

The Life of Guru Nanak



Birth of the Great Guru



- In the small town of Talwandi lived a man called Mheta Kalu and his wife Tripta.
- He was well known and respected in the town.
- Late one night he was feeling worried, nervously walking up and down the garden as his wife was just about to have a baby. Soon he was called by the nurse who told him he had a new baby boy.



A special baby

- “But I didn’t hear a baby cry,” replied Kalu.
- “I know. I saw a strange light when he was born, and instead of crying he smiled at me. I think he is going to be someone special!” explained the nurse.
- This made Kalu very happy, he gave the nurse a gift of money.
- “Thank you, and thank God.”



Congratulations

- Kala rushed to the room and was very pleased to see his daughter Nanaki holding her new brother proudly. Soon everyone in the town of Talwandi knew and came to congratulate Kalu. Everyone was given sweets.



The Unique One

- A few days later an astrologer came to visit, and was asked to prepare a horoscope for the baby.



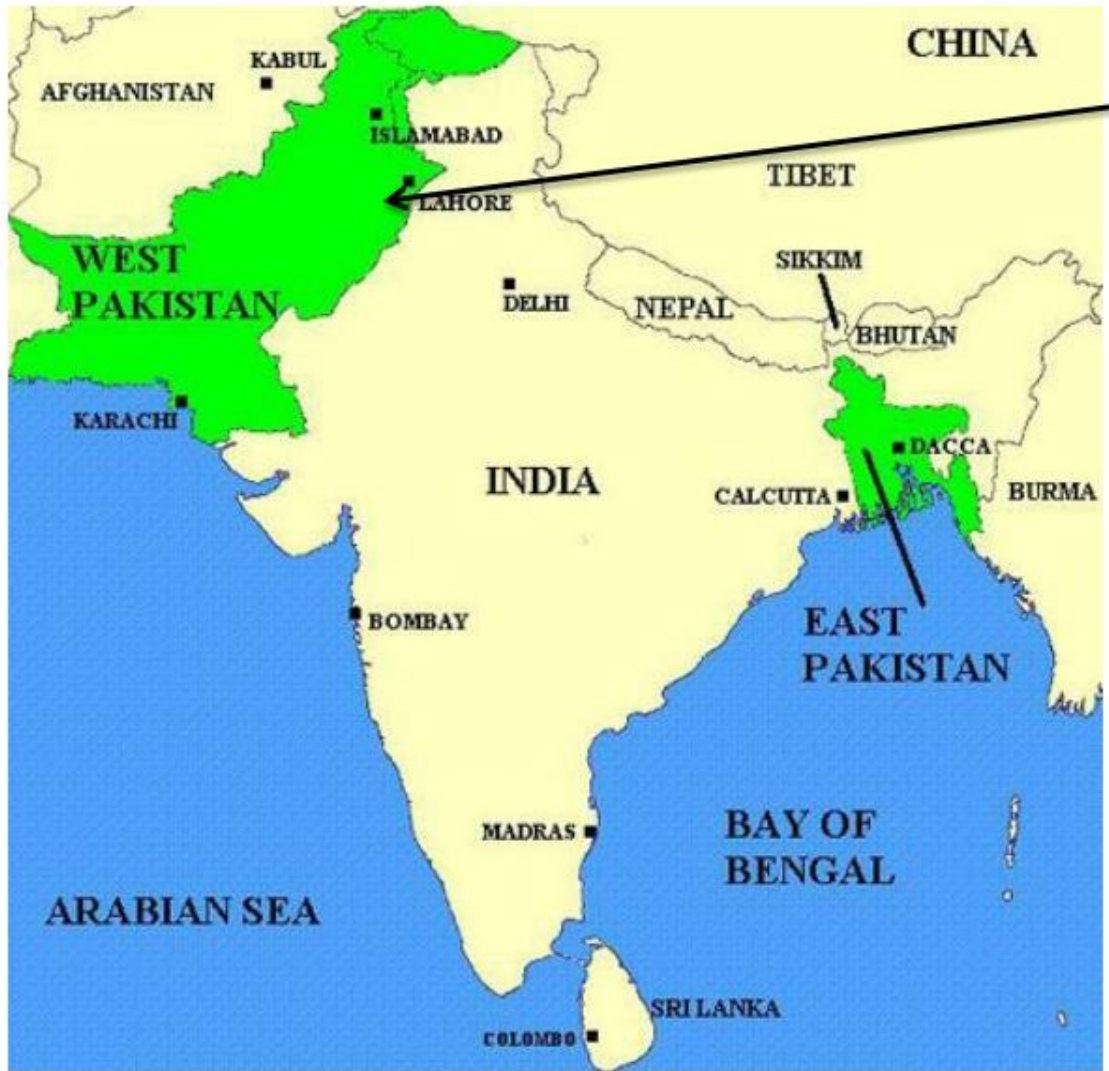
- Hardyal Dass said “Sir, your son will be a great leader and many people will love and respect him.”
- The son was then named Nanak, meaning ‘the unique one.’

Birth Place Name

- Later the name of the small town was called ***Nankana Sahib*** meaning ‘a place where Nanak came.’



