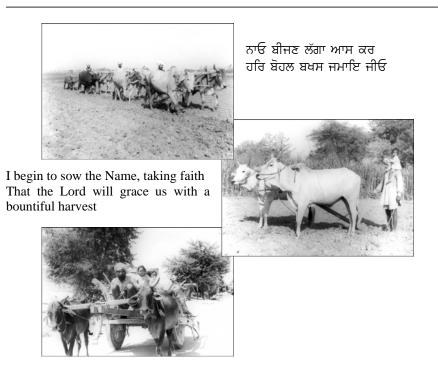
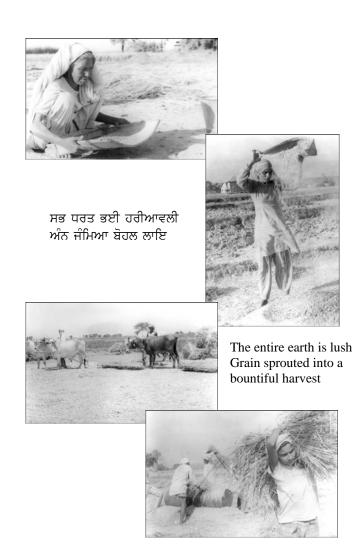
Snapshots of Punjabi Village Life

Harbhajan Singh Bajwa

Freelance Photographer

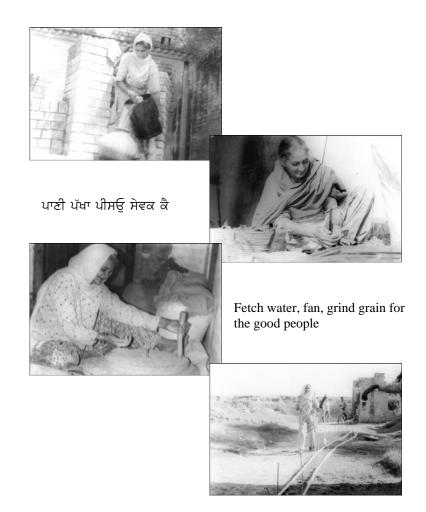
The photographs here are a visual testimony to the rhythms of life in the Majha region of Punjab during the 1960s. As a predominantly rural area blessed with fertile land and bountiful waters, its history has been defined by the fortunes of its twin cities, Lahore and Amritsar. After the Partition in 1947, however, the Majha marked the border between East and West Punjab, and with the shifting of the political capital of the eastern side to Chandigarh, this region, once a dominant center in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the Punjab has been increasingly marginalized. Given the changes that have drastically altered village life, growing literacy, new economic opportunities, changes in family organization, outmigration, industrialization, globalization, etc., these pictures freeze a moment in time that is slowly fading from view.





JPS: 11:2







ਘਰ ਤੇਰੇ ਗਊਆਂ ਮਹੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਦੁਧ ਘਿਉ ਦੀ ਲਹਿਰ ਲਗਾਈ ਹੈ ਬਾਹਰ ਬਲਦਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਜੋਗਾਂ ਨੇ ਖਲਕਤ ਦੀ ਅੱਗ ਬੁਝਾਈ ਹੈ

In your house, the cows and buffalos Yield rivers of milk and butter Outside, the yolked oxen Extinguish humankind's hunger

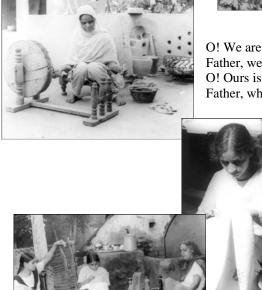






ਸਾਡਾ ਚਿੜੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਚੰਬਾ ਵੇ ਬਾਬਲ ਅਸਾਂ ਉਡ ਜਾਣਾ ਸਾਡੀ ਲੰਬੀ ਉਡਾਰੀ ਵੇ ਬਾਬਲ ਕਿਹੜੇ ਦੇਸ ਜਾਣਾ





O! We are birds and this is our tree Father, we will fly off O! Ours is a long flight Father, where will we land?





JPS: 11:2

ਤੱਤੀ ਰੇਤ ਕੜਾਹੀਆ ਦੀ ਨਬਜ਼ਾਂ ਤੇ ਹੱਥ ਰੱਖ ਦੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੋੜ ਦੁਆਈਆਂ ਦੀ

The sands are piping in the roaster Put your hand on my pulse What need have I for medicine?