

Guru Angad Sahib

The Sikh religion was founded by Guru Nanak Sahib. This religion is based on the principle of One Akal Purkh and Equality of mankind. Guru Sahib removed the distinction of caste, creed, high, low etc. prevailing at that time.

Whenever, two Sikhs meet, they greet each other by saying, "Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ke Fateh". This means that Khalsa belongs to the praises of Akal Purkh through the Guru, which generates equality among each other and Fateh (Victory) also belongs to the praises of Akal Purkh through the Guru. This shows that a Sikh does not have any feeling of pride even in case of any victory and everything belongs to the Guru for the Guru. A Sikh always remains humble and tries to lead his life according to the principles laid down in Guru Granth Sahib.

Guru Angad Sahib was the second Guru of Sikhs. His previous name was Bhai Lehna Ji. While giving the responsibility of Gurgadi, his name was changed by Guru Nanak Sahib from Lehna to Angad. He was born in village Mate Ki Sran (Ferozpur) on 18th April 1504 (Gregorian) (5 ਵਿਸਾਖ 36, ਨਾਨਕਸ਼ਾਹੀ). His father Pheru Mal was a truthful and kind hearted man. Bhai Lehna was married to the daughter of Devi Chand Marwaha in 1519, who later on became famous in Sikh history as Bibi Kheevi.

His father was a follower of Vaishno Devi and used to take group of followers to Vaishno Devi near Jammu. Later on the same practice was continued by Bhai Lehna Ji. Though he was famous in his locality and was having a good business, but still he was not having internal peace of mind. He was always searching for truth.

Once Bhai Lehna happened to listen Gurbani from Jodh Ji, who was a follower of Guru Nanak Sahib and was staying in Khandoor. This created a permanent impression on his mind and he decided to meet Guru Nanak Sahib. Though Bhai Lehna had earlier met Guru Nanak Sahib regarding his father's business but this time it was a spiritual meeting as he had decided to become his follower.

It was a strange co-incidence that Bhai Lehna happened to see Guru Nanak on the way and asked him the way where he could meet Guru Nanak Sahib. Bhai Lehna was riding on the horse and Guru Nanak Sahib was on his foot to show him the way. On knowing the reality that the person who showed him the way was none other than Guru Nanak himself. Bhai Lehna was embarrassed but Guru Nanak Sahib told him humbly that he need not feel embarrassed because according to his name he is a taker (person who takes) and the taker always comes riding on a horse. Such sweet words won Bhai Lehna's heart and he decided to stay permanently with Guru Nanak.

Bhai Lehna served Guru Nanak Sahib for about seven years. He set an example in Sikh history for understanding the Hukam of Akal Purkh and following each and every teachings of the Guru Nanak Sahib. In this way he attained a state of mind in which he became one with the Shabad Guru. He could achieve this position by his faith in Guru's preaching, determination, selfless service and devotion to the Gurbani.

Guru Nanak tested Bhai Lehna from time to time and finally decided that Bhai Lehna should succeed him. While giving the Gurgadi his name was changed from Lehna to Angad (a part of body). Guru Nanak Sahib neither followed the democracy rule nor the dynasty rule while giving Gurgadi. The criterion for selection was the capability to follow and spread the basic principles of Sikhism to live according to the Hukam of Akal Purkh.

His wife Mata Kheevi used to prepare Kheer and serve to the Sangat with great devotion and love. She was the first lady whose services have been mentioned in Guru Granth Sahib.

Guru Angad Sahib has written 63 Shalok's, which are present in Guru Granth Sahib. He took special interest for the propagation of Gurbani and specially used to teach the children also. He knew that a strong mind can exist in a healthy and strongbody. So, he took special care for good food, good habits, cleanliness, daily bath and exercise for his followers. He started the tradition of wrestling known as Mal Akhara in Khandoor Sahib.

On his way to Kabul, King Hamazoo also came to take the blessings from Guru Angad Sahib after he was defeated by Sher Shah Suri.

Guru Angad Sahib also developed the city of Goindwal Sahib through his follower Baba Amar Das Ji. The untiring service of Baba Amar Das Ji helped him to get the blessings of Guru and he was appointed as the third Guru of Sikhs.

Let us follow the principles laid by Guru Granth Sahib to lead a happy, successful and harmonious life.

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<http://www.sikhmarg.com/article-dr-sarbjit.html>,
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