

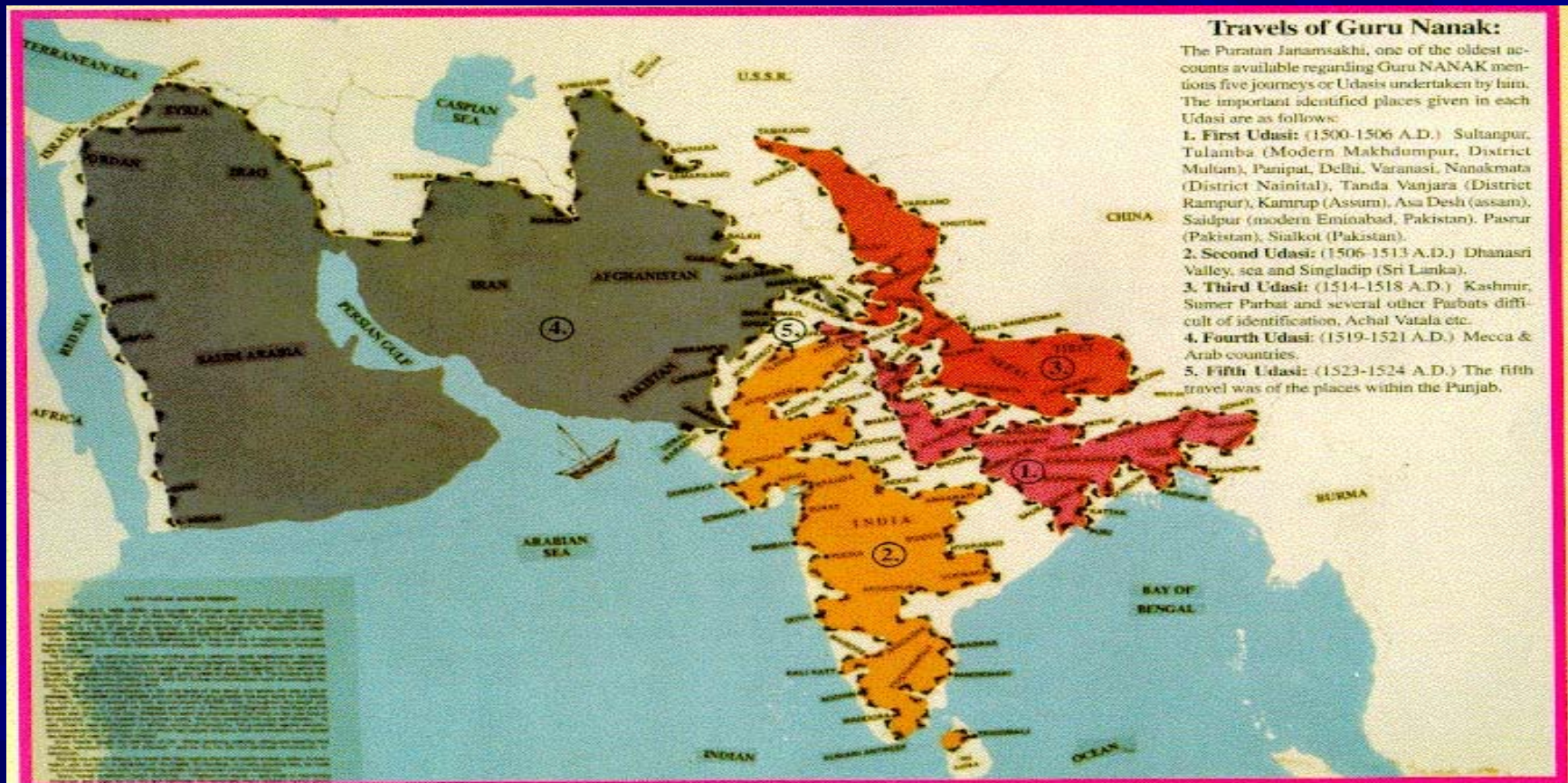
Guru Nanak's Message for Today's Flat, Interconnected World.

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Guru Nanak's Travels



ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਯਾਤਰਾਵਾਂ

Travels of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Guru Nanak's Message – Universal, Timeless

- 500 Years ago in Northern India
- Universal message of faith, love, truthful living – for all humanity
- Message/Values in tune with Modern Notions of
 - Egalitarian democratic society
 - Value individual freedom and dignity
 - Personal responsibility
 - Social Awareness

One Universal God

- Focus on core principles of spirituality
- One loving and just God, creator of all
- Formless, all pervading force
- Shared by all religions
- Beyond human limitations
 - Fear, hatred, jealousy, greed

The Best Religion is ...

