

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Brief Sakhis

By Amritpal Singh Education Administrator

Preface

This presentation includes 23 selected Sakhis from the life of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It does not include every Sakhi, as many more are taught to students in person during our Gurmat Classes.

Gurdwara Gurmat Class teaches Sikh history using traditional historical Granths and Sikh sources.

Our mission is to help students learn Sikh history, understand the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and strengthen their connection with Guru Sahib. Students are taught to understand Guru Nanak Dev Ji as our Guru and Supreme Authority, not simply as an ordinary philosopher or historical figure.

Amritpal Singh Khalsa and The Education Department

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Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Birth: 1469 Full Moon Of Katak at Rai Bhoe Di Talwandi

Father: Mehta Kaliyan Daas aka Mehta Kaalu Ji

Mother: Mata Tripta Ji

Sister: Bebe Nanaki Ji (her husband was Bhai Jai Ram Ji)

Wife: Mata Sulakhni Ji

Children: Baba Sri Chand Ji and Baba Lakhmi Daas Ji

Joti Jot: 1539 Asu Sudi 10 at Kartarpur Sahib

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Real Education

When Guru Nanak Dev Ji was 5 years old, Mehta Kalu Ji sent Him to school. Guru Sahib quickly learned everything Pandit Gopal taught Him.

Guru Ji then wrote letters on His Patti and explained their spiritual meaning: “Sassa: The Sahib who created the world is the One Lord and Master of all.” This Bani is called Patti Likhi M1 and is found on Ang 432.

After reading it, Pandit Gopal Dass bowed before Guru Sahib and said, “Now I am your student, and you are my Guru.”

Message: True education is not only learning how to read and write, but also understanding Gurbani and remembering Waheguru.

Grazing The Cattle

Bhai Rai Bular Ji was the head of Rai Bhoi Talwandi village, and although he held a high position, he had great respect for Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's father once asked him to graze buffaloes. While the buffaloes were eating, Guru Ji sat under a tree and meditated on God. The buffaloes went into a farmer's field and looked as if they had ruined the crops. The farmer got angry and complained to Rai Bular. But when Rai Bular came to check, the crops were perfectly fine and looking even better than before.

Message: Always remember Vaheguru, do your duty honestly, don't judge others too quickly, and trust that the truth will always come out.

Guru Ji and The Cobra

One day, after working in the fields, Guru Nanak Dev Ji was resting under a tree. The shade of the tree could not completely cover his face from the sun. Suddenly, a big snake came and lifted its snout to shield Guru Ji from the sunlight. Seeing this miracle, Rai Bular realized that Guru Nanak Dev Ji was no ordinary child.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji and The Janeu

When Guru Nanak Dev Ji turned 9 years old, Mehta Kalu Ji arranged for the ceremony of putting a Janeu (the Sacred Hindu thread) on him. Pandit Hardial started to put the Janeu on Guru Ji's neck, but Guru Nanak Dev Ji stopped him and asked, "What is the benefit of putting this Janeu on?" The Pandit replied, "With this, spiritual birth takes place, one becomes pure, and you can participate in religious rituals." Guru Sahib Ji said, "A true sacred thread brings compassion, truth, contentment, and good conduct." If this Janeu cannot do this, then it is useless. The real thread remains with the soul, not with the body. A person becomes pure with good deeds." "Pandit Hardayal, having come to know that Guru Nanak Dev Ji would not wear the Janeu, returned home.

Shabad in Asa Di Vaar About Janeu

ਦਇਆ ਕਪਾਹ ਸੰਤੋਖੁ ਸੂਤੁ ਜਤੁ ਗੰਢੀ ਸਤੁ ਵਟੁ ॥

Make compassion the cotton, contentment the thread, modesty the knot and truth the twist.

ਹੇ ਪੰਡਤ! ਉਹ ਜਨੇਊ ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਕਪਾਹ ਦਇਆ ਹੋਵੇ, ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਸੂਤ ਸੰਤੋਖ ਹੋਵੇ, ਜਿਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਗੰਢਾਂ ਜਤ ਹੋਣ, ਅਤੇ ਜਿਸ ਦਾ ਵੱਟ ਉੱਚਾ ਆਚਰਨ ਹੋਵੇ,

ਏਹੁ ਜਨੇਊ ਜੀਅ ਕਾ ਹਈ ਤ ਪਾਡੇ ਘਤੁ ॥

This is the sacred thread of the soul; if you have it, then go ahead and put it on me.

