

Sikhism

World Faiths

Monthly Taleem Focus Slides
November 2018

Baba Nanak

- Considered by Sikhs to be the first Guru, a status originally similar to prophethood, and founder of Sikhism.
- Born in Talwandi in 1469
(in the Punjab region of India)
- Born a Hindu, but spent time with Sufis and other Muslims while traveling extensively and visiting Mecca and Medina.
- Taught that salvation could be gained through a life of meditation and eventually man could be joined in a type of union with God.
- Died in 1539



1. Source: Our God (by Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad, M.A.)

The Formation of Sikhism After Baba Nanak's Death

- Disciples from Hindu background took the mantle of Guru after him.
 - Introduced new practices and formed the Sikh religious philosophy.
- 10 human Gurus followed Baba Nanak, slowly militarizing the religion
 - The last was Guru Gobind Singh who completed the militarization of Sikhism.
- The Adi Granth, also known as Guru Granth, is the main Sikh scripture
 - Contains the hymns of Baba Nanak, sayings from various Muslim saints, as well as the sayings of the gurus.
 - After the 10th Guru, Sikhs believe that the scripture itself is now the Guru.
 - They treat the book as if it is a real person, clothing it, and adjusting the temperature for it.

Core Beliefs

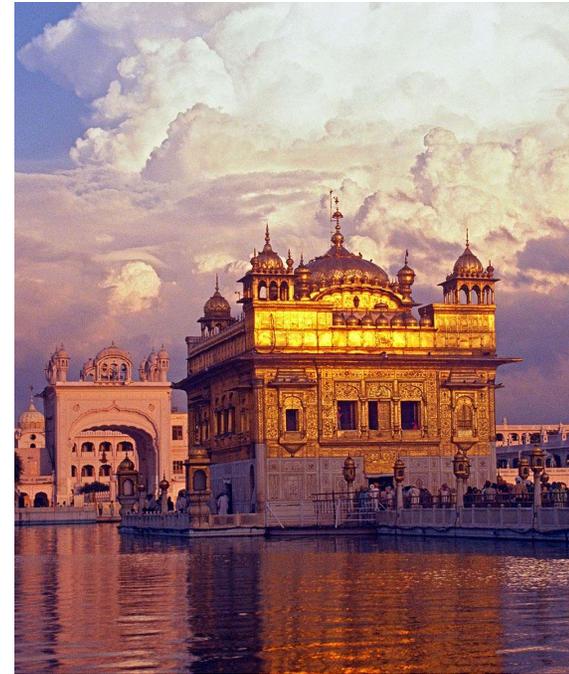
- The Unity of God
- Man can become one with God only by walking on the path of the Gurus.
- The sacred book, Guru Granth, can lead followers to find God and salvation. No more religious leaders are necessary because the Granth (their holy book) is their Guru now.
- Salvation results with a love union with God. Until this union takes place, individuals may go through many reincarnations.

Khalsa

- In the 15th century, Sikhism grew to become a threat to the state and the fifth Guru, Arjan, was executed.
- Subsequent Gurus began to militarize the Sikhs to resist oppression. The community came to amass a large amount of land in the Punjab region until they were defeated by the British.
- Khalsa was established by the 10th Guru as a group of pure individuals that would fight for their faith. They are recognized by the 5 K's
 - Kesh (uncut hair)
 - Kara (a steel bracelet)
 - Kanga (a wooden comb)
 - Kachcha (cotton underwear, a symbol of chastity and purity)
 - Kirpan (a steel sword)

The Golden Temple

- A sacred place of pilgrimage for Sikhs in Amritsar, India.
- Land was chosen by the Third Guru of Sikhism in the 16th century.
- Destroyed several times and in 1980s was the site of a massacre
 - A movement to create an independent state called Khalistan had formed and the Indian Government tried to stop it.



Conflict between Islam and Sikhism

- We believe that Baba Nanak was never forming a new religion, instead, he was reforming his community with Islam.
 - Baba Nanak was heavily influenced by Sufism, he traveled throughout the Muslim world, and prayed as Muslims do.
 - Hence the emphasis on the Oneness of God and the idea of becoming One with Him.
 - The Promised Messiah (as) wrote a book, *Sat Bachan*, to explain his research on this matter. After obtaining pictures of the cloak of Baba Nanak, he found that verses of the Holy Quran were written on it.
- The differences and innovations that have arisen in Sikhism are due to the influences of Baba Nanak's Hindu followers after him.

Cloak of Baba Nanak

- Verses from the Quran are written all over the cloak.