ਸਰਬ ਧਰਮ ਮਹਿ ਸ਼੍ਰੇਸ਼ਟ ਧਰਮੁ ॥
ਹਰਿ ਕੋ ਨਾਮੁ ਜਪਿ ਨਿਰਮਲ ਕਰਮੁ ॥

*Of all religions, the best religion
is to worship the Lord, and do good deeds.
- (SGGS page 266)*

We Are All God's Children

- One God creates and nurtures all living beings
 - Hatred, discrimination, ill-treatment based on:
 - Religion
 - Race
 - Gender
 - Caste
 - Class
- is immoral

Today's Flat, Interconnected World

Opportunities
and
Challenges

Opportunities

- Global Economic Boom
 - Freer Global trade
 - Efficient use of capital and labor
 - Greater opportunities for Innovation
- Rise of Emerging nations
 - China, India, Brazil ...
 - Millions being lifted out of poverty
- Widespread access to knowledge
 - Economic empowerment
 - Social awareness

Challenges

- *Increasing interaction between countries, cultures and religions*
- *Rise in religious fundamentalism and bigotry*
- *Global Islamic terrorism, post 9/11 response*
- *Economic disparities*
- *Shortage of Natural resources: oil, water*
- *Global Warming and other environmental challenges*
- *Mistreatment of minorities, women*

Interfaith Dialog and Understanding

Interfaith Dialog and Understanding

- Pluralistic societies - different faiths have to learn to engage for benefit of humanity
- Guru Nanak – pioneer of Interfaith movement
- “Hindus or Muslims - all are children of God

“Baba Nanak shah fakir Hindu ka guru Musalmaan ka peer”

Nanak, the holy man, Is the guru of the Hindus and the pir (or spiritual teacher) of the Muslims.

- Emphasize common aspects of all faiths, rather than on the differences, while appreciating diversity of approaches

Respect for all faiths

- Guru Granth Sahib includes hymns by Hindu and Muslim saints, and untouchables.
- Golden Temple has four doors – all are welcome
- Cornerstone of Golden Temple laid by Mia Mir, a Muslim holy man
- Guru Teg Bahadur gave his life to protect right of freedom of religion of Others

Addressing Conflict and Discord

Addressing Conflict and Discord

- Guru Nanak's response to conflicts, and to injustice and social inequities
- Naam conscious being, positive force for benefit of the community
- See universal Divine Light in all
- No hatred, discrimination, punitive value judgments or ill treatment

I See No Stranger, I See No Enemy ...

ਨਾ ਕੋ ਬੈਰੀ ਨਹੀ ਬਿਗਾਨਾ ਸਗਲ ਸੰਗਿ ਹਮ ਕਉ ਬਨਿ ਆਈ ॥੧॥

ਜੋ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਕੀਨੋ ਸੋ ਭਲ ਮਾਨਿਓ ਏਹ ਸੁਮਤਿ ਸਾਧੂ ਤੇ ਪਾਈ ॥੨॥

ਸਭ ਮਹਿ ਰਵਿ ਰਹਿਆ ਪ੍ਰਭੁ ਏਕੈ ਪੇਖਿ ਪੇਖਿ ਨਾਨਕ ਬਿਗਸਾਈ ॥੩॥੮॥

I see no stranger, I see no enemy – I appreciate everyone. || 1 ||

*Whatever God has created, I find it beautiful.
This is the sublime wisdom I have obtained
from the Holy and Wise. || 2 ||*

*The Divine Light of God is pervading in all.
Beholding Him, Nanak blossoms forth in joy.
|| 3 || 8 || (SGGS p. 1099)*

Answer Evil with Goodness

ਫਰੀਦਾ ਬੁਰੇ ਦਾ ਭਲਾ ਕਰਿ ਗੁਸਾ ਮਨਿ ਨ ਹਵਾਇ ॥

ਦੇਹੀ ਰੋਗੁ ਨ ਲਗਾਈ ਪਲੈ ਸਭੁ ਕਿਛੁ ਪਾਇ ॥੭੮॥

Fareed, answer evil with goodness; do not fill your mind with anger.

Your body shall not suffer from any ailment, and you shall obtain everything. (SGGS p. 1381)

ਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਪਰਉਪਕਾਰ ਉਮਾਹਾ ॥

...

