

OUR PASTS - II

Devotional Paths To The Divine

(Bhakti Saints)

Class VII

Social Science



Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School

Affiliated with CBSE



THE CITY PALACE, JAIPUR



MESSAGE FROM PRINCESS DIYA KUMARI

I am delighted to know that Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School is publishing a Graphic Novel on Bhakti Saints which is an outcome of the Jaipur History Festival held at the City Palace in 2019 organised by the **Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust**.

The Jaipur History Festival brought together about 650 students from around 50 schools to explore history through a variety of unique experiences that enabled the students to understand how the events of the past have shaped the present and the future. Students shared the stories of discovery and journeys through various media such as talk shows, art installations, puppetry, painting, music, dance and drama. It not only educated and entertained the participants but also launched the mega project of Graphic Novel.

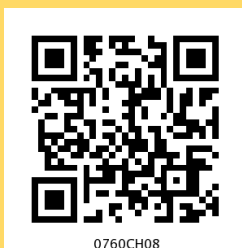
The coronavirus outbreak this year has been challenging for people across the globe. I am proud to say that in spite of the Pandemic, 50 schools are developing 120 Graphic Novels under the aegis of **MSMS II Museum Trust**.

I am happy to note that the students and teachers of MSBSS have worked together on the virtual platform in bringing out this novel in consonance with the National Education Policy 2020. My best wishes to the entire team of Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School and to the Principal, Mrs. Vaidehi Singh for her able guidance.

Princess Diya Kumari
Secretary, Managing Committee
Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School

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To access the comic book and additional interactive digital content, download the DIKSHA app from Google Play Store on your Android smartphone or tablet and scan the QR code using DIKSHA app.

Preface

This graphic novel engages readers in understanding the Bhakti Movement and knowing the Bhakti Saints like Sant Kabir Das, Guru Nanak and Meera Bai. The contents in the novel emphasise on the Bhakti Saints who preached that there is only one God and all are equal in the eyes of God. One can reach God not through rites and rituals but through love and devotion. The Graphic novel revolves around the significant role played by three Bhakti Saints during the medieval times.

The visually stimulating stories of Sant Kabir Das, Guru Nanak and Meera Bai will create a gateway to deeper understanding of the text and help students with various learning styles.

Learning Objectives

Chapter 8	Topic	Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes
Devotional Paths To The Divine	The idea of Supreme God. • Period after the 13th century saw a new wave of the Bhakti movement in North India.	Students will be able • To understand the idea of a Supreme God. • To know about the ideas of Bhakti and Sufi saints during the medieval period. • To learn about the preaching of the Bhakti Saints.	• Analyze factors which led to the emergence of new religious ideas and movements (Bhakti and Sufi). • Help the students develop cognitive thinking and build critical language skills in the areas like listening and speaking. • Enhance reading and writing skills among students. • Help in developing the students creativity and imagination to develop artistic skills
	• Sufism and various strands of Bhakti influenced each other.	• To understand that the unique feature of the Bhakti Saints' teachings is that the poems & bhajans were composed in regional languages and could be sung by common people.	
	New religious development in India: • Kabir • Guru Nanak • Meera bai	• To analyze the new philosophies which rejected all orthodox religions by Kabir and Guru Nanak. • To learn about Meera bai's ardent devotion towards Lord Krishna. • To understand that the songs composed by Meera bai openly challenged the norms of the upper caste and became popular among the masses in Rajasthan and Gujarat.	

STORY BOARD

Devotional Paths To The Divine

Bhakti Saints

Developed around different Gods and Goddesses

Preached using local language

Against strict religious practices and rituals

Aimed at reforming Hinduism

(15th Century)
Brought up by a Muslim family of Varanasi

poet and saint

Emphasised on the oneness of Allah and Ram

Composed verses in simple language

Writings influenced Hinduism and Islam



Kabir

(1469-1539 CE)

Born in Talwandi, Nankana Sahib, Pakistan

Emphasised on the realization of God through Bhakti

Founder of Sikhism
First of the ten gurus

Birthday celebrated as GuruPurab



Guru Nanak Dev

Travelled across Asia, spreading the message of Ek Onkar-One God

Passionate devotion to Deity

(1498 – 1547 CE)
Born in a royal family of Merta

Married to Prince Rana Bhojraj of Chittor



Meera Bai

Ardent devotee of Lord Krishna

Aristocratic Hindu Mystic Singer

Composed small spiritual songs

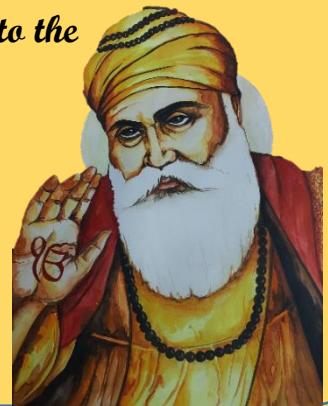
Bhakti Saints



Kabir was a 15th century Indian mystic poet and saint. He rejected 'murti puja' and believed in the oneness of God. People belonging to the religious sect called Kabir Panth are followers of his teachings. Kabir composed poems called dohe, shloka and sakhi.

Kabir

Guru Nanak Dev was an altruist. He gave a different path to the worship of a divine being to humanity contrary to the style of idolatry of Sanatan Mat. He always opposed the evils prevalent in Hinduism. The essence of his sermon was that God is one and his worship is for both Hindus and Muslims. The hymns he used to sing with devotion have been collected in the Guru Granth Sahib.



Guru Nanak Dev



Meera Bai was an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. Among the saints of India she is absolutely unparalleled. She composed many bhajans which are prayerful songs to Lord Krishna. She occupies indeed a sacred place in the history of India.

Meera Bai

Imaginary Characters



Mr. Kumar is 70 years old. He loves playing tennis and goes for a morning walk everyday. He lives with his son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. He enjoys narrating stories to his granddaughter.

Grandfather



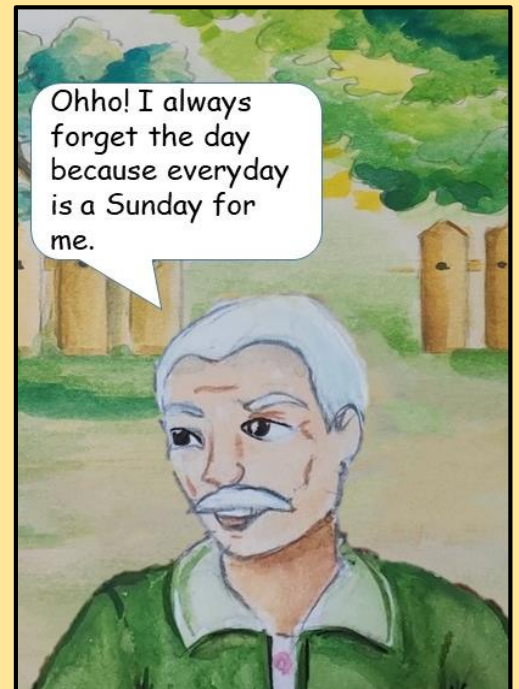
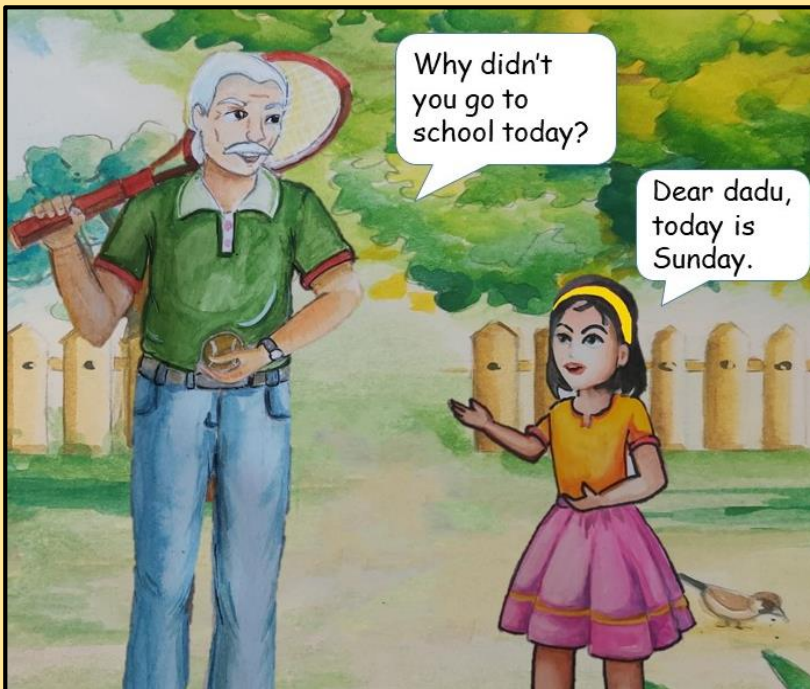
She is a home maker and an entrepreneur. She reads books and loves to cook delicious meals for her family.

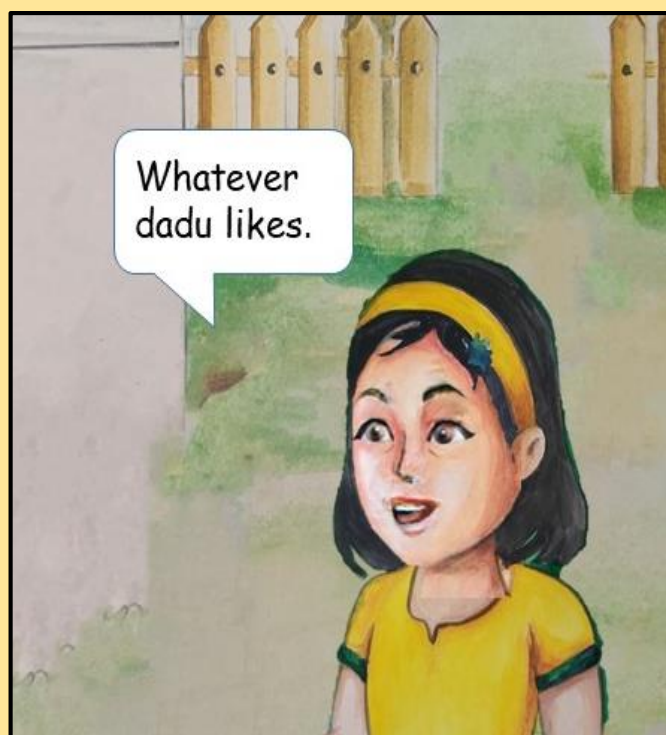
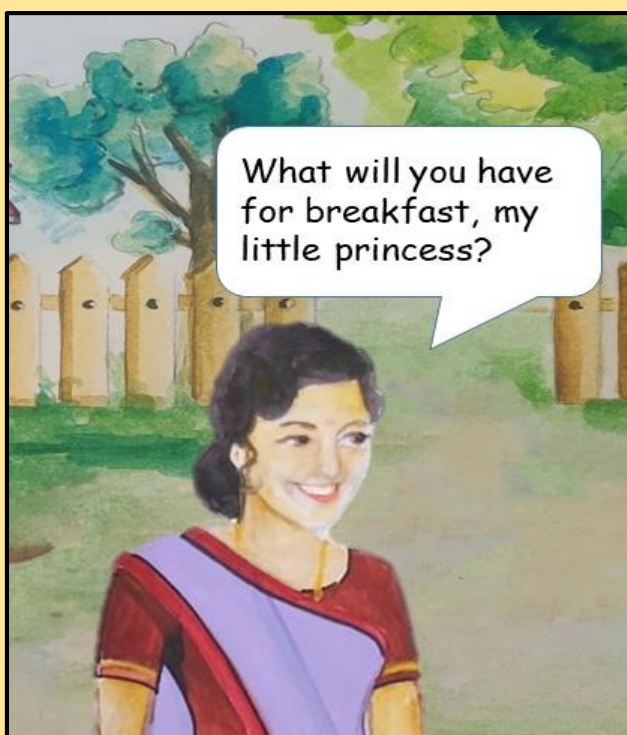
Mother

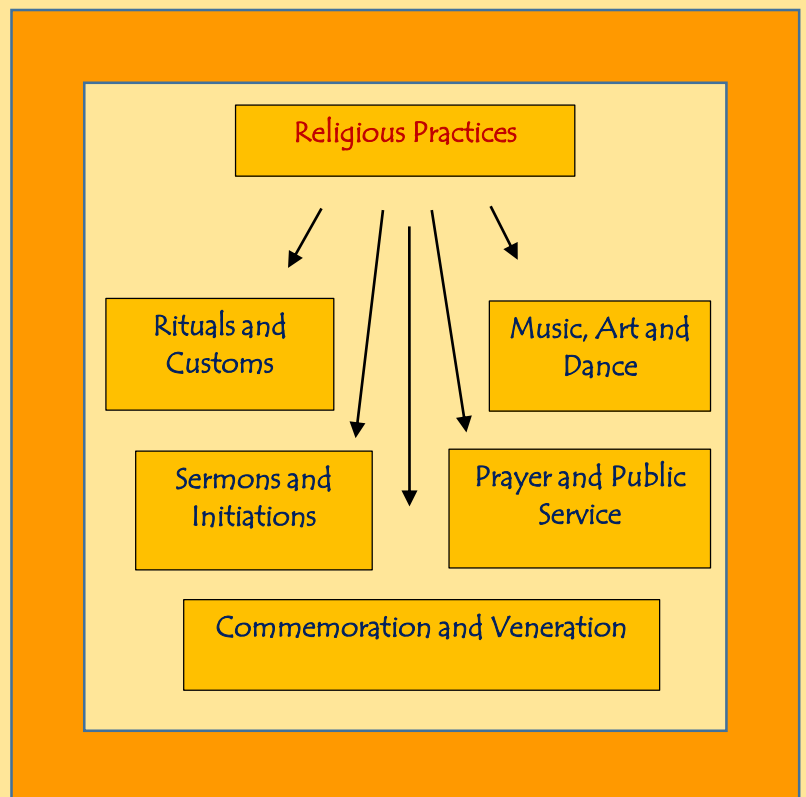
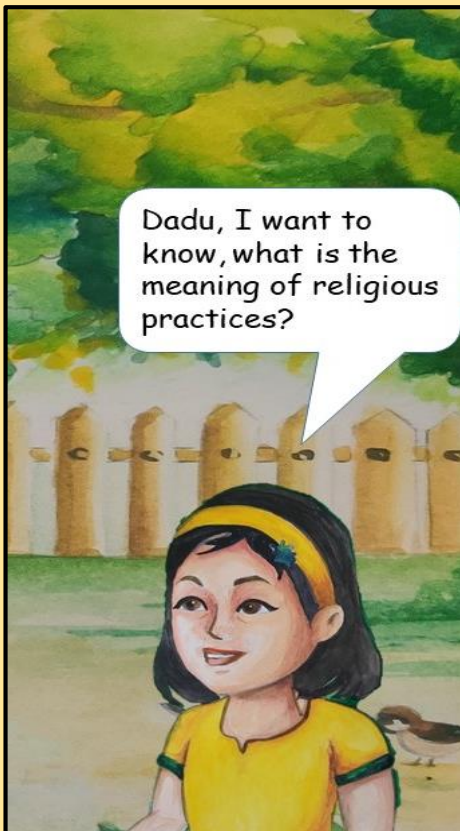
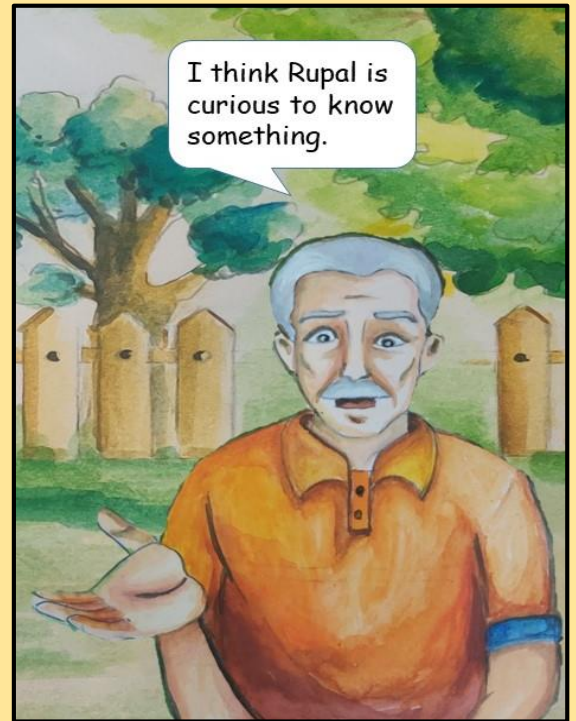


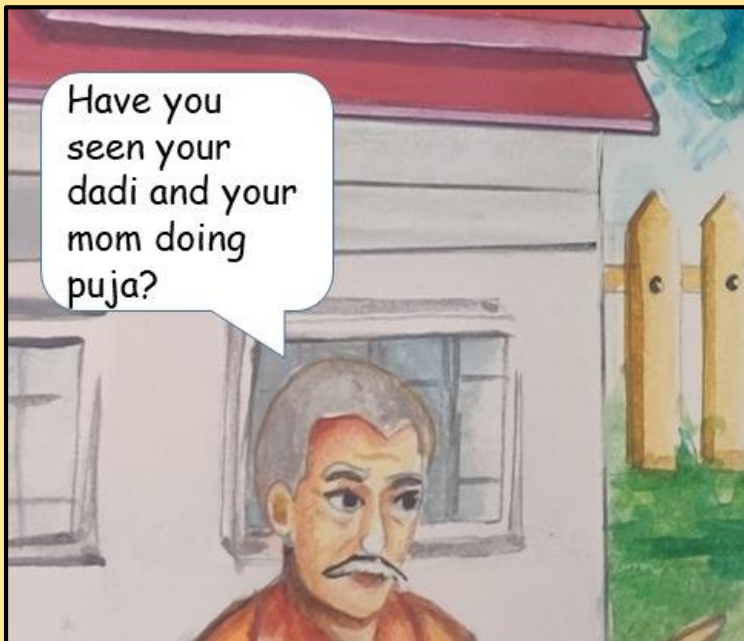
She is a 13 year old girl, who enjoys the company of her grandfather. She is always curious to know more about the topics covered in the class in her school.

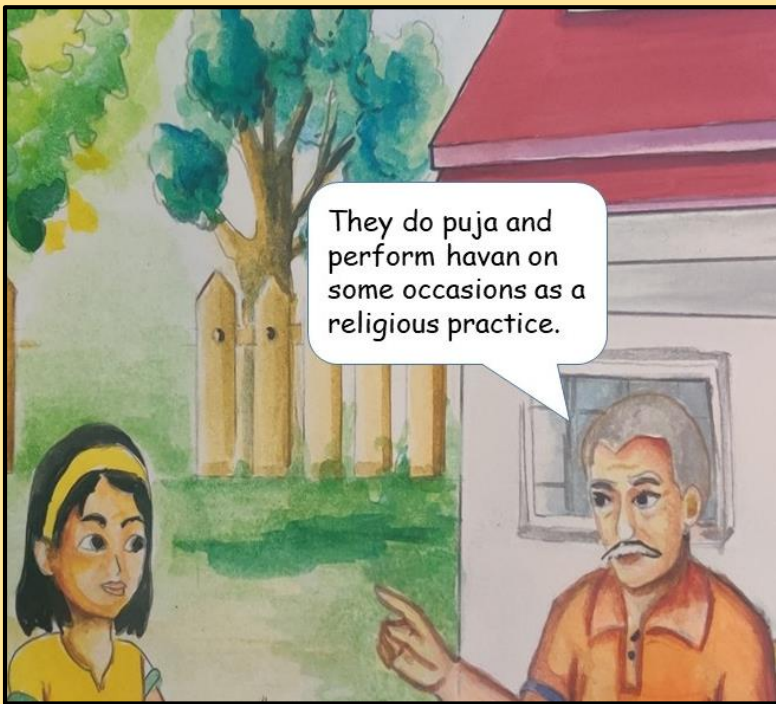
Rupal



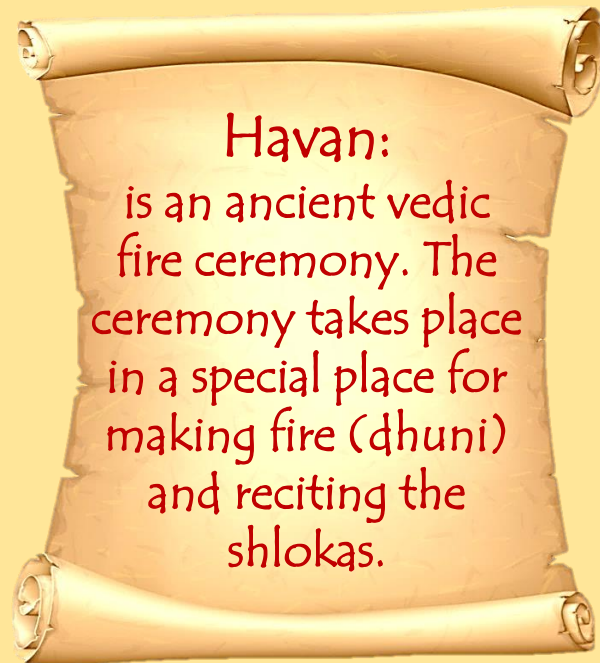








They do puja and perform havan on some occasions as a religious practice.

