

Age 5 to 10

Second Episode Sikh of America World Competition 2019

Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji

(Give all answers in complete sentences )

Q-1

When was Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji born and what did he learn growing up?

A-1

Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the youngest son of Sri Guru Ramdas Ji and Mata Bhani Ji was born at Goindwal Sahib on Vaisakh Vadi 7th, (19th Vaisakh) Samvat 1620 (April 15,1563). He learnt Gurmukhi script and Gurbani from Baba Budha ji. He was also given a suitable education in Persian, and Sanskrit languages. The child (Guru)Arjan Sahib often talked of God and loved to sing His songs. He had two elder brothers, Prithi Chand ji and Mahadev ji. The former proved to be the most selfish and the later mostly preferred utter silence.

Q-2

Who was Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji's wife and son?

A-2

But (Guru) Arjan Dev Ji was sweet, humble and a perfect blend of devotion and sacrifice. He was hardly 18 years old when his father Sri Guru Ramdas Ji installed him as the Fifth Nanak. He was married to Mata Ganga ji and had a son (Guru) Hargobind Sahib Ji. Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji completed the work on two sacred tanks (Sarowars) Santokhsar and Amritsar. He got the foundation stone of Harmandir Sahib, laid by a Muslim Saint Hazrat Mian Mir Ji of Lahore on 1st Magh, Vikrami Samvat 1644 (December 1588). After the completion of Sri Harmandir Sahib, Guru Sahib completed the construction of Santhokhsar.

Q-3

What town did Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji find?

A-3

Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji founded the town of Tarn Taran Sahib near Goindwal Sahib and also created a large tank and Gurdwara there. A house for lepers was also built. He also laid the foundation stone of the town Kartarpur in

Doaba region (near Jalandhar city). He constructed a Baoli in Dabbi-Bazar of Lahore. (Once Shah Jahan destroyed the Baoli and erected a mosque there. But later on Maharaja Ranjit Singh re-excavated the Baoli. Again, after the partition of India in 1947, it was demolished by the Muslim mob). Guru Sahib also established another town, Hargobindpur on the river Bias and sunk a big well for irrigation at Chheharta, a few miles away from Amritsar.

Q-4

What was Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji's personality like?

A-4

Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji was very energetic and aspiring personality. In order to strengthen the cult of Sikhism he toured far and wide about five years throughout India. He also stayed sometime at Wadali (now it is called Guru-Di-Wadali near Amritsar city). To consolidate and extend Sikhism, Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji done a great and monumental work. After collecting the hymns of first four Guru Sahibs and several other and Muslim Saints, and compiled Sri Guru Granth Sahib (written by Bhai Gurdas Ji).

Q-5

Approximately how many verses were installed by Guru Sahib?

A5

Guru Sahib himself contributed about 2000 verses for it, installed it at Sri Harmandir Sahib on Bhadon Sudi 1st Samvat 1661 (August/September 1604), and made Baba Budha Ji as the first Granthi. Sri Guru Granth Sahib proved a great landmark in the history of Sikh Nation. It created a sensor of religious separation from the Muslims. Now the Sikhism began to develop as a different religion. Once the emperor Akbar was misled about the contents of Sri Guru Granth Sahib by the enemies of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji. But finding nothing objectionable, the emperor Akbar assessed Sri Guru Granth Sahib as "The greatest Granth of synthesis, worthy of reverence".

Q-6

What city became the central institution during the period of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji?

Q-6

During the period of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji the Amritsar city became the central institution where all the Sikhs used to gather annually on Baisakhi and the Massands began to deposit the collected offerings from the different parts of India in Guru Sahib's treasury.

Q-7

What tradition was institutionalized during the period of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji?

A-7

The tradition of Daswandh and Masand system was also institutionalized. This institution spread the Sikhism to the provinces far distant from the Punjab and attracted a large number of followers. (But the Masand system became rotten with the passage of time Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji abolished it in 1698).

Q-8

What did sikhs begin calling Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji?

A-8

For the first time the Sikhs began to call Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji as "Sacha Patshah". The number of Sikhs began to increase day by day and this made the orthodox and princely Muslim class more jealous towards Guru Ghar (Sikh Nation). Guru's elder brother, Prithi Chand made an alliance with Sulhi Khan (a revenue officer), and planned to harm and harass Guru Sahib. But Sulhi Khan died by his sudden fall in a live brick-kiln. The orthodox and the fundamentalist Muslims (Shekh Ahmed Sirhandi, Birbal and Chandu) were some of the most jealous of Sikh community and Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji. After the death of Akbar in 1605 both and Muslim fundamentalists move the new head of state emperor Jahangir against Guru Sahib.

Q-9

Who was jealous of Guru's propagation of Sikhism?

A-10

Jahangir himself was also jealous about Guru's propagation of Sikhism. He promptly obliged the enemies of Guru Sahib. Many baseless allegations were leveled against Guru Sahib, one of those was helping the rebellious Khusro. Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji was arrested and brought to Lahore where he was charge-sheeted and implicated in the false cases. The Governor of Lahore was assigned the task of the execution. He handed over Guru Sahib over to Chandu, a petty businessman and an orthodox of Lahore city. He tortured Guru Sahib about three days in a manner unknown in the history of mankind. It is said that Mian Mir (a Muslim Sufi Saint and friend of Guru Sahib) tried to intercede on behalf of Guru Sahib but the later forbade him.

Q-11

How was Guru Sahib tortured?

A-11

During the torturing period, Guru Sahib was made to sit on the hot iron plates and burning sand was poured over his naked body. When his body was blistered, he was chained and thrown into the river Ravi. Thus Guru Sahib embraced martyrdom on Jeth Sudi 4th (1st Harh) Samvat 1663, (May 30, 1606) Jahangir in his autobiography acknowledges that he personally ordered the execution of Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji. The martyrdom of Guru Sahib changed the entire character of Sikhism radically. The Sikh Nation naturally looked upon this as the bigotry and cruelty of the theist Muslim state and the orthodox towards the newly born, peace loving Sikhism.