ਬ੍ਰਹਮ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਕੈ ਹੋਇ ਸੁ ਭਲਾ ॥

The God-conscious being delights in doing good deeds for others.

....

The God-conscious being acts in the common good. (SGGS pg 273)

Nonviolent Protest and Personal Sacrifice

- Guru Nanak and Guru Hargobind underwent imprisonment for their outspoken criticism of Injustice & Tyranny
- Guru Arjan and Guru Teg Bahadur were executed
- Examples of personal sacrifice, nonviolent protest to address social and political injustice.

Force as Last Resort

“When injustice goes too far and all other means have been exhausted it is righteous to draw the sword” – Guru Gobind Singh in *Zafarnama*

- Immoral and cowardly to submit without a fight
- Guru Gobind Singh transformed Sikhs, a passive peasant community into a brave, freedom loving nation
- Paradigm of *Sant-Sipahi* or Spiritual Warrior.

Steps for Handling Conflict, Discord, Injustice

1. Naam-consciousness, see Divine in all, resolve conflict through persuasion, debate.
2. Nonviolent protest, personal sacrifice
3. Last resort: armed struggle against injustice and tyranny, and in defense of liberty.

Inequity and Discrimination

Inequity and Discrimination

ਜਾਣਹੁ ਜੋਤਿ ਨ ਪੁਛਹੁ ਜਾਤੀ ਆਗੈ ਜਾਤਿ ਨ ਹੇ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

***Recognize the Lord's Light within all, and
do not consider social class or status;
there are no classes or castes in the
world hereafter. || 1 || (SGGS p. 349)***

All Men (and Women) are Created Equal

ਅਵਲਿ ਅਲਹ ਨੂਰੁ ਉਪਾਇਆ ਕੁਦਰਤਿ ਕੇ ਸਭ ਬੰਦੇ ॥

ਏਕ ਨੂਰ ਤੇ ਸਭ ਜਗੁ ਉਪਜਿਆ ਕਉਨ ਭਲੇ ਕੋ ਮੰਦੇ ॥੧॥

...

ਮਾਟੀ ਏਕ ਅਨੇਕ ਭਾਂਤਿ ਕਰਿ ਸਾਜੀ ਸਾਜਨਹਾਰੈ ॥

ਨਾ ਕਛੁ ਪੋਚ ਮਾਟੀ ਕੇ ਭਾਂਡੇ ਨਾ ਕਛੁ ਪੋਚ ਕੁੰਭਾਰੈ ॥੨॥

ਸਭ ਮਹਿ ਸਚਾ ਏਕੋ ਸੋਈ ਤਿਸ ਕਾ ਕੀਆ ਸਭੁ ਕਛੁ ਹੋਈ ॥

In the beginning, Allah created the Light; from that light, He has created all mortal beings.

From the One Light, the entire universe welled up. So who is good, and who is bad?

....

The clay is the same, but the Cosmic Potter has fashioned vessels of many kinds. There is nothing wrong with the pot of clay - there can be no error by the Potter. The One True Lord abides in all; by His power, every thing is fashioned. (SGGS p. 1349)

Alleviation of Poverty in the World

Alleviation of poverty in the world

ਘਾਲਿ ਖਾਇ ਕਿਛੁ ਹਥਹੁ ਦੇਇ ॥

ਨਾਨਕ ਰਾਹੁ ਪਛਾਣਹਿ ਸੇਇ ॥੧॥

***One who works for what he eats, and
gives some of what he has in charity***

***- O Nanak, he knows the Path. (SGGS p.
1245)***

The Poor and Humble

*ਨੀਚਾ ਅੰਦਰਿ ਨੀਚ ਜਾਤਿ ਨੀਚੀ ਹੂ ਅਤਿ ਨੀਚੁ ॥ ਨਾਨਕੁ ਤਿਨ ਕੈ ਸੰਗਿ ਸਾਥਿ ਵਡਿਆ ਸਿਉ
ਕਿਆ ਗੀਸ ॥*

ਜਿਥੈ ਨੀਚ ਸਮਾਲੀਅਨਿ ਤਿਥੈ ਨਦਰਿ ਤੇਰੀ ਬਖਸੀਸ ॥੪॥੩.

Nanak seeks the company of the lowest of the low class, the very meekest of the meek. Why should he try to compete with the great?

