



MOTH & THE FLAME  
FIRST WESTERN INITIATES

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*Dr. Harold Brock and Sant Kirpal Singh, California, 1955*

*I*n the year 1911, Kehar Singh Sasmas, a learned disciple of Hazur, traveled by steamship from India to Vancouver, Canada. Due to his education and fluency in several languages, Sasmas was hired as an interpreter for the Canadian Pacific Steamship Lines, and later for the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, when large numbers of Indians—predominantly Punjabis—migrated to work the sawmills and timber camps in British Columbia and northern Washington.

Kehar Singh often discoursed to largely Caucasian audiences in churches and other meeting halls in Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, Port Angeles, Portland and northern California. His understanding of Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh religious teachings, and his references to the possibility of someone living on earth in this very day and age who could actually connect the individual with the Light and Sound of God, created considerable stir wherever he went.

A Port Angeles dentist, Dr. Harold M. Brock and his wife Genevieve, attended one of these early talks. After the lecture, Mrs. Brock, a

very spiritually receptive individual, approached Kehar Singh and asked him about the man with the white turban and snow white beard whom she saw hovering above him. Kehar Singh realized that it was the subtle form of his Master she was seeing. In due course, the Brocks, who had been seeking the Truth for many years, became Baba Sawan Singh's first western disciples, later functioning as his initiating representatives for the next three and a half decades. In those days, there was no Sant Mat literature available in English, and the magnificent and in-depth letters of Hazur served as the only source of the Master's teachings in the West.

In one of his letters to the Brocks in the early 1920's, Sawan Singh predicted:

*We are expecting much from America... The day will come when your people will turn to Sant Mat (The Path of the Masters)... Some day the Great Work there will assume much larger proportions. You may look confidently for it, in your own time. Be ready for it.<sup>1</sup>*

And again,

*One point is not to be overlooked at this time. In America every man and woman who is initiated is selected by the Sat Guru under the direction of Sat Purush (the Supreme Being in Sach Khand) for a definite, two-fold purpose:*

*First, that the disciple himself might be free from the bondage of the wheel (of transmigration) and taken to his own home in Sach Khand. Second, that he may perform a definite service in laying the foundation and carrying forward the work intended by the Father for Sant Mat in America. There is a very great possibility there, and we hope and expect much from all of you.*

*If anyone selected falls by the wayside and fails to carry out the work intended for him, that is his great loss. He will one day see how much he has lost by his failure.*

*But those of you who remain faithful and go on working to the best of your ability must one day realize how great is the work you have done and how great is the reward which awaits you. It is my wish and hope that each one who is fortunate enough to get Naam in your country may be useful in the hand of the Supreme in doing this very great work. Keep always love and harmony among yourselves and allow nothing to sidetrack you. Hold fast to the Sound Current, and let no fancy scheme of the Negative Power draw anyone aside. Above all, be faithful to your Bhajan and sit with mind fixed upon the center. It is thus you will all get strength enough to withstand every*

*assault of the opposing powers. You will carry on until victory is attained, and thousands in your country will see the Great Light.<sup>2</sup>*

The Brocks wrote Hazur asking about spiritual succession after one's Master leaves the body. In his letter dated December 17, 1925 Hazur replied,

*Your question as to whom to look to for guidance if the present Master goes out of life is very appropriate. The Master leaves the physical form in time like other people, but remains with His devotees in the astral form as long as the devotee has not crossed [beyond] the astral form. All internal guidance will be done by him and it is he who will come to take charge of the soul at the time of death. And in case a devotee rises above the eye-focus now and meets him daily, he will meet him inwardly there as usual. He will continue to discharge his inward duties of guidance as before, only he cannot give instructions outwardly for the simple reason that he has left the physical vehicle. The functions which would be performed through the physical frame only, will now be done by his successor. All outward guidance will be done by the successor, and the devotees of the Master that is gone will love the successor no less. They will get the benefit of the outward instructions from the successor. Correspondence will be done with the Successor, and **you will know who it is.**<sup>3</sup>*

Finally, in 1955 Dr. Brock met Sant Kirpal Singh in northern California on his first world tour. During a morning meditation at Santa Barbara, Master Kirpal placed his hand on the head of the elderly doctor, and the latter, who by his own admission, had never experienced much in the way of spiritual visions, was suddenly blessed with the radiant saroop of Hazur within for the first time in his life.<sup>4</sup>

*Let me first introduce myself... I am eighty-three years old and have been in the practice of dentistry for fifty-five years. Mrs. Brock, a very gifted woman, died about ten years ago.*

