

Gurū Nānak**RED**

The founder of the Sikh religion, Gurū Nānak was born on April 15, 1469, in the Western Pañjāb village of Talwandī (ਤਲਵੰਡੀ). He was born to a simple Hindu family. His father Mahtā Kalyān Dās (ਮਹਤਾ ਕਲਯਾਨ ਦਾਸ) was an accountant in the employment of the local Muslim authorities. From an early age Gurū Nānak made friends with both Hindu and Muslim children and was very inquisitive about the meaning of life. At the age of six he went to the village school to learn Hindī, mathematics, Muslim literature and learned Persian and Arabic too.

YELLOW

At age 16 Gurū Nānak was married to Sulakhaṇī (ਸੁਲਖਣੀ), daughter of a pious merchant. Gurū Nānak loved his wife and eventually had two sons Srī Cand (ਸ੍ਰੀ ਚੰਦ) in 1494 and Lakhmī Cand (ਲਖਮੀ ਚੰਦ) 3 years later. He then took up a job as an accountant in charge of the stores of the Muslim governor of Sultānpur Daulat Khān Lodhī (ਦੌਲਤ ਖਾਂ ਲੋਧੀ). Gurū Nānak agreed and was joined by his family and an old Muslim childhood friend Mardānā, a musician by profession.

The next stage of his life began in 1499 with extensive travels to spread the message of God. Accompanied by his Muslim rabāb player Mardānā for company, Gurū Nānak undertook long journeys to convey his message to the people in the form of musical hymns.

GREEN

After his 1st long journey, Gurū Nānak returned home after 12 years of propagating his message. He then set out on a 2nd journey traveling as far south as Sri Lanka. On his return north he founded a settlement known as Kartarpur on the western banks of the Rāvī river. On his 3rd great journey Gurū Nānak traveled as far north as Tibet. On his 4th journey in life Gurū Nānak dressed in the blue garb of a Muslim pilgrim traveled to the west and visited Mecca, Medina and Baghdad.

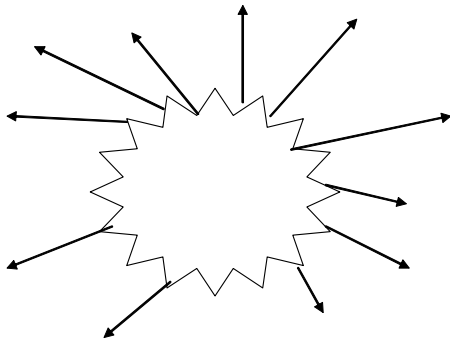
On his return journey home he stopped at Saidpur in western Pañjāb during the invasion of the first Mughal Emperor Bābar. Gurū Nānak and Mardānā were both taken prisoner by the Mughals. While in jail Gurū Nānak sang a divine hymn about the senseless slaughter of the innocents by the Mughal invaders. Upon hearing it the jailer reported it to Babar and upon hearing he realized that Gurū Nānak was a great religious figure. He asked for the Gurūs forgiveness and set him free offering him a pouch of hashish. Gurū Nānak refused saying he was already intoxicated with the love and name of God. After having spent a lifetime of traveling abroad and setting up missions, an aged Gurū Nānak returned home to Pañjāb. He settled down at Kartarpur with his wife and sons. He believed in a casteless society without any distinctions based on birthright, religion or sex. He institutionalized the common kitchen called langar in Sikhī. Here all can sit together and share a common meal, whether they were kings or beggars.

BLUE

In 1532 Gurū Nānak was approached by a new devotee by the name of Lahina (ਲਹਿਣਾ). He was a great devotee of the Hindu goddess Durga (ਦੁਰਗਾ). Once Lahina met Gurū Nānak he left his previous beliefs and became an ardent disciple of the Gurū. Lehnā's devotion to Gurū Nānak was absolute and over time he became Gurū Nānak's most ardent disciple. Gurū Nānak then blessed Lahina with a new name, Aṅgad and anointed him as the successor. When Gurū Nānak gathered his followers together for prayers he invited Aṅgad to occupy the seat of the Gurū. Thus Gurū Aṅgad was ordained as the successor to Gurū Nānak. On September 22, 1539, Gurū Nānak passed away.

Thus having spread the words of reform throughout his lifetime, Gurū Nānak successfully challenged and questioned the existing religious tenants and laid the foundations of Sikhī.

Create this on chart paper for brain-storming session on the life of Guru Nanak.



Sojhī

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Gur u Na na k

Chil dhood

Adul t hood

Ol d Age