In that place where the lowly are cared for- there, the Blessings of Your Glance of Grace rain down. (SGGS p. 15)

Gender Equality

Gender equality

- **Feminist movement in West**
- **Rest of world – women face violence, illiteracy, economic and social deprivation**
- **Guru Nanak spoke up for women several centuries before the Feminist movement**

Guru Nanak: God is Father and Mother

ਤੁਮ ਮਾਤ ਪਿਤਾ ਹਮ ਬਾਰਿਕ ਤੇਰੇ ॥

ਤੁਮਰੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਮਹਿ ਸੁਖ ਘਨੇਰੇ ॥

*You are our mother and father; we are
Your children.*

*In Your Grace, we enjoy all comforts!
(SGGS p. 268)*

Cherish and Respect Woman

ਭੰਡਿ ਜੰਮੀਐ ਭੰਡਿ ਨਿੰਮੀਐ ਭੰਡਿ ਮੰਗਣੁ ਵੀਆਹੁ ॥

ਭੰਡਹੁ ਹੋਵੈ ਦੋਸਤੀ ਭੰਡਹੁ ਚਲੈ ਰਾਹੁ ॥

ਭੰਡੁ ਮੁਆ ਭੰਡੁ ਭਾਲੀਐ ਭੰਡਿ ਹੋਵੈ ਬੰਧਾਨੁ ॥

ਸੋ ਕਿਉ ਮੰਦਾ ਆਖੀਐ ਜਿਤੁ ਜੰਮਹਿ ਰਾਜਾਨ ॥

ਭੰਡਹੁ ਹੀ ਭੰਡੁ ਊਪਜੈ ਭੰਡੈ ਬਾਝੁ ਨ ਕੋਇ ॥

ਨਾਨਕ ਭੰਡੈ ਬਾਹਰਾ ਏਕੋ ਸਚਾ ਸੋਇ ॥

We are born of woman, we are conceived in the womb of woman.

We make friendship with woman; through woman, future generations are born.

When one woman dies, we take another one, we are bound with the world through woman.

Why should we talk ill of her? From her, kings are born.

From woman, woman is born; without woman, there would be no one at all.

O Nanak, God alone can exist without a woman.

(Guru Nanak in Asa Di Vaar, pg. 473)

Environmental Issues and Global Warning

Environmental issues & Global Warming

- Sikhi position supports active participation in environmental movement
- Guru Nanak was a great lover of nature
- God is wonderful artist – nature is his canvas

Nature is a Celebration of God's Glory

ਗਗਨ ਮੇ ਥਾਲੁ ਰਵਿ ਚੰਦੁ ਦੀਪਕ ਬਨੇ ਤਾਰਿਕਾ ਮੰਡਲ ਜਨਕ ਮੋਤੀ ॥

ਸੂਰੁ ਮਲਆਨਲੋ ਪਵਣੁ ਚਵਰੋ ਕਰੇ ਸਗਲ ਬਨਗਾਇ ਫੁਲੰਤ ਜੋਤੀ ॥੧॥

ਕੈਸੀ ਆਰਤੀ ਹੋਇ ॥ ਭਵ ਖੰਡਨਾ ਤੇਰੀ ਆਰਤੀ ॥

ਅਨਹਤਾ ਸਬਦ ਵਾਜੰਤ ਭੇਰੀ ॥੧॥ ਰਹਾਉ ॥

Upon that cosmic platter of the sky, the sun and the moon are the lamps. The stars and their orbs are the studded pearls.

The fragrance of sandalwood in the air is the temple incense, and the wind is the fan. All the plants of the world are the altar flowers in offering to You, O Luminous Lord. || 1 ||

What a beautiful Aartee, lamp-lit worship service this is! O Destroyer of Fear, this is Your Ceremony of Light.

The Unstruck Sound-current of the Shabad is the vibration of the temple drums. || 1 || Pause ||

Life of Harmony with God and With Nature

- All creation is a manifestation of God
- Being in harmony with God implies living in harmony with all of God's creation.
- All life is part of a Universal Unity
- We are all connected

Life of Harmony with God and With Nature

- Guru Nanak advocates a simple life style, free of greed selfishness and possessiveness
- Guru clearly teaches against a life of conspicuous, wasteful consumption.
- Judicious utilization of material and cultural resources available to humans.
- Emphasis is on mastery over the self and the discovery of the self, not mastery over nature, external forms, and beings

Conclusion

- *Nanak naam chardi kalaa, tere bhaanay sarbat ka bhalaa*
- Naam – Universal Divine Spirit in all
- Chardi kalaa – Hope and optimism, can-do spirit, free from anger or hatred
- Tere bhaanay – Harmony with the Divine Order, with nature and with each other
- Sarbat ka bhalaa – common good of all