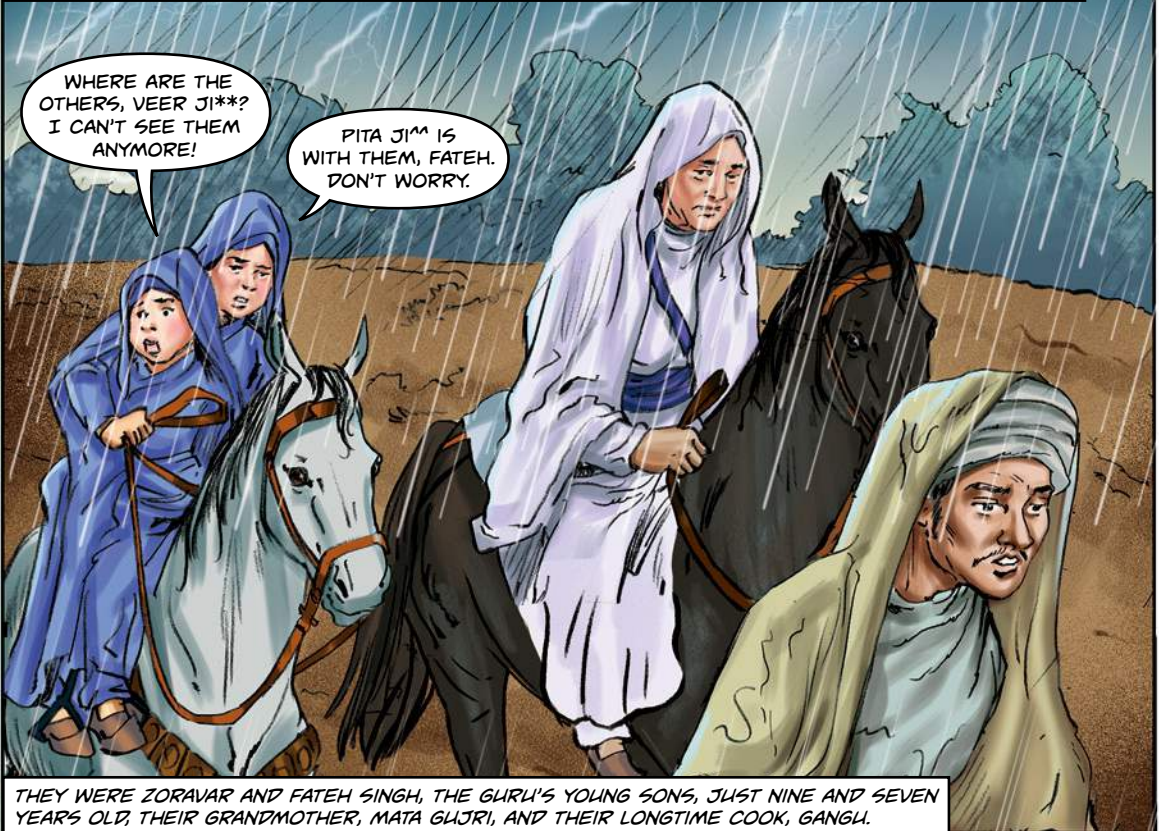
ISBN – 978-93-94610-81-1

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd, January 2023

All rights reserved. This book is sold subject to the condition that the publication may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system (including but not limited to computers, disks, external drives, electronic or digital devices, e-readers, websites), or transmitted in any form or by any means (including but not limited to cyclostyling, photocopying, docutech or other reprographic reproductions, mechanical, recording, electronic, digital versions) without the prior written permission of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

BABA ZORAVAR SINGH AND BABA FATEH SINGH

ON A RAINY EVENING IN 1705, THE FORT OF ANANDPUR SAHIB* WAS UNDER ATTACK BY MUGHAL FORCES. AS GURU GOBIND SINGH[^] LED HIS MEN INTO BATTLE, SOME OF HIS FAMILY GOT SEPARATED.



WHERE ARE THE OTHERS, VEER JI**?
I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYMORE!

PITA JI[^] IS WITH THEM, FATEH.
DON'T WORRY.

THEY WERE ZORAVAR AND FATEH SINGH, THE GURU'S YOUNG SONS, JUST NINE AND SEVEN YEARS OLD, THEIR GRANDMOTHER, MATA GUJRI, AND THEIR LONGTIME COOK, GANGLU.



MAKE HASTE!
WE NEED TO FIND SHELTER.

MATA JI***, I OFFER YOU MY HUMBLE HOME IN THE VILLAGE,
RIGHT OVER THERE.

*A CITY IN PUNJAB SACRED TO SIKHS
[^]TENTH GURU OF THE SIKHS

**ELDER BROTHER
[^]FATHER

***RESPECTED MOTHER

THERE WAS A HANDSOME BOUNTY PLACED ON THE HEADS OF GURU GOBIND SINGH AND HIS FAMILY. GANGU WAS AWARE OF THIS.



THAT BOUNTY WILL SOON BE MINE.

GANGU BETRAYED THE THREE AND INFORMED THE KOTWAL* OF HIS VILLAGE. SOON —



THE THREE OF YOU ARE UNDER ARREST.

I HOPE THE MONEY SERVES YOU WELL, GANGU.

B-BUT HE'S KNOWN US FOR YEARS!

GREED CHANGES THE HEART, FATEH.



*POLICE CHIEF

MATA GUJRI AND HER GRANDSONS WERE TAKEN TO THE COURT OF WAZIR KHAN, THE NAWAB* OF SIRHIND



*GOVERNOR DURING THE MUGHAL ERA
*COLD TOWER

WAZIR KHAN PUT ON A KIND FACE AND TURNED TO THE BOYS.



LISTEN, I WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR, IF YOU SURRENDER TO MY RELIGION.

GREED CHANGES THE HEART, FATEH.

KEEP YOUR THINGS! WE DON'T WANT THEM.



DECEMBER WAS ALWAYS COLD BUT THE THANDA BURJ MADE IT COLDER. AS NIGHT FELL, THE BOYS BEGAN TO SHIVER. BUT MATA GURJI TOLD THEM STORIES...



ANOTHER SAKHI*, ANOTHER SAKHI, DADI^ JI!

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE FIRST MARTYR AMONG US?

YES, DADI JI.

THE NAWAB COMMANDED THAT THE BOYS BE LOCKED UP WITH THEIR GRANDMOTHER.

...AND IT LIT A FLAME IN THEIR HEARTS.

*STORIES FROM SIKH HISTORY
^PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER

WHEN MORNING ARRIVED, THE BOYS WERE SUMMONED TO COURT —



SUCHANAND, ONE OF WAZIR KHAN'S MINISTERS, WAS UNIMPRESSED BY THEIR COURAGE.



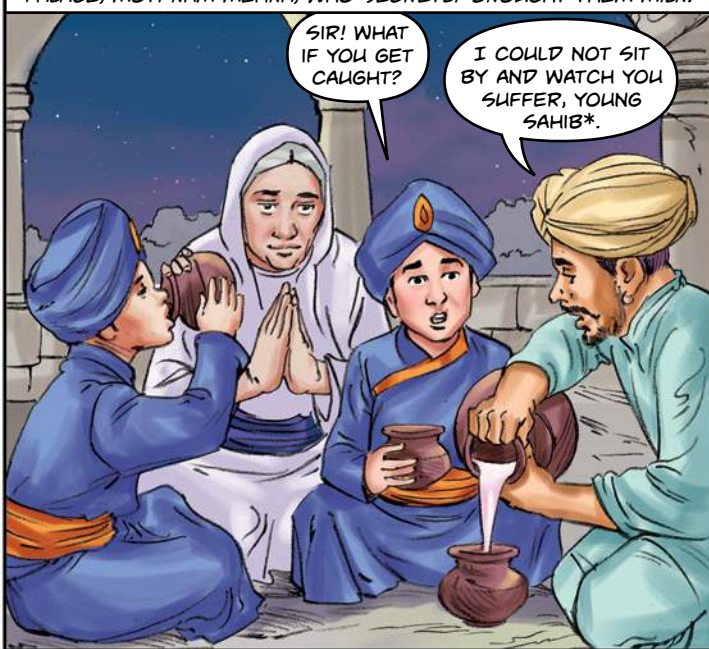
*FIFTH GURU OF THE SIKHS

MATA GUJRI WELCOMED HER GRANDSONS WITH A SMILE.



YOU HAVE MADE ME PROUD, MY CHILDREN!

THAT NIGHT, THEY WERE VISITED BY THE COOK AT WAZIR KHAN'S PALACE, MOTI RAM MEHRA, WHO SECRETLY BROUGHT THEM MILK.



SIR! WHAT IF YOU GET CAUGHT?

I COULD NOT SIT BY AND WATCH YOU SUFFER, YOUNG SAHIB*.

THE WINTER CHILL RETURNED WITH A VENGEANCE, SINKING INTO THEIR BONES. MATA GUJRI HELD THE BOYS CLOSE AND THEY CHANTED THE NITNEM*.



AS DAWN BROKE, WAZIR KHAN SENT FOR THE BOYS AGAIN.

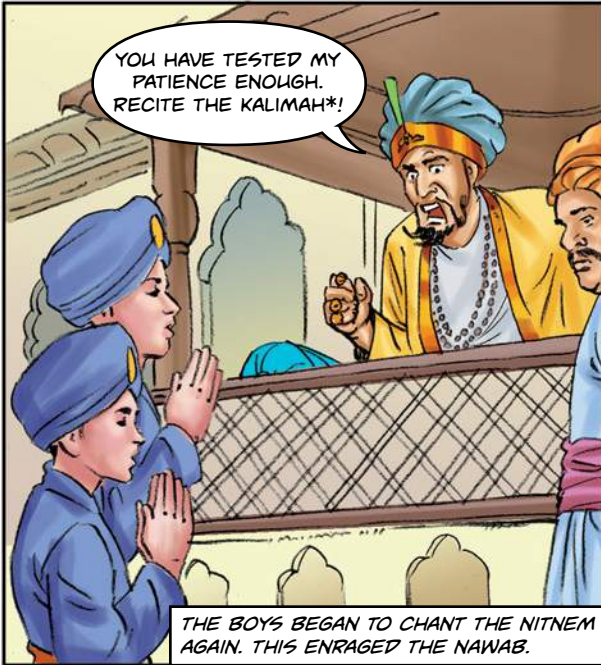
MATA GUJRI WATCHED HER GRANDSONS UNTIL THEY DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW.



SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS IS THE LAST TIME I WILL SEE MY ZORAVAR AND FATEH.

*A TERM OF RESPECT FOR MEN

*A SET OF SIKH HYMNS TO BE READ AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE DAY



YOU HAVE TESTED MY PATIENCE ENOUGH. RECITE THE KALIMAH*!

THE BOYS BEGAN TO CHANT THE NITNEM AGAIN. THIS ENRAGED THE NAWAB.



THE SONS OF A SERPENT WILL GROW UP INTO SERPENTS, YOUR MAJESTY.

SUCHANAND IS RIGHT. LEFT UNCHECKED, THESE BRATS WILL SOW REBELLION AGAINST ME.

WAZIR KHAN SENT FOR HIS ALLY, SHER MUHAMMAD KHAN, WHO HAD LOST TWO BROTHERS IN BATTLE AGAINST GURU GOBIND SINGH.

