

THE FIRST RULE

When the **Sikh Guru Amardas Ji** was **105 years old**, he wanted to appoint his successor. However, as there were many disciples who were possible candidates, He decided to put them all through a test. One day He asked all the disciples to collect outside His room and told each one of them to get some clay and build a platform.

Everyone ran and got a basket of clay and then built a platform. When all of them were done with their tasks, the Guru said, **"I am sorry, but these platforms don't look as good as I want them to be. Can you break them and create new platforms again?"**

So, all the disciples rushed again and started to work on creating the platform. When this was done, the Guru again said, **"I think this is not a suitable place for these platforms. Please break them down and rebuild them on that piece of land over there."** With a little dejection, the disciples started to work again. When this was done, the Guru again came to inspect them and said **"I don't like this creation too. So why don't you build your platforms over there?"**

Now most of the disciples started to think that the Guru had become insane in his old age and was no longer in full possession of his wisdom. Thus, many of them abandoned the work, leaving only a few. However, even when few the remaining disciples continue to build the platforms, the Guru continued to reject them time and again.

After some time, only one disciple named Ramdas was left who continued to serve his Master's wish. Seeing him continue to build and break down the platforms, the other disciples started taunting him. They told him how foolish he was to try to please the Guru, since He did not seem to be in his right senses. Hearing those words, Ramdas stopped his work for a moment and said to them, **"Even if the whole world is blind, it is the SadGuru who can see and even if the whole world is mad, it is only the SadGuru who has wisdom."**

Listening to the words of Ramdas, the other disciples started laughing at him and told that both he and the Guru were no doubt out of their minds.

"You may say whatever you want to speak about me, but do not utter a single disrespectful word about my SadGuru. Even if my Guru wishes me to make platforms for the rest of my life, I would continue to do so by His blessings," said Ramdas.

This process of creation and destruction continued for seventy times in all. Then one day Guru Amardas said to Ramdas, **"You may stop building now, Ramdas. I am very pleased with you. For you alone have shown the traits of a true disciple and have completely surrender to my will and wishes."**

Turning to the others, he said, **"There was not one of you who cheerfully obeyed one of the first rules of being a true disciple - to give the Guru your full love and devotion, have utter faith in him and obey his wishes with a cheerful heart."**

Saying these words, the Guru declared Ramdas to be the next Sikh Guru. This small incidence from the life of Guru Ramdas can guide every a normal human being to become a true disciple.