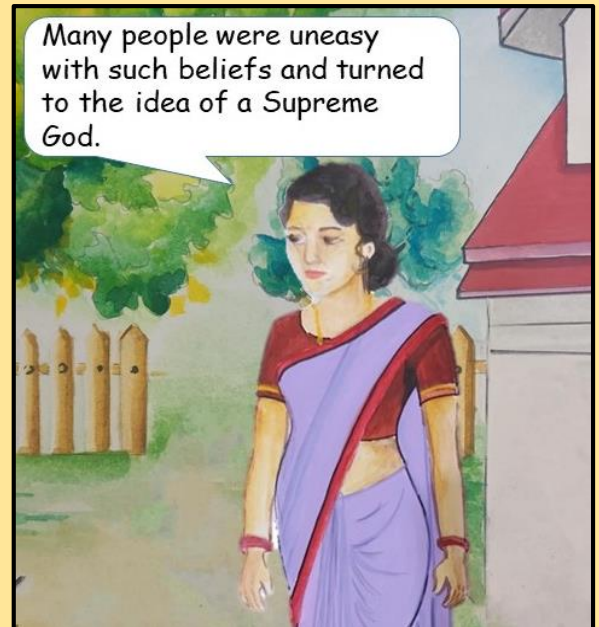
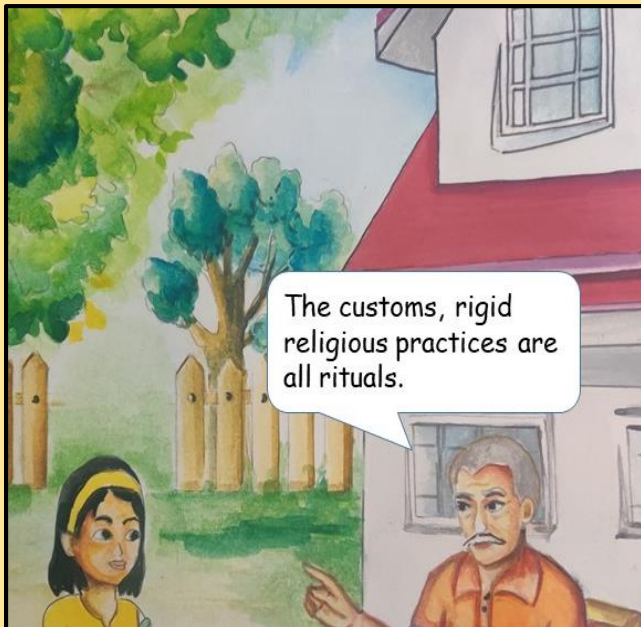
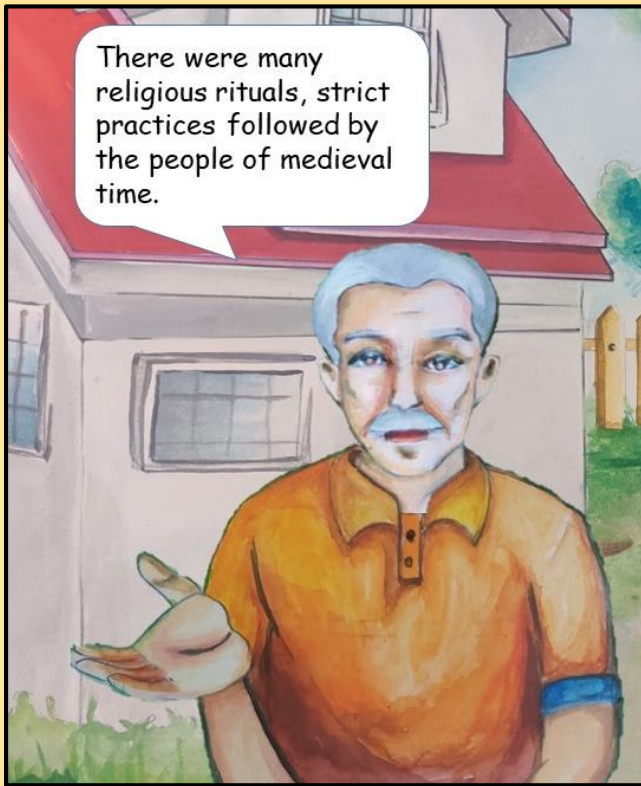


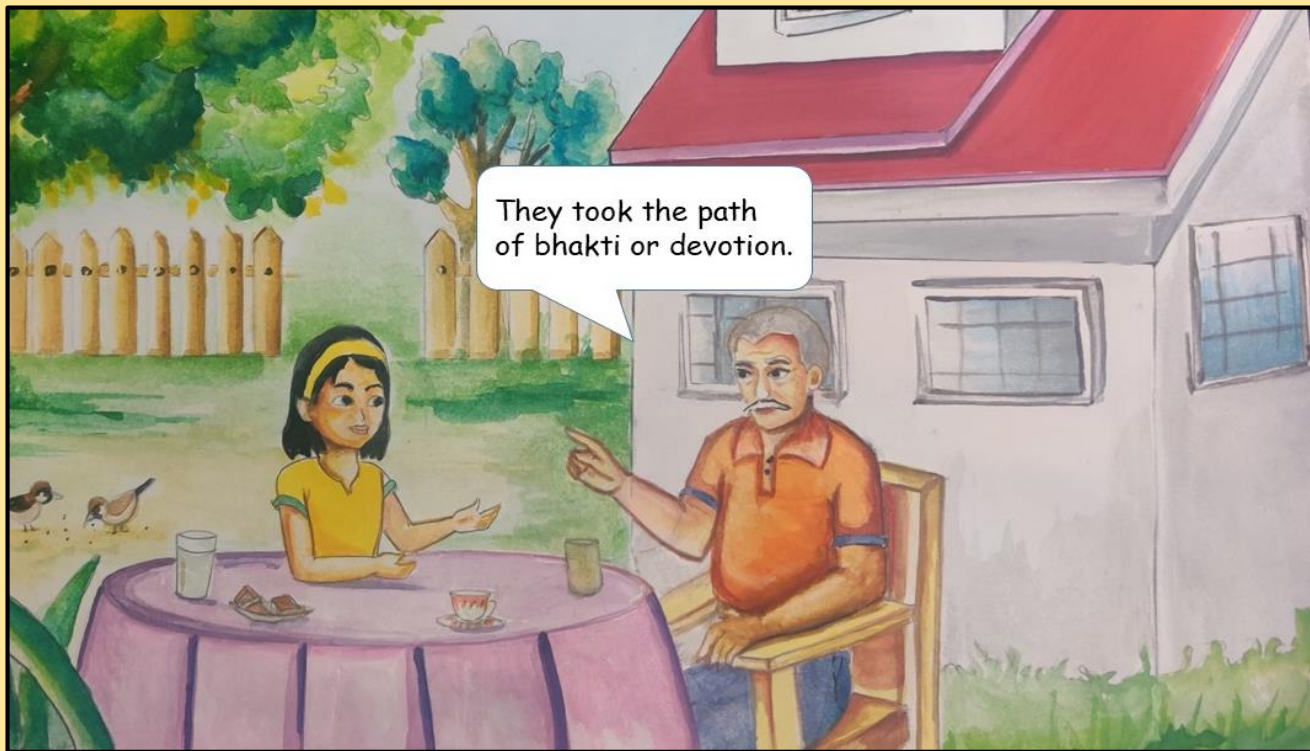
Havan:
is an ancient vedic fire ceremony. The ceremony takes place in a special place for making fire (dhuni) and reciting the shlokas.



Mom, I want to know what is the meaning of medieval times.

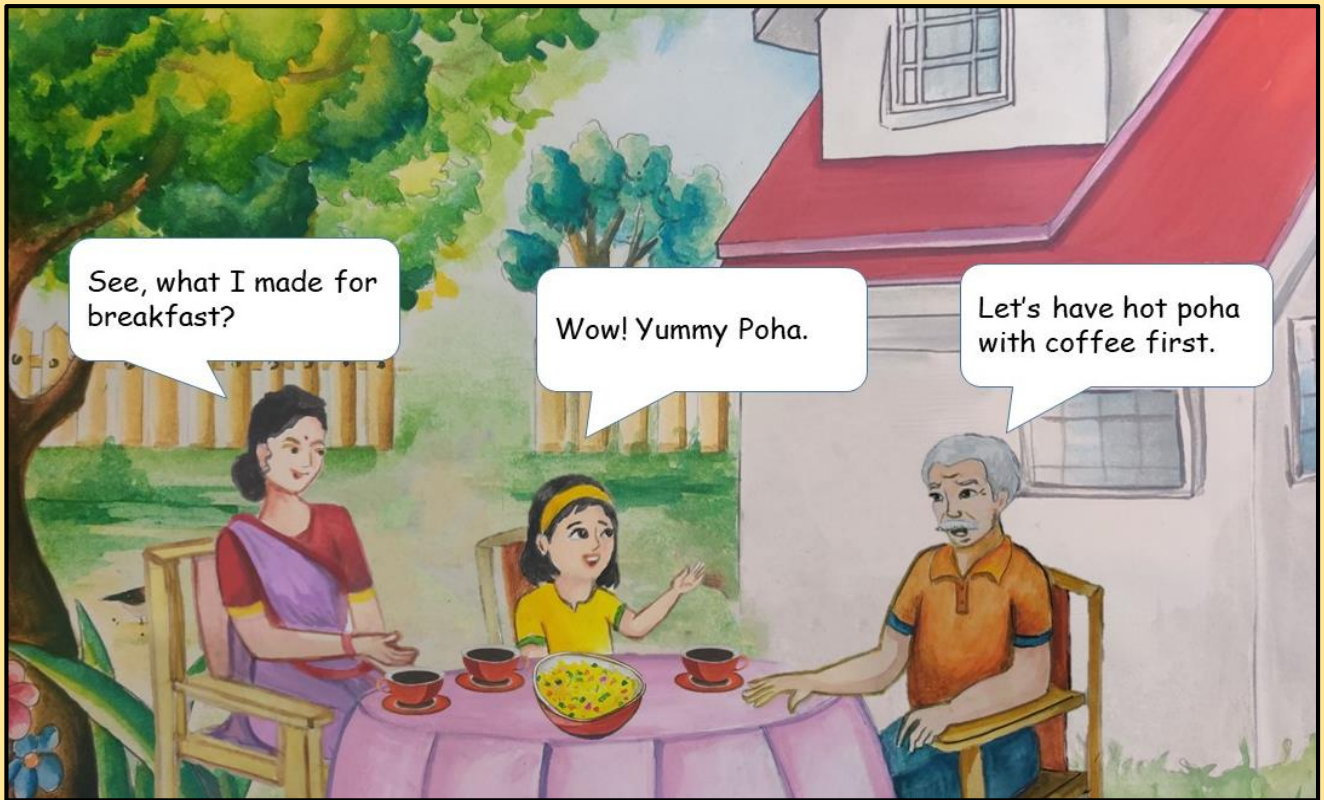
Medieval times means that era or time in the Indian History when there were developments in the field of art, culture, language and religion.



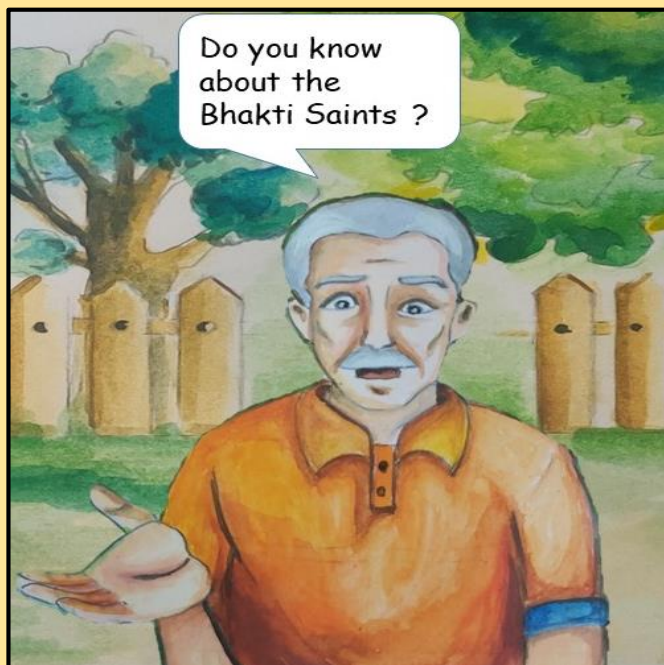
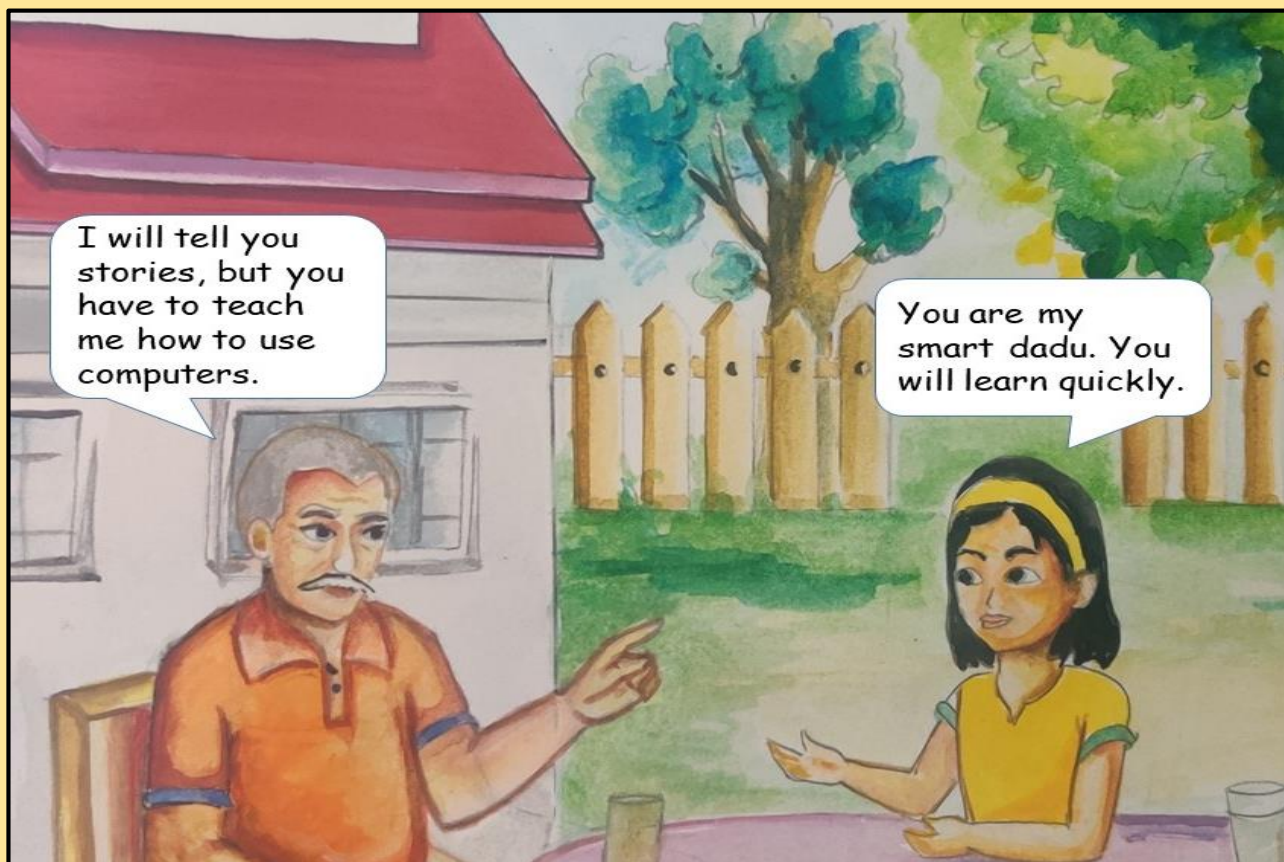


Bhakti literally means attachment or the state of mind where the devotee surrenders himself or herself unquestioningly to the God.

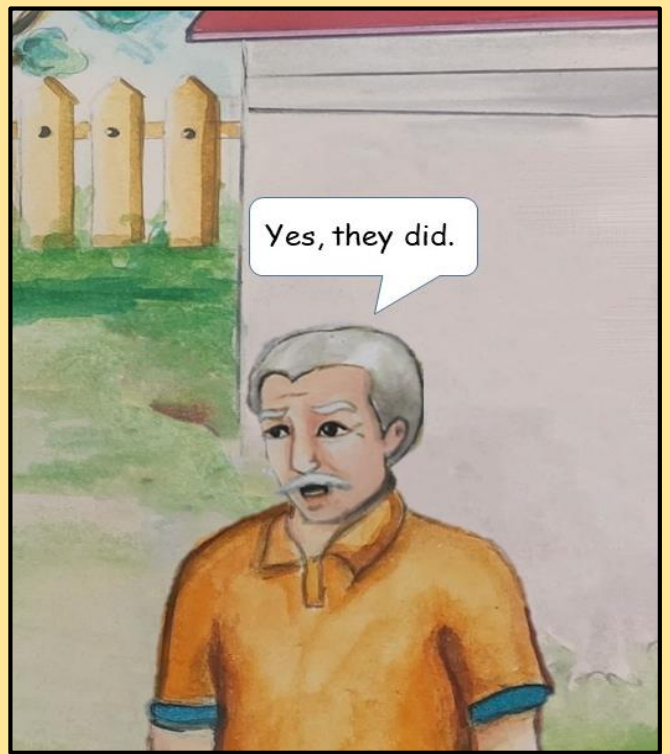
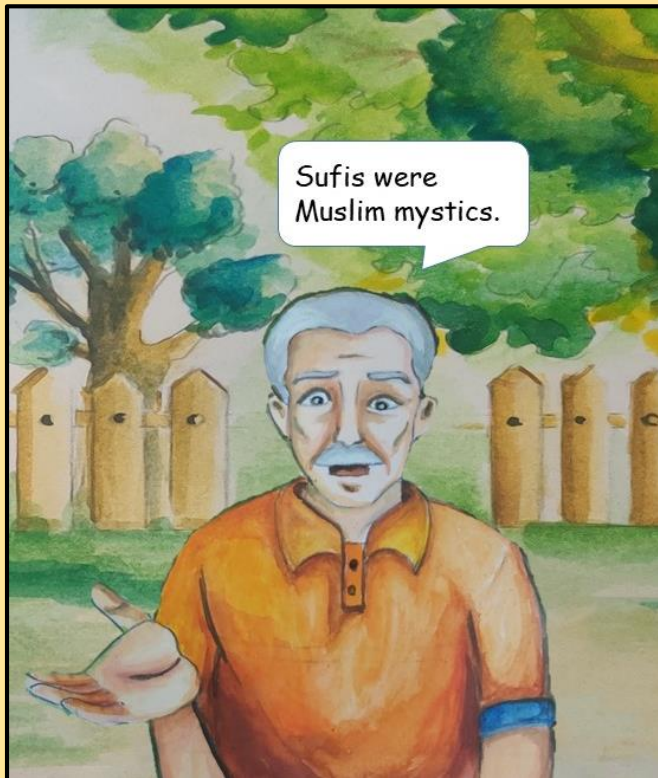




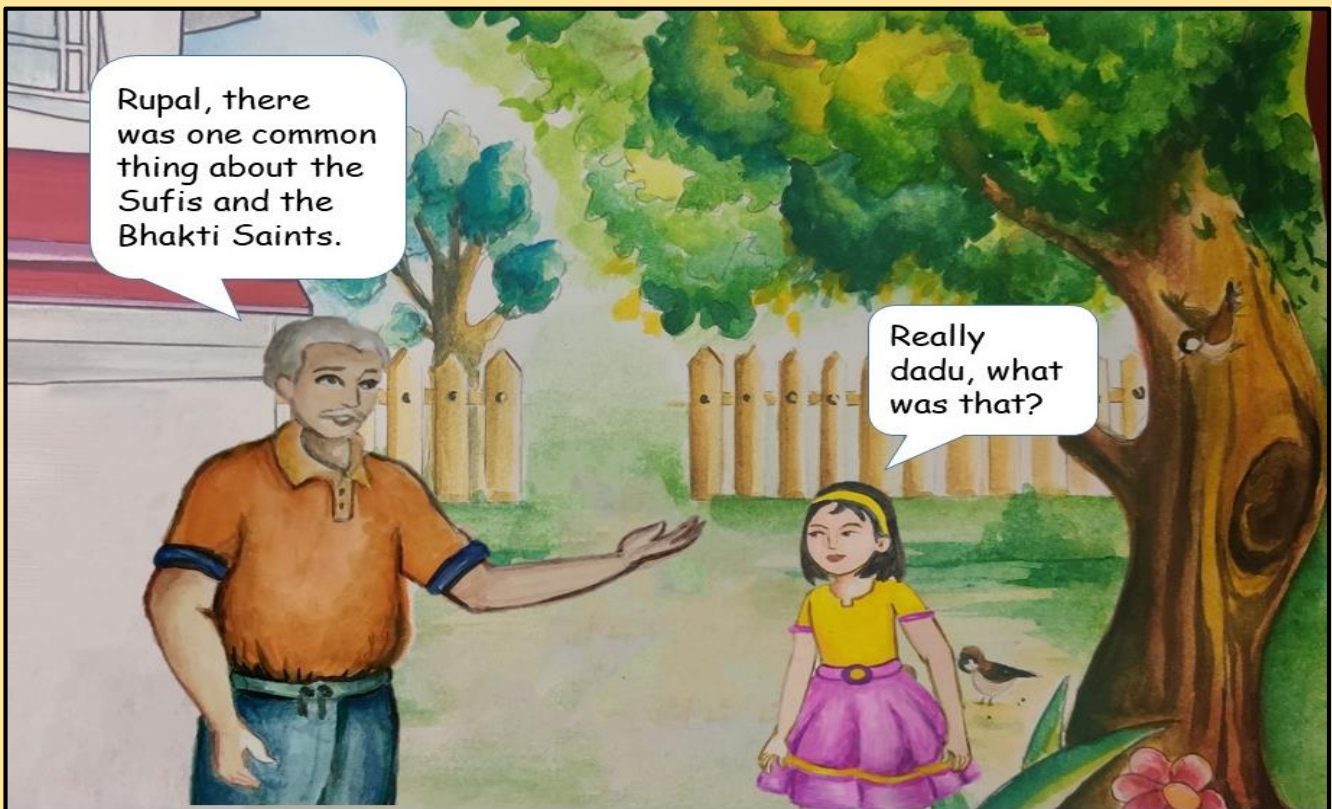
The positive influence that grandparents can have on their grandchildren's development is profound. By offering love and guidance, imparting wisdom, passing on traditions, and making memories, grandparents can leave behind a legacy that their grandchildren will value for the rest of their lives.

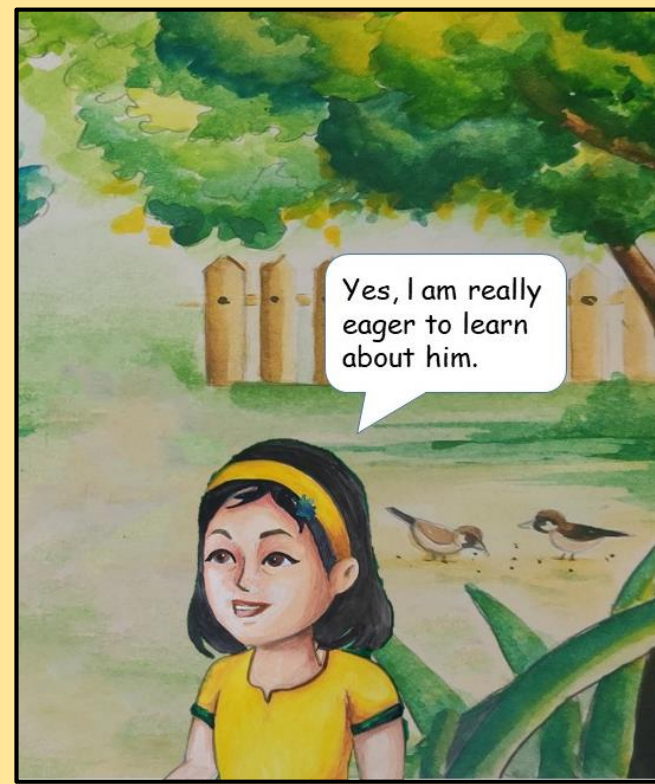
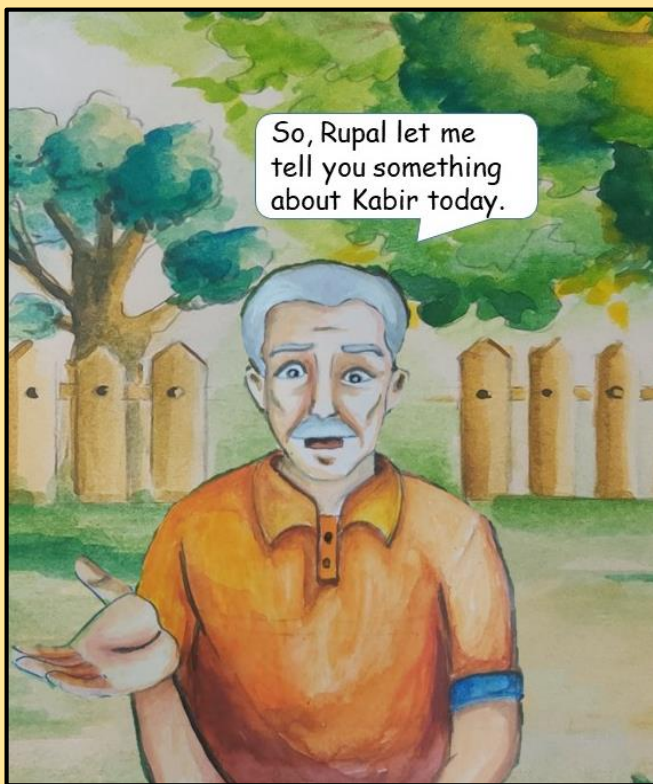
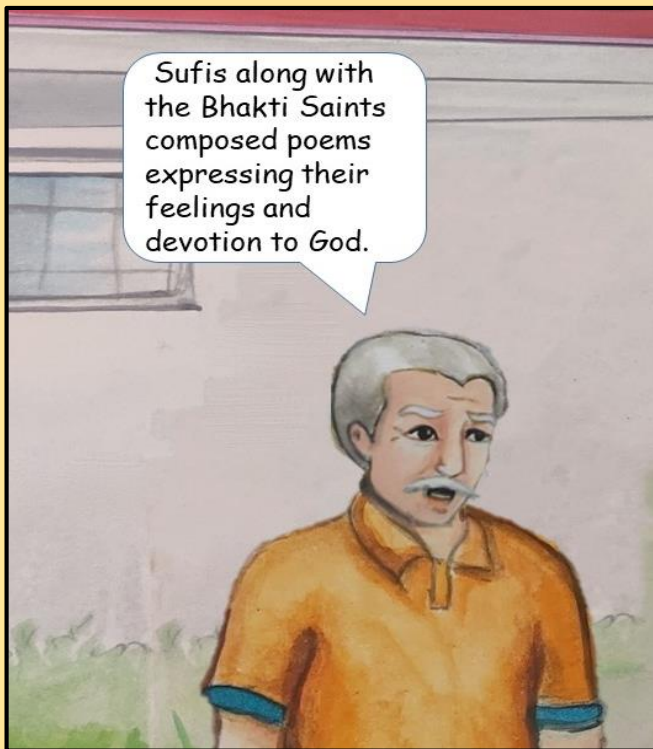






