

Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was the first Guru of the Sikhs.
He was born in 1469 in Talwandi (Nankana Sahib), now in Pakistan.
His father was Mehta Kalu and mother Mata Tripta.
His sister was Bibi Nanaki who saw the divine spirit in him.

At the age of 7 he was sent to school to get an education in worldly affairs such as accounting and language.
He showed no interest and instead asked the teacher what teaching can take us out of the cycle of birth and death.
The teacher was surprised and realized that this was not an ordinary child.
At age 18, his father wanted to teach him business and sent him with Rs 20 to buy goods and sell at a profit.
He bought food and clothing for the hermits in the jungle and later told his father that the truly profitable business in life was to help the needy.

Later he took upon traveling far and wide to tell people the purpose in life which is to break the cycle of birth and death and merge with God.
He made four udasis in 4 separate directions during his lifetime.
He showed people that rituals will not take them near God.
His message was that we are all God's children and we should treat everyone equally.
He told us that we should do three things namely, take God's name, share with the less fortunate and make a honest living.

His teachings are in the Guru Granth Sahib.
One of bani is Japji Sahib which we recite daily.
In Japji Sahib, Guruji tells us ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਵੇਲਾ ਸਚੁ ਨਾਉ ਵਡਿਆਈ ਵਿਚਾਰੁ ॥
Here Guruji says that we need to take God's name early morning and think about his greatness.
It is important that we understand Guruji's teachings and follow them in our lives.

In 1539, when Guru Nanak Dev Ji knew that his time had come to merge with God, he gave the Guruship to Bhai Lehna. Guruji had been testing several Sikhs including his children. In the end, Bhai Lehnaji passed the test and became our second Guru.