

# **SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR COMMEMORATING AND HONOURING CHHOTAY SAHIBZADAY**

Sahibzaday Shaheedi Purab

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## SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS HOLY DAY:

1. Recognizing the strength, fortitude and power of youth and children to stand against injustice, and fight for freedom for all. Right to thought, faith, and beliefs, in defence of human rights. Teaching strength of character and to stand up against bullying.
2. Honouring the bond and wisdom of maternal power of grandmothers to lead and guide grandchildren to not fear even death, when standing for truth and justice.



### GURMUKHI WORDS:

- Chhotay - young
- Saahibzaaday - princess
- Bahadari -bravery
- Daadiji - grandmother
- Gurdwara - Sikh place of worship, open to all.

### ENGLISH WORDS:

- Equality
- Brave
- Martyr
- Justice
- Spiritual
- Peace
- Sikh
- Courage
- Loyalty

## STORY:

This story took place during a very dark time when the ruling forces, had plundered the land now known as Pakistan and India. The emperor forced everyone to convert to his religion and banned the practice of any other faith with punishment of death.

Sikhs, were always a brave and saintly people lead by their tenth Guru (Enlightened Divine Prophet). To defend the rights of all people to practice their religion of choice, the Guru gathered his brave Sikhs and went to battle against the emperors forces. During battle against the evil forces in power during that time, the tenth Guru's 2 youngest sons and their grandmother were captured and imprisoned in a tower, after a disloyal attendant turned them in, in return for a reward. They were forced to convert religion in order to be granted clemency, but they refused. They were young but wise. The emperor believed he could make these two young boys convert, and prove to the Guru that he'd won the battle because even his sons had converted. They were only 5 and 7. They were bribed with power, money, anything they wanted, if they'd just convert, but they refused.

This strength and wisdom was passed on to the Guru's younger sons by their grandmother. She instilled in them fearlessness and the importance to stand against bullies, and not bow down to anyone. They were proud to be Sikhs. Their faith taught them that all humans were equal and to be treated with respect, honour and love and not judged by their religion, gender, or beliefs, and to always stand for peace. They were taught to defend the rights of all, and be shining examples to others of peace, love and service.

In punishment for their insubordination, the emperor ordered that the two young boys be encased in a brick structure while they were forced to stand under the heat of the burning sun. As each brick was laid they were asked again if they would convert, and they fearlessly refused. The brick structure was built up surrounding them on all sides, and they were left their without food or water, until their death and martyrdom. Their grandmother died in the tower cell, also having refused to convert.

This day honours children and reminds them of their equal strength and power to evoke change and stand for good against evil and bullies. It is a somber day, and yet it is a day of celebration of the spiritual strength of these young Sahibzaaday to stand for freedom and justice.

## HOW THIS HOLY DAY IS COMMEMORATED:

- Sikhs attend Gurdwara (Sikh place of meditation and worship). Meditate, and sing from the scriptures to gain spiritual enlightenment and inspiration.
- Parents and Grandparents share the inspirational story of the brave Sahibzaday (young princes), and teach the importance for Sikhs to stand for human rights, defend the meek and never fear anyone when doing the right thing for the greater good of all.
- It teaches children to build inner character and virtues through meditation, prayers and be vocal peace leaders. To love all as One and see God the Creator in all of creation, and to serve that creation selflessly.
- In many homes in the olden days, grandparents tell stories of how during this time of commemorating the martyrdom of the Sahibzaday and their Grandmother, families would honour their sacrifice and strength by not sleeping in the comfort of their beds, but sleeping on the ground, to be reminded of the cold cell they were imprisoned in and left to sleep on the cold hard ground without food or water.

## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Courage
- Bullying
- Bystander
- Injustice
- Freedom
- Parallels between history and present day
- Inner strength regardless of age

## TEACHER RESOURCES:

1. The Bully, Bullied and Bystander – A Parent and Teacher Guide for preschool to highschool; by Barbara Coloroso
2. Kids Are Worth It! Revised Edition: Giving Your Child The Gift Of Inner Discipline; Barbara Coloroso
3. Extraordinary evil: a brief history of genocide and why it matters; Barbara Coloroso