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



By **Bilal Handoo**



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11, 2018



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Once done slaughter in Jammu in November marauding started mountains carnage. But the kull 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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Among other
tell Bhat how
had blood on
their end in t
'mystifying' n



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“That night [the
saint at Budhan village], the
gang made a *Jashn* at Arnas.
They shortly passed through
Kanti, Bagli, Chana, Shikari,
Thiloo and other villagers in a
joyful caravan, before taking
refuge inside a fort at Patni
Mahaz,” Hajam told Bhat.

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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

menacingly s
the huddled



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“Even before
or run, he ca
know you’re
calm. But lis
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

privity to some
mysticism that
demonstrate
lifetime. But
understood that
and disappeared
who descended

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.



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During his re
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She narrated an incident 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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recorded the Muslim
Massacre**

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

“He too faced
for his action
the research
land on which
situated star
after the sla
shortly the w

crumbled and he was buried
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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