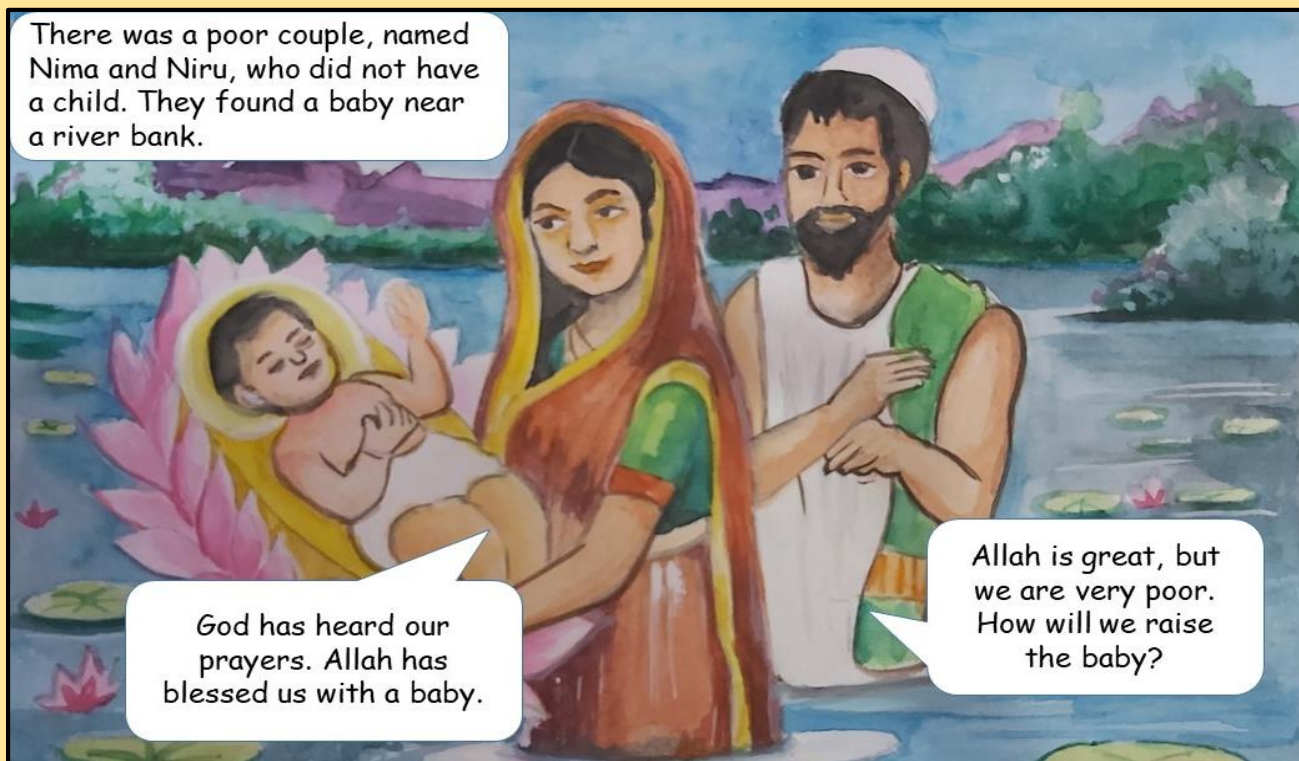
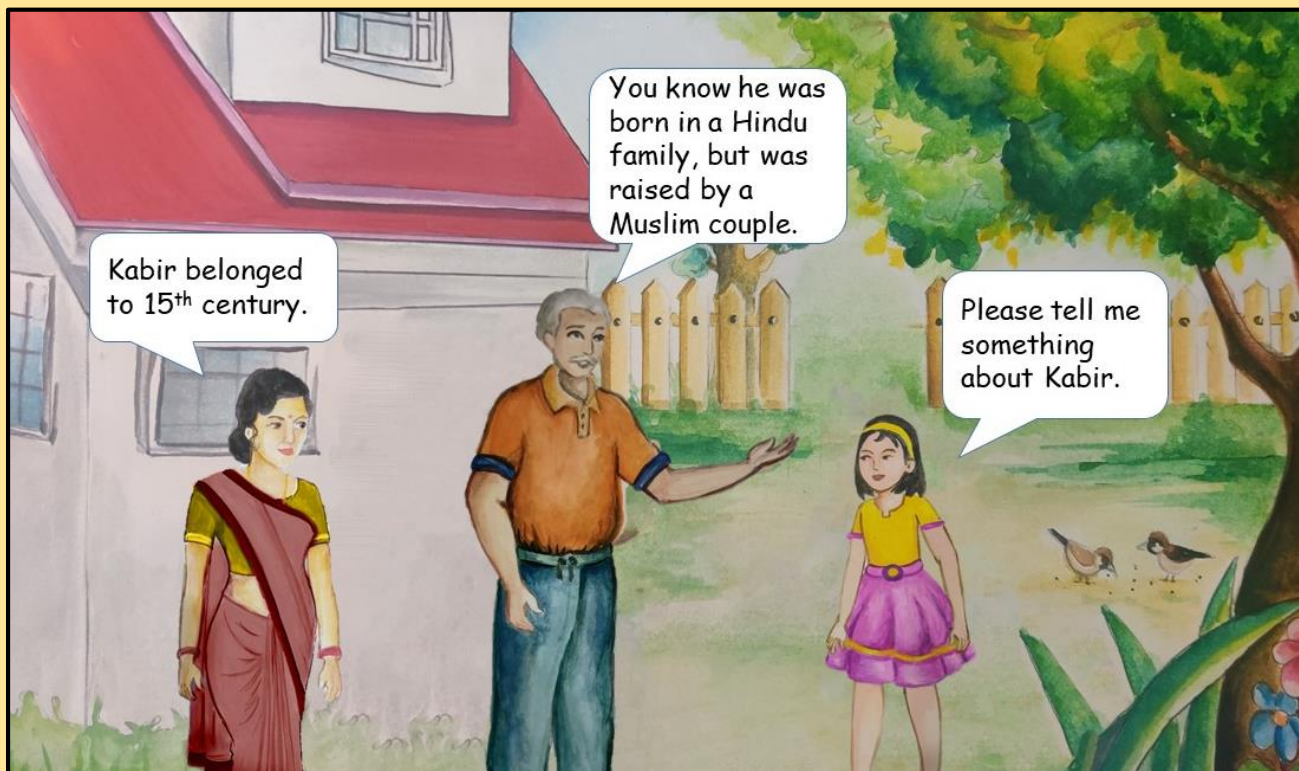
The Bhakti Saints transformed Hinduism by introducing devotion or bhakti as the means to attain God. For them caste had no meaning and all human beings were equal. The Sufi and Bhakti Saints played an important role in bringing the Muslims and Hindus together.

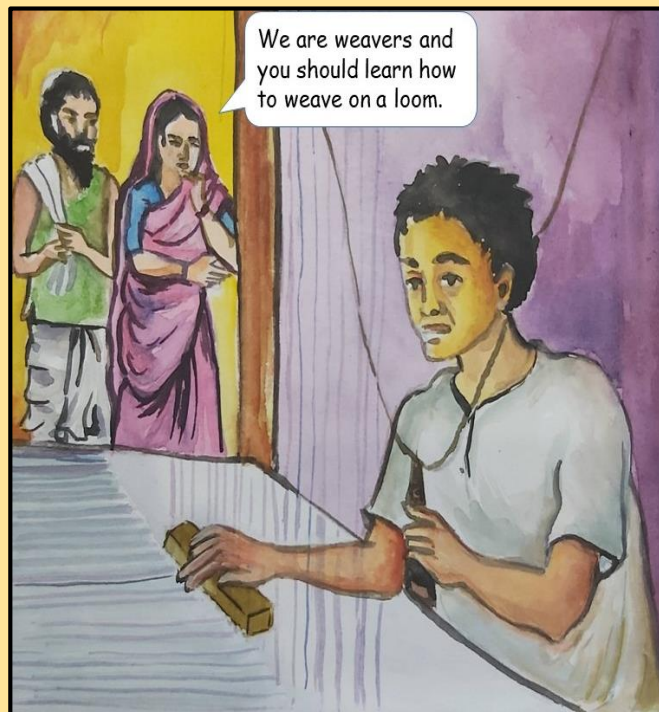
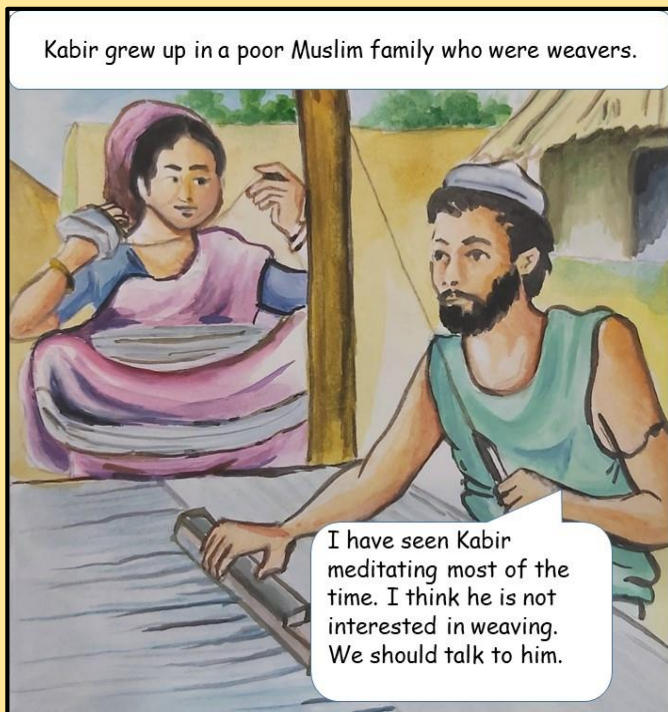
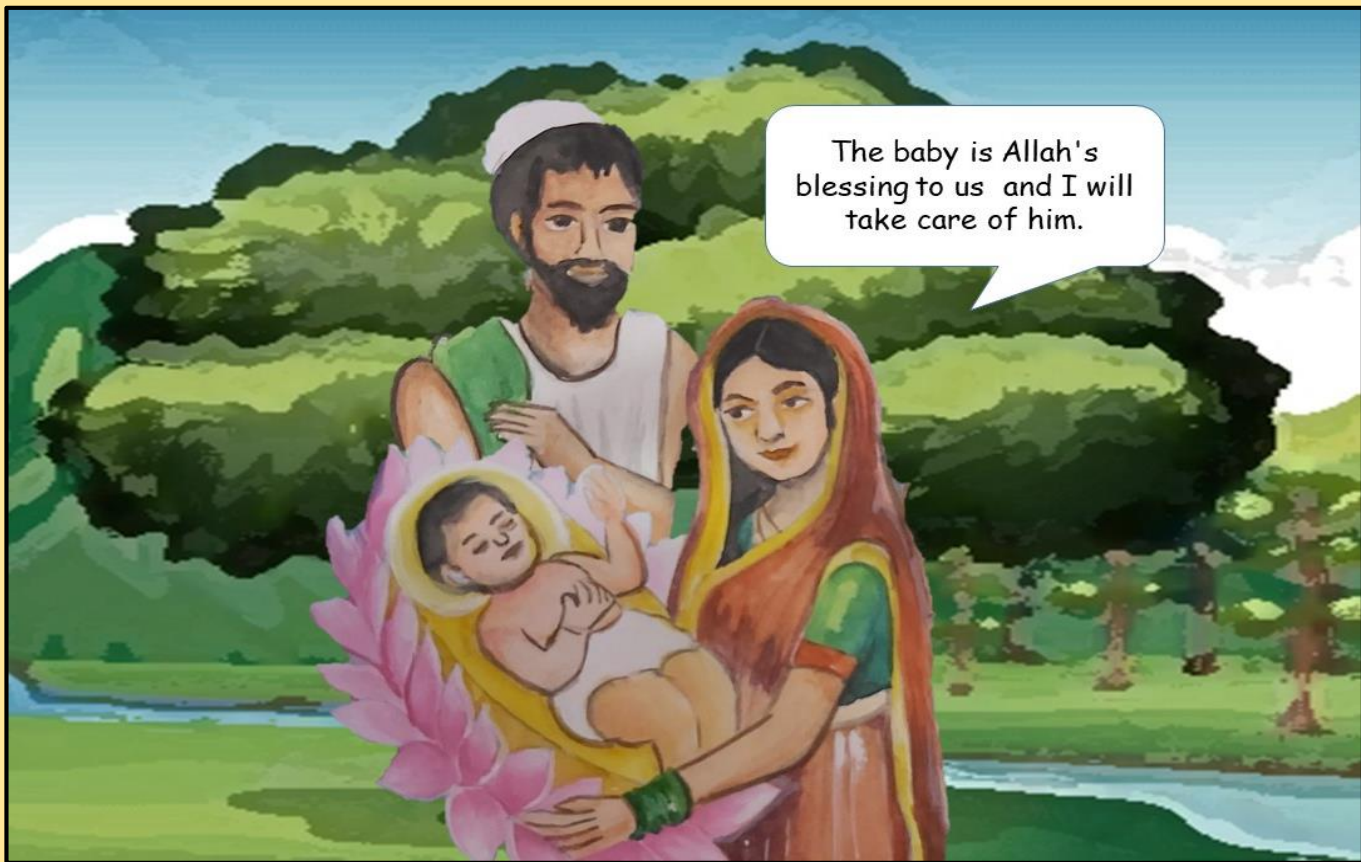




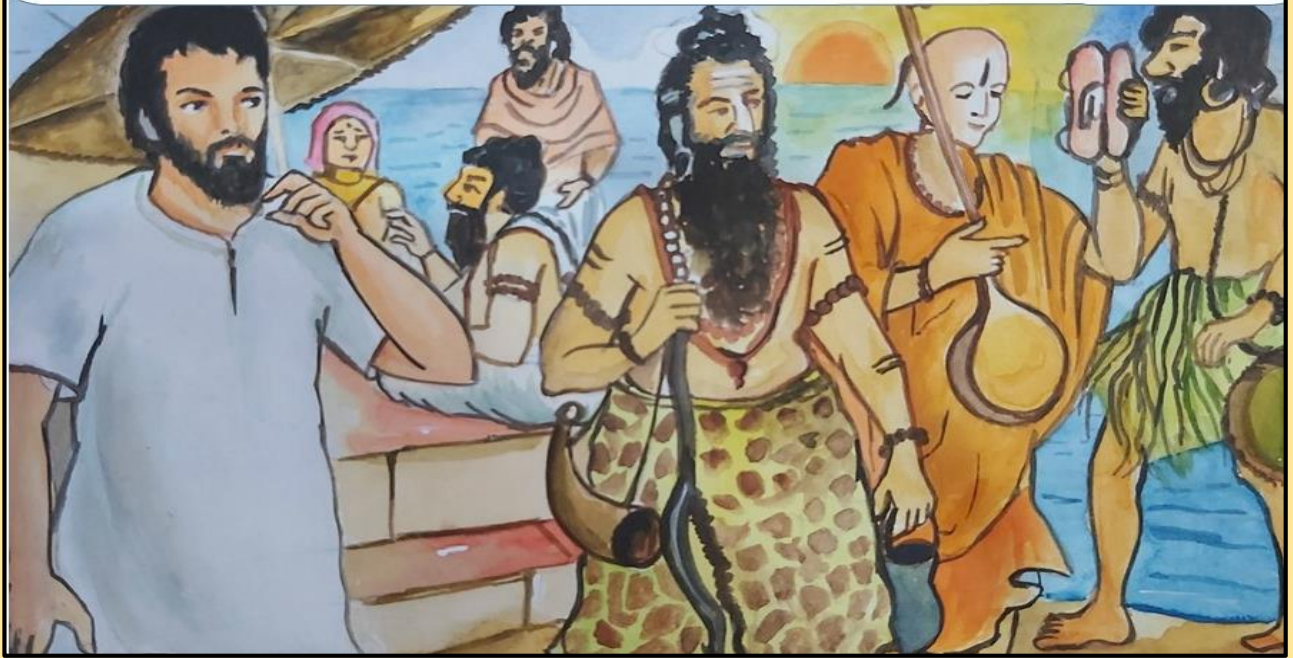


Kabir

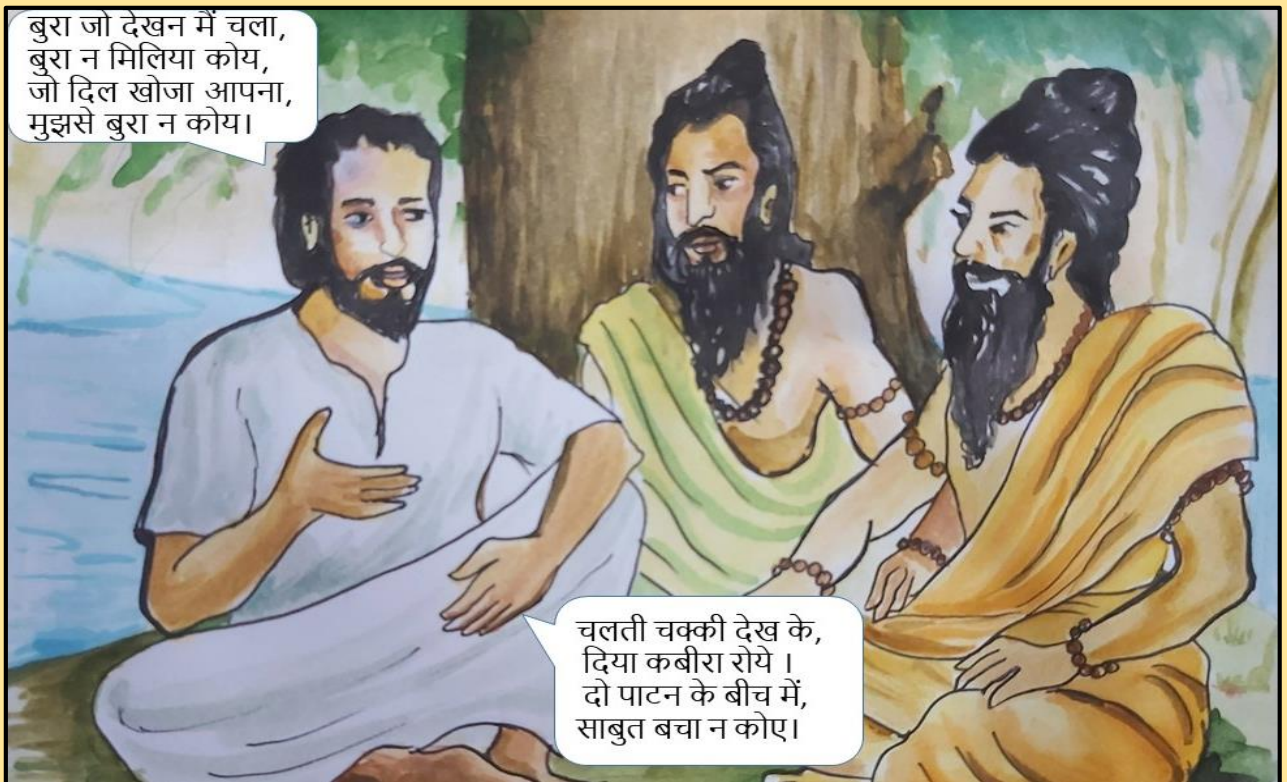




Kabir often engaged himself in discussion about God with Sadhus.



बुरा जो देखन में चला,
बुरा न मिलिया कोय,
जो दिल खोजा आपना,
मुझसे बुरा न कोय।



चलती चक्की देख के,
दिया कबीरा रोये।
दो पाटन के बीच में,
साबुत बचा न कोए।

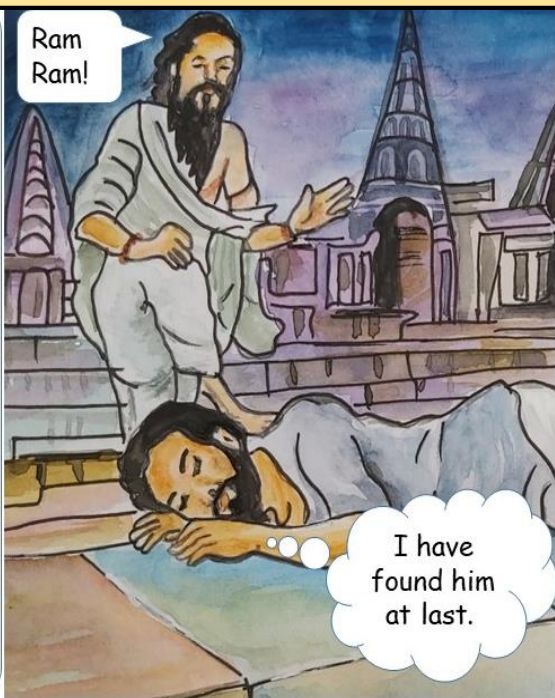


Once in the early pre-dawn twilight, Kabir went and hid himself on the steps of the ghat of the Ganga river. He knew that Ramananda used to come here every morning to take his bath.



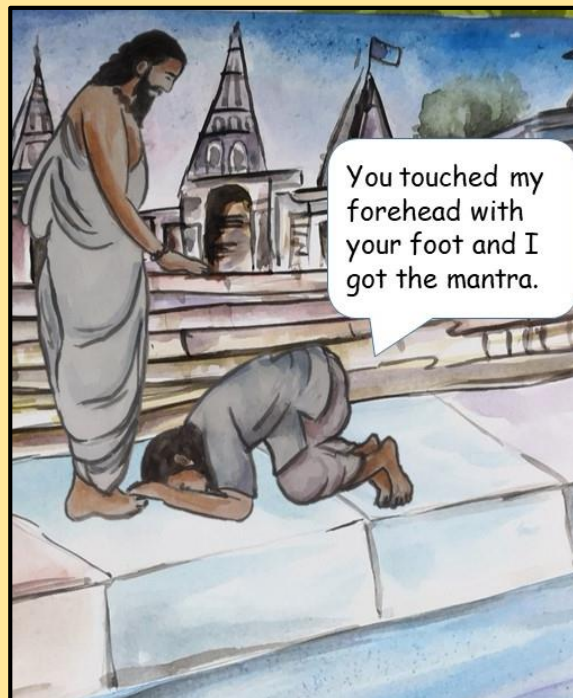
Ramananda stepped upon Kabir's chest hitting his head with his foot. As soon as he found out that he had trodden upon a human body he cried out.