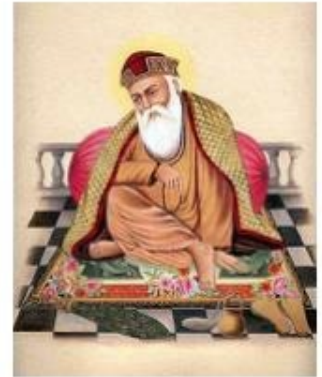
- This place is now in Pakistan – a few kilometres from the city of Lahore.



Birth place
of Guru
Nanak

Growing Up

- Nanak grew up to be a fine young man but was more interested in thinking and spending time with the monks rather than doing any work.
- One day Kalu had an idea. He gave him 20 rupees, told him to take it to the city, buy something, sell it and make a profit. Earn his living!

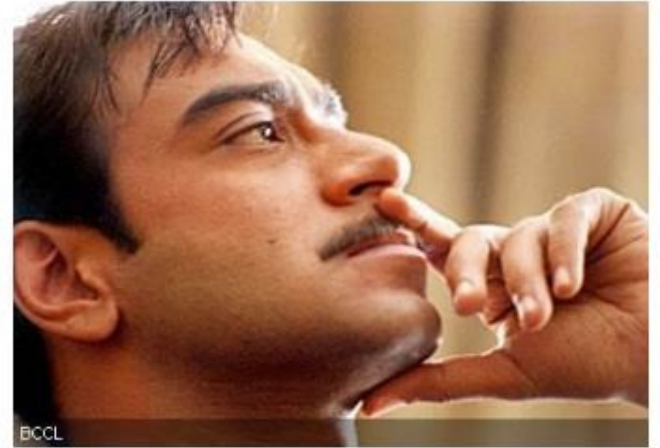


Hunger



- Reluctantly he went. He went on his journey with his friend Bala.
- In the city he saw some monks sitting under trees. They looked pale and frail. They told Nanak they had not eaten for 3 days.
- “Wait there!” said Nanak and went into the city. He bought food for the monks and took it back to them. “Bless you,” they said.

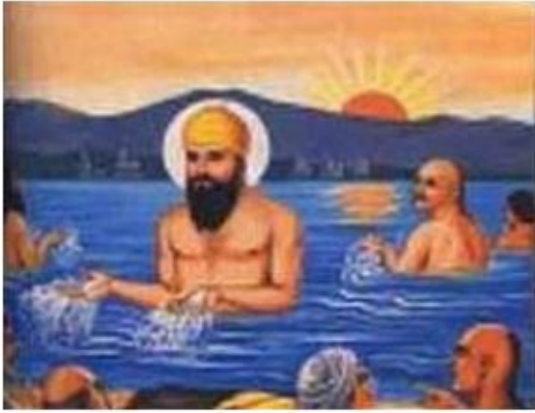
An Angry Father



- But now it was Nanak's turn to be sad. He had to return home to face his angry father.
- As his father was telling him off, Nanak said "what could be a better bargain than feeding the hungry?"
- This made Kalu even angrier and was about to strike Nanak but his sister saved him from punishment. She asked if he could live with her and her husband instead. Kalu agreed.

GURU = TEACHER

- Nanak started his first job as a storekeeper at Sultanpur.
- He would often explain his ideas to people gathered in the village. People liked the way he explained how to love and follow God.
- Some began to call him a 'GURU' which means a teacher. Others called him 'SAT GURU' which means true teacher.



God's Message

- One morning, when Nanak was 30 years old, he went to bathe in the river. He disappeared and people thought he had drowned.
- Three days later, he reappeared and remained silent for a whole day.
- Then he said: "There is neither a Hindu nor as a Muslim, only God's path and I shall follow God's path."
- He meant that all human beings are EQUAL in God's eyes as he was not interested in labels.

Starting his journeys



- Nanak decided to journey around all the parts of India to share his teaching and ideas.
- He travelled with his close friends Bala and Mardana.
- We share learn about Guru Nanak's beliefs and teachings through this unit of work.



Important Stories to share

- He had many important adventures – we will learn about the stories of:
- Bhai Lalo
- Duni Chand and the Needle of Heaven
- The Holy Men and the Jasmine Flower

His last journey

- Guru Nanak spent 20 years making 4 long journey spreading his messages. People joined him in his beliefs.
- He finally settled on the banks of the River Ravi.
- People would gather there and pray together.
- In the evening everyone would cook together in the same kitchen, and ate together – not matter how rich or poor they were.



The next Guru

- One day, near the end of his life, Guru called one of his disciples to him. He was called Lahna.
- Everyone was amazed when he placed 5 coins and a coconut in front of him.
- These were a symbol of respect. Guru Nanak said “From today you are the Guru of the Sikh and I name you Angad, meaning ‘part of my body’. All other followers were told to follow him now.
- Days later, Guru Nanak died.





A final argument

- After the death of Nanak both Hindus and Muslims argued as to who should do the funeral service. Hindus wanted him cremated, Muslims wanted him buried.
- The body of Guru Nanak was lying under a sheet.
- A wise man appeared and told them to look below the sheet. There was no body, just a few flowers.

A final solut



- They realised that Nanak him tell them not to quarrel.
- The flowers and the sheet were divided into two halves.
- The Hindus cremated their half, the Muslims buried theirs.