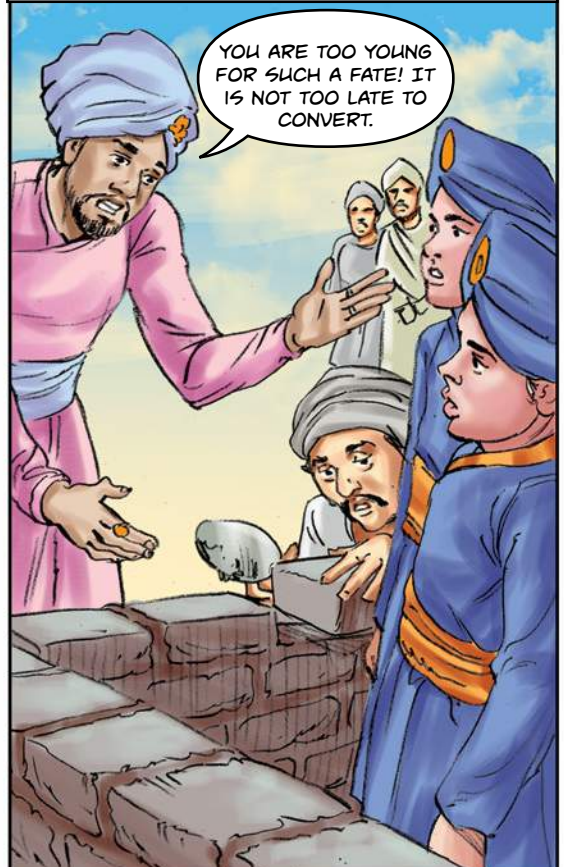


AVENGE YOUR FAMILY AND EXECUTE THESE INFIDELS.

CHILDREN ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINS OF THEIR FATHER. I WILL NOT STAIN MY HANDS WITH INNOCENT BLOOD.

THEN, THEY SHALL BE BRICKED ALIVE!

ZORAVAR AND FATEH WERE DRAGGED OUTSIDE TO BE PUNISHED. AS THE BRICKS WERE BEING STACKED, SHER MUHAMMAD KHAN PLEADED WITH THE BOYS.



YOU ARE TOO YOUNG FOR SUCH A FATE! IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO CONVERT.

*ISLAMIC PHRASES USED IN PRAYER



AS THE WALLS ROSE AROUND THEM —



SUDDENLY, A VIOLENT DUST STORM SWIRLED AROUND THEM, BRINGING DOWN THE WALLS.



FRUSTRATED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS, WAZIR KHAN ORDERED THEM TO BE PULLED OUT AND PLUT TO DEATH BY THE SWORD. THE SUN SET ON TWO SHINING LIVES.



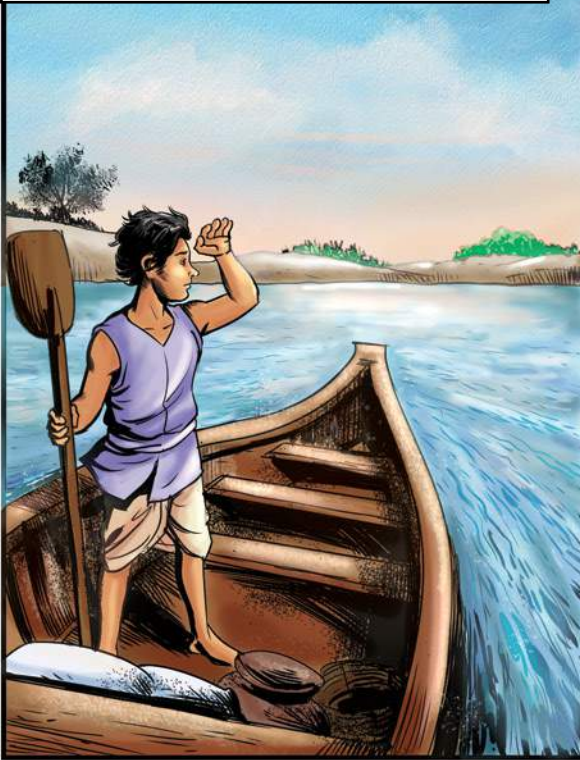
ALL THREE OF THEM ARE HALLOWED MARTYRS. BABA ZORAVAR SINGH AND BABA FATEH SINGH, WHO STOOD UP FOR THEIR FAITH IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, REMAIN INSPIRATIONAL TILL TODAY.



BAJI ROUT

ALMOST EVERY INDIAN IS AWARE OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOME ARE LESSER KNOWN. THIS IS THE STORY OF BAJI ROUT, THE BOAT BOY*.

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD BAJI LIVED IN BHUBAN VILLAGE, DHENKANAL[†], WITH HIS WIDOWED MOTHER, WHO EARNED A MEAGRE LIVELIHOOD BY HUSKING RICE.

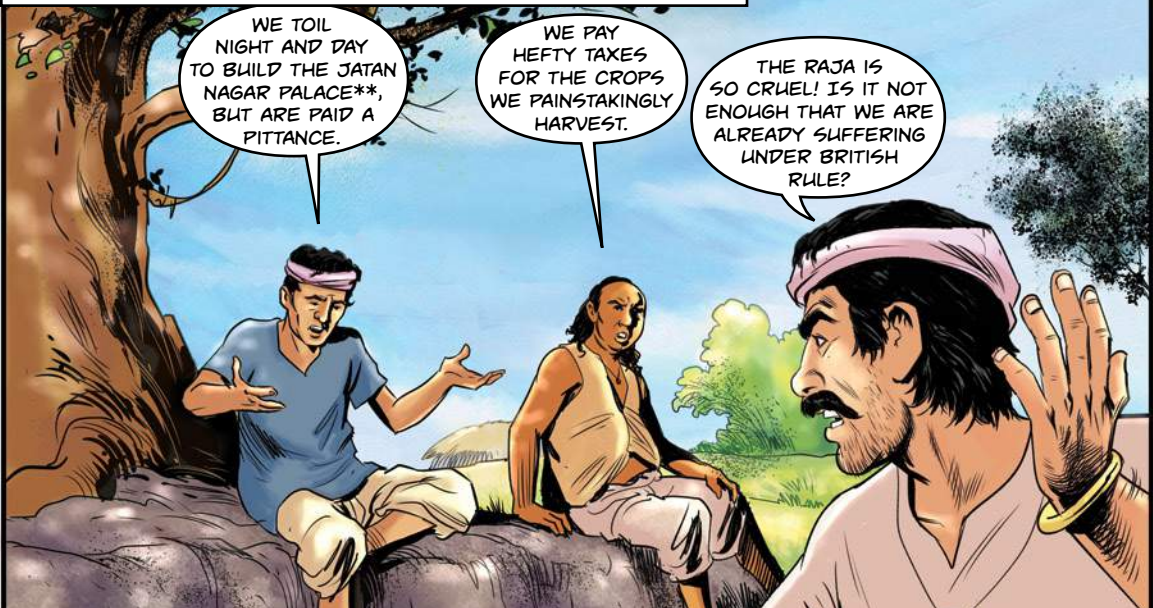


WE BARELY HAVE MONEY BECAUSE WE ARE CHEATED OF OUR EARNINGS BY OUR OWN KING.

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER. ONE DAY WE WILL GET BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.

BAJI TRIED CHEERING HIS MOTHER UP, BUT HIS HEART RAGED.

DURING THE 20TH CENTURY, DHENKANAL WAS RULED BY KING SANKARA PRATAP AND HIS BROTHER, PRINCE PATTAYAT NRUSINGHA PRATAP



WE TOIL NIGHT AND DAY TO BUILD THE JATAN NAGAR PALACE**, BUT ARE PAID A PITTANCE.

WE PAY HEFTY TAXES FOR THE CROPS WE PAINSTAKINGLY HARVEST.

THE RAJA IS SO CRUEL! IS IT NOT ENOUGH THAT WE ARE ALREADY SUFFERING UNDER BRITISH RULE?

BOTH THE BROTHERS WERE NOTORIOUS FOR EXPLOITING THEIR SUBJECTS AND SUPPORTING THE BRITISH.

*BAJI FERRIED VILLAGERS ACROSS THE BRAHMANI RIVER IN HIS BOAT.

[†]TOWN IN ODISHA

**A 100-ROOM PALACE BUILT BY PRINCE NRUSINGHA USING FORCED LABOUR

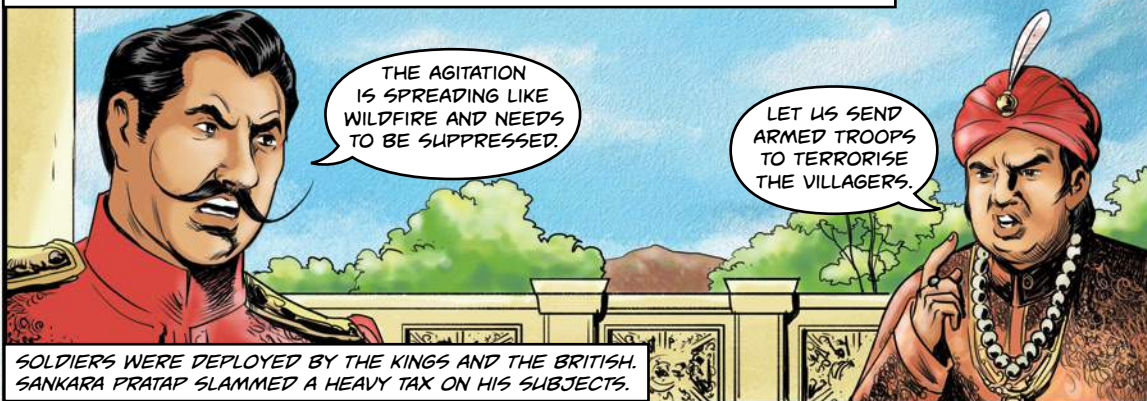
AT THE TIME, BAISHNAB CHARAN PATTNAYAK, ALSO KNOWN AS VEER BAISHNAB, BEGAN THE PRAJA MANDAL ANDOLAN* TO REBEL AGAINST THESE ATROCITIES.



I WILL DEFINITELY JOIN THE BANAR SENA!



THE GROWING MOVEMENT SOON BEGAN TO ANGER SANKARA PRATAP AND HIS ALLIES.



THE TROOPS BEGAN TO SEIZE, OR DESTROY, PROPERTIES IF ANYONE REFUSED TO PAY THE TAX.



