

The Story of Guru Hargobind

Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji was the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, and like all the others he was God in the form of a human. Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji was at Amritsar in 1595. His father was Guru Arjan Dev Ji and his mother was Mata Ganga. At birth, his name was Bhai Hargobind.

Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji contributed many things to the Sikh cause. He was the first Guru who emphasised that Sikhs be saint-soldiers in order to protect the downtrodden. For this purpose, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji trained his followers in military ways.

Even though Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji put a emphasis on Sikhs being saint-soldiers, his first priority was that Sikhs should be saints and always remember God. After having spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev Ji as well as having fought many battles against the Mughal forces, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji went to his heavenly abode in 1644 at the age of 49.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What part of the story did you like and why?
What part of the story didn't you like and why?
What do you think worldly means? Can you think of examples?
What do you think spiritual means can you think of examples?
- ③ Talk to the children about the two swords and their meaning.
- ④ Talk to the children about what they might want to protect, how they might protect it and why it needs protection

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**Guru Hargobind was
the sixth Guru.**



When he succeeded after Guru Arjan, he asked for two swords.

He declared that the two swords signified 'Miri' and 'Piri, 'Worldly Power' and 'Spiritual Power', one which would strike those who are cruel, and the other which would protect the innocent.



Guru Hargobind Sahib transformed the Sikh saints into saint-soldiers. He combined the powers of Bhakti (faith) and Shakti (power).



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



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.