ਜੇ (ਤੇਰੇ ਪਾਸ) ਇਹ ਆਤਮਾ ਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਆਉਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਜਨੇਊ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ (ਮੇਰੇ ਗਲ) ਪਾ ਦੇਹ।

Sacha Sauda (The Day Langar Began)

When Guru Nanak Dev Ji was 12 years old, his father gave him 20 Rupees and sent him to the market to invest and make a profit. On the way to Choocharkana, Guru Ji and Bhai Bala Ji came across a group of hungry sadhus who hadn't eaten for days. Guru Ji could've continued on his way and done what his father had instructed, but he chose compassion and used money to feed the hungry sadhus.

When Guru Ji returned home he was scolded by Mehta Kalu Ji. Guru Ji said that this was the True Bargain.

Bhai Mardana Ji

Bhai Mardana Ji was 10 years older than Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Both were from the same village, and Bhai Mardana Ji was born into a Muslim family. His father, Bhai Badra Ji, taught him singing and ragas. He was originally called Marjana (bound to die) because his six older siblings had passed away. Guru Nanak Dev Ji renamed him Mardana (the brave man).

Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Bhai Mardana Ji shared a divine bond of friendship and companionship. Guru Ji gifted him a rabab, which he played throughout his life. Bhai Mardana Ji accompanied Guru Ji to Sultanpur Lodhi and on the four Udasis (journeys).

Guru Nanak Dev Ji Working At Modi Khaana

Mehta Kalu Ji sent Guru Nanak Dev Ji to Sultanpur to stay with Bebe Nanaki Ji. Bhai Jai Ram Ji introduced Guru Sahib to Nawab Daulat Lodhi. Guru Sahib began as the storekeeper at the Modi Khana. While weighing rations, Guru Sahib remembered Vaheguru by saying, "Tera Tera." Guru Sahib looked after the needs of the poor and holy people and gave them extra ration. Even after giving generously, there was always a surplus when the accounts were checked.

Message: Always remember Vaheguru while doing your daily work. Be honest and help those who are in need.

Mata Sulakhani Ji

Bebe Nanaki Ji thought of getting Guru Ji married.

Bhai Jai Ram Ji contacted his friend Mool Chand Ji of Batala about his daughter Mata Sulakhni Ji. Mool Chand Ji agreed to the match, and Mehta Kalu Ji gave his approval.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's wedding caravan arrived in Batala from Sultanpur Lodhi in 1487. Guru Ji was sitting near a tilted muddy wall, an elderly woman warned Him that the wall could collapse. Guru Ji replied, "Mother, don't worry, this wall will stand for a long time." Today that place is called Gurdwara Kandh Sahib

Mata Sulakhani Ji 2

Guru Ji didn't get married with Hindu Rituals. He wrote the Maha Mantar (ੴ -Gur prasad) on a piece of paper, placed it on a chowki covered with a Rumala Sahib, and walked around the Bani with Mata Sulakhni Ji.

After marriage, Guru Sahib Ji and Mata Sulakhani Ji lived in Sultanpur Lodhi for a while where their two sons, Baba Sri Chand Ji and Baba Lakhmi Chand Ji, were born.

Mata Sulakhani Ji managed the household while Guru Nanak Dev Ji traveled on His Udasis and raised Baba Sri Chand Ji and Baba Lakhmi Chand Ji.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Veyi River

Guru Nanak Dev Ji used to wake up early every day, bathe in the Veyi River, and then pray. One day, as usual, Guru Ji went to the river to bathe and began to meditate in the water. As time passed, He didn't come out. People began searching for Him, and the villagers assumed that Guru Ji had drowned. Everyone was heartbroken, wondering what had happened, but Bebe Nanaki Ji knew in her heart that Guru Ji was safe. Even on the second day, no one knew where Guru Ji was. Then, on the third day, Guru Ji reappeared and calmly sat on the banks of the river. After emerging, Guru Ji said, "There is no Hindu, no Muslim. All are equal in the eyes of God."