*PEOPLE'S PROTEST
*MONKEY ARMY

**PATERNAL UNCLE, A RESPECTFUL TERM

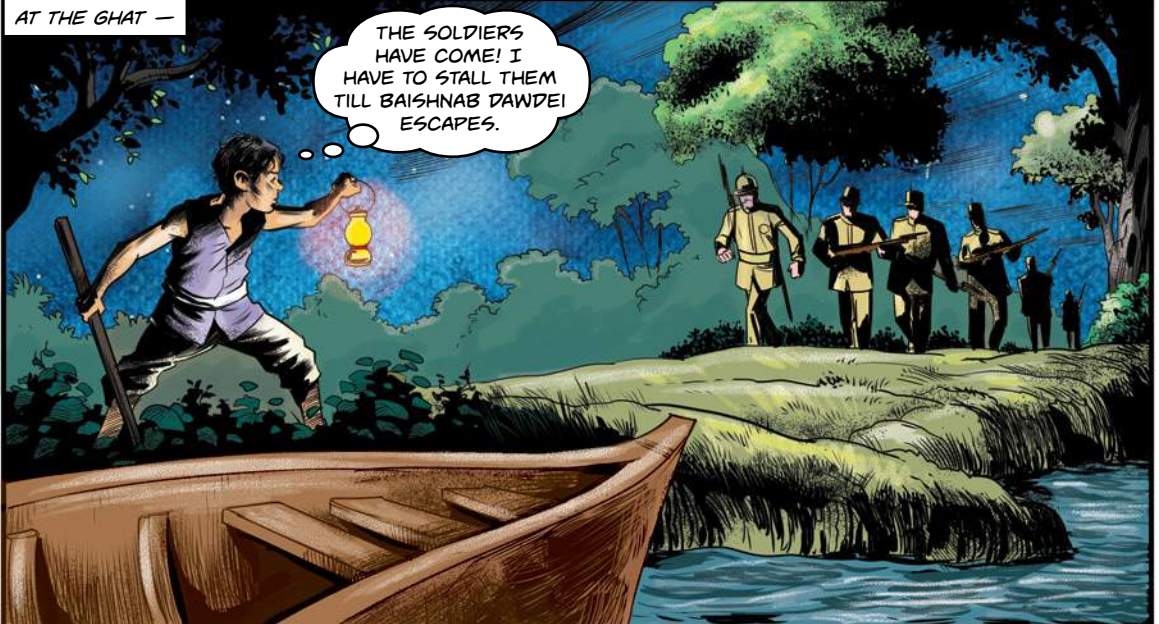
BAJI HAD VOLUNTEERED TO KEEP VIGIL ON THE RIVERFRONT. ON THE NIGHT OF 11 OCTOBER, 1938, AS BAJI WAS LEAVING HIS HOUSE —



MEANWHILE, SOMEONE HAD INFORMED THE TROOPS THAT VEER BAISHNAB WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE VIA THE BRAHMANI RIVER.



AT THE GHAT —

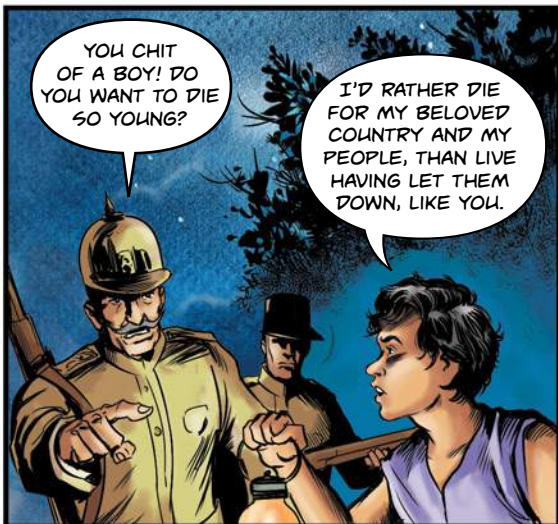




FERRY US ACROSS TO BHUBAN VILLAGE, BOY!

NO! SURRENDER TO THE PRAJA MANDAL!

HE DARES TO DEFY US, AND ORDERS US TOO!



YOU CHIT OF A BOY! DO YOU WANT TO DIE SO YOUNG?

I'D RATHER DIE FOR MY BELOVED COUNTRY AND MY PEOPLE, THAN LIVE HAVING LET THEM DOWN, LIKE YOU.



HOW DARE YOU! TAKE THAT!

THUD

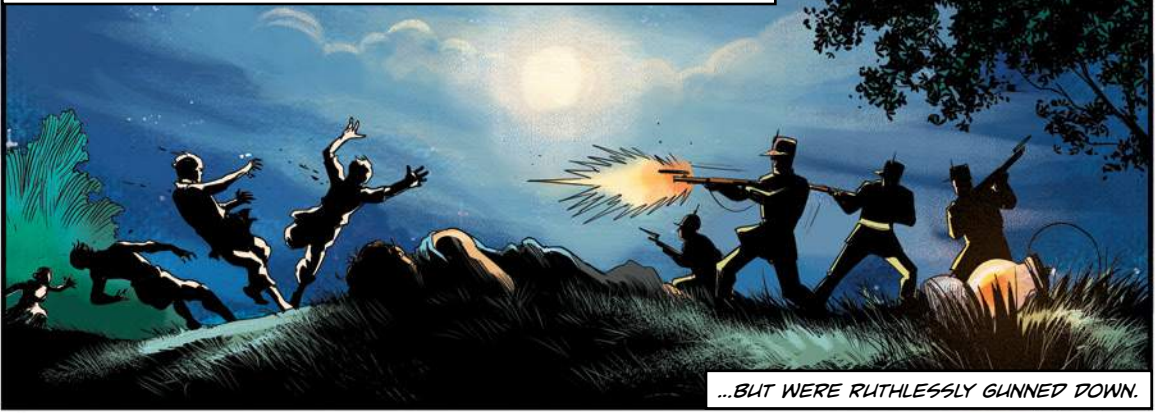
ENRAGED, ONE OF THE SOLDIERS HIT BAJI WITH THE BUTT OF HIS GUN, CRACKING HIS SKULL.

BLEEDING PROFUSELY, BAJI MADE ONE LAST ATTEMPT. PULLING OUT THE CONCH HE ALWAYS KEPT WITH HIM, HE BLEW IT.



A SOLDIER RAISED HIS RIFLE AND FIRED AT BAJI, SNUFFING OUT HIS LIFE INSTANTLY.

THE VILLAGERS HEARD THE SOUND OF THE CONCH AND CAME RUSHING...

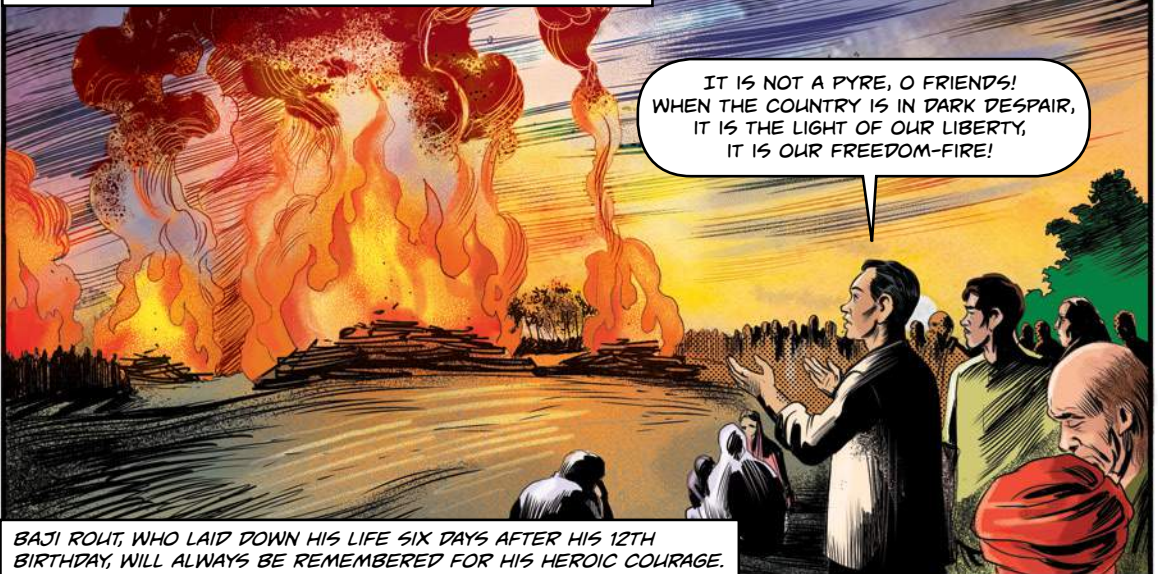


...BUT WERE RUTHLESSLY GUNNED DOWN.

LATER, VEER BAI SHNAB CARRIED BAJI AND THE OTHER FALLEN MARTYRS THROUGH THE STREETS OF CUTTACK IN BULLOCK CARTS*, AS HUNDREDS PAID HOMAGE.



AT THE FUNERAL, SACHIDANAND RAUTRAY, A REVOLUTIONARY, RECITED A STIRRING POEM IN HONOUR OF THE MARTYRS —



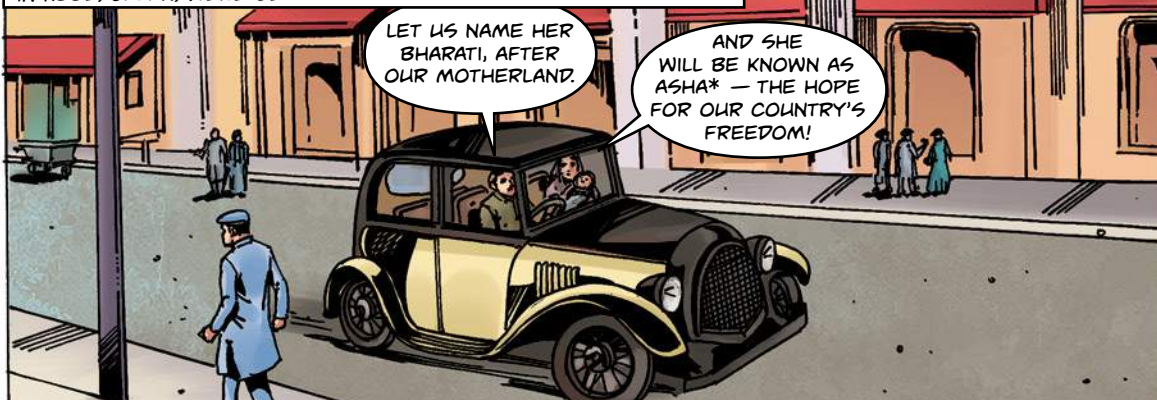
IT IS NOT A PYRE, O FRIENDS!
WHEN THE COUNTRY IS IN DARK DESPAIR,
IT IS THE LIGHT OF OUR LIBERTY,
IT IS OUR FREEDOM-FIRE!

BAJI ROUT, WHO LAID DOWN HIS LIFE SIX DAYS AFTER HIS 12TH BIRTHDAY, WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS HEROIC COURAGE.

*BULLOCKS ARE WORSHIPPED IN ODISHA AND ARE NEVER USED TO CARRY CORPSES. AN EXCEPTION WAS MADE, AS A MARK OF RESPECT TO THE MARTYRS.

ASHA SAHAY CHOUDHURY

IT WAS 1928 AND ANAND MOHAN SAHAY AND HIS WIFE, SATI SEN SAHAY, LIVING IN KOBE, JAPAN, WERE CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF THEIR LITTLE GIRL.



LET US NAME HER BHARATI, AFTER OUR MOTHERLAND.

AND SHE WILL BE KNOWN AS ASHA* — THE HOPE FOR OUR COUNTRY'S FREEDOM!

BHARATI OR ASHA-SAN, AS SHE WAS KNOWN TO EVERYONE IN JAPAN, CAME FROM A LONG LINE OF FERVENT PATRIOTS.

HER MOTHER, THE NIECE OF CHITTARANJAN DAS¹, HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT.