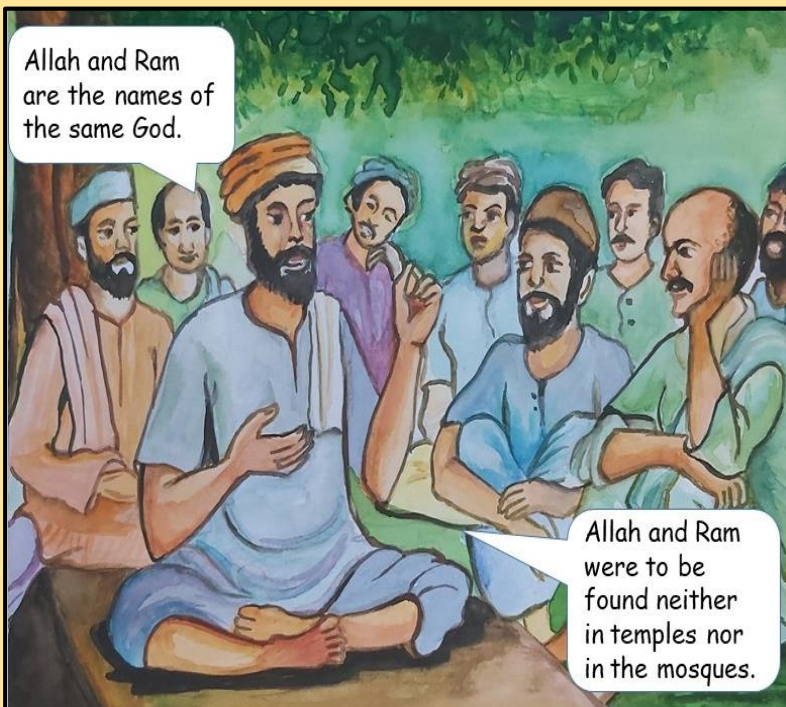
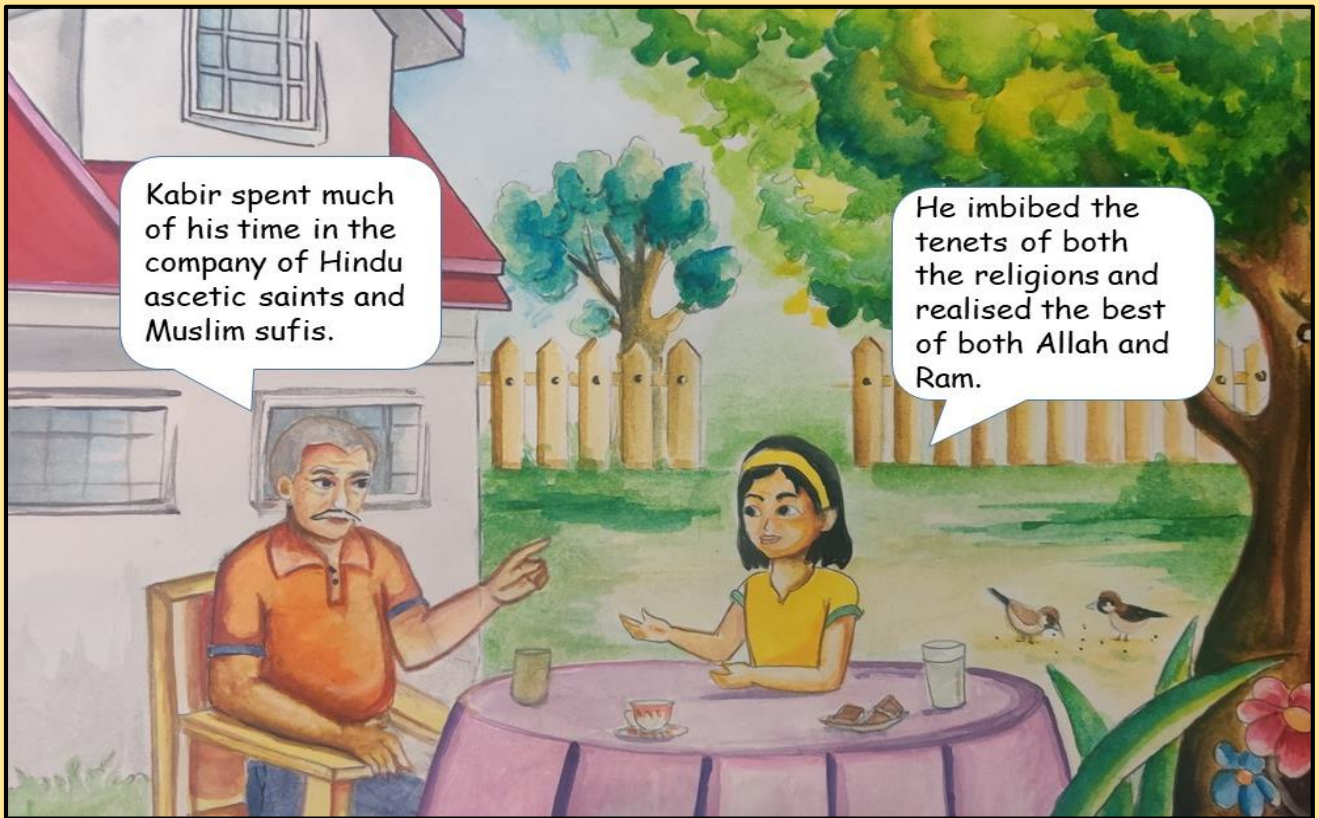
Ram
Ram!



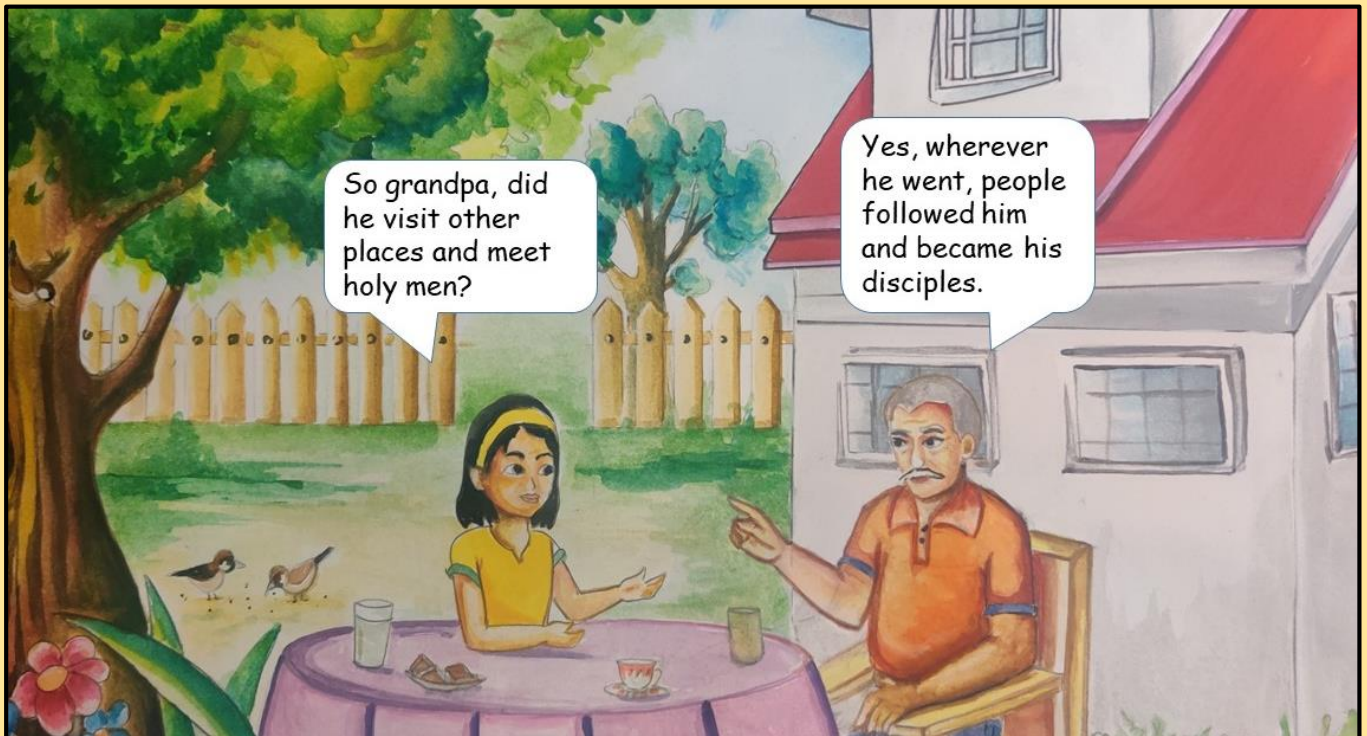
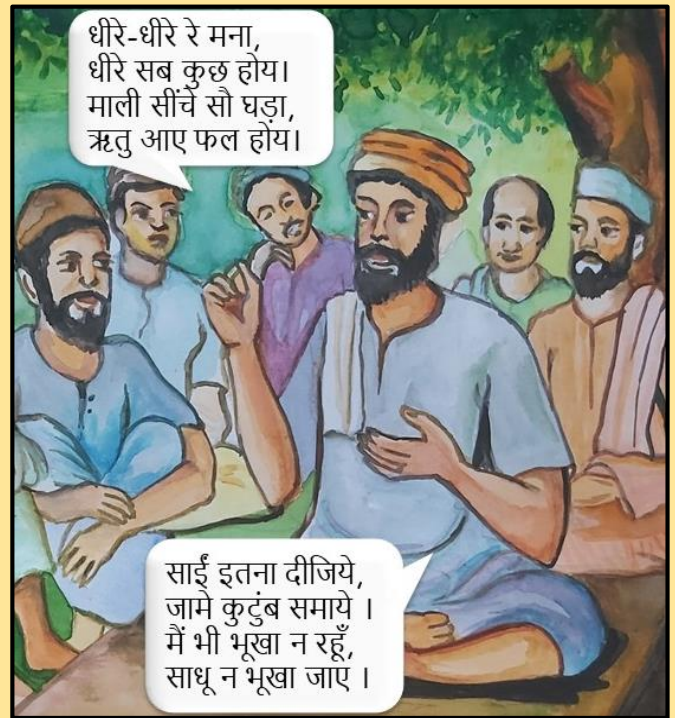
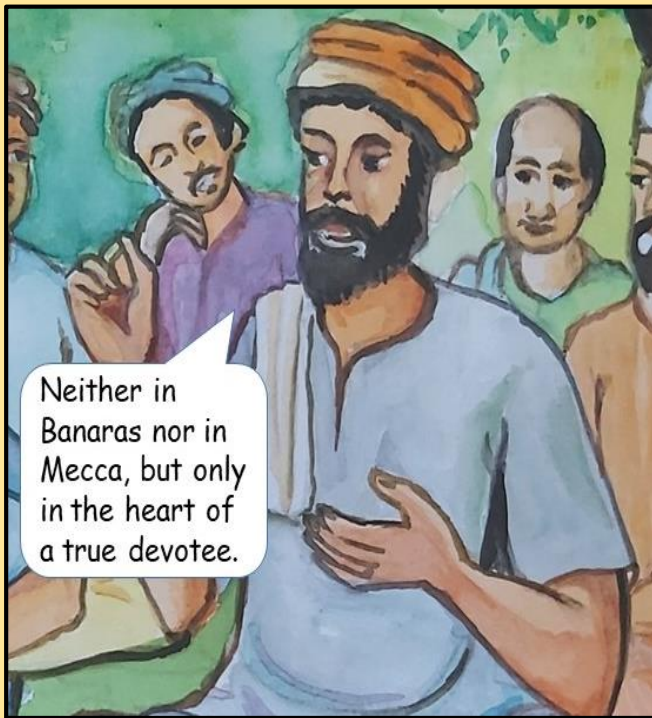
I have
found him
at last.

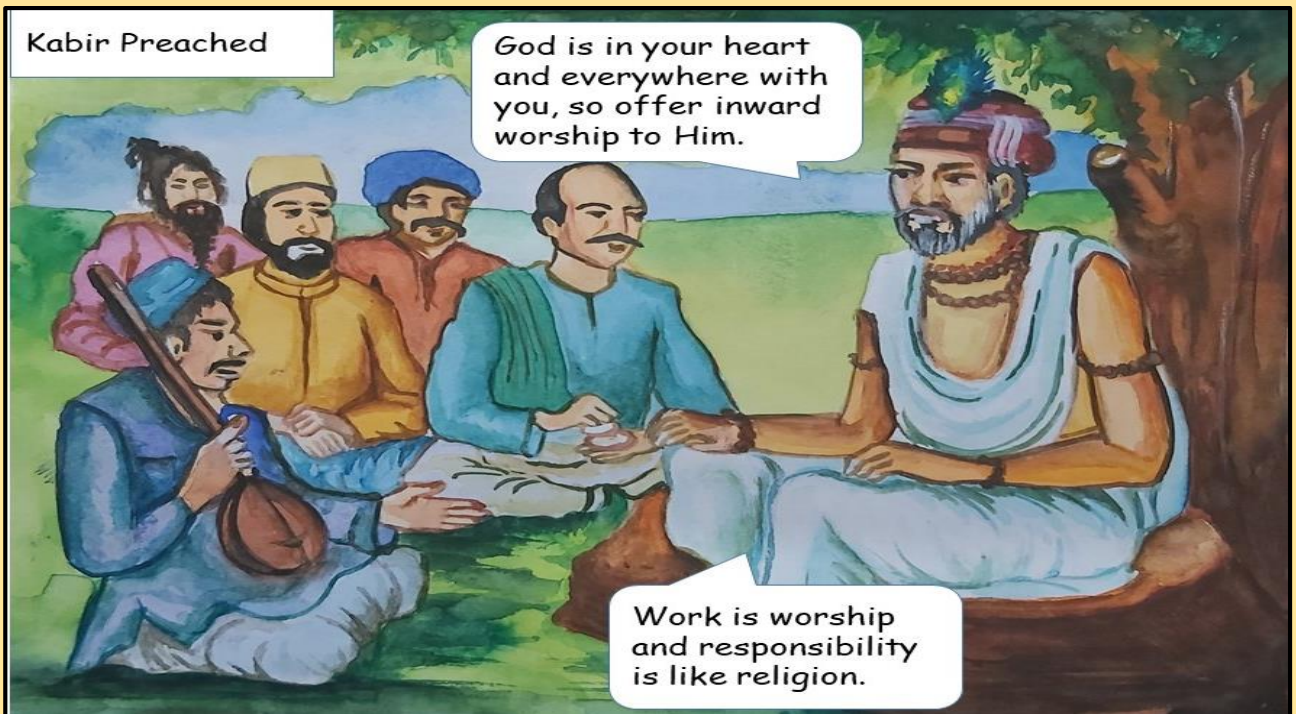
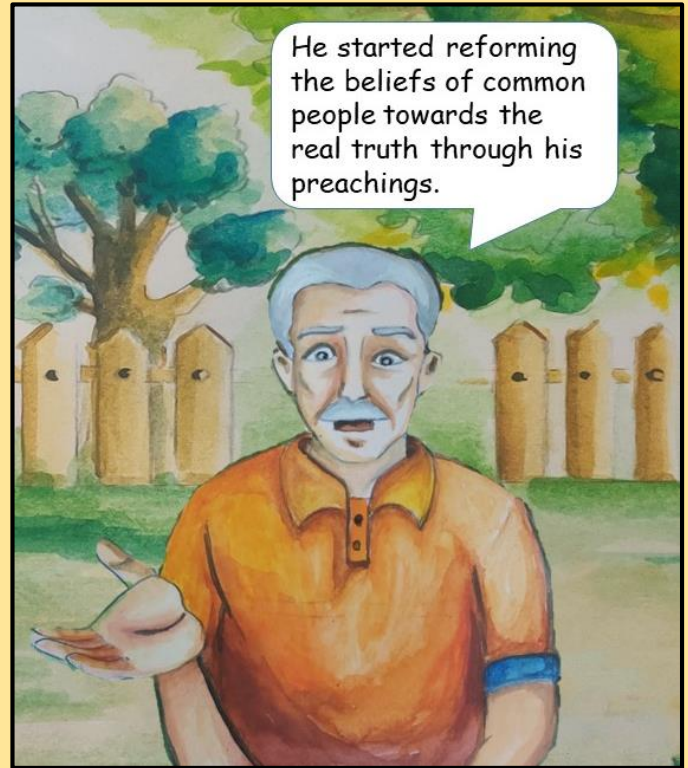
You touched my
forehead with
your foot and I
got the mantra.

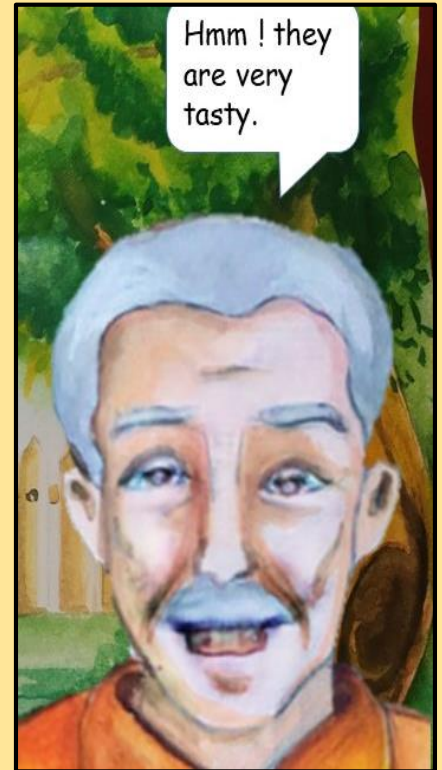




Indian stamp with the portrait of Kabir, was launched in October, 1952 by the government of India..



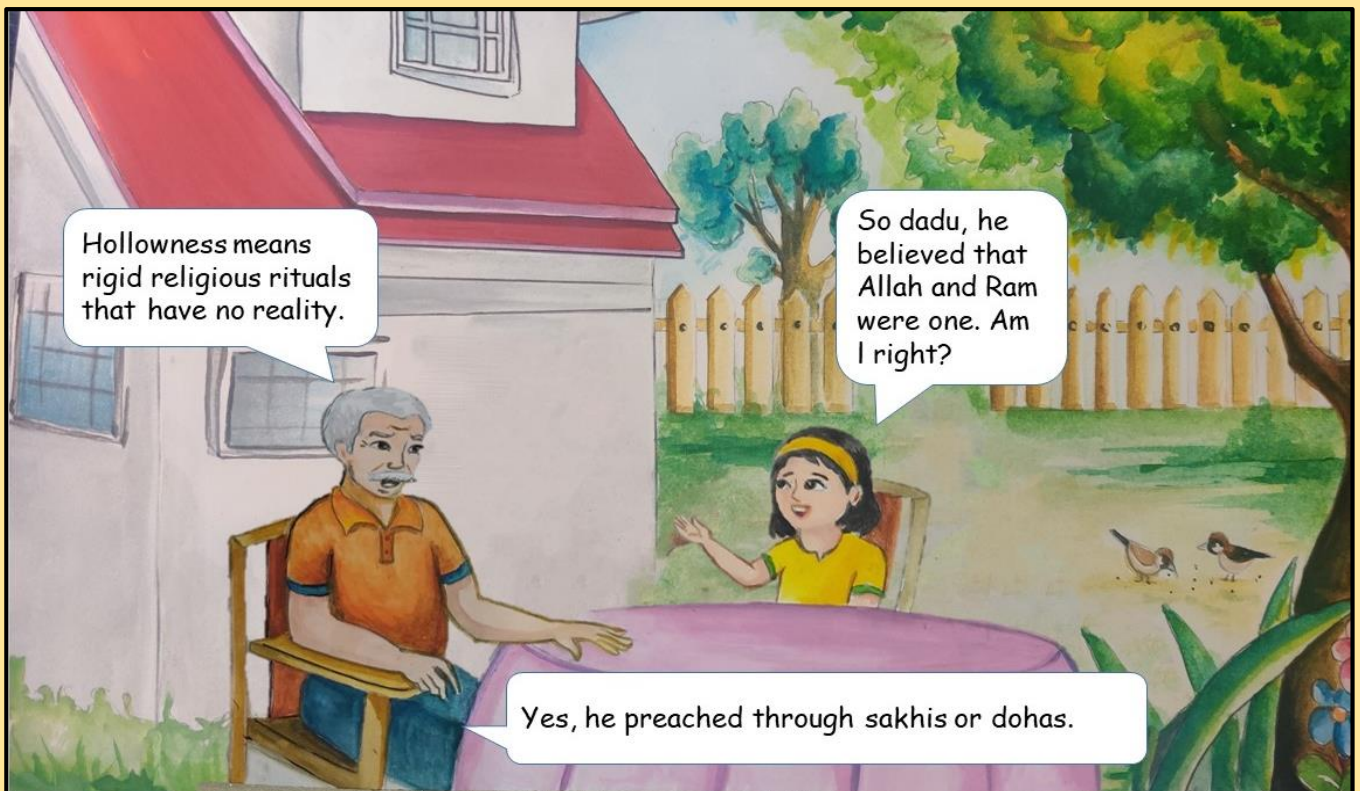
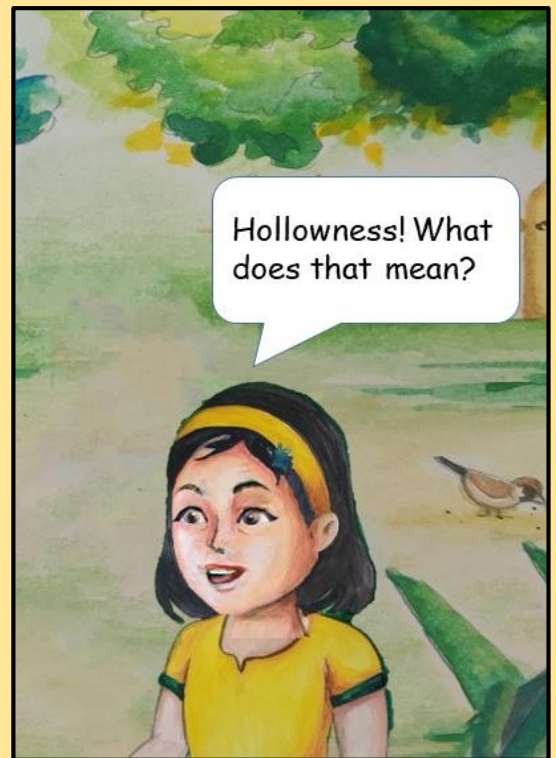
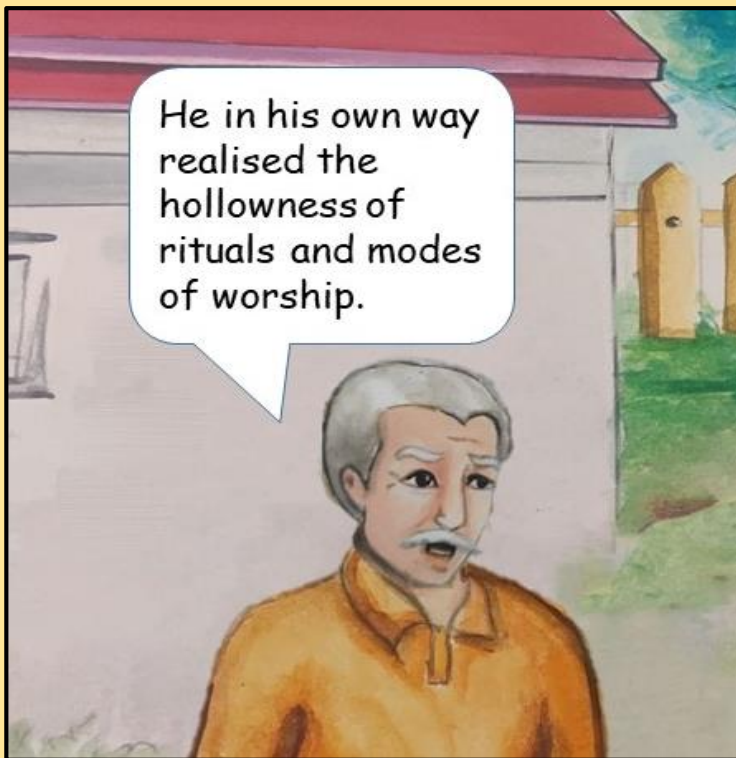