*It was in the year 1910 or 1911 that Mr. Kehar Singh Sasmās came and told us of the then Living Master, Sawan Singh. We were given the initiation by Mr. Sasmās under the directions of the Master. In our correspondence, I at one time asked, in case he passed on before I did, would I know who the new Master would be? And he said I would. So I was quite satisfied when Mr. Khanna put me in touch with Sant Kirpal Singh.*

*India has a background of thousands of years of recognizing the spiritually enlightened ones, while to us in this country the coming of such a one is new and of great importance, and we hope to have the Master*

*back again, at an early date. In Sant Kirpal Singh, I think every one recognizes the unbounded spirit of love that permeates Him and everything He does, regardless of who or what people are or may have been...<sup>5</sup>*  
—Port Angeles, WA Feb. 2, 1956

Dr. Brock, devoted pioneer of Sant Mat in the West, peacefully passed away as he approached the century mark. He was held in great esteem by both Masters and their disciples.

***Additional testimonies from Sant Kirpal Singh's 1955 tour:***

*We are disciples of 15 and 7 years respectively, and were so greatly impressed on our first meeting him. He greeted, embraced and accepted us as brother and sister, which warmed our hearts and made us aware of the wonderful love that exists between us. He brought to us not only heartfelt love but most of all he gave to us a tremendous spiritual uplift as well as a visionary Darshan that we had not experienced heretofore. We were privileged to travel and attend many of his Satsangs here in California and to observe him closely.*

*To be in his presence is comparable to basking in the radiance of a warm and pleasant shower of spiritually manifested love. We feel a great loss now that he has returned home, however, our lives have been enriched and we are most grateful for having had him even for a short while.<sup>6</sup>*  
—Ethel & Frank Barte, Long Beach, CA. February 2, 1956.

*When Master Kirpal Singh came to our vicinity (in 1955), we noted and accepted him as a really healthy ideal type of spiritual stature and character... We felt that here was a real strongman of character and conviction. Watching him closely I was impressed by his consistent level of consciousness. He was not up one moment in ecstasy and the next in a compromise of what we knew. He only knew himself as that of which he spoke. Duality or separateness was not visible.*

*Then one day I looked into his eyes, and within that instant, I reviewed all that I knew and had a glimpse of the more that he was... To test his conviction and to see if his level of consistent high consciousness could be disturbed, I was after him constantly. He himself told me one day that for the first seven years he never once questioned Master Sawan Singh, but just sat at his feet, and that I was so aggressive... He could answer questions that I had not been able to ask of anyone—even some who claimed Adeptship...*

*One night, in a room with him, I was aware of his body breathing very fast—and then suddenly I could detect no breath. Suddenly, through me ran a feeling that I was in the presence of death... A fear ran through me, penetrating deeply into my awareness. I wondered, what had I*

gotten myself into? Then in succession, I gained my equilibrium and the illuminating thought came through that here I was in the very midst of what I had been practicing to masterfully attain. At this moment, like an avalanche and flood, my whole being was absorbed in the same intense condition of divine Love... Every part of me was again torn apart into a nothingness, and swept up into the most complete surrender, saying with the greatest feeling within and through myself, 'Father! What have I done! Forgive me for not recognizing you!' ...For Kirpal Singh I kept saying uncontrollably within myself, 'I love Thee Father. I love Thee Father,' over and over. But to me at that time (and as now) when I said Father, it meant God, and when I said God, it meant Kirpal Singh. All these names were one and the same. Suddenly I relaxed and then after a period of utter amazement and finding myself saying 'I thank thee Father,' a few times, I fell into an inspired sleep which was at about 3 AM, then awoke at 5 AM into a new life—because the night's experience was a spiritual Birthday... Through Sat Guru Kirpal Singh, I realized the Father touched God, loved God even more, and the resulting experiences taught me to cry often for God... To me, by Divine Grace I beheld the nature of Kirpal Singh—and He is Love, Light, Truth, God, my Goal, Hero, Example—my own True Self by whatever name... And from this place of consciousness as I know Him, will I tell of Him; from this level of consciousness, will I move as dynamic action.<sup>7</sup>

—Walter Paul Baptiste, founder, Yoga Philosophical Center, San Francisco, California, 1955.

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1. *Spiritual Gems—Letters of Maharaj Baba Sawan Singh to Disciples*, Radha Soami Satsang, Beas, India, page 262

2. *Ibid.*, p. 281-282.

3. From the author's photocopy of Hazur' sunedited letters to the Brocks.

4. According to T.S.Khanna and others who were present when the Master asked all present to describe their individual inner experiences.

5. Bhadra Sena, Editor, *As They Saw The Master*, Delhi, India, Ruhani Satsang publications: 1956. p. 18-19. This remarkable out-of-print book contains 101 impressions from those who met the Master for the first time on his 1955 world tour. These include extraordinary testimonies from a number of Sawan Singh's first American disciples.

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ibid.*