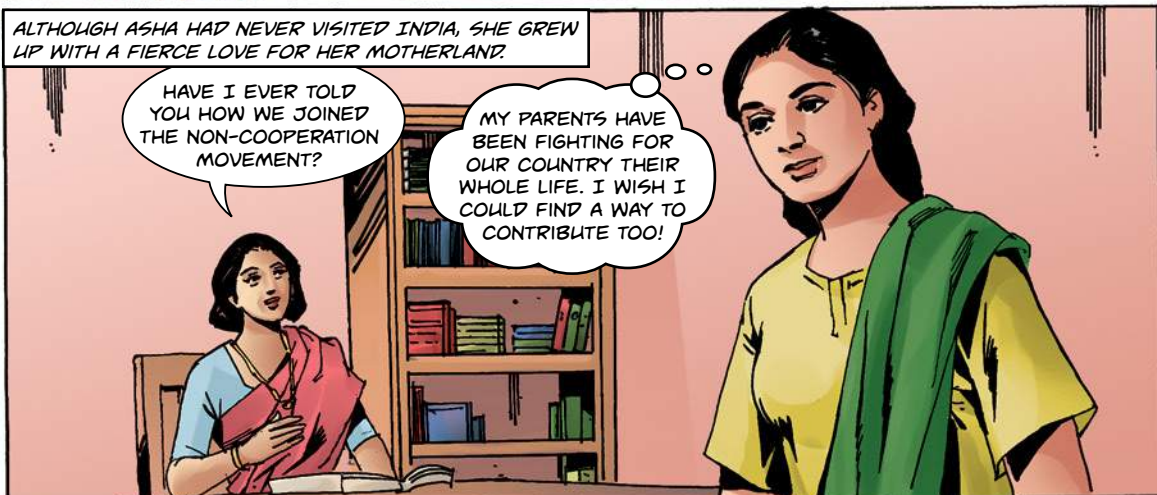
HER FATHER WAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF DR RAJENDRA PRASAD² AND HAD MOVED TO JAPAN TO LAUNCH THE KOBE BRANCH OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.



ALTHOUGH ASHA HAD NEVER VISITED INDIA, SHE GREW UP WITH A FIERCE LOVE FOR HER MOTHERLAND.

HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU HOW WE JOINED THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT?

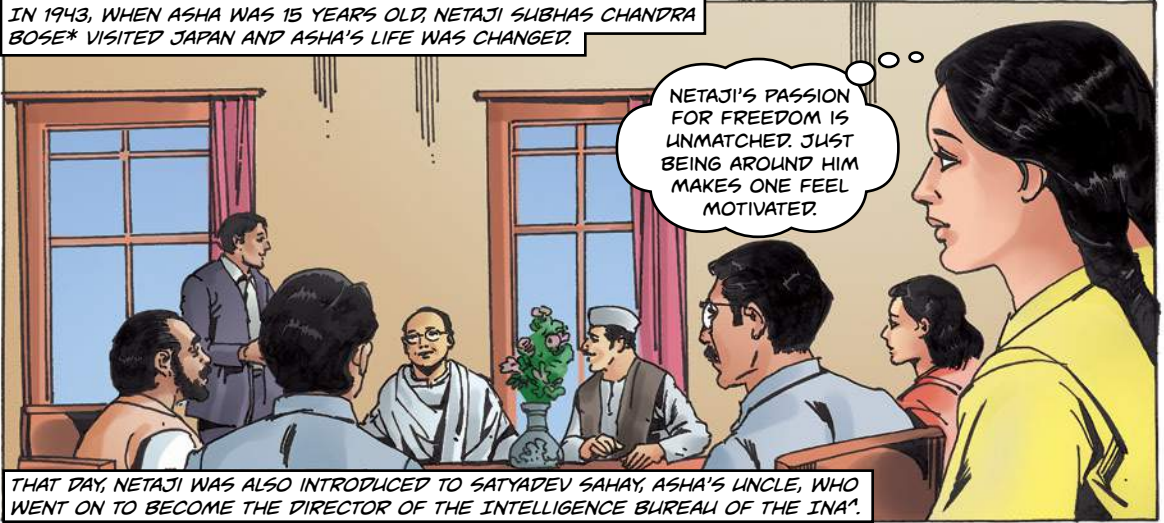
MY PARENTS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR OUR COUNTRY THEIR WHOLE LIFE. I WISH I COULD FIND A WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TOO!



*ASHA MEANS HOPE
**THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF INDIA

¹A LEADING FIGURE OF THE NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT IN BENGAL

IN 1943, WHEN ASHA WAS 15 YEARS OLD, NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE* VISITED JAPAN AND ASHA'S LIFE WAS CHANGED.



NETAJI'S PASSION FOR FREEDOM IS UNMATCHED. JUST BEING AROUND HIM MAKES ONE FEEL MOTIVATED.

THAT DAY, NETAJI WAS ALSO INTRODUCED TO SATYADEV SAHAY, ASHA'S UNCLE, WHO WENT ON TO BECOME THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU OF THE INA*.

WITHIN TWO YEARS, ASHA DECIDED TO FORMALLY JOIN THE INA, WITH NETAJI'S BLESSING. SHE WAS JUST 17 WHEN SHE BECAME A PART OF THE RANI OF JHANSI REGIMENT**.



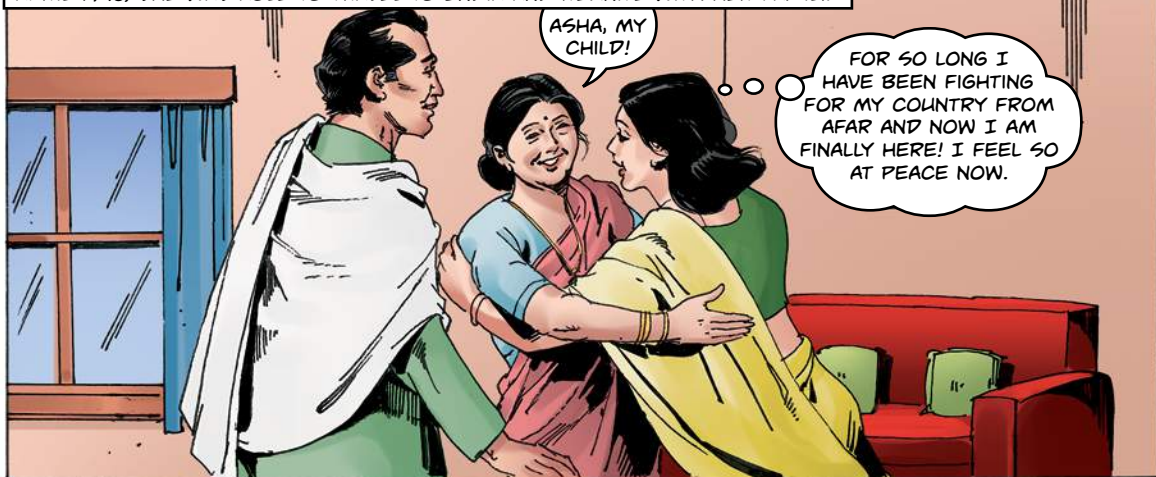
SHE SOON LEFT FOR BANGKOK AND TRAINED TO BECOME A SOLDIER.



*INDIAN REVOLUTIONARY
^INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY OR AZAD HIND FAUJ

**THE WOMEN'S REGIMENT OF THE INA

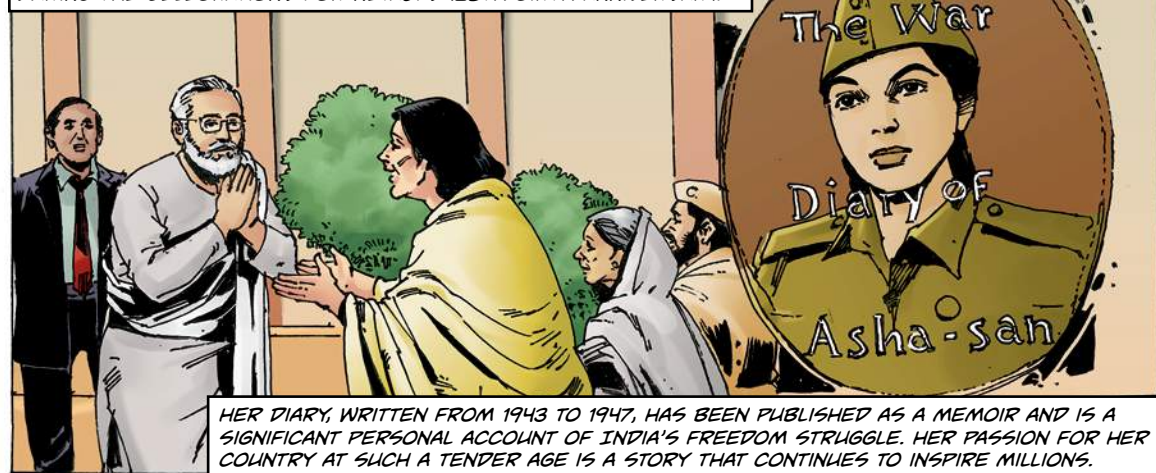
WHEN JAPAN SURRENDERED*, ASHA WAS BRIEFLY IMPRISONED. FORTUNATELY, IN APRIL 1946, SHE WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL TO INDIA AND REUNITE WITH HER FAMILY.



FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SHE TOURED THE COUNTRY WITH HER FATHER AND UNCLE, SPREADING WORD ABOUT THE INA'S EFFORTS.

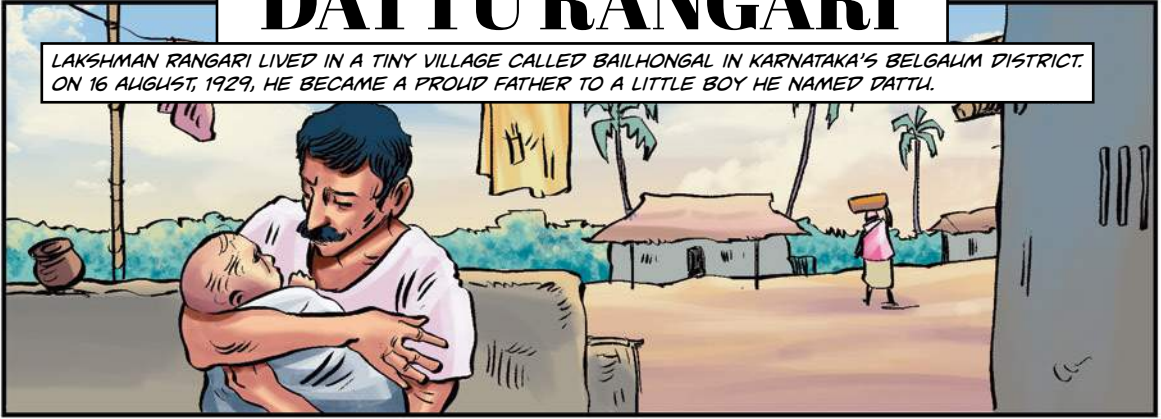


IN 2022, ASHA WAS HONOURED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, DURING THE CELEBRATIONS FOR NETAJI'S 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY.



DATTU RANGARI

LAKSHMAN RANGARI LIVED IN A TINY VILLAGE CALLED BAILHONGAL IN KARNATAKA'S BELGAUM DISTRICT. ON 16 AUGUST, 1929, HE BECAME A PROUD FATHER TO A LITTLE BOY HE NAMED DATTU.



A BRIGHT BOY, DATTU GREW UP WITH AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT. WHEN HE WAS 10 —



SOME LEADERS OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE ARE COMING TO BELGAUM. I'M GOING TO SEE THEM.

BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR CLASSES?

THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT!

OVER THE YEARS, DATTU GREW MORE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT. IN AUGUST, 1942 —

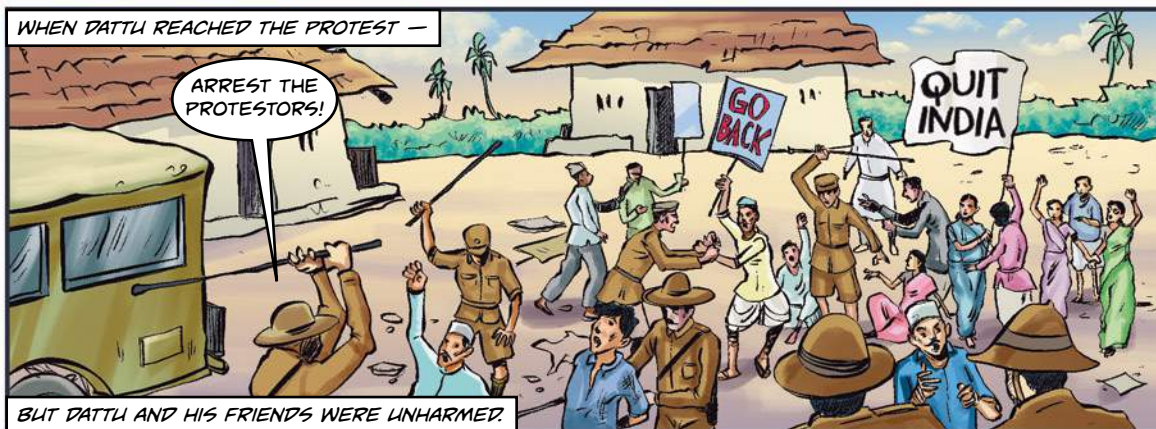
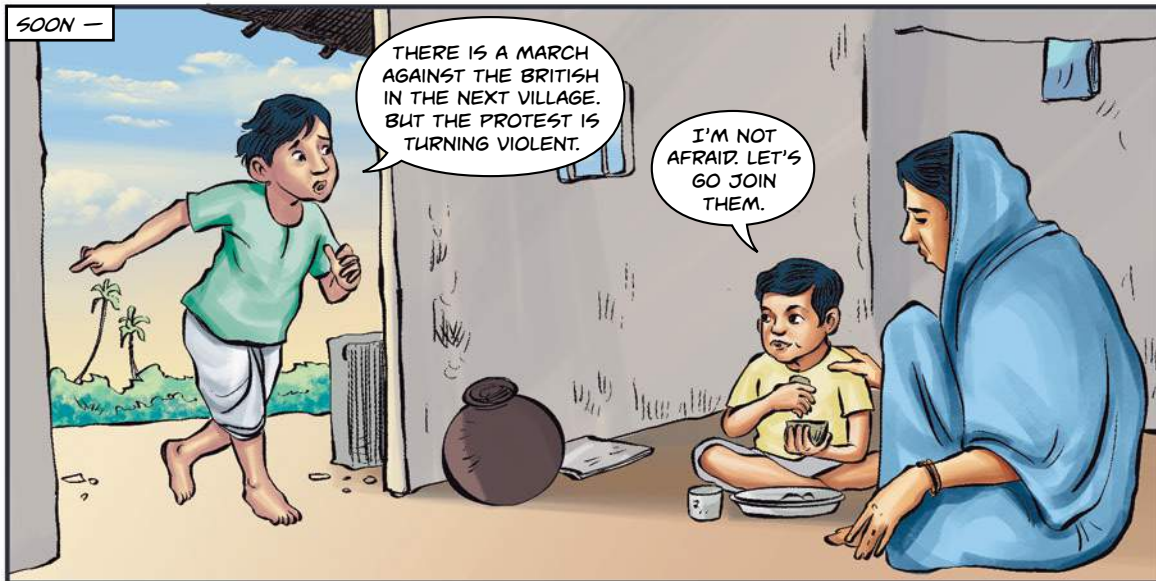


DID YOU HEAR? GANDHI JI HAS ANNOUNCED THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT. NATION-WIDE PROTESTS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN.

YES, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?



GANDHI JI HAS SAID 'DO OR DIE.' I'M GOING TO SEND THE BRITISH BACK, OR I'LL DIE TRYING.



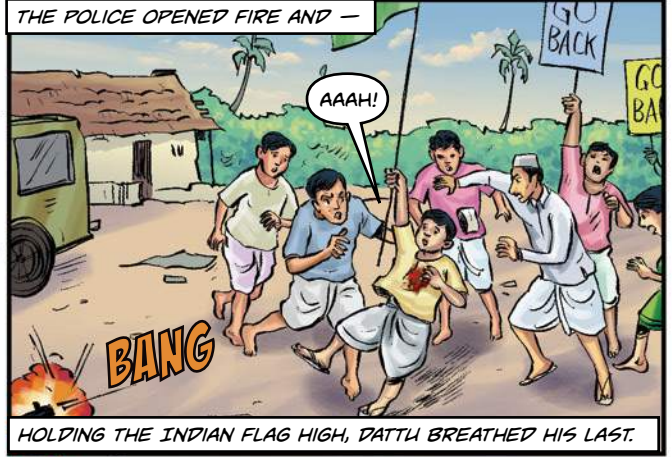
ON 23 AUGUST, 1942 —



BEFORE LONG —



THE POLICE OPENED FIRE AND —

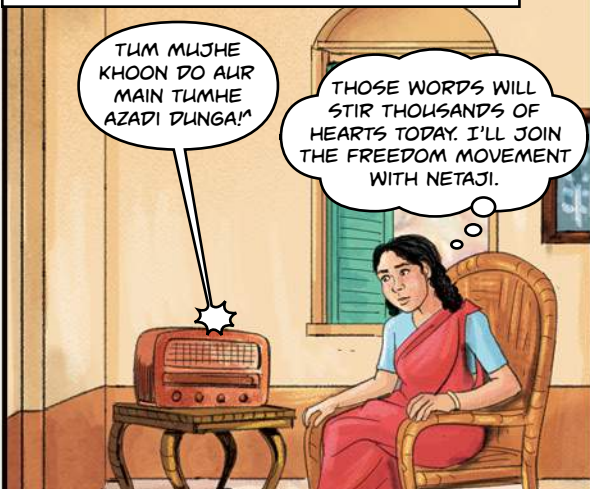


AT THE AGE OF 13, DATTU RANGARI ATTAINED MARTYRDOM, BECOMING ONE OF THE YOUNGEST CHILD HEROES OF OUR COUNTRY.



SARASWATHI RAJAMANI

THE YEAR WAS 1944, THE PLACE WAS BURMA*, AND THE RADIO CRACKLED WITH THE FIERY WORDS OF NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE —



LISTENING TO THE RADIO WAS 15-YEAR-OLD RAJAMANI, WHOSE PARENTS WERE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND HAD FLED INDIA TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION.

TRUE TO HER WORD, RAJAMANI JOINED THE RANI JHANSI REGIMENT...



...EARNING A NICKNAME FROM NETAJI HIMSELF.

RAJAMANI TRAINED FROM DAWN TO DUSK, BECOMING AN EXCELLENT CADET. WHEN SHE TURNED 16, NETAJI SENT FOR HER.



THE INA NEEDED SPIES WHO COULD GET THEM INFORMATION ON THE ENEMY.

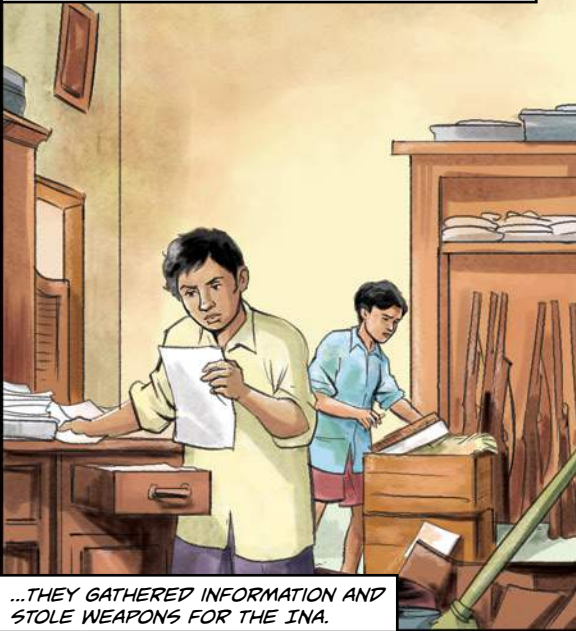
AFTER A HAIRCUT AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, RAJAMANI AND HER FRIEND, DURGA, POSING AS ERRAND BOYS, INFILTRATED BRITISH MILITARY CAMPS.



*PRESENT-DAY MYANMAR
*GIVE ME BLOOD AND I WILL GIVE YOU FREEDOM!

**HINDU GODDESS OF WISDOM

UNDER THE GUISE OF DOING EVERYDAY CHORES...



...THEY GATHERED INFORMATION AND STOLE WEAPONS FOR THE INA.

ONE DAY —



YOU! WHAT ARE YOU RIFLING THROUGH MY PAPERS FOR?

N-NO, I WAS JUST ARRANGING THEM.

THE SUSPICIOUS OFFICER HAD DURGA LOCKED UP, BUT RAJAMANI HAD A PLAN UP HER SLEEVE.

THAT EVENING —



SAHIBS, WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE ME DANCE? I COULD DO WITH A FEW RUPEES IN MY PURSE.

HA HA HA! GO ON, THEN. GIVE US A SHOW.

AS RAJAMANI ENTERTAINED THE POLICEMEN, SHE MANAGED TO ADD OPIUM TO THEIR DRINKS. SOON —

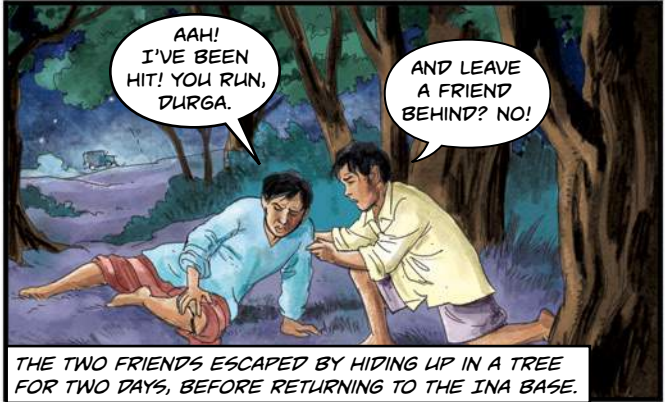


THEY'RE KNOCKED OUT. NOW TO GET THE KEYS FROM THIS SNORER'S BELT!

SRRRRRR...
SRRRRRR...



AS THEY FLED, THE GUARDS SHOT AT THEM.



