

SIKHS AND SCOUTS

Americans of the Sikh Faith have always gone the extra mile to participate in activities that are patriotic and they consciously give back to the homeland.

SIKH MORALITY-THE THREE GOLDEN RULES

“Greater than Truth is Truthful living.” (SGGS Pg 62).

Everything is beneath Truth; however, there is one thing that is higher - Truthful living. Truthful living results in actions that emanate from one’s Truthful inner-self. In other words, merely talking about Truth is not enough. Rather, one must develop the habit of doing Truthful actions. These ideals are similar to those espoused by the Boy Scout oath; that states,

‘On my honor I will do my best; ... To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law, ... To help other people at all times. ... To keep myself physically strong, ... mentally awake, ... and morally straight..’

According to Sikh teachings, for the development of one’s moral and truthful life, mechanical ritualistic practices of any kind are of no consequence. For example, one may think that one is already truthful within because one practices a bundle of rituals. Or, one may think that visiting “holy” places, bathing in “holy” water, performing some religious rituals or reciting “holy” words/prayers develops truthfulness. However, Sikh theology teaches that one must work to become truthful from within. It teaches that outward displays of ritualistic practices will not develop a truthful moral lifestyle.

Rather than ritualistic practices, the Sikh Way of life advocates the following Golden Rules:

- 1) **KIRAT KARO:** Earn your living through completely honest means.
- 2) **WAND CHHAKO:** Selflessly share your earnings with others by serving humanity through completely selfless service.
- 3) **NAAM JAPO:** Focus and continuously stay focused upon Godly virtues (like truth, honesty, morality, integrity etc.) in order to develop consciousness about the presence of those virtues within oneself.

An American Sikh Scout, receiving his Arrow of Light Award – Nov 2011



American Sikh Scouts receive the first Sikh Religious Awards approved by BSA – July 2014



The Boy Scout Law:

The Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Concept of GOD in the Sikh Faith:

“There is ONE God.

The Supreme Truth, the Creator, Omnipresent, without fear or enmity, A Timeless Reality, beyond birth or death, self-existent; (And is) Known by the Guru’s Grace.”

. (SGGS Pg 1)

It was the year 1469 CE, when the Sikh Way of life started in Punjab, South East Asia, with the advent of its founder Spiritual Master, **Guru Nanak Sahib**. Guru Nanak advocated, a life-style of simple honest living that is filled with a strong sense of Truthfulness, Morality, Trustworthiness, Humility, Dignity, Freedom, Liberty, Equality, Oneness of the entire Human family, and Justice for all. He also stressed the above-mentioned spiritual message of belief in One God.

Guru Nanak Sahib was followed by his nine successors; **Guru Gobind Singh Jee** being the Tenth Guru. The finalized form of teachings of the Sikh Guru is compiled in the sacred **Sikh Scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib** (SGGS). In 1708, the Tenth Guru declared SGGS, as the **present day and eternal Guru (Enlightener)** for the Sikhs.

The Sikh faith’s beliefs are extremely modern, scientific and devoid of any dogmatic practices. Sikhism is a purely **monotheistic** faith. Thus with its belief in **ONE God** only and **NONE else**, it does not recognize any thing or anybody else as an equal to God.

SIKH UNIFORM AND THE SIKH TURBAN;

To help discipline the mind to get freed from any inferior form of behavior and to achieve a sense of equality of all, the Sikh Gurus specified a **uniform** that every Sikh needs to start wearing as a first step towards a disciplined life.

This **Sikh uniform** calls for keeping the human body intact to its maximum extent as God handed it over to us. Therefore, the Sikh Gurus have asked their followers to stop deforming their human bodies.

Furthermore, to keep the hair neat, clean and tidy, each and every Sikh male is required to wear a **TURBAN**. Any female Sikhs can also wear a **TURBAN** if they

choose to do so; otherwise they have the option of wearing a SCARF (Chunee).

Moreover, every Sikh is advised to always stay ready to help those who may need assistance. In order to remain recognizable at all times, Sikhs are mandated to wear their **TURBANS**. The Turban functions as a Sikh uniform (like a police officer's or a soldier's uniform) so that anyone who needs help may be able to approach a Sikh without hesitation.

Sikh Scouts take a break on a backpacking trip



Completing a 57 mile Batona Trail hike, NJ



American Sikh Scouts welcoming US Troops on Thanksgiving Day in Southern New Jersey



Sikh Scouts at the Klondike Derby, Pine Hill, NJ – January 2011



Sikhs and Scouts



World Sikh Council
America Region



www.worldsikhcouncil.org