The True Namaaz (Muslim Prayer)

One day a Qazi invited Guru Nanak Dev Ji to join the evening Namaaz after hearing that Guru Ji said “There is no Hindu, no Muslim. All are equal in the eyes of God.”

Guru Sahib agreed, but while everyone prayed, He remained standing and smiled. After the prayer, the Qazi accused Guru Sahib of disrespecting the Namaaz.

Guru Ji replied, “How could I join a prayer when neither of you was truly praying?” He explained that the Qazi’s mind was worried about his newborn foal falling into a well, while the Nawab was thinking about buying horses in Kabul.

Both of them said to Guru Nanak Dev Ji how do you know. Guru Ji taught that true worship comes from a sincere, focused heart, not just outward rituals.

Malik Bhago and Bhai Lalo

Guru Nanak Dev Ji went on his first udasi and he reached Eminabaad. At Eminabaad, now known as Saidpur, Bhai Lalo Ji was an honest and hardworking carpenter who did Naam Jap. Guru Nanak Dev Ji had dinner at Bhai Lalo Ji's house. Malik Bhago, a wealthy but corrupt man, invited Guru Nanak Dev Ji to his house for a meal, but the Guru refused. Guru Nanak Dev Ji held Bhai Lalo's dry bread in one hand and Malik Bhago's luxury food in the other. When Bhai Lalo's bread was squeezed, pure milk came out, but when Malik Bhago's food was squeezed, blood came out, which shows that it was earned by causing suffering to the poor. Malik Bhago realized at the end and connected to the Guru.

Bhai Sajjan Ji Sakhi

A man named Sajjan owned an inn in Tulamba. He welcomed travelers warmly and appeared to be a good person. But robbed their jewels and money at night. He even killed some and buried their bodies in the compound.

One day, Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Bhai Mardana Ji stayed at his inn. Guru Nanak Dev Ji sang a Shabad from Ang 729 of Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The Shabad explains that if a person is bad at heart, an outward show of good acts means nothing. God knows our mind and no one can bluff God. He fell at Guru Nanak Dev Ji's feet and confessed all his sins. Filled with remorse, he sincerely repented and pledged to lead a righteous life.

Shabad That Guru Ji Sang To Bhai Sajjan

ਉਜਲੁ ਕੈਹਾ ਚਿਲਕਣਾ ਘੋਟਿਮ ਕਾਲੜੀ ਮਸੁ ॥

Bronze is bright and shiny, but when it is rubbed, its blackness appears.
ਕਾਂਸੀ ਚਿੱਟੀ ਤੇ ਚਮਕੀਲੀ ਹੈ ਪ੍ਰੰਤੂ ਰਗੜਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਕਾਲੀ ਸਿਆਹੀ ਦਿੱਸ ਪੈਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਧੋਤਿਆ ਜੂਠਿ ਨ ਉਤਰੈ ਜੇ ਸਉ ਧੋਵਾ ਤਿਸੁ ॥੧॥

Washing it, its impurity is not removed, even if it is washed a hundred times. ||1||

ਧੋਣ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇਯ ਦੀ ਅਸੁੱਧਤਾ ਦੂਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ, ਭਾਵੇਂ ਇਹ ਸੈਂਕੜੇ ਵਾਰੀ ਭੀ ਕਿਉਂ ਨਾਂ ਧੋਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ।

Splashing Water In The River

One day, Guru Nanak Dev Ji went to a place called Haridwar. There, people were throwing water towards the sun to send water to their ancestors. But Guru Ji started throwing water in the opposite direction! People asked why you are throwing water in that direction. People asked, "Why are you throwing water in that direction? Your fields are miles away - how will the water reach them?" Guru Ji replied, "If water can reach your ancestors in the sky, why can't mine reach my fields?" The Guru taught that being kind and truthful is better than doing Karam Kaands understanding.