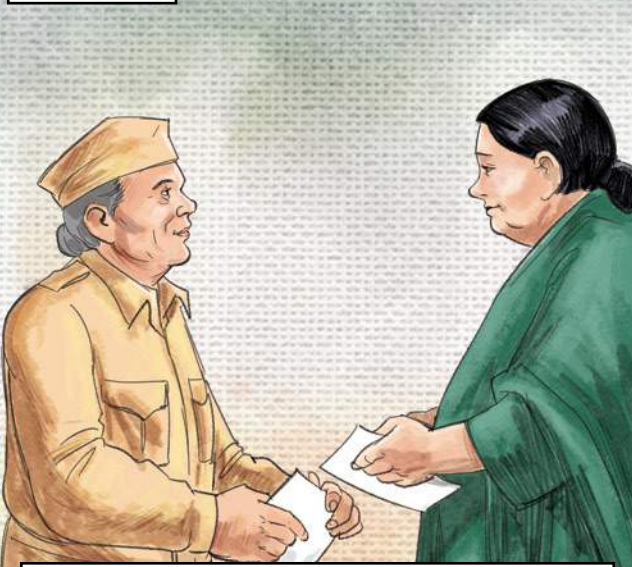
THE TWO FRIENDS ESCAPED BY HIDING UP IN A TREE FOR TWO DAYS, BEFORE RETURNING TO THE INA BASE.

RAJAMANI WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT, IN THE RANI JHANSI REGIMENT, FOR HER BRAVERY AND SERVICE.



EVENTUALLY, RAJAMANI AND HER FAMILY, WHO HAD DONATED ALL THEIR WEALTH TO THE INA, SETTLED DOWN IN MADRAS*.

RAJAMANI WOULD OFTEN DESPAIR AT THE FUTILITY OF EXISTENCE AFTER NETAJI WENT AWAY. HER HEROISM WAS FINALLY RECOGNISED IN 2005, WHEN THE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU, J. JAYALALITHAA, GAVE HER FINANCIAL AID AND A HOUSE.

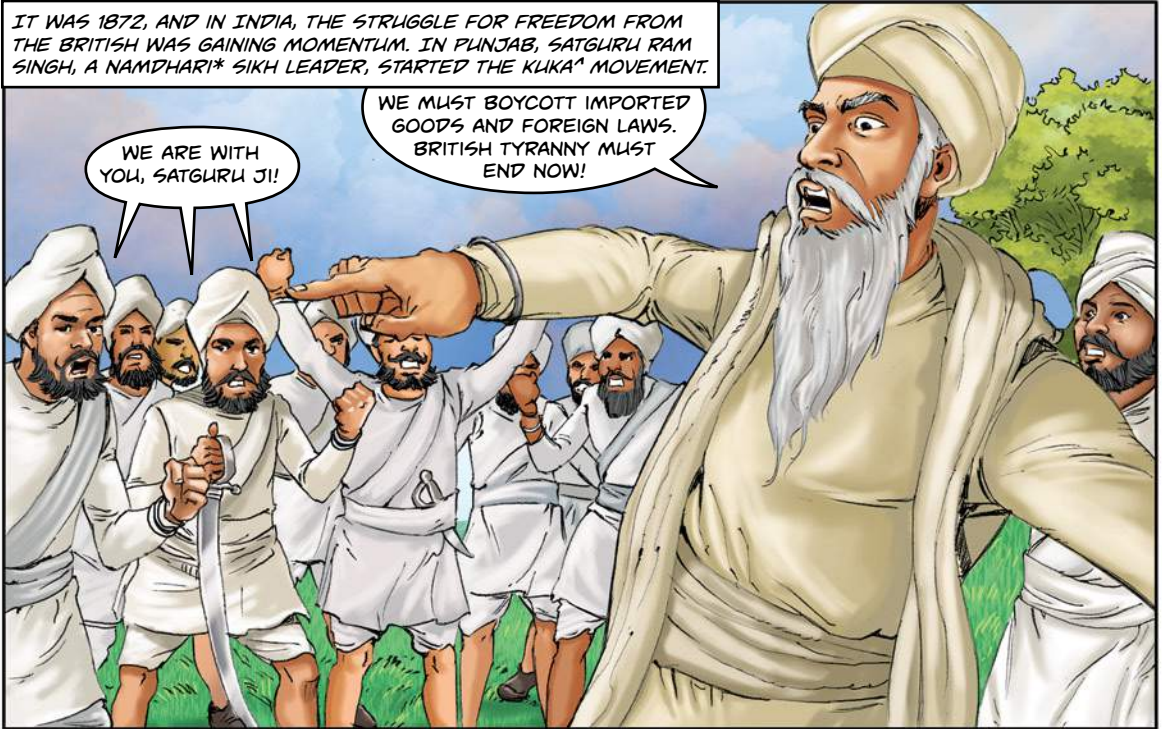


ON 13 JANUARY, 2018, INDIA'S YOUNGEST SPY PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 91, BUT LIVES ON IN OUR HEARTS.

*PRESENT-DAY CHENNAI

BISHAN AND HARNAM SINGH KUKA

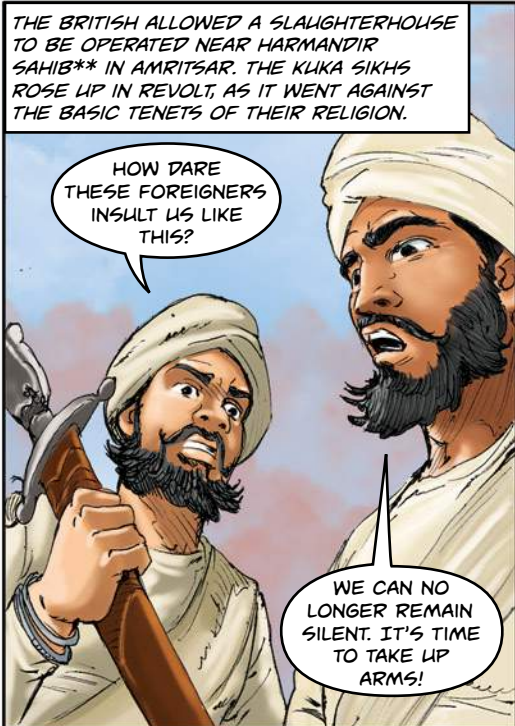
IT WAS 1872, AND IN INDIA, THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM FROM THE BRITISH WAS GAINING MOMENTUM. IN PUNJAB, SATGURU RAM SINGH, A NAMDHARI* SIKH LEADER, STARTED THE KUKA[^] MOVEMENT.



WE ARE WITH YOU, SATGURU JI!

WE MUST BOYCOTT IMPORTED GOODS AND FOREIGN LAWS. BRITISH TYRANNY MUST END NOW!

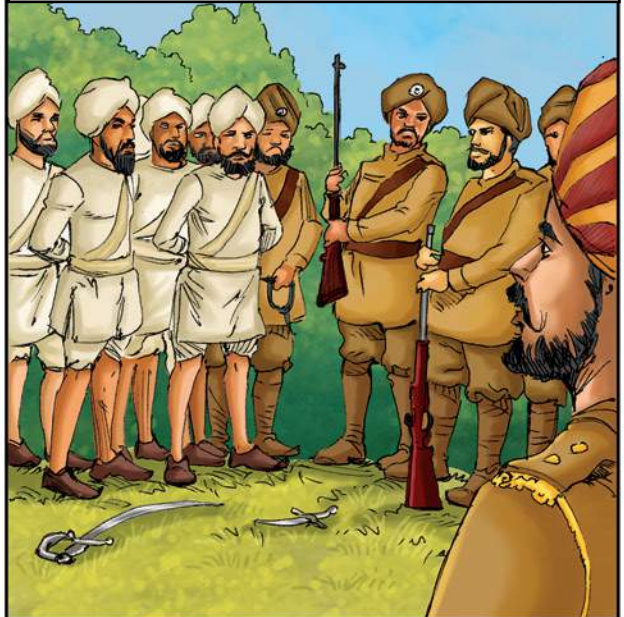
THE BRITISH ALLOWED A SLAUGHTERHOUSE TO BE OPERATED NEAR HARMANDIR SAHIB** IN AMRITSAR. THE KUKA SIKHS ROSE UP IN REVOLT, AS IT WENT AGAINST THE BASIC TENETS OF THEIR RELIGION.



HOW DARE THESE FOREIGNERS INSULT US LIKE THIS?

WE CAN NO LONGER REMAIN SILENT. IT'S TIME TO TAKE UP ARMS!

ON 13 JANUARY, 1872, THE ENRAGED REVOLUTIONARIES ATTACKED ANOTHER SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN MALERKOTLA^{^^}, WHERE THEY CLASHED WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS. OUTNUMBERED, THE SIKHS EVENTUALLY SURRENDERED.



*A SECT OF SIKHISM
**AN IMPORTANT PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR SIKHS

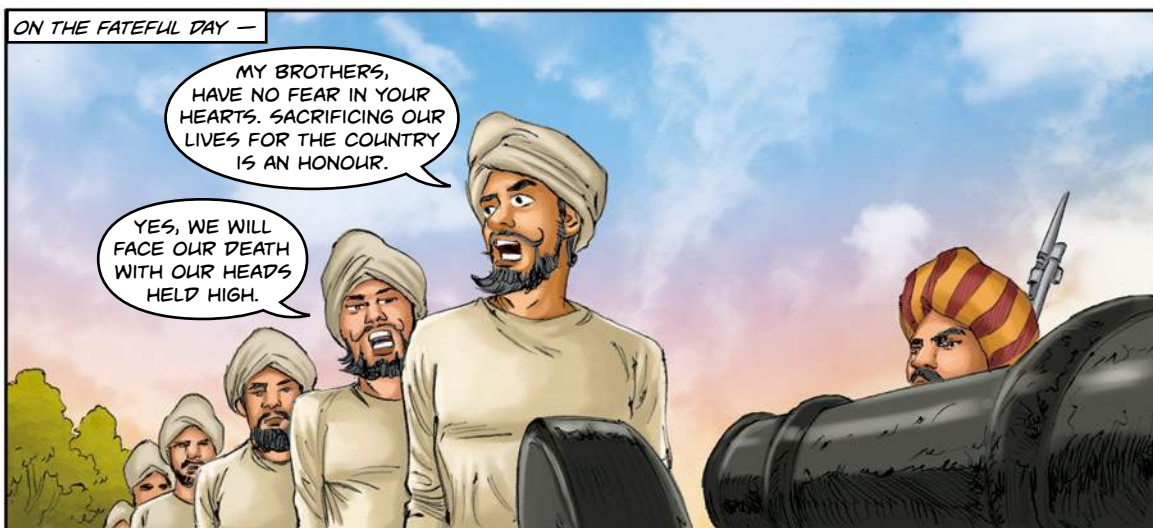
[^]A SUBSECT OF NAMDHARI SIKHS
^{^^}A PRINCELY STATE NEAR LUDHIANA, PUNJAB

MR COWAN, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF LUDHIANA, ORDERED 66 KUKA SIKHS TO BE PUT TO DEATH WITHOUT TRIAL, ON 17 AND 18 JANUARY, 1872.



IT'S TIME TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THESE TROUBLEMAKERS. BLOW THEM TO BITS WITH CANNONS!