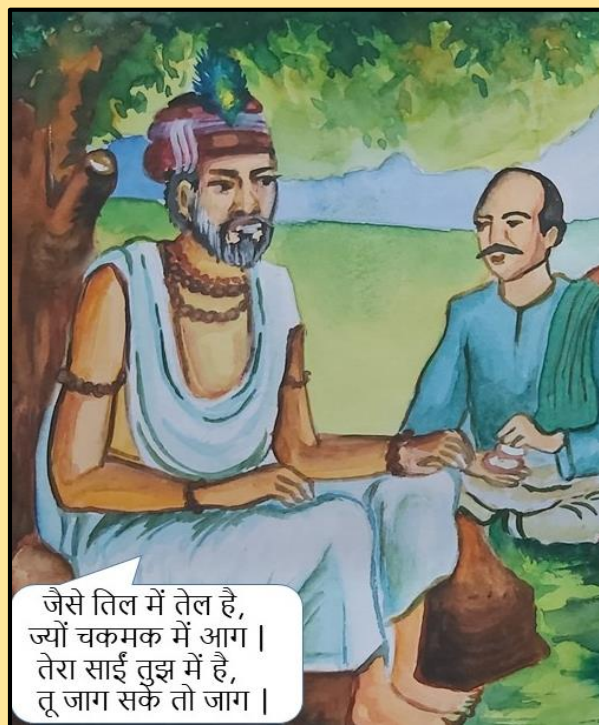
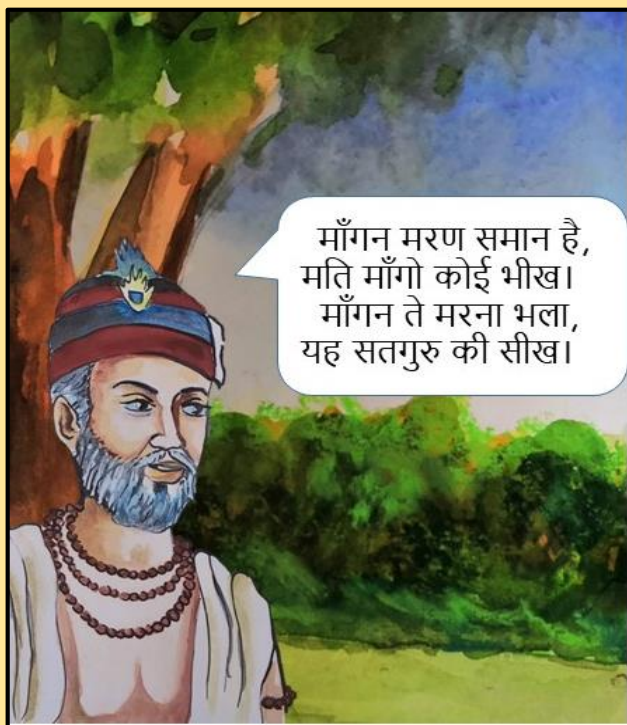


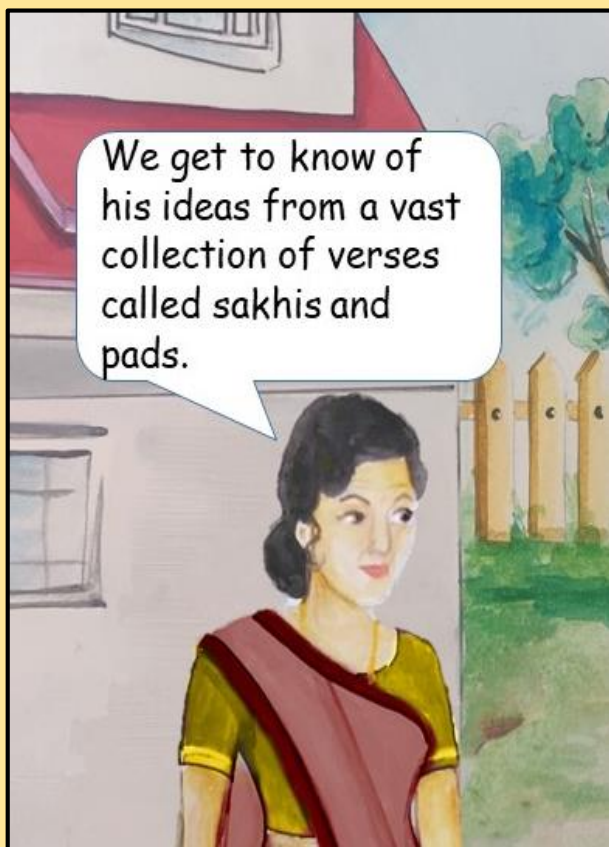
Fun Fact

The world's biggest chocolate chip cookie weighed 40,000 pounds and had a diameter of 101 feet. It was created in 2003 by The Immaculate Baking Company in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

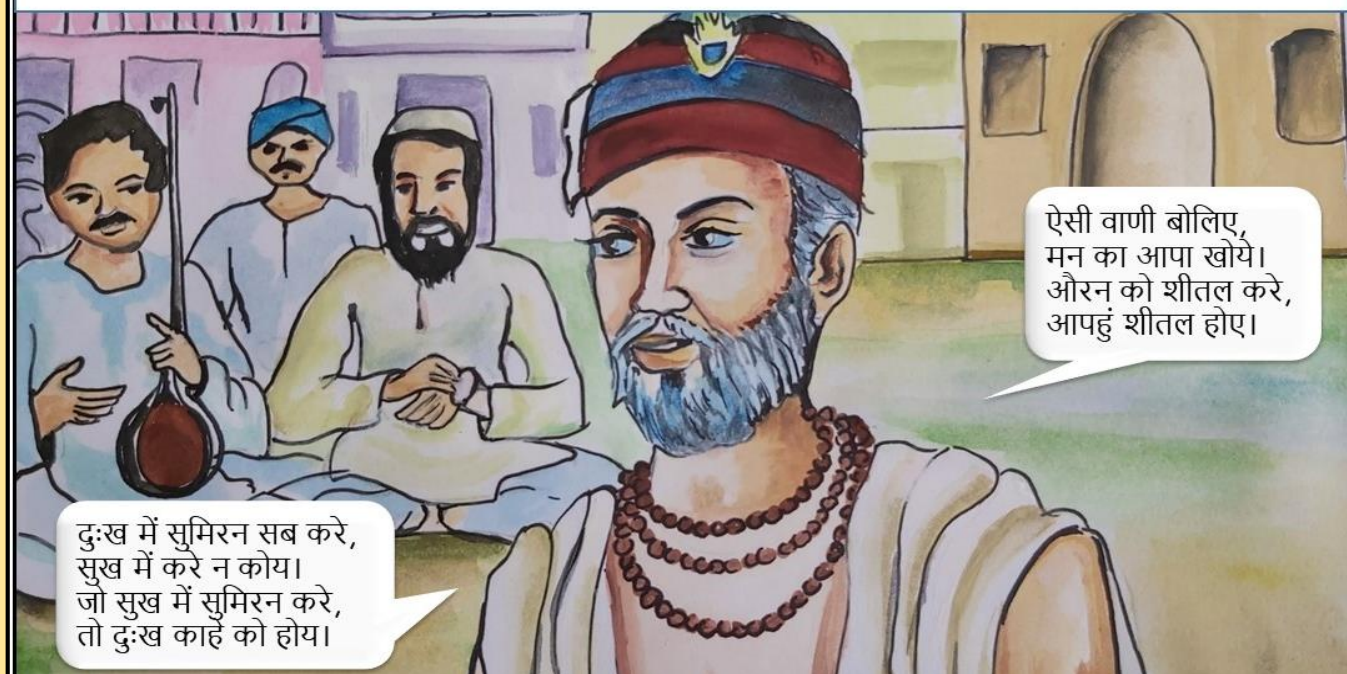


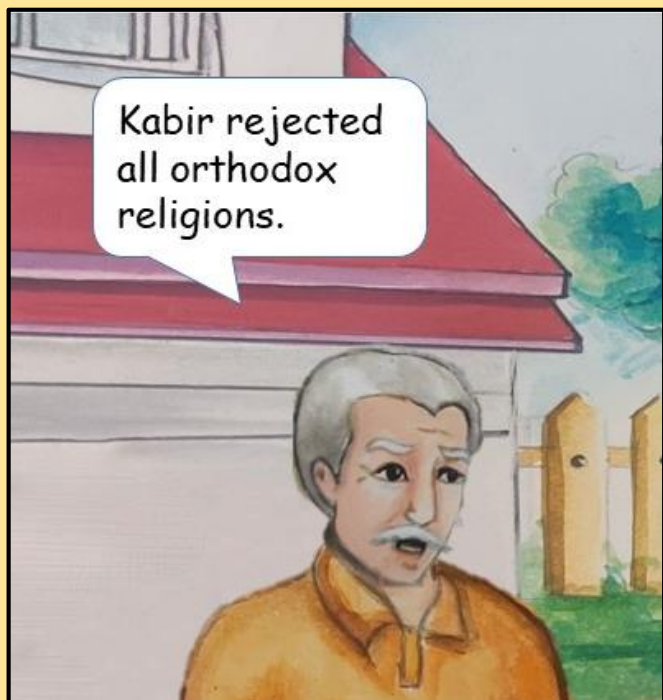






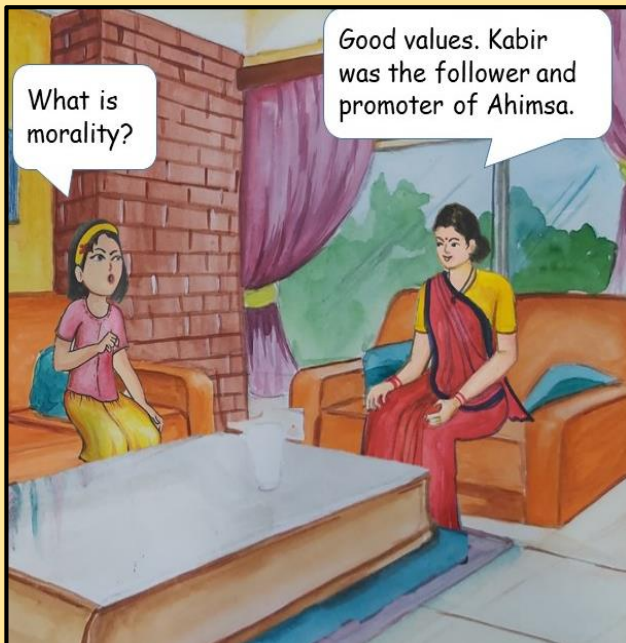
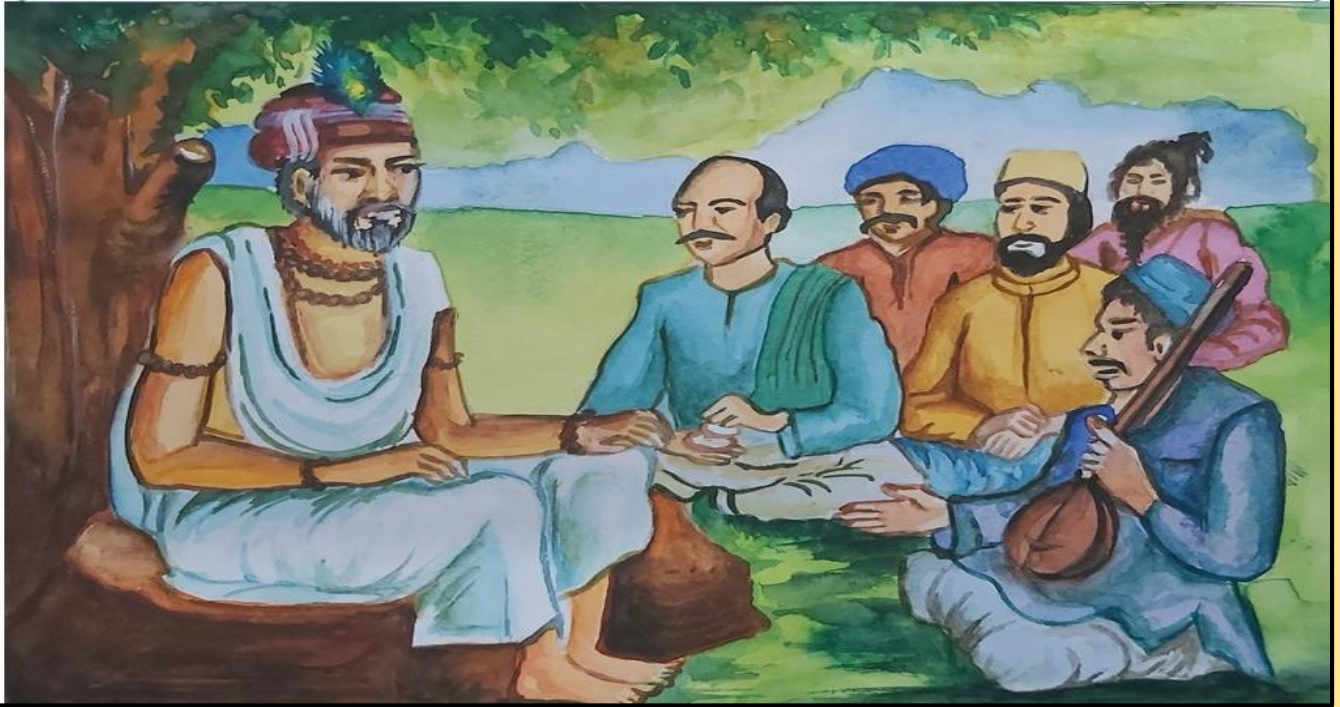
Kabir with his followers on the streets of Varanasi.

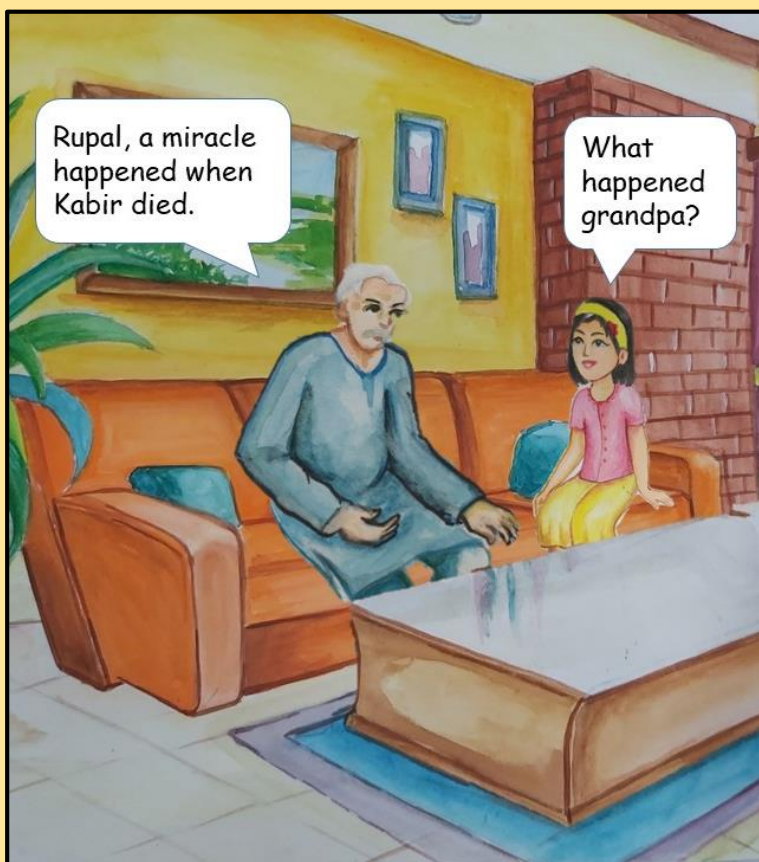
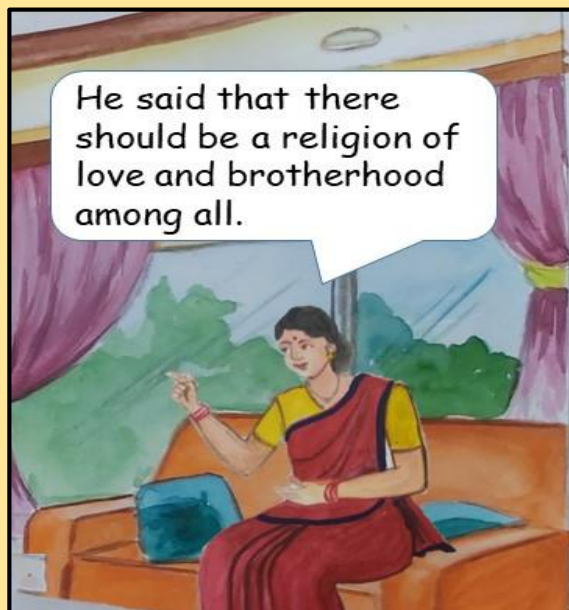
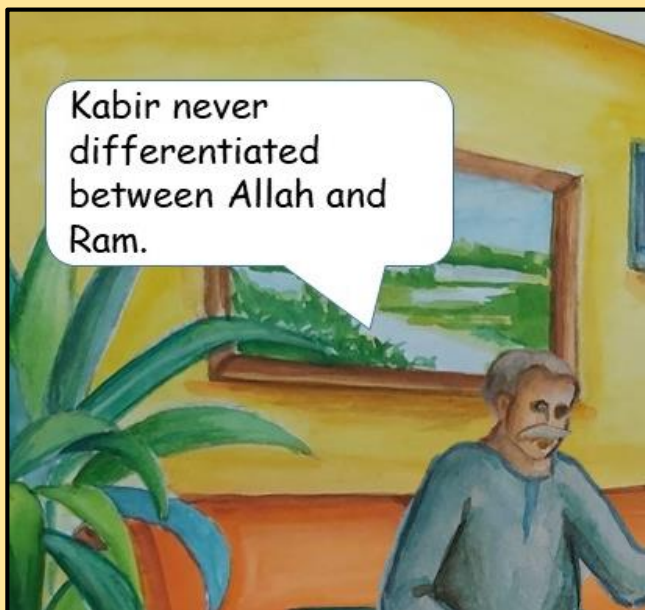






He opened the eyes of the people and taught them genuine lessons of humanity and morality. He drew his followers both from Hindus and Muslims.

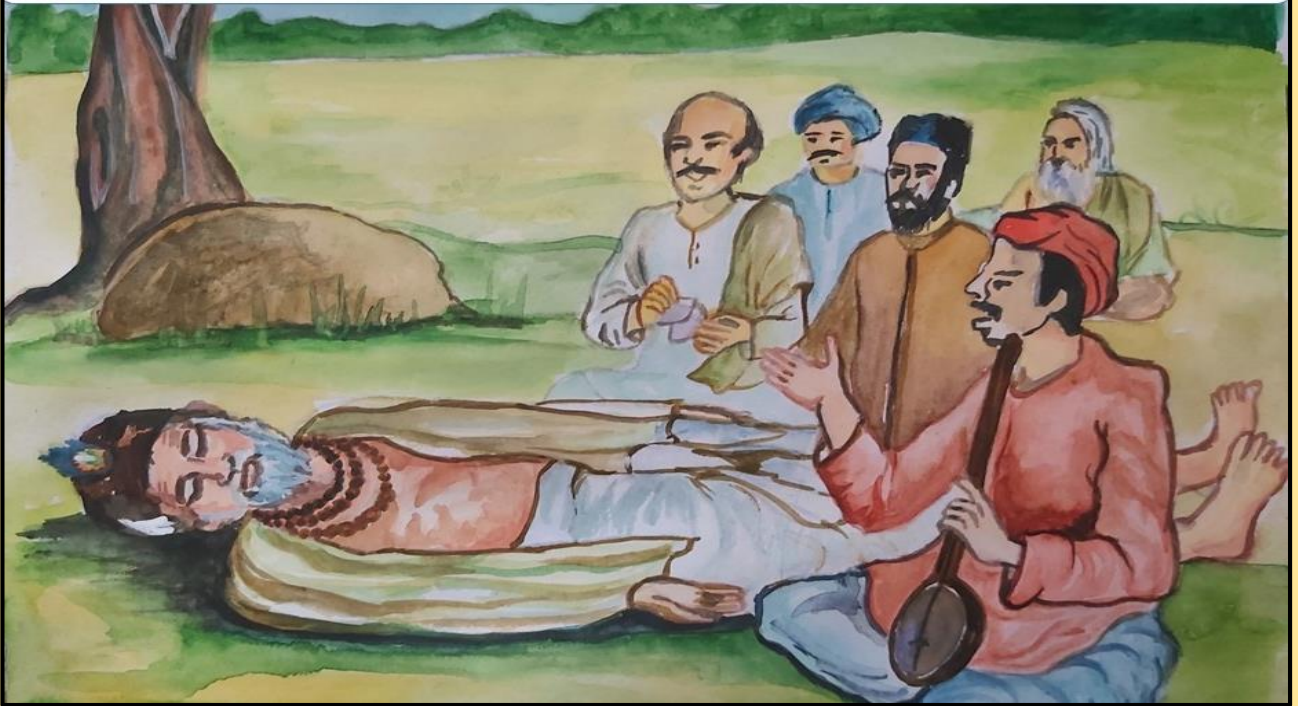




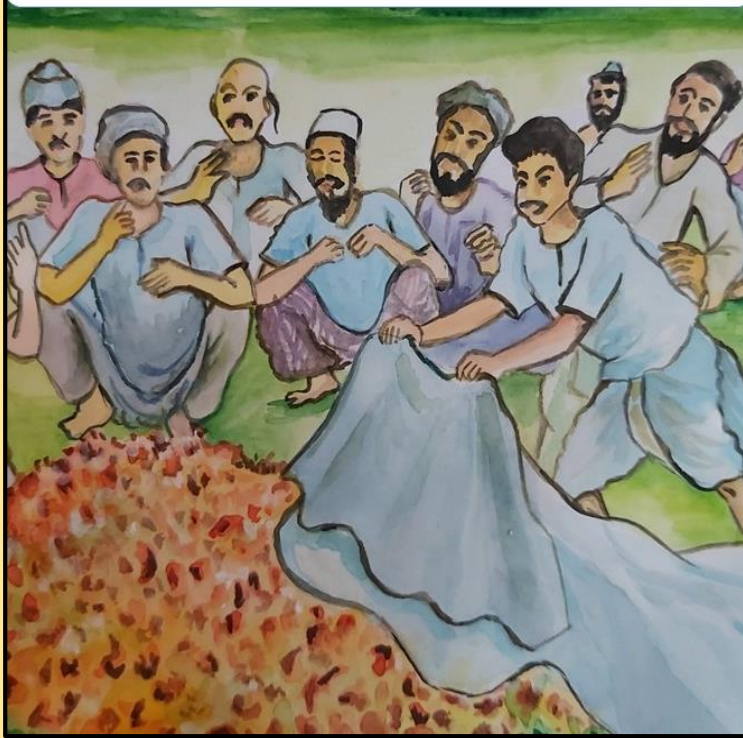
Kabir believed in the Vedantic concept of soul (aatma), but rejected the Hindu custom of idol worship, showing clear belief in both Bhakti and Sufi philosophies.



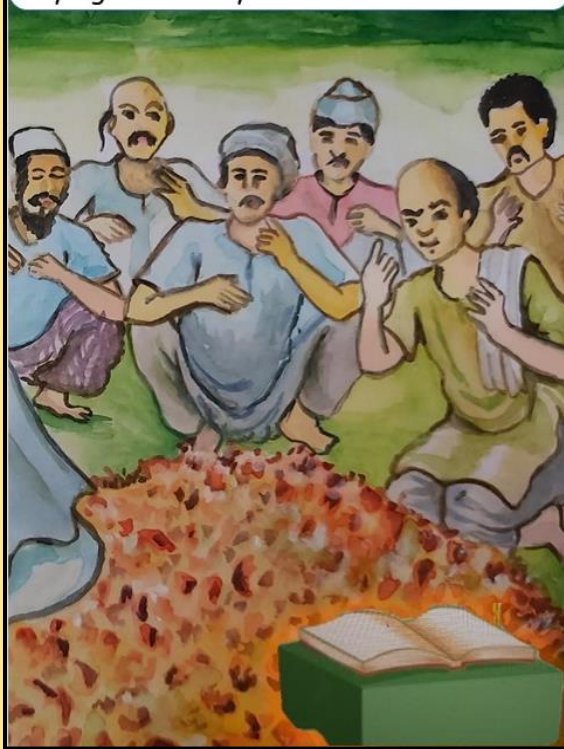
Kabir was loved by both Muslims and Hindus. After his death both Hindus and Muslims wanted a proper funeral of the body, according to their own traditions.



