

EVOLUTION OF THE GURDUARA (PART 1)

Grade 5 - J. Singh

Grade 5
Jasvir Singh



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THE GURDUARA

- A *Gurduara* is the name given to the Sikh place of learning, worship and a place where Sikhs have historically assembled to facilitate their spiritual and political growth

Literally, “through the Guru” – is a gateway to Sikh culture and lifestyle

- Also commonly referred to “Guru’s house”

THE GURDUARA

- A *Gurduara* generally offers shelter, food, education, physical care and an open-discussion form for Sikhs and non-Sikhs
- Facility includes Prayer Room (*Darbar*), and Community kitchen (*Langar*)
- Historically, the institution of the Gurduara has embraced all visitors, from peasants to emperors

THE GURDUARA

- **According to Bhai Kahn Singh, a Gurduara is a ...**
 - School
 - Spiritual Center
 - Hospital
 - Refuge
 - Kitchen / Food
 - Women's Shelter
 - Resthouse
 - Fort

GURDUARA VS GURDWARA

- **Duara – Through / By**
- **Dwara – Hindi word for place/home/gate**
- **In Panjabi and in Guru Granth sahib, the word used is ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ**
- **Meaning – Through the Guru**

QUOTES FROM GURBANI / VAARS

- **Guru Nanak Ji:**

- ਗੁਰੂ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਹੋਇ ਸੋਝੀ ਪਾਇਸੀ ।
- ਗੁਰੂ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਆਖਿ ਸੁਣਏ ।

- **Guru Amardas Ji:**

- ਗੁਰੂ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਹੋਇ ਕੈ ਸਾਹਿਬੁ ਸੰਮਾਲੇਹ ।

- **Bhai Gurdas Ji:**

- ਗੁਰੂ ਦੁਆਰੈ ਆਇ ਕੈ ਚਰਣ ਕਵਲ ਰਸ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਿ ਪਾਗੈ ।

GURU PERIOD

Guru Nanak Dev ji

- **First Gurduara called Dharamshalla established in Kartarpur**
- **Spiritual discourse centers**

Guru Angad Dev ji

- **Formalized Langar / Mata Khivi ji**
- **Formalized Gurmukhi script, established learning centers**

GURU PERIOD

Guru Amardas ji

- Promoted equality, created *Baolis*
- Promoted women's rights (abolished *parda / sati*)
- Established *Manji* System

Guru Ramdas ji

- Promoted social improvements
- Established cities including Amritsar
- Started construction of *Darbar Sahib Sarovar*

GURU PERIOD

Guru Arjan Dev ji

- Finished construction of *Darbar Sahib*
- Compiled *Adi Granth* and promoted *Baani Guru*
- Appointed first *Granthi* – Baba Buddha ji

Guru Hargobind ji

- *Miri-Piri*
- Established *Akal Takht Sahib*
- Appointed first *Jathedar Bhai Gurdas ji*

GURU PERIOD

Guru Harrai ji

- Promoted environmental responsibility
- Established / built gardens, animal refuge and hospitals

Guru Harkrishan ji

- Setup Medical camps in Delhi
- Small Pox epidemic

GURU PERIOD

Guru Tegh Bahadar ji

- Refuge for the weak
- Political center for making *panthic* and social decisions

Guru Gobind Singh ji

- Forts
- Literature / Poetry
- *Sant-Sipahi*
- *Taksaal*
- *Guru Granth / Guru Panth*

SOME IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Spelling - *Gurduara*
- Guru Nanak Started *Dharamshalla* as spiritual discourse / learning centers
- Guru Nanak ji revealed the concept of *Shabad* Guru
- Guru Gobind Singh ji passed Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib
- The word *Gurduara* was first used during Guru Hargobind Ji's Guruship