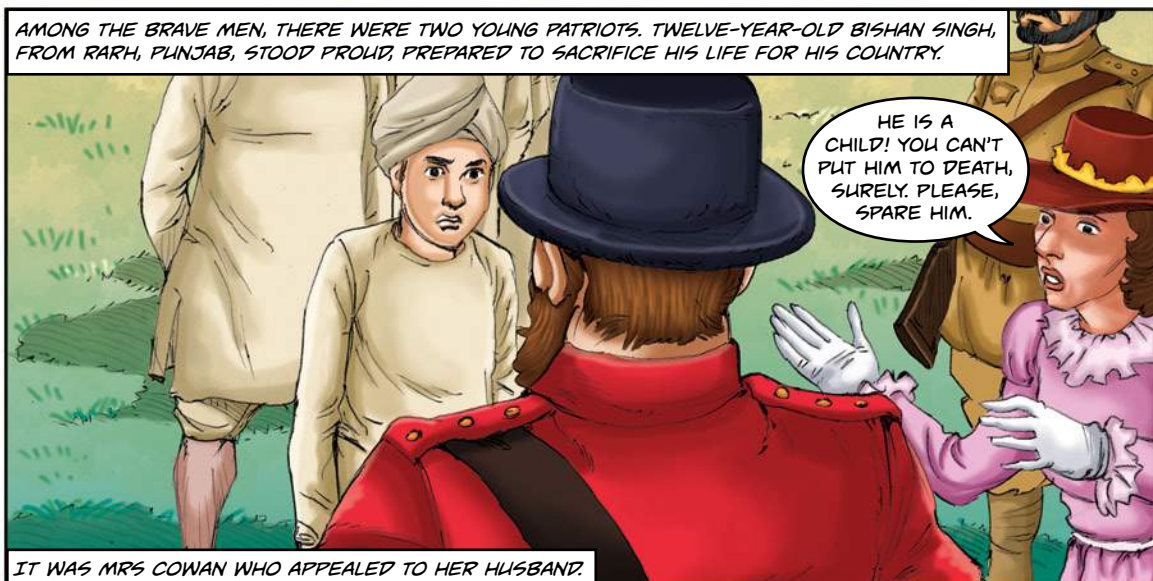
ON THE FATEFUL DAY —



MY BROTHERS, HAVE NO FEAR IN YOUR HEARTS. SACRIFICING OUR LIVES FOR THE COUNTRY IS AN HONOUR.

YES, WE WILL FACE OUR DEATH WITH OUR HEADS HELD HIGH.

AMONG THE BRAVE MEN, THERE WERE TWO YOUNG PATRIOTS. TWELVE-YEAR-OLD BISHAN SINGH, FROM RARH, PUNJAB, STOOD PROUD, PREPARED TO SACRIFICE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY.



HE IS A CHILD! YOU CAN'T PUT HIM TO DEATH, SURELY. PLEASE, SPARE HIM.

IT WAS MRS COWAN WHO APPEALED TO HER HUSBAND.



UNFORTUNATELY, BISHAN SINGH WAS NOT THE ONLY INNOCENT CHILD TO DIE THAT DAY. HARNAM SINGH, A MERE BOY OF NINE, WAS ALSO AMONGST THOSE CONDEMNED.



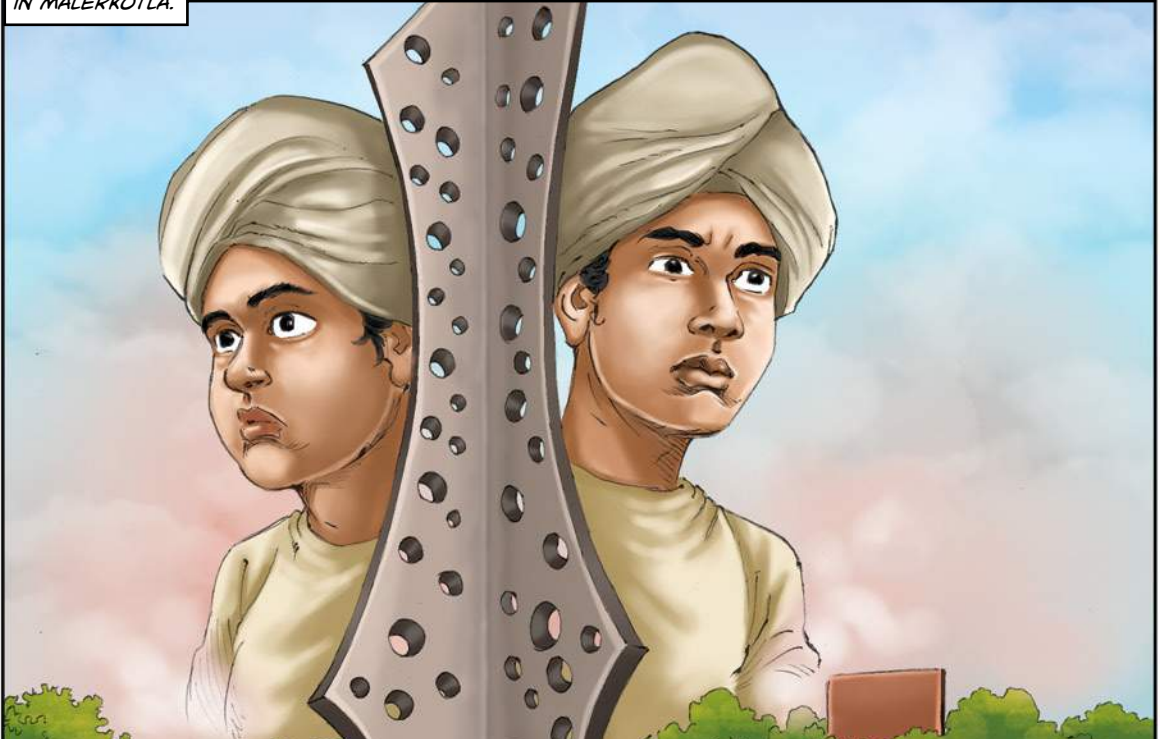
SIR, THE BOY IS TOO SHORT. WE CANNOT USE THE CANNON TO EXECUTE HIM.

LITTLE HARNAM WAS UNFAZED.



IT IS MY HONOUR TO LOSE MY LIFE LIKE THIS! LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION!

THE COURAGE DISPLAYED BY BISHAN SINGH AND HARNAM SINGH, ALONG WITH THE 64 OTHER SIKHS WHO WERE PUT TO DEATH THAT DAY, WAS ASTOUNDING. THEIR SACRIFICE HAS BEEN IMMORTALISED BY A MEMORIAL IN MALERKOTLA.



THE 66 FT TALL STRUCTURE, SHAPED LIKE A KHANDA* WITH THREE SIDES, HAS 66 HOLES IN IT, EACH ONE REPRESENTING A MAN OR CHILD WHO FACED THE CANNON THAT DAY.

*DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD USED BY SIKHS

KARTAR SINGH SARABHA

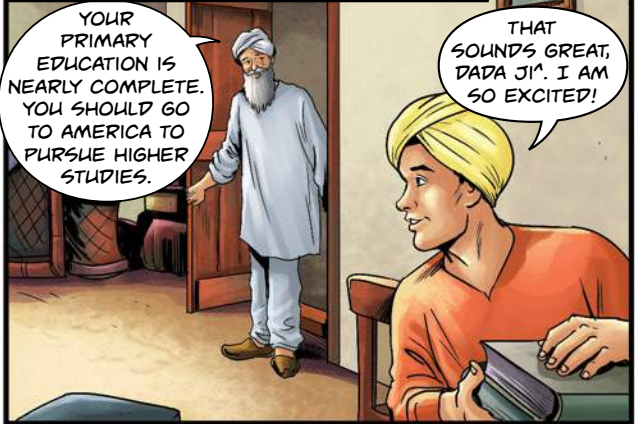
IN THE QUIANT VILLAGE OF SARABHA IN PUNJAB'S LUDHIANA DISTRICT, LIVED A SIKH FARMER NAMED MANGAL SINGH GREWAL WITH HIS WIFE SAHIB KAUR. ON 24 MAY, 1896 —



WHAT WILL WE NAME OUR SON?

HE IS GOD'S BLESSING TO US. WE'LL CALL HIM KARTAR*.

UNFORTUNATELY, FIVE YEARS LATER, MANGAL SINGH PASSED AWAY, LEAVING KARTAR TO BE RAISED BY HIS GRANDFATHER, SARDAR BADARAN SINGH. WHEN KARTAR TURNED 15 —



YOUR PRIMARY EDUCATION IS NEARLY COMPLETE. YOU SHOULD GO TO AMERICA TO PURSUE HIGHER STUDIES.

THAT SOUNDS GREAT, DADA JI[†]. I AM SO EXCITED!

KARTAR SOON LEFT ON THE SS SIBERIA, TO STUDY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY. HE REACHED THE SHORES OF SAN FRANCISCO ON 28 JULY, 1912.



YOU FILTHY INDIANS! YOU COME HERE AND DIRTY OUR LAND!

IS THIS HOW ALL INDIANS ARE TREATED HERE?

YOU ARE HERE NOW. YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF.

AS KARTAR TOOK UP SMALL JOBS TO SUPPORT HIMSELF, HE SAW MORE CLEARLY HOW INDIANS WERE BEING ILL-TREATED. ONE DAY —



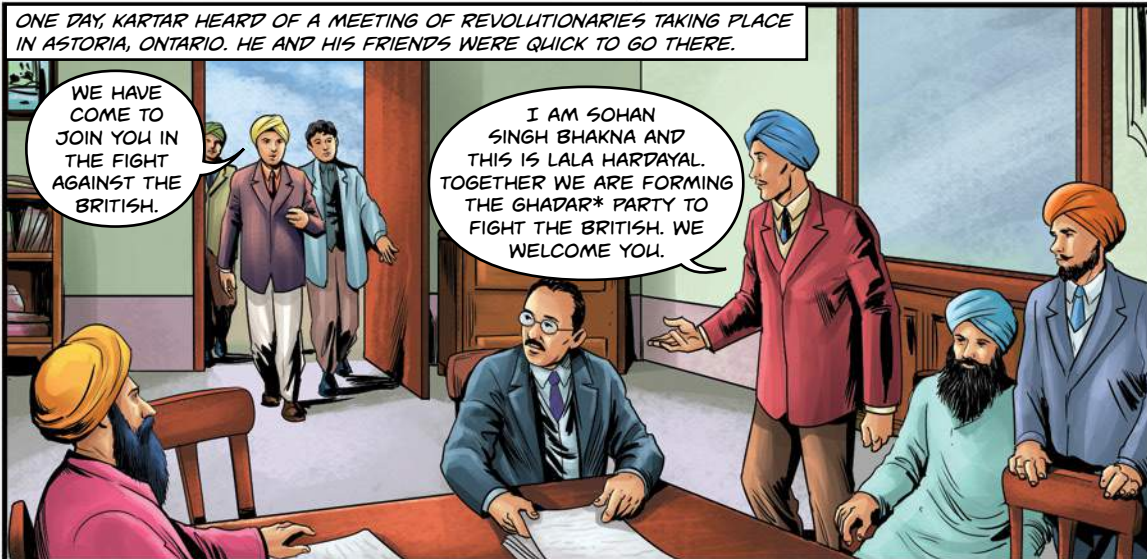
WE ARE SLAVES IN INDIA, SO WE ARE TREATED BADLY HERE. WE HAVE TO FREE OUR MOTHERLAND.

BUT HOW CAN WE DO THAT? WE ARE SO FAR AWAY.

*KARTAR MEANS THE LORD OF CREATION.

