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