



Guru Nanak Dev Ji held a unique and profound understanding of God. Rooted in his belief is the 'Mool Mantra,' the inaugural verse of the Guru Granth Sahib Ji: "Ik Onkar, Sat Naam," translated as "There is One Universal Creator, His Name is Truth." Guru Nanak conceived God as immanent and transcendent, the singular, genderless, formless ('Nirankar'), and timeless ('Akaal') reality permeating every facet of the universe while surpassing earthly limitations.

Guru Nanak's concept of God is not restricted to a specific faith or doctrine but represents a universal spiritual reality, linking all of humanity. This divine understanding shapes Sikhism's values of equality, compassion, and societal well-being. Through this lens, Nanak invites us to realize the inherent divinity within and around us, fostering a world centered around love, peace, and unity.

*"There is but one God, His name is Truth, He is the Creator, He fears none, he is without hate, He never dies, He is beyond the cycle of births and death, He is self-illuminated, The kindness of the True Guru realizes him. He was True in the beginning, He was True when the ages commenced and has ever been True. He is also True now."*

- Guru Nanak Dev Ji



## Conclusion

The life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji offer a timeless source of inspiration. His profound insights into equality, humanity, environmental responsibility, and religious harmony resonate across centuries, inviting us to create a world founded on compassion, justice, and mutual respect. Despite being lesser known in the Western world, Guru Nanak remains a monumental figure in philosophical and spiritual thought. As we understand his philosophy, we embark on a journey toward recognizing the inherent divinity within and around us, underlining the relevance and universality of his enlightened vision. Discovering Guru Nanak Dev Ji is not just about exploring a faith or a philosophy; it's about exploring the potential for humanity to unite under a banner of universal love and understanding.

**Interested in learning more  
about Guru Nanak Dev Ji's  
teachings?**

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National Sikh Campaign  
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*"Truth is the highest virtue, but higher  
still is truthful living."*

- Guru Nanak Dev Ji



**GURU NANAK DEV JI**  
**Philosopher & Founder of Sikhism**  
**1469-1539**





## Overview

Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539) was a poet, mystic, philosopher, and singer and is one of the most influential philosophers in history. **Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings transcended religious boundaries, earning reverence and admiration from followers of diverse faiths across the world, such as Hinduism, Islam, Sufism, and Buddhism.** Yet, his profound teachings and global significance remain relatively unknown in the Western world.

Born into a Hindu family in the Punjab region of South Asia, now part of Pakistan, Guru Nanak experienced a spiritual revelation at a young age. **He rejected the prevalent social norms of caste-based discrimination, discrimination against women and those of lower socioeconomic status, and religious division, advocating for equality, compassion, and interfaith understanding.**

Nanak's life was dedicated to sharing this vision of universal brotherhood. He embarked on an extraordinary series of journeys called Udasis in which he traversed much of the known world at the time, reaching as far as Tibet, Sri Lanka, and Mecca. During these journeys, he shared his vision of a single, universal divinity, transcending all sectarian boundaries

Guru Nanak's followers became known as Sikhs, which means seekers of truth, and his teachings form the core of Sikhism, one of the world's major religions with over 27 million followers worldwide. His philosophy is captured in the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the central religious scripture of Sikhism, which is revered not as a book but as the eternal, living Guru.

Step into the exploration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life and teachings. He is a towering figure whose global legacy is yet to be fully recognized in the West. Discover this spiritual luminary's timeless wisdom and the enduring relevance of his universal ethos.

## Guru Nanak's Core Teachings

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's philosophy is based on three pillars:

- ੴ Naam Japna (chanting God's name)
- ੴ Kirat Karni (earning an honest living)
- ੴ Vand Chakna (sharing with others)

These principles emphasize both personal spirituality and social responsibility, establishing a spiritual framework for a life of balance and compassion.



## Gender Equality

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was a pioneering advocate for gender equality in a time when women were vastly marginalized. He asserted that women and men are equal in the eyes of God and must be treated as such in society.

*"From woman, man is born; within woman, man is conceived; to woman he is engaged and married. Woman becomes his friend; through woman, the future generations come. When his woman dies, he seeks another woman; to woman he is bound. So why call her bad? From her, kings are born. From woman, woman is born; without woman, there would be no one at all."*



## Humanity

Guru Nanak's teachings deeply revolve around the value of humanity. He insisted on the equality of all humans, regardless of caste, creed, or gender, a revolutionary concept in the caste-ridden society of his time. He firmly believed that the true measure of an individual lies in their moral and ethical actions, not their social standing or religious affiliation.

*"He who regards all men as equals is religious"*



## Religious Harmony

One of Guru Nanak's most enduring legacies is his strong advocacy for religious harmony. His teachings reject religious chauvinism and emphasize the common spiritual essence of all faiths. He taught that the path to God does not lie in religious rituals, but in genuine devotion, ethical conduct, and love for all creation.

*"There is no Hindu, no Muslim —all are human beings."*



## Environmentalism

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's reverence for the environment was another cornerstone of his teachings. He saw nature as a manifestation of the divine and emphasized the responsibility of humans as its stewards.

*"Air is the Guru, Water is the Father, and Earth is the Great Mother of all,"*

*Guru Nanak's Vision  
on the Nature of God*