

STORYTELLER:
SIKH STORIES



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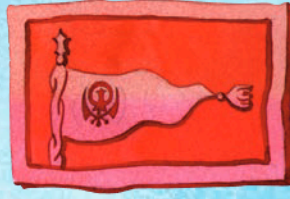
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Introduction



Sikh Stories



In each of the world's six main religions - Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism - stories play a very important part. They have been used for many hundreds of years to teach people about their faith in a way which makes difficult messages easier to understand. Many stories tell of times in the lives of religious teachers, leaders, gods and goddesses. Others explain mysterious events such as how the world was created or what happens when you die. Many have a strong moral or lesson to teach.



The collection of stories in this book comes from the Sikh religion. Sikhs believe in one God who sees and knows everything. He created the world and is everlasting and all-powerful. Sikhs follow the teachings of ten Gurus who taught ordinary people how God wanted them to live. The first Guru was a man called Guru Nanak. He started the Sikh religion in Punjab, in north-west India, at the end of the 15th century. In this book, you can read some of the many stories about the Gurus' lives.

The Ten Sikh Gurus

1 Guru Nanak (1469-1539)

2 Guru Angad Dev (1504-1552)

3 Guru Amar Das (1479-1574)

4 Guru Ram Das (1534-1581)

5 Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606)

6 Guru Hargobind (1595-1644)

7 Guru Har Rai (1630-1661)

8 Guru Har Krishan (1656-1664)

9 Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621-1675)

10 Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708)

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The Rich Man and the Needle of Heaven

Guru Nanak was the first Sikh Guru. He spent much of his life travelling around India, teaching people about God.

On one of his journeys, he visited the great city of Lahore. A very wealthy banker lived in a magnificent palace in the city. His name was Duni Chand.

When Duni Chand heard that Guru Nanak was in the city, he rushed out to find him. He invited him to a special feast to be held in the Guru's honour.

"Thank you, but no thank you," Guru Nanak said. "I prefer the simple things of

life. Besides," he added, mysteriously, "I might cause you some trouble."

But Duni Chand would not take no for an answer. Again and again, he repeated his invitation until Guru Nanak had to accept.

"It will be the finest food you've ever tasted," said boastful Duni Chand.

It was a very splendid occasion. The food was indeed delicious, everyone agreed. When all his guests had finished eating, Duni Chand turned to Guru Nanak.

"I am a very wealthy man," he said. "One of the richest in the whole city. If