Duni Chand The Millionaire

When Guru Nanak Dev Ji reached Lahore, a wealthy man named Duni Chand invited Him to his house. Duni Chand had seven flags representing his seven million rupees. He was holding a Shraadh feast, believing the food would reach his deceased father. Guru Nanak Dev Ji gave him a needle and asked him to return it in the next world. When Duni Chand said this was impossible, Guru Ji asked how he could take his wealth with him. Guru Ji revealed that his father had been reborn as a hungry wolf. After seeing his father as a hungry wolf, with nothing from his previous life, Duni Chand realized that worldly wealth cannot be taken after death. He distributed his wealth to the poor and became a devoted Sikh.

Raja Shivnabh Sri Lanka

Bhai Mansukh Ji, a merchant from Lahore, traveled to Sri Lanka for business and told Raja Shivnabh about Guru Nanak Dev Ji's greatness. Guru Nanak Dev Ji arrived with Bhai Mardana Ji and rested in a garden, where the dry land miraculously bloomed wherever Guru Ji stepped. Many imposters had previously claimed to be Guru Ji, so the Raja sent two beautiful dancers to entice Him, but Guru Sahib regarded them as His daughters and inspired them to remember God. Realizing that the true Guru whom Bhai Mansukh Ji had praised had arrived, Raja Shivnabh bowed before Him with his family. The Raja established a Dharamsala in Sri Lanka, where Sikhi was preached.

Guru Ji Meets Sidhs

During His third Udasi, Guru Nanak Dev Ji met the Sidhs at Sumer Parbat. Guru Ji told them that people were suffering from injustice and that holy people should help society instead of hiding in the mountains and begging for alms.

Guru Ji had a deep spiritual discussion/debate with the Sidhs called Sidh Gosht, recorded on Ang 938 of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

The Sidhs tested Guru Ji by asking Him to bring water from a lake filled with diamonds, rubies, and gems. Guru Ji returned and said the lake was dry. When the Sidhs went to see it, the lake had dried up. Guru Ji then guided them toward the right path.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Mecca

The 4th Udasi was towards the west

Guru Nanak Dev Ji reached Mecca and rested with His feet toward the Kaaba. A Qazi became upset and told Him this was disrespectful.

Guru Ji calmly said, “Please turn my feet toward the place where God is not.” As the Qazi turned His feet, the Kaaba appeared to face that direction, teaching that God is everywhere.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Baghdad

In Baghdad Guru Ji sang Gurbani while Bhai Mardana Ji played the Rabab. Some people complained to Pir Dastgir, because they considered music forbidden.

Pir Dastgir asked Guru Ji three questions to test Guru Ji:

- 1: Who created God?
- 2: Where does God live?
- 3: What does God do?

Guru Ji Answers Pir Dastgir's Question

1. Guru Ji asked the Pir to count jewels backward from one. When the Pir said there was no number before one, Guru Ji explained that God has no beginning or creator and has always existed.
2. Guru Ji used milk as an example. Just as butter is hidden within milk, God is present everywhere and within every living being, even though we cannot see Him.
3. Guru Ji asked the Pir to exchange seats with Him. Guru Ji explained that God can raise the humble to greatness and bring down the powerful. Everything happens according to God's Hukam.

Wali Kandhaari Throws Boulder

Guru Nanak Dev Ji reached Hasan Abdal, where Wali Kandhari stopped the village's water supply after people began following Guru Ji instead of him.

Guru Ji told someone to lift a stone and a fresh spring of water began to flow for the thirsty villagers. Enraged, Wali Kandhari rolled a huge rock down the hill toward Guru Ji.

Guru Ji stopped the boulder with His open hand, leaving His handprint on the rock. Wali Kandhari realized his mistake, bowed to Guru Ji, and the place became known as Gurdwara Panja Sahib.

Guru Ji Calls Babar A “Zaabar”

Babar attacked Punjab when guru ji came back from udasis. Many innocent people were killed, and many others were taken prisoner. Guru Nanak Dev Ji witnessed the suffering and recited Gurbani.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Bhai Mardana Ji were also taken into prison and ordered to grind grain. Guru Ji continued singing Gurbani, and even the soldiers were deeply moved.

* Moved by Gurbani and Guru Ji's fearless words, Babar released all the prisoners and returned the looted property to its rightful owners.

