

Guru Hargobind Festival Story



Religious Education KS1
Sikhism

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Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji is the sixth Guru of the Sikhs. Like the other Gurus, he was God in the form of a human.

He was the first Guru who emphasised that Sikhs should be saint soldiers in order to protect the downtrodden.

He was imprisoned then released by the Emperor Jahangir, and then fought with the Emperor against the Mughal forces.

Share the story with the children of how he became a Guru, and what he contributed to the Sikh cause.





Guru Hargobind was born in Amritsar, India in 1595.

His mother was Mata Ganga and his father was Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Guru.

Shortly before he died, Guru Arjan named his son, Hargobind, to be his successor.

He was only 11 at the time!

Guru Hargobind promised his father that he would protect the Sikh people.



Guru Hargobind asked for two swords.

One sword signified **Miri**, or **Worldly Power**.

The other sword signified **Piri**, or **Spiritual Power**.

One sword would strike those who are cruel.

The other sword would protect the innocent.



Guru Hargobind believed that Sikhs should be saint-soldiers, so that they could protect the downtrodden.

He transformed his followers, the Sikh saints, into saint-soldiers

He combined the powers of Bhakti (faith) and Shakti (power).

His first priority was that Sikhs should be saints and always remember God.



Guru Hargobind called upon the Sikhs to protect human rights and stand up for human liberty, equality and fraternity.

He helped spread the message of Guru Nanak, who was the First Guru.





Guru Hargobind was even put in prison by the Emperor Jahangir, who thought that gurus had too much influence (or were too popular).

He was eventually released, along with 52 other prisoners. This story is celebrated in the Sikh festival of Diwali.

After his release, Guru Hargobind and the emperor were mostly friendly. They even fought together in battles.





Guru Hargobind had helped spread the message of Guru Nanak, and the Sikh cause.

He died in 1644 when he was 49.



The Symbol of the Sikh faith is called the KHANDA.

This has the two swords on the outside protecting the other two images of the circle.

This represents equality of all and the double edged sword shows protection. **Miri** and **Piri** remind us of the link between **worldly** and **spiritual** (faith) responsibilities.



Questions

Discuss with the children which part of the story they liked best. And why?

Ask the children what they think 'worldly' means?

Can they think of examples?

Ask the children what they think 'spiritual' means?

Can they think of examples?