But when the shroud accidentally got removed, Kabin's body was found missing. In its place were heaps of his favourite flowers.



Next to it was a small book in which the Hindus and the Muslims wrote all his sayings that they could remember.



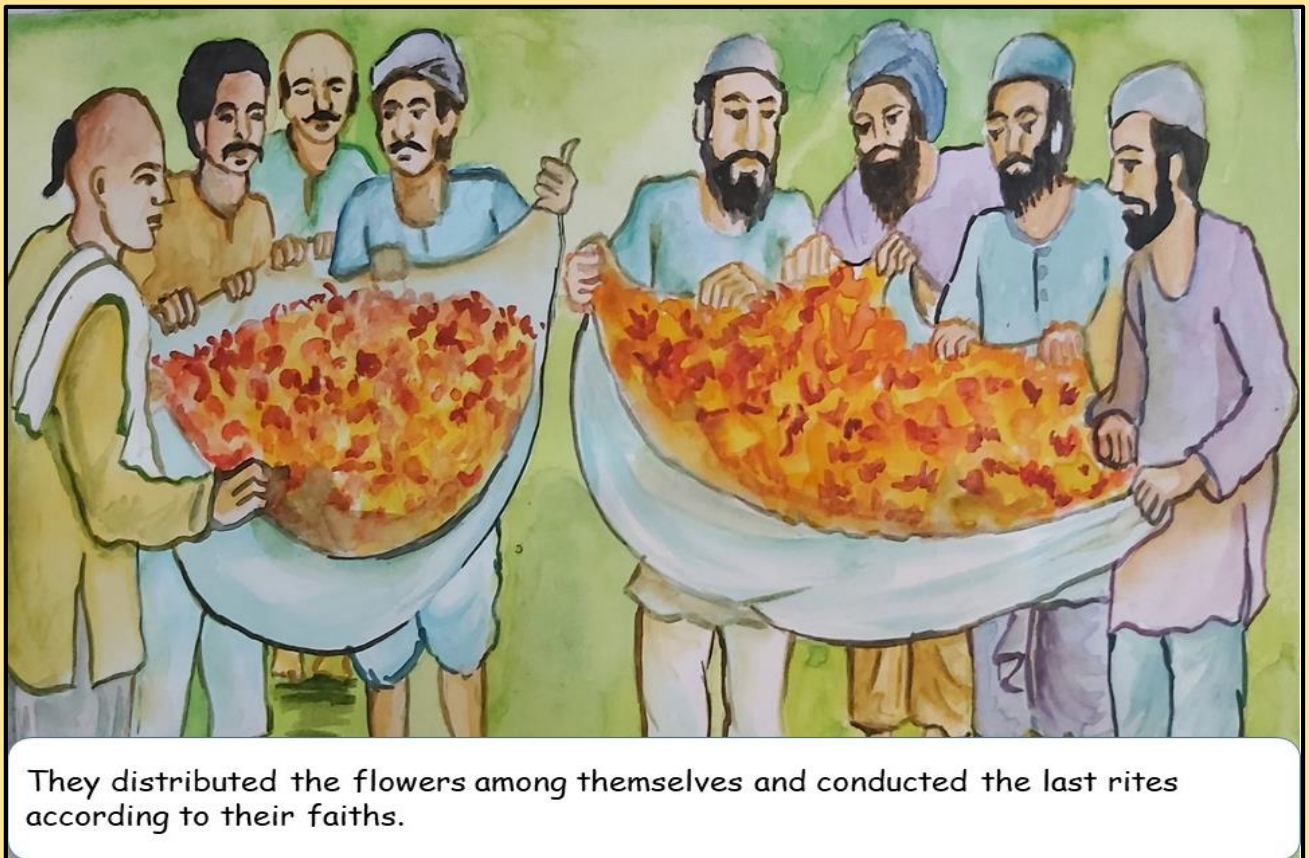
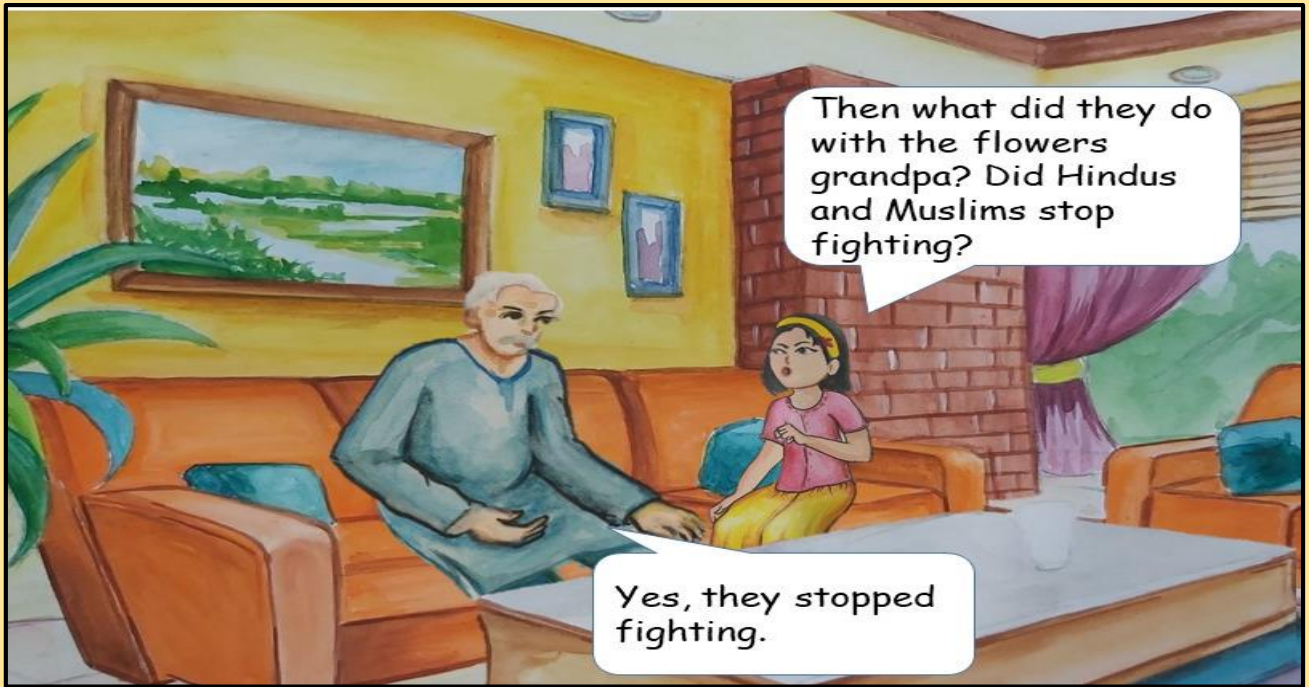
So, as the gathering saw the heap of flowers, the fighting resolved.



This was the miracle. Is that so grandpa?

This is really exciting, I have watched in some magic movies that things vanish.





Check Your Knowledge

A. Choose the correct option:

1. Bhakti Saints took the path of _____.
a) rituals and beliefs b) rigid practices c) rituals and ceremonies
d) bhakti and devotion
2. Kabir belonged to _____ century.
a) 12th b) 16th c) 15th d) 13th
3. Kabir was raised by a _____ family.
a) Hindu b) Muslim c) Sikh d) Christian
4. Ramananda was a devotional _____ and saint.
a) singer b) poet c) writer d) preacher
5. 'Allah and Ram are the names of the same God'. It was said by _____.
a) Kabir b) Meera c) Guru Nanak
d) Ramananda
6. The couple who raised Kabir were _____.
a) Nimi and Nokki. b) Mima and Moni c) Nima and Niru
d) Maui and Maru.

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Kabir belonged to a _____ family.
2. _____ is worship and responsibility is like religion.
3. 'Kaal kare so aaj kar' was said by _____.
4. Kabir's teachings are based on complete _____ of the major religious traditions.
5. After Kabir's death his body changed into _____.

Answers:
1. weavers 2. Work 3. Kabir 4. rejection 5. flowers

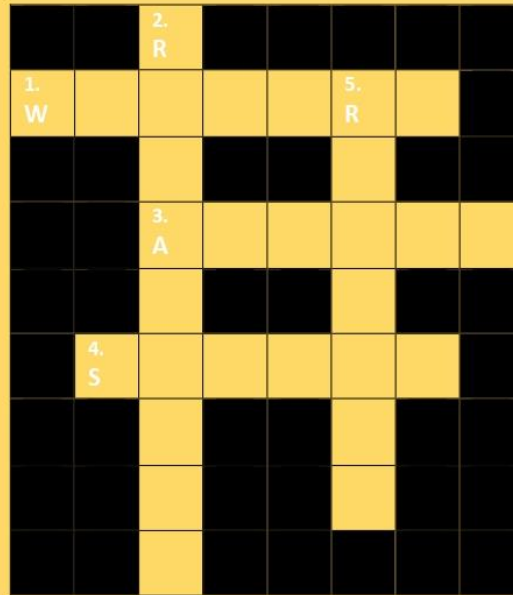
Check your Knowledge

1. Who was Ramananda?
2. Why did Ramananda visit the ghat of Ganga river every morning?
3. What did Ramananda do by mistake?
4. What did Ramananda cry out after realising his mistake?
5. How did Kabir preach?
6. What were Kabir's teachings based on?
7. What did Kabir teach?
8. What was found next to the heap of flowers by his followers?

Answer Key

1. Ramananda was a devotional poet and a saint.
2. Ramananda visited the ghat of Ganga river every morning to take bath.
3. Ramananda stepped on Kabir's chest hitting his head with his foot.
4. After realising his mistake, Ramananda cried out 'Ram Ram'.
5. Kabir preached through sakhis and dohas.
6. Kabir's teachings were based on complete rejection of the major religious traditions and oneness of God.
7. Kabir taught his disciples that there should be a religion of love and brotherhood among all.
8. Next to the heap of flowers, they found a small book in which the Hindus and Muslims wrote all his teachings.

Crossword



Across:

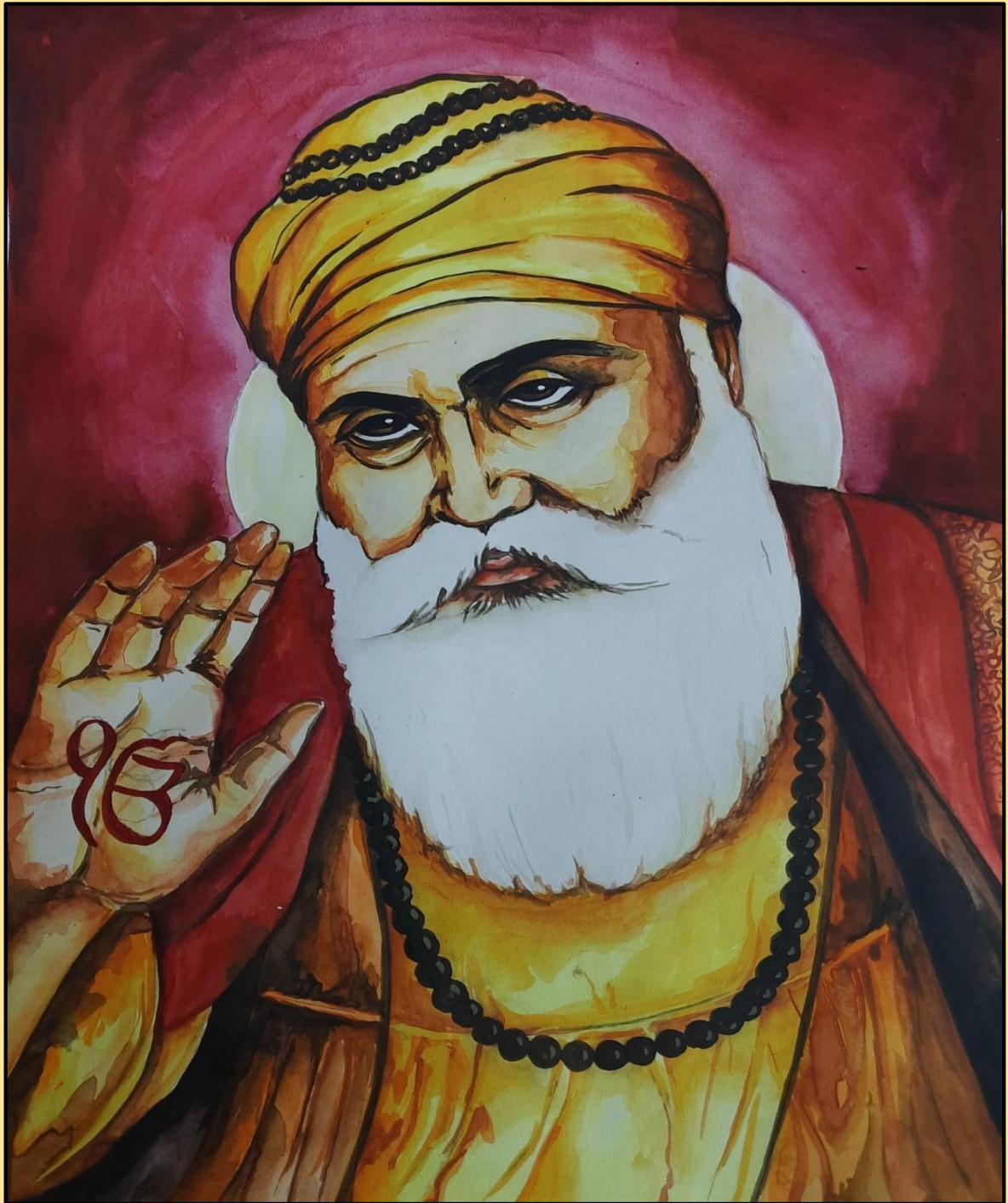
1. Occupation of Kabir's parents
3. Kabir was the promoter of
4. Collection of verses

Down:

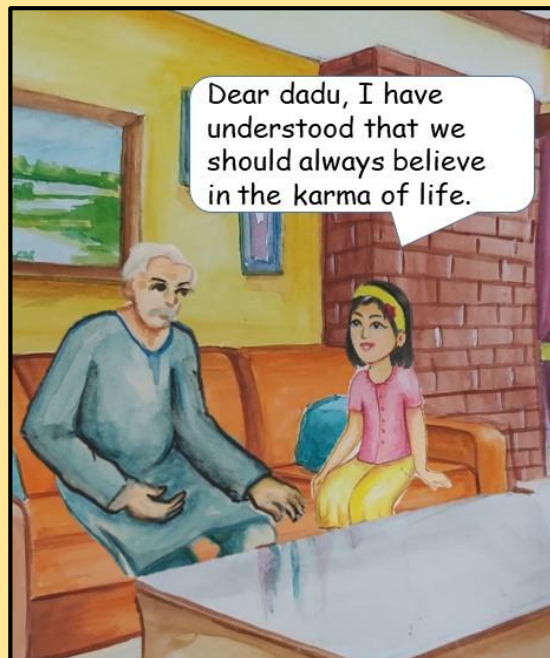
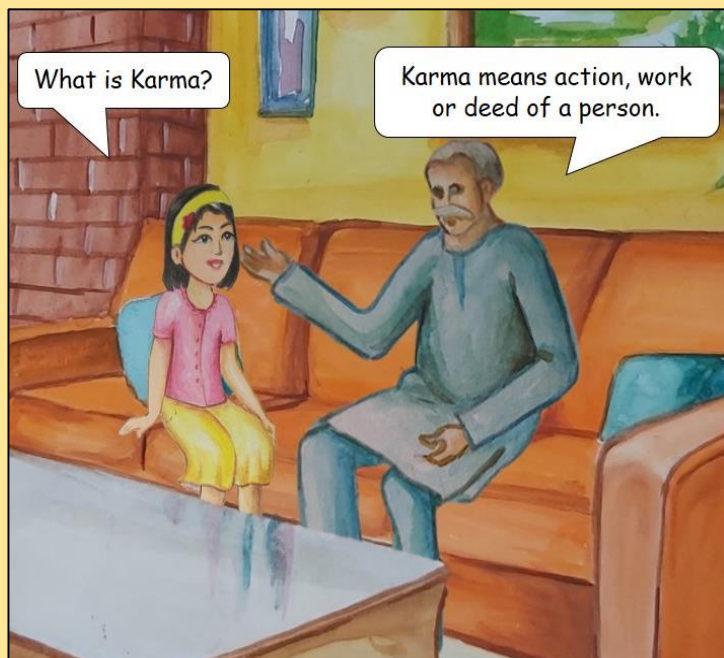
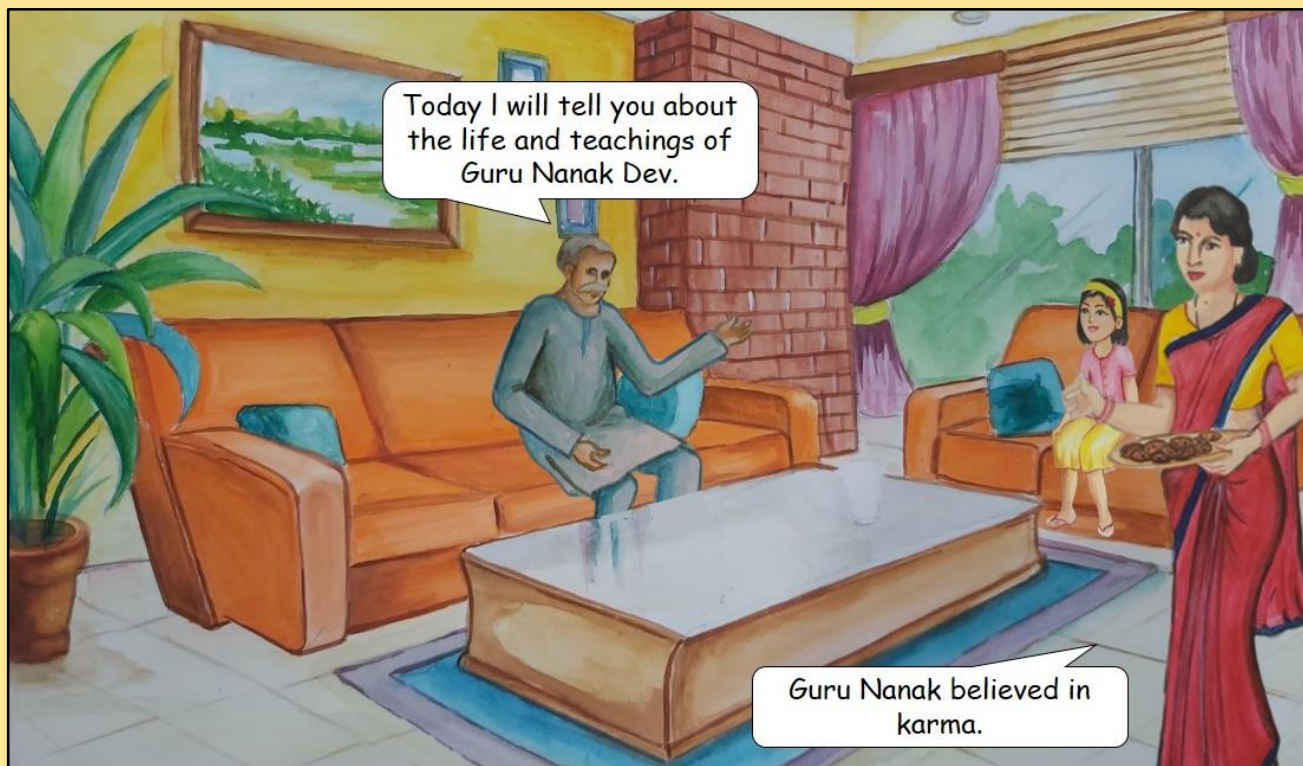
2. Kabir was the disciple of
5. Kabir renounced the practice of

ANSWERS:
ACROSS: 1. WEAVER 3. AHIMSA 4. SAKHIS
DOWN: 2. RAMANANDA 5. RITUALS





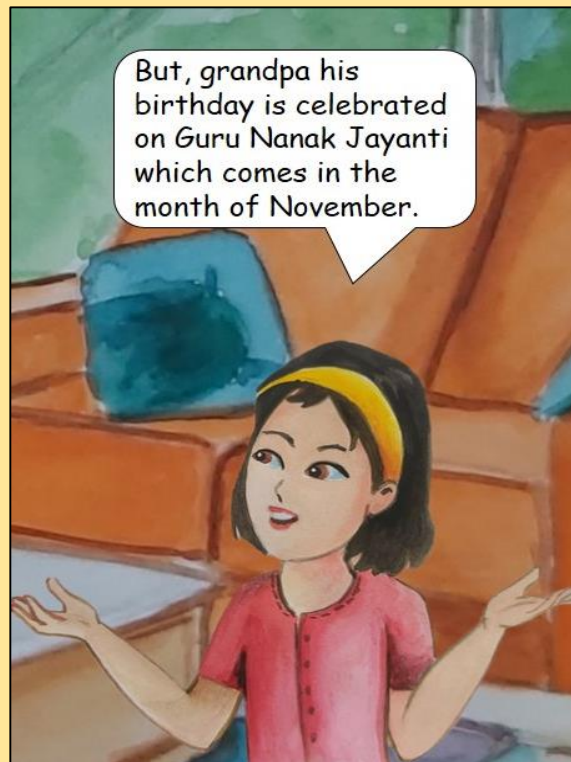
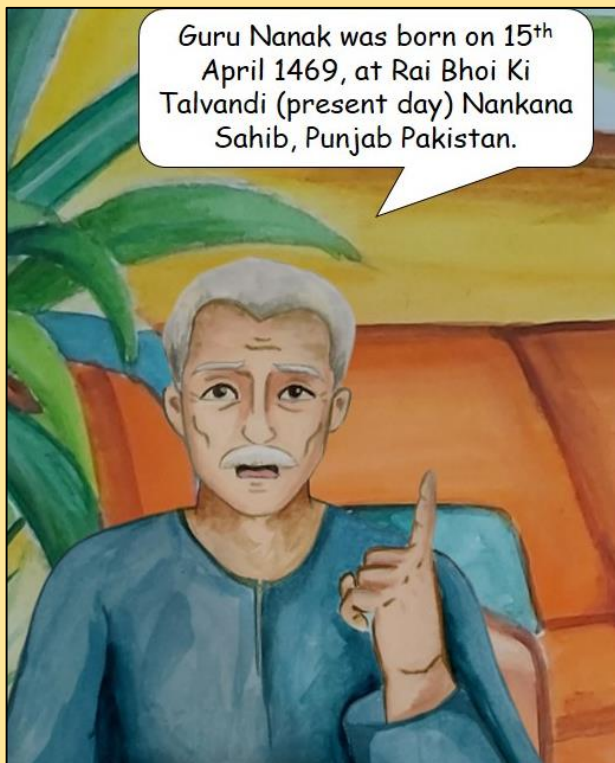
Guru Nanak Dev

