April 13, 2025

**Class #2: Sikhism**

Homework: How have Hindu ideas/practices impacted American culture?

1. Sikhism Overview
2. **5th Largest** Religion in World- **25million**, 250k in US, 8000 in Whatcom County
3. All American Religion- Features fit America: materialistic, work ethic, tolerant of others, works-based salvation
4. History of Sikhism
5. Founder **Guru Nanak** (1469-1539) raised Hindu, lived in Punjab (Northern India)
6. Moghul Empire ruled (Muslems), Nanak’s best friend was Muslem
7. Sikhism “stole” from both faiths

Islam- monotheism, materialism, daily prayers

Hinduism- pantheism, karma, samsara & liberation

1. First Ten Gurus added to ideas of the faith

-ideas were included in Sikh Scriptures, **Guru Granth Sahib (GGS)** consisting of 974 hymns

-#10 **Guru Gobind Singh** pronounces GGS 11th Guru (1708- present)

 E. 3 Golden Pillars of Sikhism

 -remember God through prayer & meditation

 -earn an honest living

 -give selflessly to others

 3. **Sikh Temple- Gurdwara**= “place of the guru”

 A. Head covering, shoes off, sit criss-cross applesauce, men-women separated

 B. Guru Granth Sahib- “Living Word”, read constantly, treated like royalty

 C. Prasada offered- “Holy Pudding”

 D. Langar (Dining Area) in every Gurdwara. Volunteers cook & clean

 -vegetarian fare, Indian Food

 -all sit together (anti-Caste)

 -free lodging in many Gurdwaras

4**. Amrit, Sikh baptism ceremony**

 A. history of ceremony- est by #10 Guru Gobind Singh

 B. 5 Promises

 -Worship only the One True God

 -Read daily from GGS

 -Join Sikh Congregation

 -Serve Others

 -Refrain from worshipping any created object or living object

 C. Ceremony includes water: sprinkling & drinking

 D. Promises of Khalsa: equality of all, no tobacco, meat, intoxicants, display **5 Ks**

 -**Kesh= uncut hair**

 **-Kangha= comb**

 **-Kara= bracelet**

 **-Kachera= underwear**

 **-Kirpan= ceremonial sword**

 E. Men’s last name= **Singh** (Lion), Women’s= **Kaur** (Princess)

5. Like Hinduism, Sikhs believe we forget our divinity & are deceived by the world (**Maya).** Our egos become attached & we become blind to the transcendent truth of God.

**Five Elements of Ego** are: Lust, Anger, Greed, Attachment, Pride

6. Other Distinctives

 A. God as a creator- begotten

 B. Not evangelical

 C. Emphasize equality (not Castes)

 D. Have a “live & let live” mentality

 E. not a strict religious hierarchy

 F. abortion- mostly pro-life

7. Modern History- to help us understand the Sikh experience

 A. **Khalistan Movement**- “Operation Blue Star”

 B. **Anti-Hindu Riots**, Bellingham 1907