Kartarpur City

Around 1515–1522, Guru Nanak Dev Ji chose a quiet, fertile spot along the Ravi River to bring people together. A wealthy revenue official named Karori Mal became jealous of Guru Ji's growing popularity and rode out to arrest or drive Him away. On the way, he suddenly lost his eyesight and fell off his horse. His followers turned him back, and his vision returned. When he tried again, the same thing happened, and he went blind a second time. Realizing that a Divine power was protecting Guru Ji, Karori Mal bowed before Guru Ji and apologized. He then donated the land, where Guru Ji established the city of Kartarpur, settled, and continued spreading Sikhi.

Kartarpur City Routine

Kartarpur Sahib served as the initial headquarters and center of the early Sikh community. Guru Ji used to farm to feed his family and contribute to the community Langar.

Japji Sahib was officially organized and compiled by Guru Nanak Ji at Kartarpur Sahib.

Guru Ji and the Sangat recited Japji Sahib at Amritvela, and Sodar and Aarti in the evening. The first three hymns of Sohila Sahib were recited each night before going to sleep.

Baba Buddha Ji

Baba Buddha Ji was born in 1506. His father, Bhai Sugha Ji and his mother was Mai Gauraa. His parents named him ਬੂੜਾ (Boorha).

One day, Guru Nanak Dev Ji visited the village of Ramdas, where Boorha lived. Guru Nanak Dev Ji then had a deep conversation with him. Boorha explained that he had seen Mughal soldiers raid his village and cut down both ripe and unripe crops alike.

He realized that death doesn't wait for someone to grow old before taking them. Guru Nanak Dev Ji said "you talk like wise old men, your new name is Buddha."

Baba Buddha Ji 2

Baba Buddha Ji applied the gurgaddi tilak to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Guru.

Baba Buddha Ji was the first head granthi of Harmandir Sahib in 1604.

Guru Arjan Dev Ji entrusted Baba Buddha Ji with the responsibility of tutoring and training Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji in scriptures, horse riding, archery, and swordsmanship.

He led the manual labor and supervised the construction of crucial sacred pools and sites in Amritsar.

Bhai Lehna Ji Meets Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Bhai Lehna Ji first heard Gurbani from Bhai Jodha Ji. When he asked who had composed it, Bhai Jodha Ji told him it was Guru Nanak Dev Ji .

Bhai Lehna Ji traveled to Kartarpur Sahib. A humble man took the reins of his horse and guided him on foot. When they arrived, Bhai Lehna Ji tied his horse.

Bhai Lehna Ji was amazed to discover that the humble man was Guru Nanak Dev Ji Himself, seated on the Gurgaddi.

After spending time with Guru Ji and listening to Gurbani, Bhai Lehna Ji became Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Sikh and stopped worshipping Durga.

The Series Of Some Tests

Guru Nanak Dev Ji asked Bhai Lehna Ji to carry three muddy bundles of fodder on his head. Bhai Lehna Ji obeyed without hesitation, even though his new clothes became dirty. Guru Ji's mug fell into a muddy pond. Others refused to get it, but Bhai Lehna Ji immediately entered the dirty water and brought it back.

On a cold winter night, Guru Ji asked that His clothes be washed. Bhai Lehna Ji washed them before dawn

Guru Ji repeatedly asked that a wall be rebuilt. Each time it was finished, Guru Ji told them to tear it down and rebuild it.

Guru Ji told everyone to shake a tree for food. The others refused because it had no fruit, but Bhai Lehna Ji obeyed and food appeared for the Sangat.

Guru Ji pointed to what looked like a dead body covered with a cloth and asked who would eat it. When he lifted the cloth, it was Karah Parshad.

Guru Angad Dev Ji gets Gurgaddi

Guru Nanak Dev Ji tested Bhai Lehna Ji's obedience and devotion in many ways. While Guru Nanak Dev Ji's sons often questioned or refused His commands, Bhai Lehna Ji always obeyed.

Bhai Lehna Ji demonstrated complete faith and selfless seva passing all the tests.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji gave him Gurgaddi in 1539, and he was called Guru Angad Dev Ji meaning "part of my body."