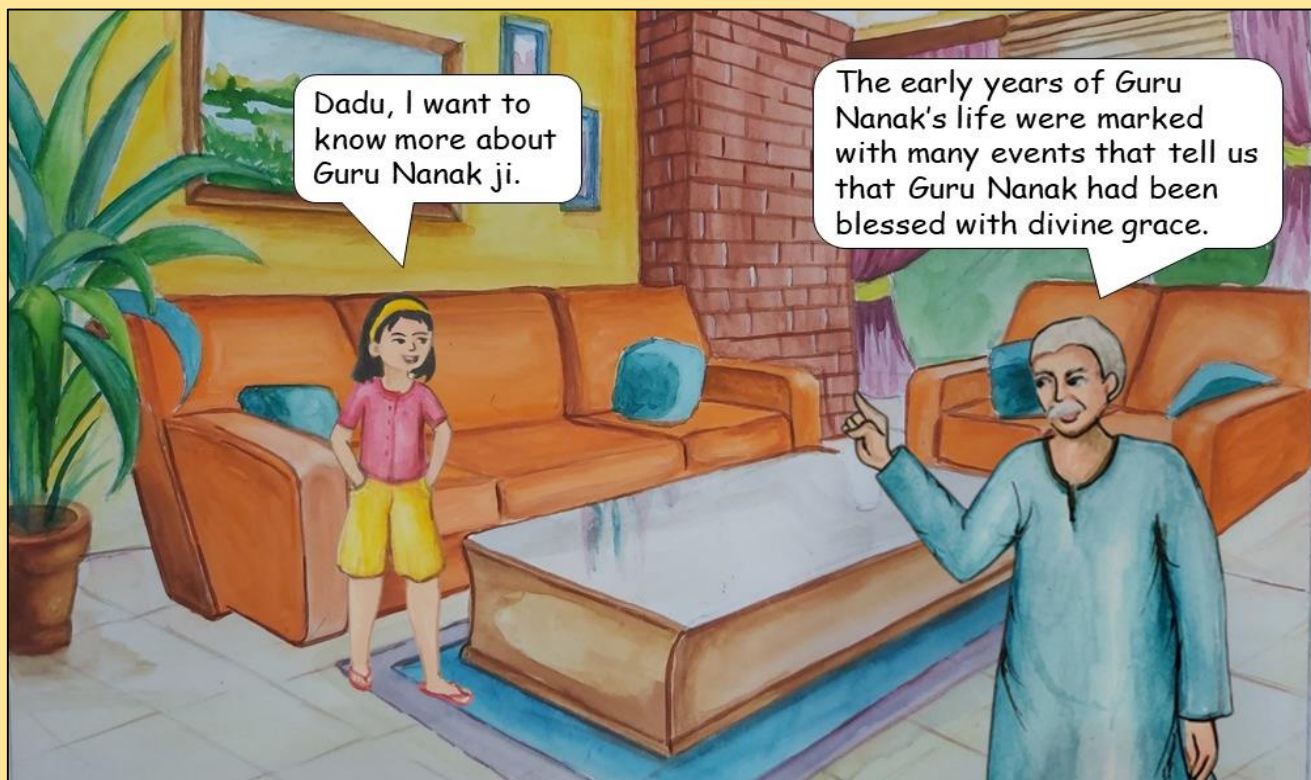
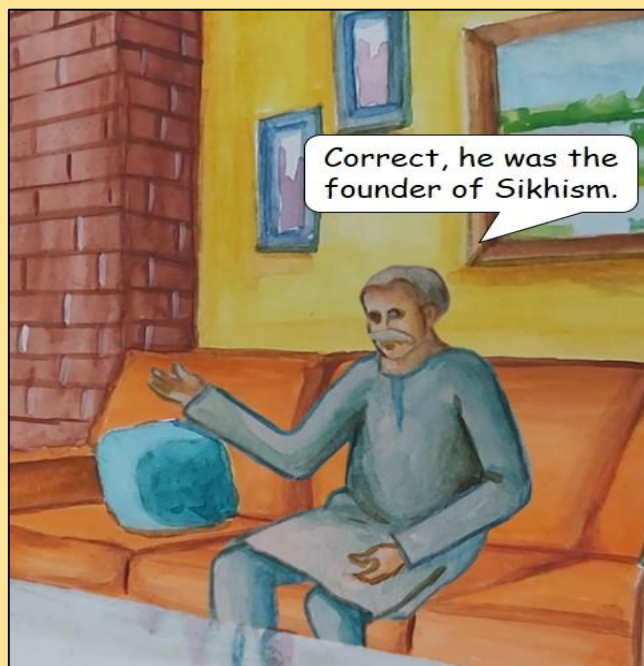


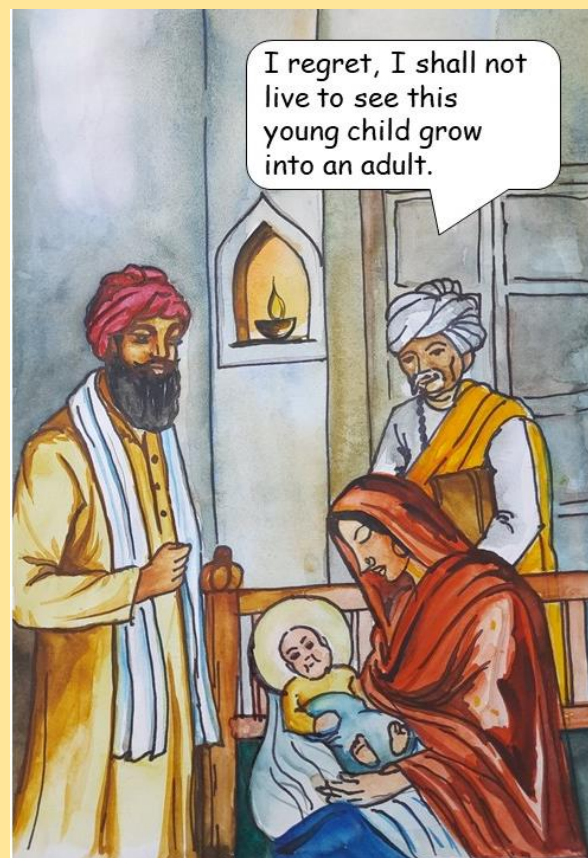
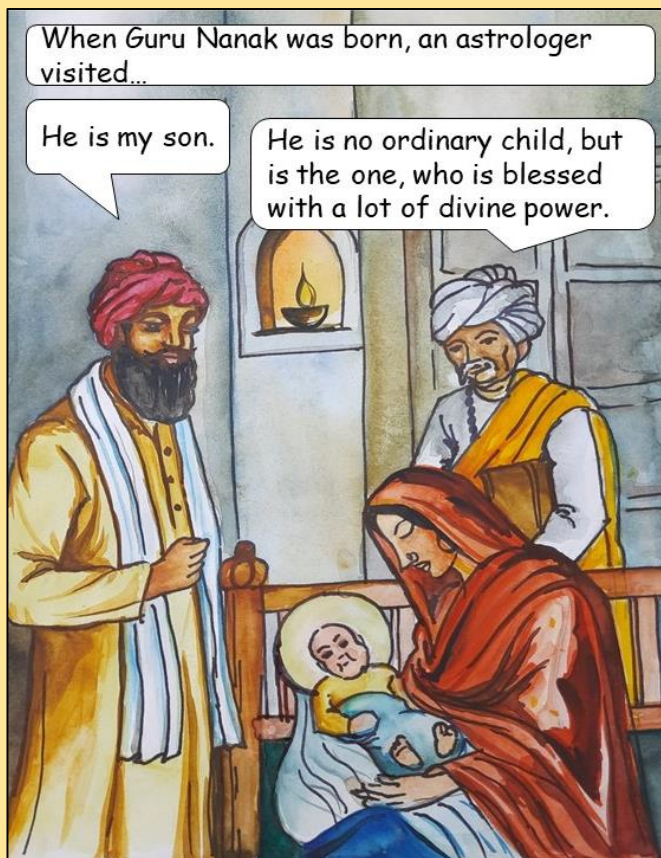


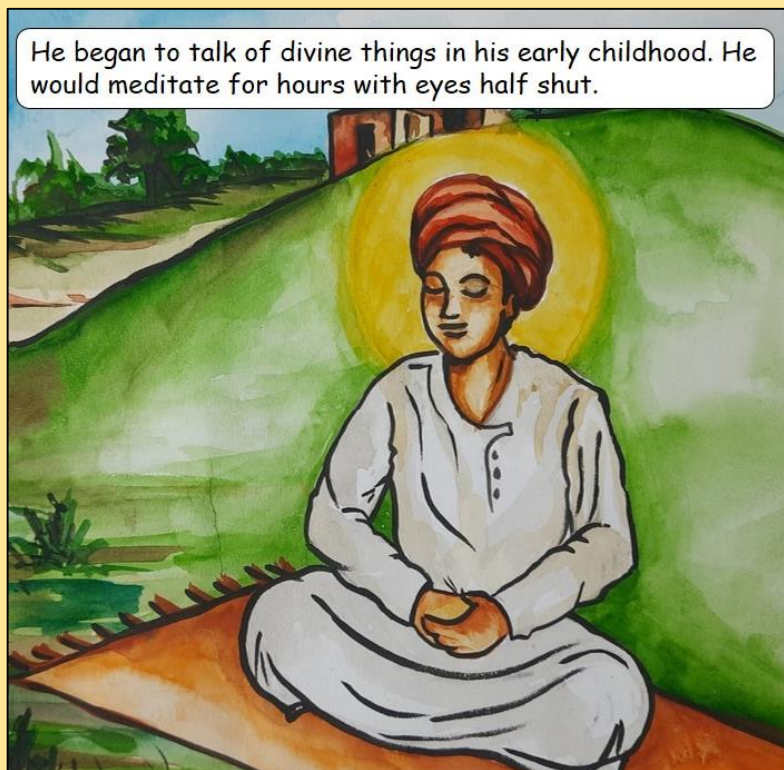
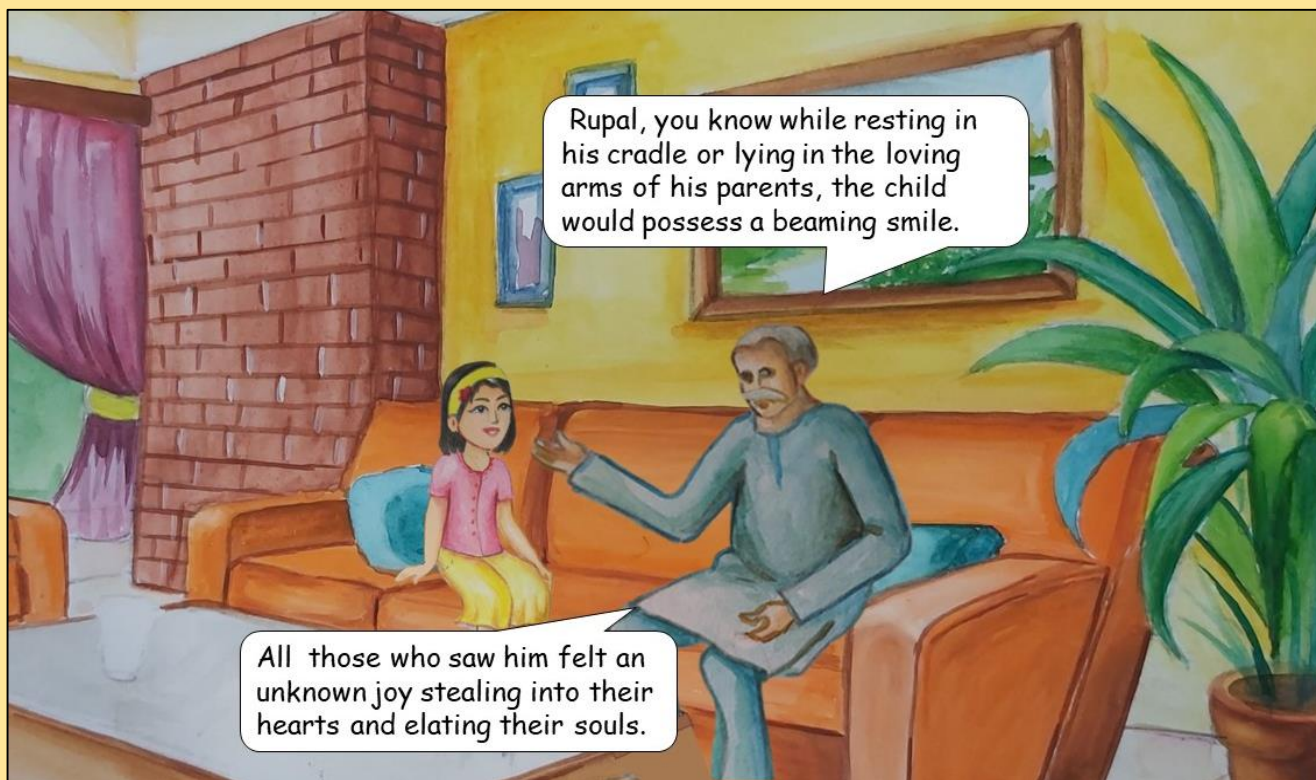
Karma means action, work or deed. It also refers to the spiritual principle of cause and effect where intent and actions of an individual (cause) influence the future of that individual.



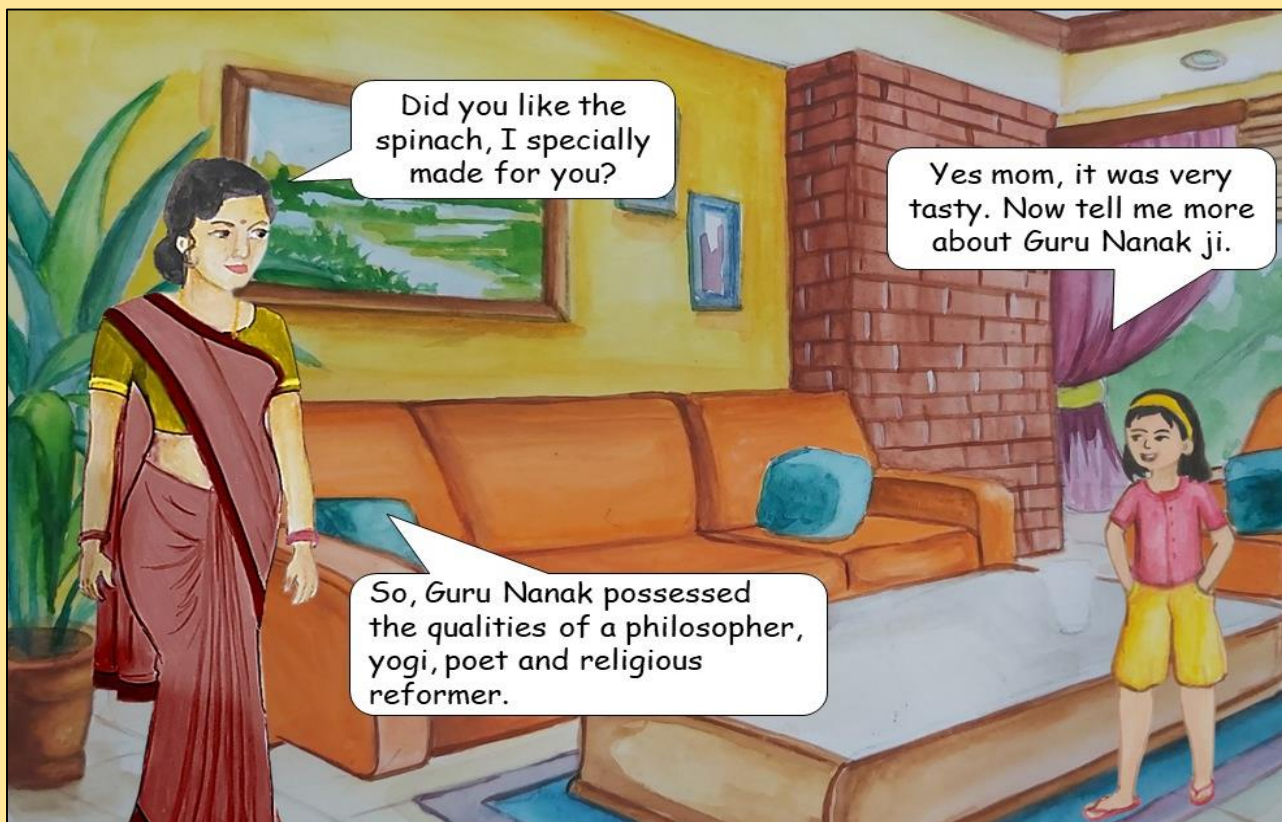
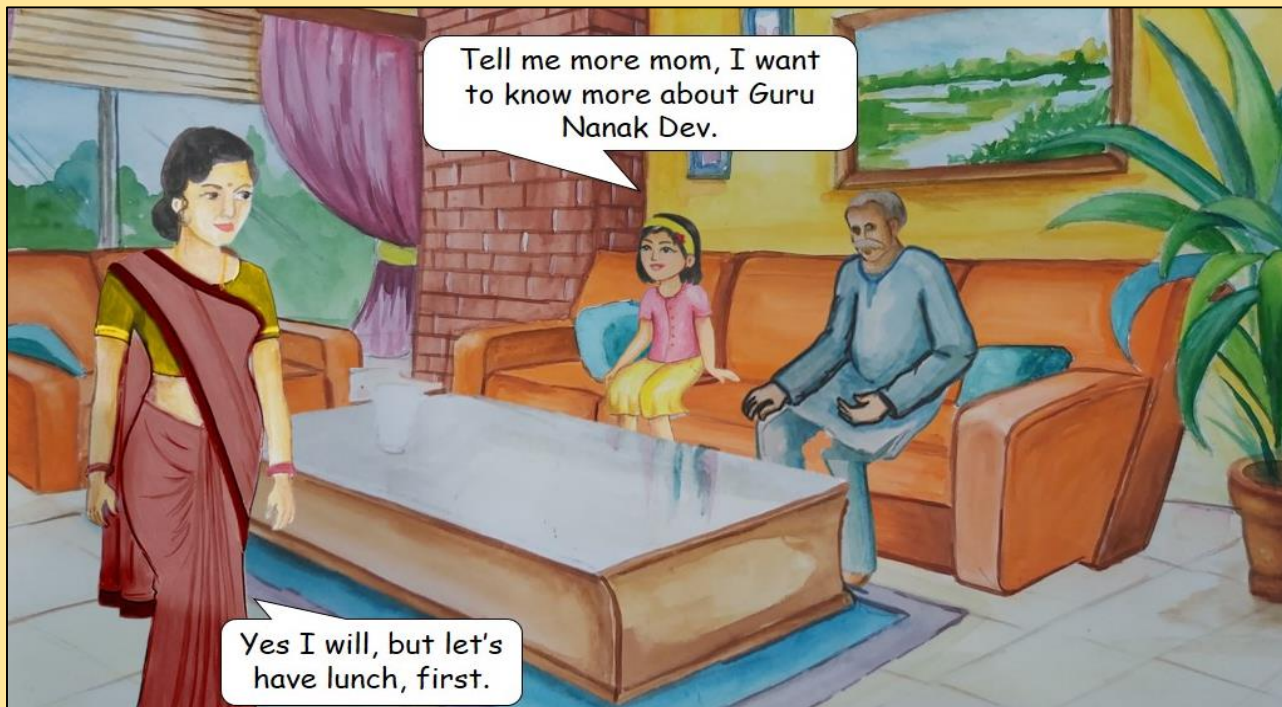




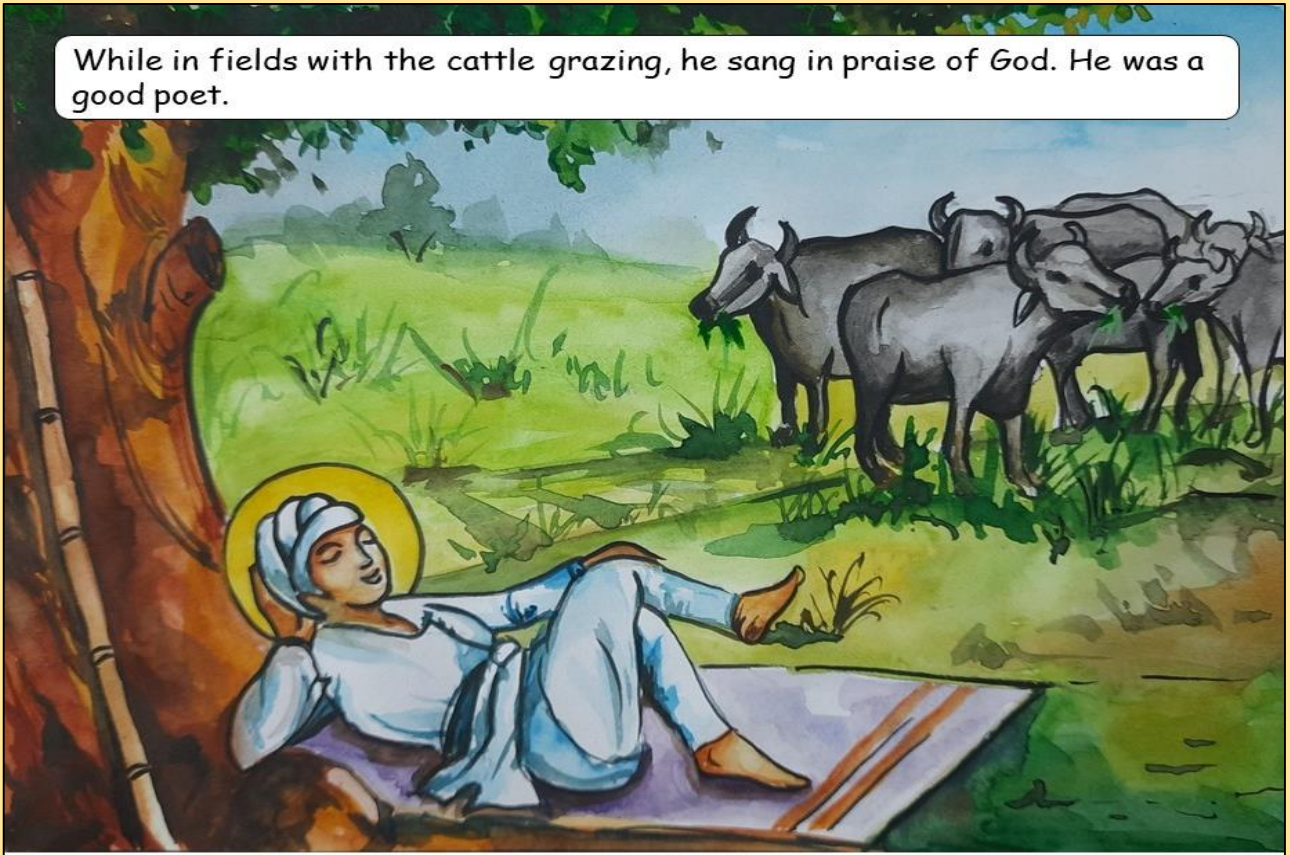




Guru Nanak refused to wear sacred thread called Janeu as a child, saying instead that he would wear the true name of God in his heart for his protection.

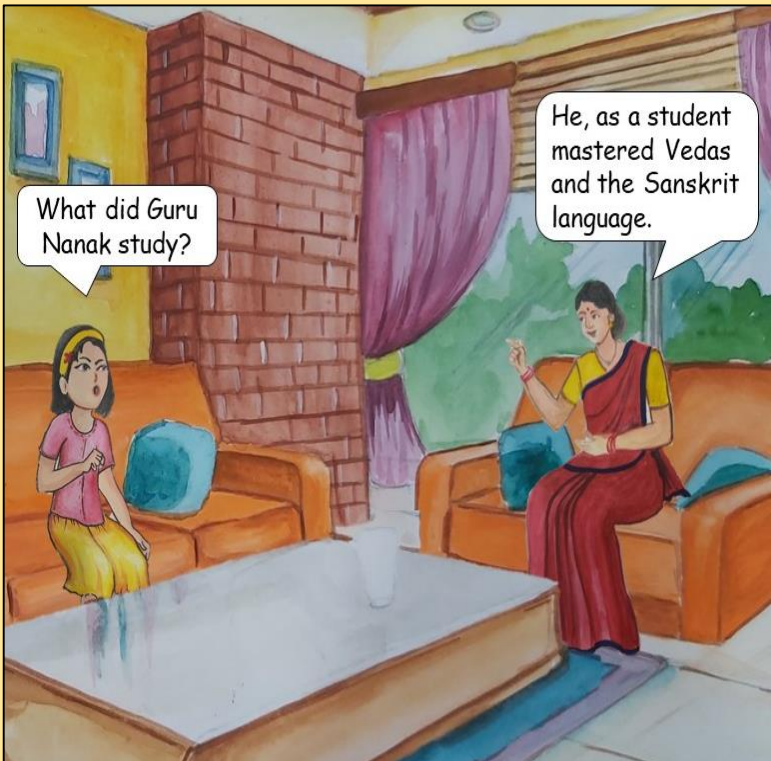


While in fields with the cattle grazing, he sang in praise of God. He was a good poet.