[†]PATERNAL GRANDFATHER

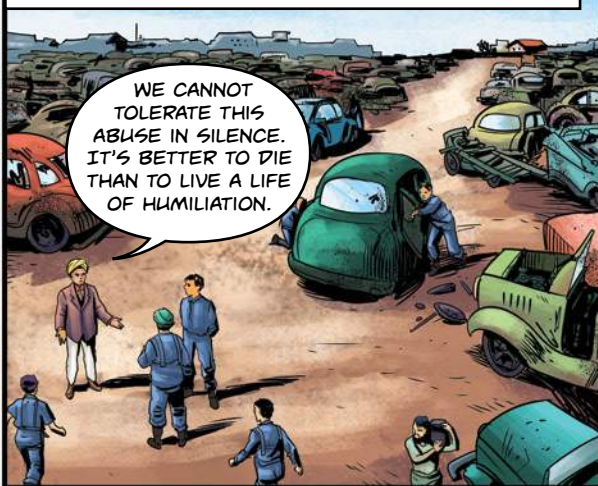
ONE DAY, KARTAR HEARD OF A MEETING OF REVOLUTIONARIES TAKING PLACE IN ASTORIA, ONTARIO. HE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE QUICK TO GO THERE.



WE HAVE COME TO JOIN YOU IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE BRITISH.

I AM SOHAN SINGH BHAKNA AND THIS IS LALA HARDAYAL. TOGETHER WE ARE FORMING THE GHADAR* PARTY TO FIGHT THE BRITISH. WE WELCOME YOU.

THE GHADAR PARTY SET UP HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND KARTAR BECAME ACTIVELY INVOLVED, HOLDING MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT STATES.



WE CANNOT TOLERATE THIS ABUSE IN SILENCE. IT'S BETTER TO DIE THAN TO LIVE A LIFE OF HUMILIATION.

SOON —

WE MUST HAVE A GHADAR NEWSPAPER IN AS MANY INDIAN LANGUAGES AS POSSIBLE. I WILL HANDLE THE PUNJABI EDITION.

EXCELLENT IDEA! THE NEWSPAPER WILL HIGHLIGHT THE ATROCITIES OF THE BRITISH.



ON NOVEMBER 1, 1913, THE FIRST ISSUE OF GHADAR WAS PUBLISHED.



ANGREZI RAJ KA DUSHMAN^

'Today there begins 'Ghadar' in foreign lands, but in our country's tongue, a war against the British Raj. The time will soon come when rifles and blood will take the place of pens and ink.' - Kartar Singh Sarabha

THE NEWSPAPER WAS WIDELY CIRCULATED NOT JUST IN THE USA BUT ACROSS THE WORLD.

*REVOLUTION
^ENEMY OF BRITISH RULE

IN JULY 1914, WHEN WORLD WAR I BROKE OUT —



THE BRITISH ARE CONCENTRATING ON THE WAR. WE SHOULD GO BACK AND ORGANISE OUR PEOPLE TO FIGHT THEM.

I WILL PUBLISH THE DECISION OF DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST THE BRITISH IN GHADAR'S NEXT ISSUE.

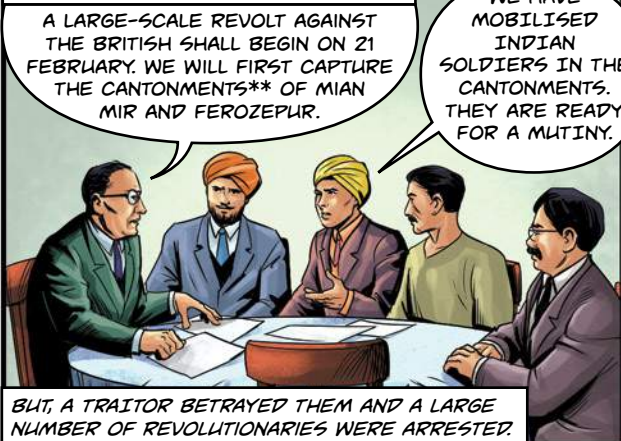
IN OCTOBER 1914, KARTAR REACHED CALCUTTA* AND WENT TO BANARAS** TO MEET THE REVOLUTIONARY LEADER, RASH BEHARI BOSE.



A FEW OF US HAVE COME NOW BUT 20,000 MORE GHADARITES ARE EXPECTED SOON.

OUR REVOLT SHOULD SHAKE UP THE BRITISH.

ON FEBRUARY 12, 1915, A MEETING OF GHADARITES WAS HELD IN AMRITSAR.



A LARGE-SCALE REVOLT AGAINST THE BRITISH SHALL BEGIN ON 21 FEBRUARY. WE WILL FIRST CAPTURE THE CANTONMENTS** OF MIAN MIR AND FEROEZPUR.

WE HAVE MOBILISED INDIAN SOLDIERS IN THE CANTONMENTS. THEY ARE READY FOR A MUTINY.

KARTAR WAS NOT ARRESTED BUT HE HAD NO PLANS TO RUN. ON 2 MARCH, 1915, HE APPROACHED AN ARMY UNIT IN SARGODHA** —



DOWN WITH THE BRITISH EMPIRE! JOIN US AND REVOLT AGAINST THE BRITISH.

KARTAR WAS ARRESTED AND SENT TO LAHORE CENTRAL JAIL.

IN THE TRIAL, WHICH CAME TO BE CALLED THE LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE, KARTAR SINGH WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY HANGING. WHEN ASKED IF HE WANTED TO APPEAL HIS SENTENCE —



WHY SHOULD I? IF I HAD MORE LIVES THAN ONE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT HONOUR TO SACRIFICE EACH OF THEM FOR MY COUNTRY.

ON NOVEMBER 16, 1915, 19-YEAR-OLD KARTAR WALKED TO THE GALLOWS WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE AND A SONG ON HIS LIPS, IMMORTALISING HIMSELF IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

*PRESENT-DAY KOLKATA
 **PRESENT-DAY VARANASI

**AREAS IN A TOWN WHERE THE MILITARY STAYS AND TRAINS
 **CITY IN THE PUNJAB PROVINCE OF PRESENT-DAY PAKISTAN

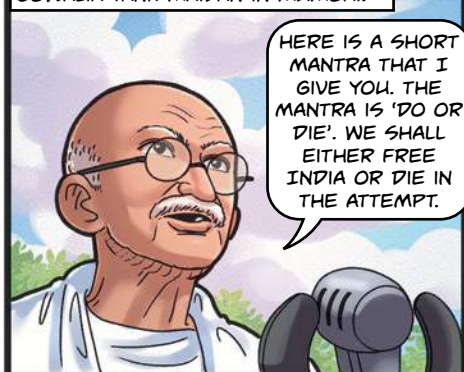
TILESWARI BARUA

BORN IN 1930, TILESWARE, THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF BHABAKANTA BARUA OF NIJ-BORGAON, ASSAM, GREW UP LISTENING TO THE PATRIOTIC SONGS OF JYOTIPRASAD AGARWALA*.

WE ARE THE YOUTH FROM THE BANKS OF THE LUIT AND WE DO NOT FEAR DEATH!

YOU KNOW THE SONG BY HEART. WILL YOU TEACH IT TO ME?

IN AUGUST 1942, GANDHI GAVE A CLARION CALL FOR FREEDOM FROM GOWALIA TANK MAIDAN IN MUMBAI.



HERE IS A SHORT MANTRA THAT I GIVE YOU. THE MANTRA IS 'DO OR DIE'. WE SHALL EITHER FREE INDIA OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT.

GANDHI'S CALL WOKE THE NATION AND FURTHER LIT IN 12-YEAR-OLD TILESWARE'S HEART, THE FIRE OF FREEDOM.




UNCLE, I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE.

DID YOU NOT PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE SATYAGRAHA MARCHES? YOU ARE DOING YOUR BEST, CHILD.

HER UNCLE, NANDIRAM BHUYAN, HAD COME ON A VISIT.

ON 20 SEPTEMBER, 1942, MEMBERS OF THE MRITYU BAHINI[†] LED BY MONBOR NATH, WENT TO THE DHEKIAJULI POLICE STATION TO HOIST THE TRICOLOUR. TILESWARE ALSO JOINED THE PROCESSION.



VANDE MATARAM!

ALLOW US TO HOIST OUR TRICOLOUR. WE DON'T WANT ANY CONFLICT.

STOP! DO NOT STEP FORWARD!

*A POET OF THE INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

†A GROUP OF REVOLUTIONARY SATYAGRAHIS



AS HE WAS RUNNING —



STOP!

IT WAS A GROUP OF MISCREANTS HIRED BY THE POLICE TO CREATE VIOLENCE.

THEY BROUGHT DOWN THEIR STICKS ON TILSWARI AND NANDIRAM, MERCILESSLY.



PLEASE!
LEAVE US.
THE CHILD IS
WOUNDED.

THWACK!
THWACK!

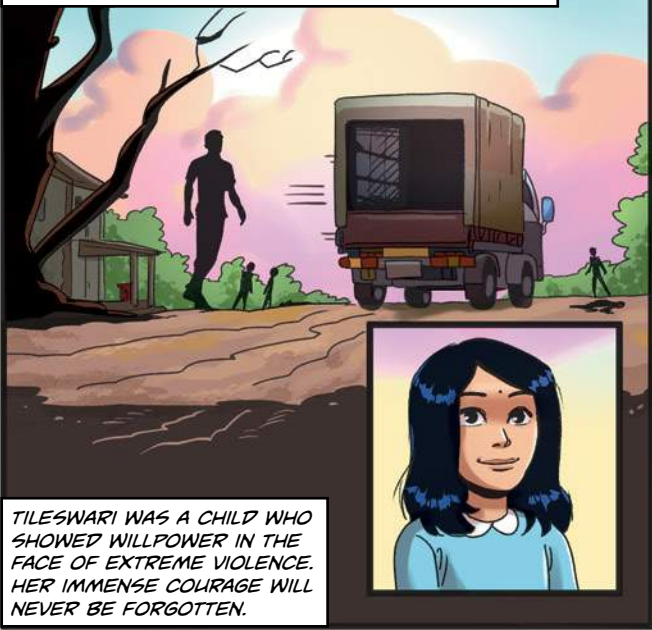
BADLY BEATEN AND BRUISED, NANDIRAM CRAWLED AND HID IN SOME BUSHES WHILE TILSWARI LAY UNCONSCIOUS ON THE ROAD.

NANDIRAM WAITED TO RESCUE TILSWARI.



FORGIVE ME,
MY CHILD. I AM
NOT BRAVE ENOUGH
TO STEP OUT AND
SAVE YOU.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHAOS, THE POLICE PICKED UP TILSWARI'S BROKEN BODY, PUT IT IN A TRUCK AND TOOK HER AWAY. SHE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN.



TILSWARI WAS A CHILD WHO SHOWED WILLPOWER IN THE FACE OF EXTREME VIOLENCE. HER IMMENSE COURAGE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.



BRAVEHEARTS



YOUNG HEROES OF INDIA

When it came to the freedom of their motherland, age was just a number for some Indians. Against all odds, people across the country put their differences aside and came together to fight injustice. Even the most brutal punishments did not deter them from marching down the path of glory.

Among these were inspiring young boys and girls who did not hesitate even to sacrifice their lives. They faced merciless enemies with their heads held high.

Amar Chitra Katha brings you eight stories of such heroes, who, despite their tender age, fought valiantly for their causes.

Their stories of courage and defiance should inspire every new generation to fight for what is right and just.



www.amarchitrakatha.com
ISBN 978-93-94610-81-1



9 789394 610811 >