

FEATURE

Jammu Massacre: The saint who became a shrine — Part III



By Bilal Handoo 🔰



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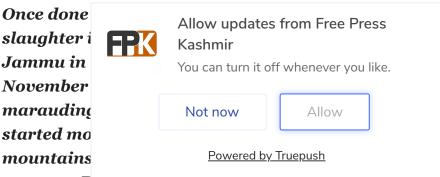
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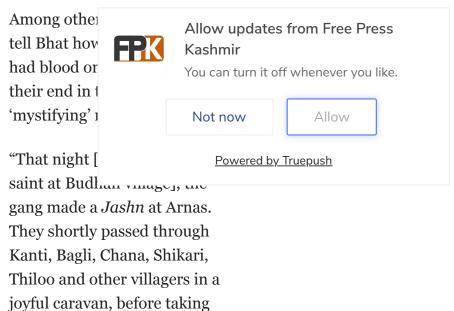




carnage. But the Kut
campaign was shielded
by a saint, who
eventually fell when
plotters and executors
came together in the
Jammu Massacre's most
dramatic encounter.

After killing the saint, his four family members and five of his disciples, the rioter gang celebrated at Arnas, a village in Gool Gulabgarh. Shortly, they went out on a joyride towards Budal village. On their way, they picked up some labourers to carry their booty. Among them was a 'clever' labourer from Budhan — the village where the saint was killed and subsequently *enshrined*.

Years later, that labourer, Karim Hajam would talk about the aftermath of the massacre and its gruesome detail. He would bump into Haji Abdul Majid Bhat, the fact-finder of Peer Fateh Shah's fate in the Jammu Massacre, as an octogenarian man with a 'sharp memory'.



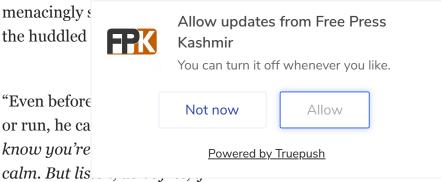
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refuge inside a fort at Patni Mahaz," Hajam told Bhat.

By the time they retired to the fort, Hajam would count their strength at around 100. "While they began making arrangements for dinner inside, we labourers were left outside the gates—unattended and hungry."

Under the murky sky, a 'mystifying' event shortly took place, which would fascinate Hajam throughout his life.

Towards the rear side of the fort, a stranger wearing a green dress with *Chadar* slung over his shoulder would appear from the woods and ТО ТОР



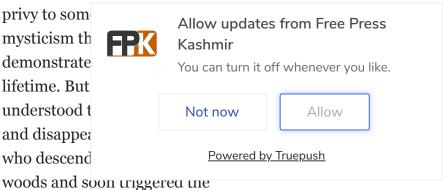
you hear some sound. Just stay quiet.' With that, the man disappeared from our sight," Bhat quotes Hajam as having said.

While the simpletons picked up by the murderous rioters as their bonded workforce were still mulling over the man—'Who was he? Why did he tell us about that sound? What was his secret?'—that a rattling sound came from the fort where the band was merry-making.

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"It was an explosion," Hajam recalled. "And soon, the fort was gripped with silence and smoke. We ran for our lives. It was only later that we learned that all rioters present inside the fort were dispatched to hell!"

As a native of Budhan village—the spiritual seat of Peer Fateh Shah—Hajam was



woods and soon triggered the fort explosion, to kill around 100 rioters.

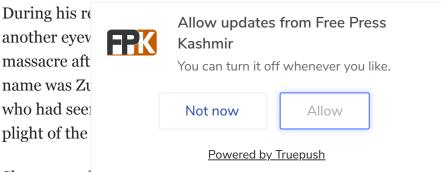
Who was the man, he could never know. But what he did know was how Peer Fateh Shah had made a prophecy, shortly after Jammu became a mortuary for Muslims: "While I love to attain martyrdom in the way of my pious forefathers, but those involved in it would meet a terrible end!"

Even Bhat would later reconfirm this prophecy while meeting other survivors of that carnage.

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Not every rioter, however, that had turned up to kill the saint at Budhan village had died in that mysterious fort blast. Many survived, only to suffer the terrible fate later.



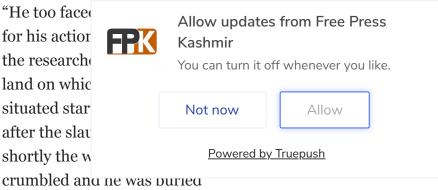
She narrated an mercent of one Bijay Ram *alias* Bijoo Kodha of Chandhi village.

"I'm an eyewitness of his fate," Zubaida told Bhat when he met her during his research trip. "Soon after the massacre, he got afflicted with *kodh* [leprosy]. His hands, feet and limbs started rotting, while his muscles wasted. His festered wounds oozed with blood and pus. He was abandoned by his family and loathed by the locality. Everybody in Chandhi village knew that Bijoo Kodha was 'suffering due to his own sin' that he committed with his rioter pack. He was one of those murderers who killed the saint and his family."

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Another rioter, named Hukm Chand of Suli village, met somewhat the same horrible end.



crumbled and ne was puried in it along with his family." The incident shook the whole village for years to come.

Similarly, Bhat says, the other killers of the saint met the same horrifying end—some developed life-threatening diseases, others suffered premature deaths of their loved ones and many suffered misfortune in their lives.

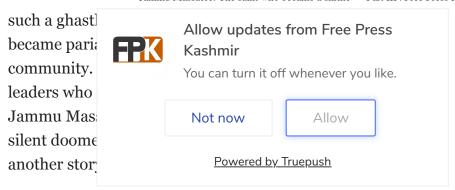
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"Those weren't common sufferings," Zubaida told Bhat. "There was a clear pattern. All of those culprits couldn't live fulfilled lives. They were doomed for their misdeeds in this world only."

But the aftermath story of the Jammu Massacre does not end there.

There're many undocumented cases where the rioters met





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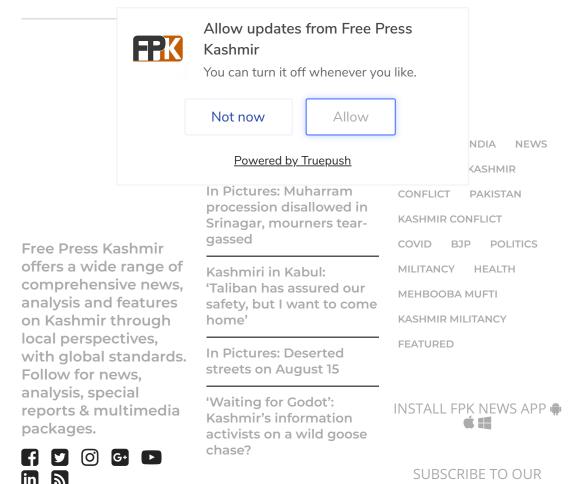


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