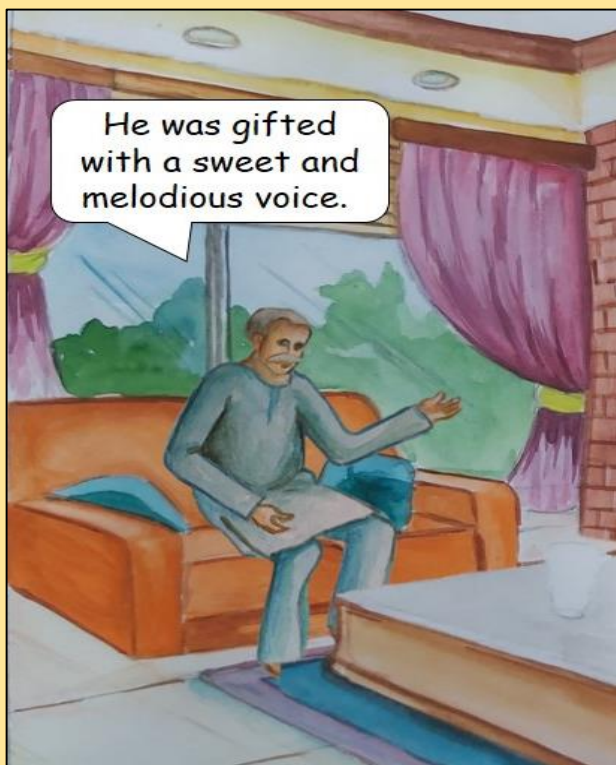
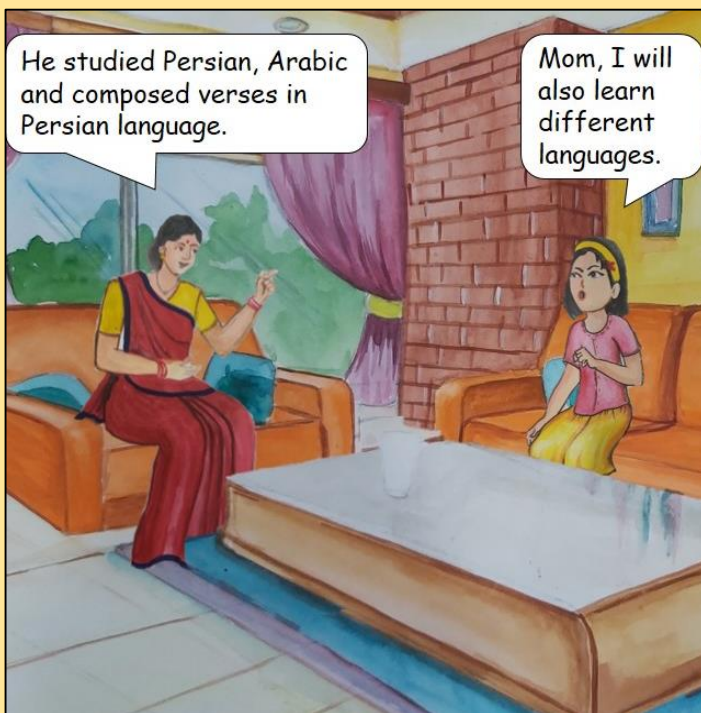
What did Guru Nanak study?

He, as a student mastered Vedas and the Sanskrit language.



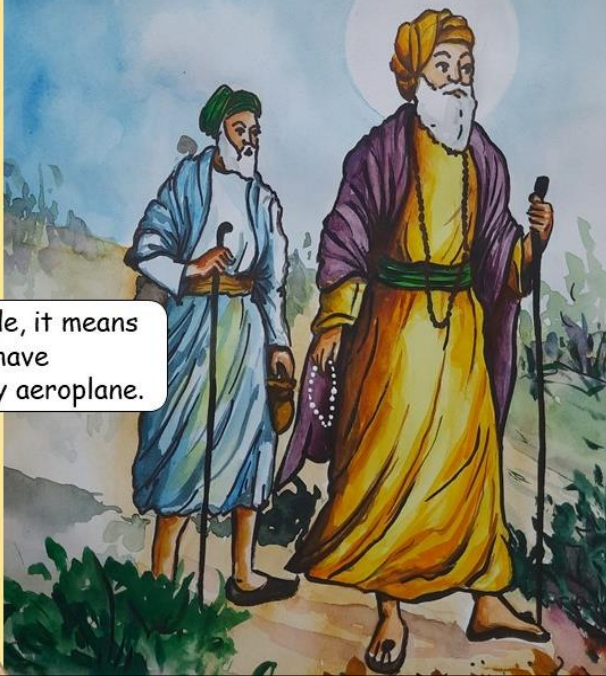
Guru Nanak started going to school at the age of seven. It is believed, that he surprised his teacher by explaining him the symbolism of the first letter of the alphabet, which is a straight stroke in Persian or Arabic. It resembled the mathematical one and it symbolised as God being one and united.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji is revered in many different cultures and as such has been given various names. In Afghanistan, he is commonly called Nanak Peer. He is also known as Nanak Rishi in Nepal, Baba Nanak in Iraq, Nanaka- Chraya in Sri Lanka and Nanak Lama in Tibet.



Guru Nanak Dev ji along with his friend Bhai Mardana travelled far and wide to remove the darkness of ignorance with his divine knowledge.

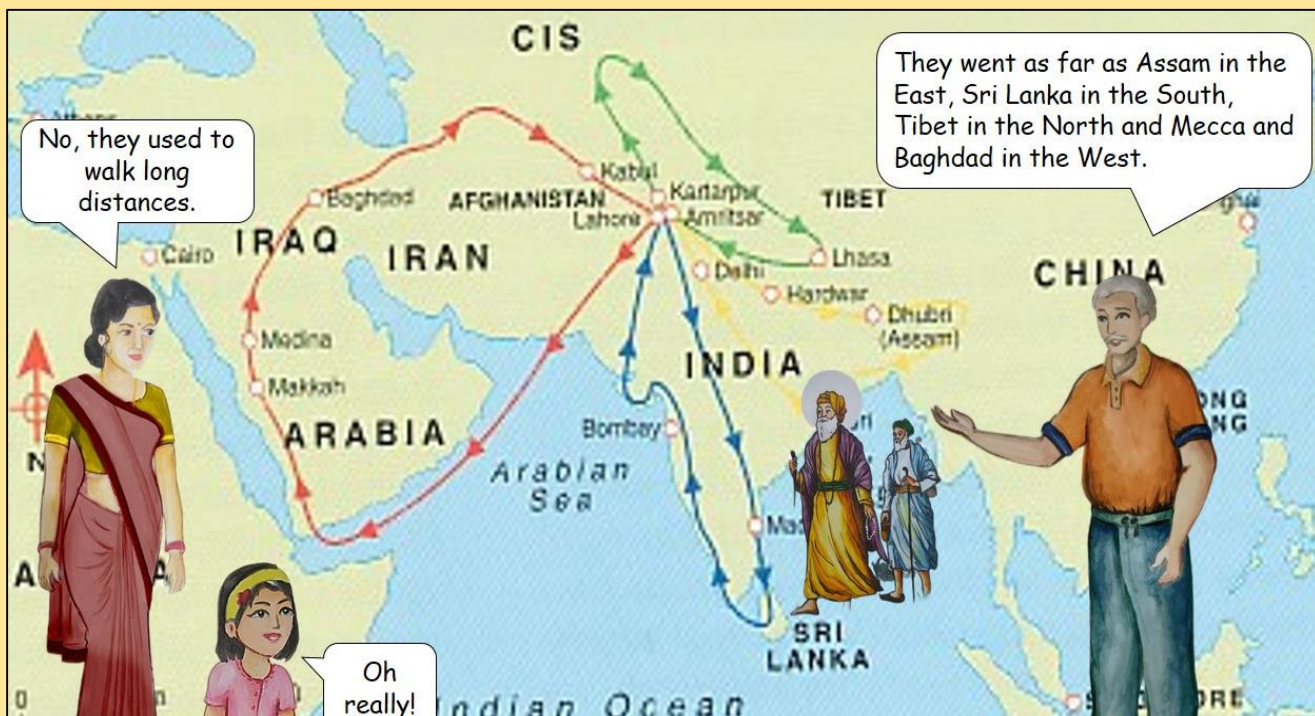
Far and wide, it means they must have travelled by aeroplane.



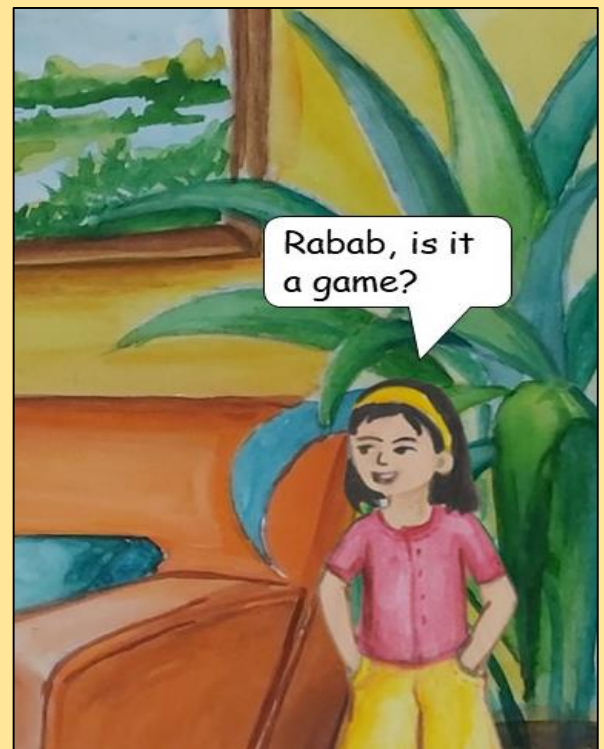
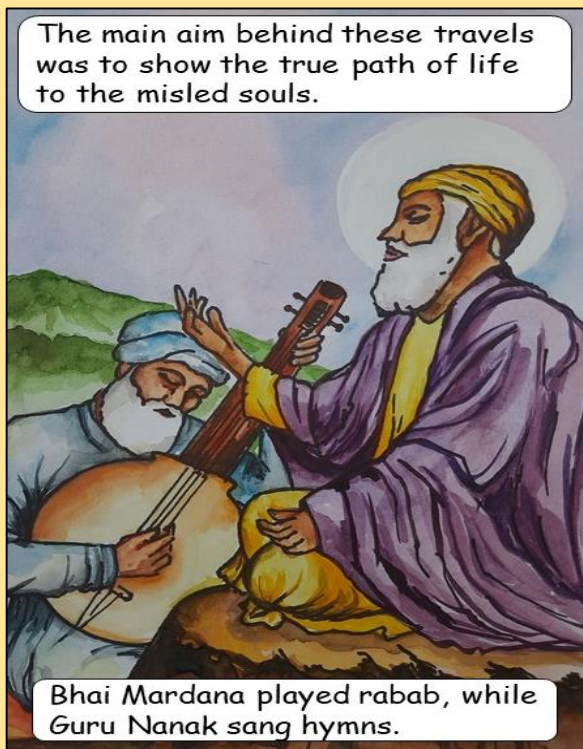
In order to spread his teachings Guru Nanak Dev Ji set out in 1507 to 1521 along with his companions to his four travel cycle, which includes the prominent places of India, Afghanistan, Persia (Iran) and Arabic nations. The four journeys of Guru Nanak are named as 'Udasis'.

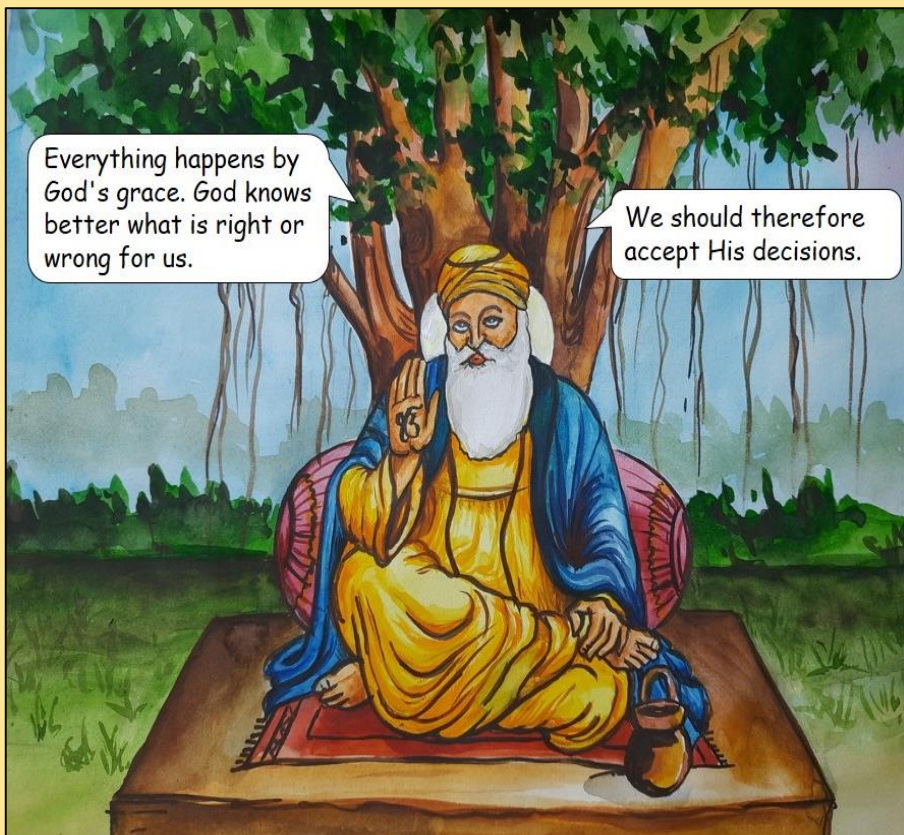
No, they used to walk long distances.

They went as far as Assam in the East, Sri Lanka in the South, Tibet in the North and Mecca and Baghdad in the West.



Oh really!





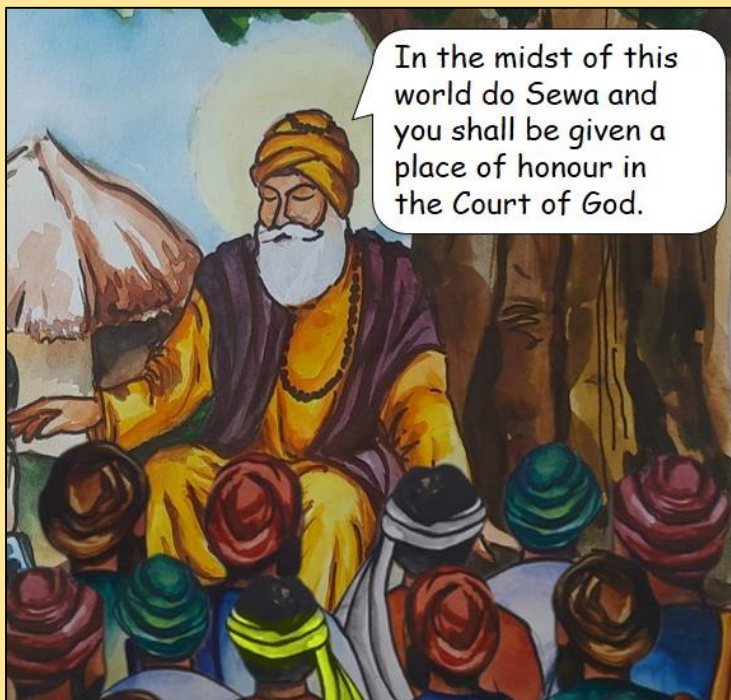
In his tenure, Guru Nanak always brought changes to the wrong traditions and thoughts, rooted in society. Along with that, he worked towards giving equal rights to women and put an end to the cruelty towards them.





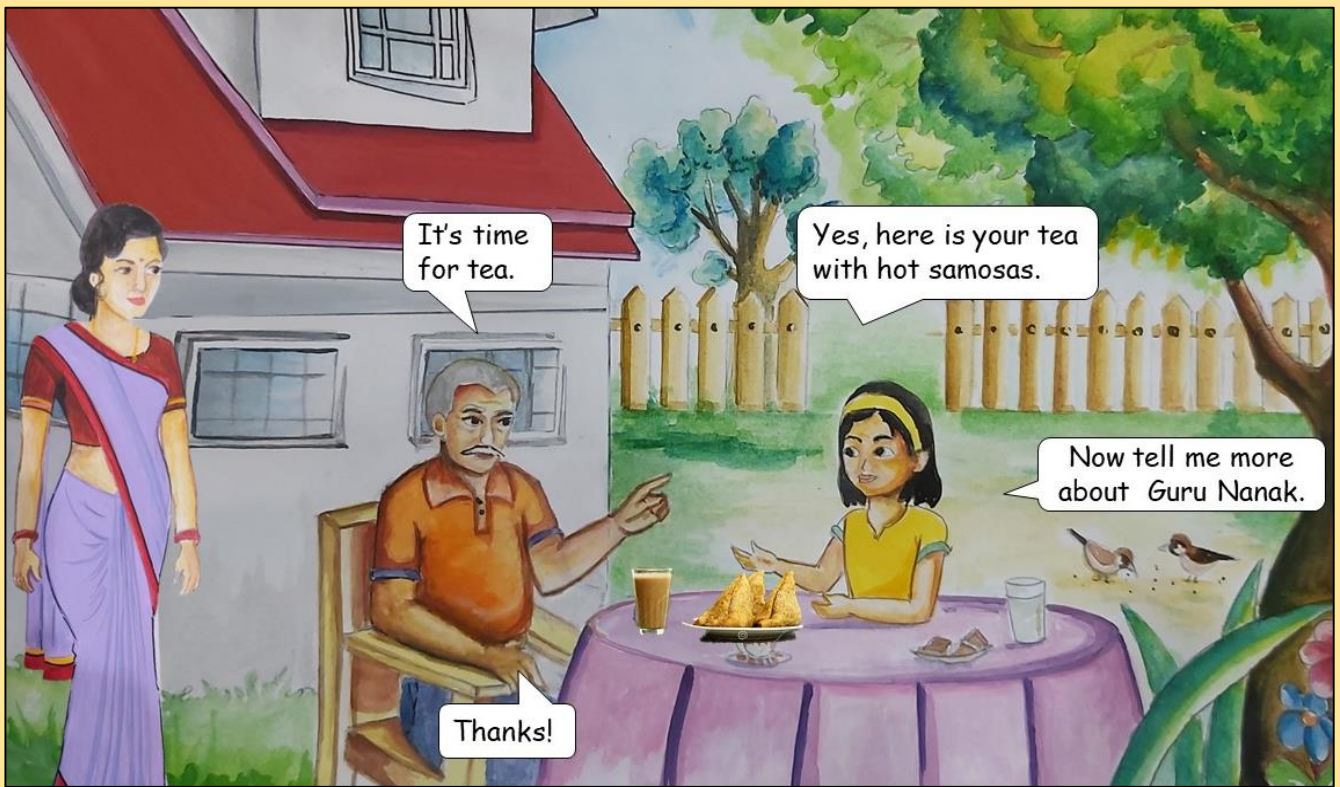
I am neither a Hindu nor a Muslim, I am a follower of God.

God is omnipresent, shapeless, timeless and sightless.

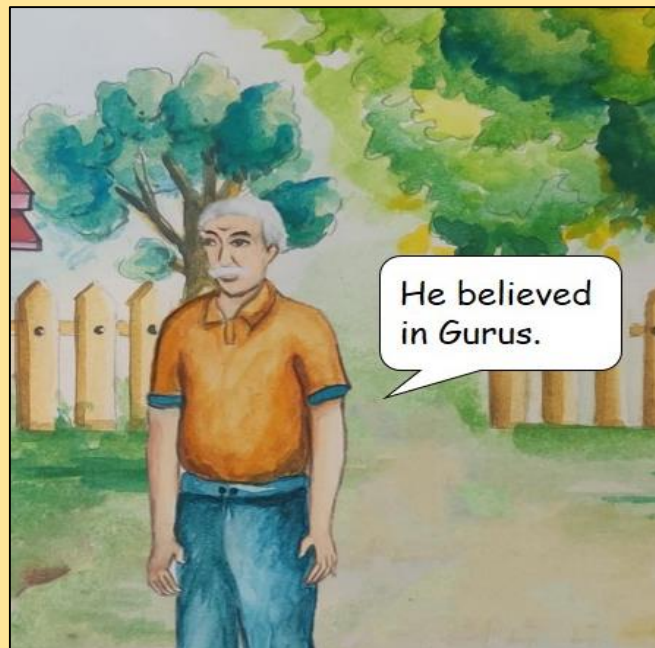
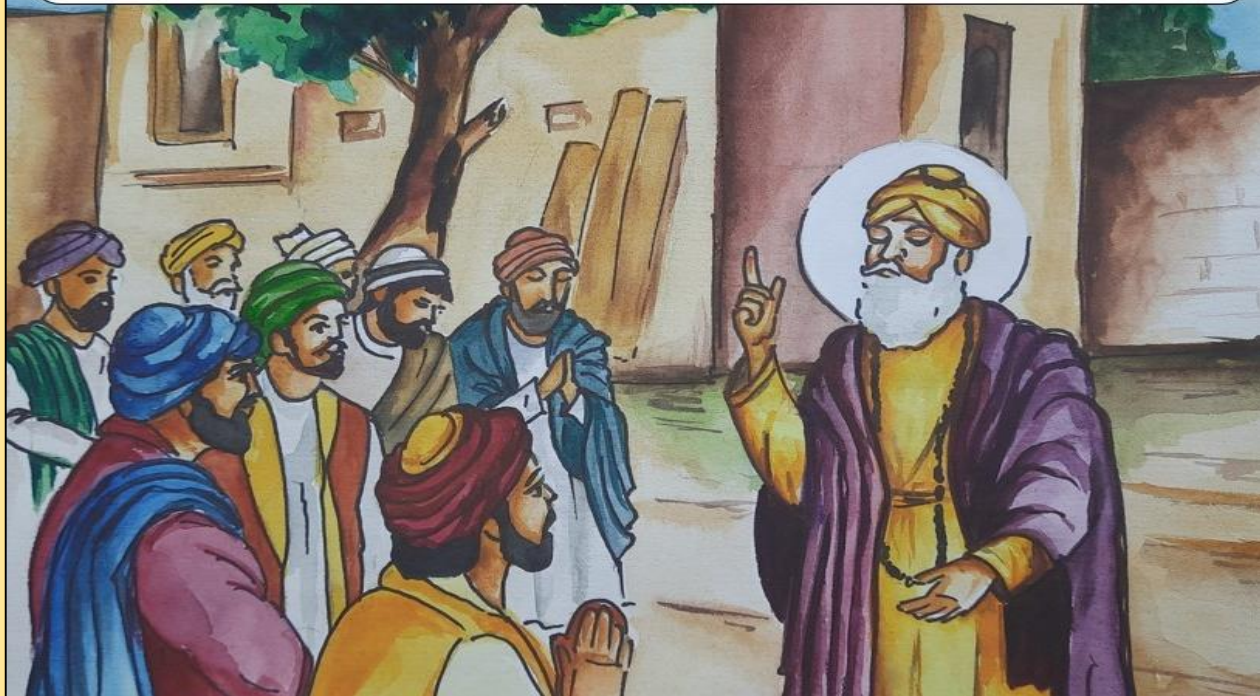


In the midst of this world do Sewa and you shall be given a place of honour in the Court of God.

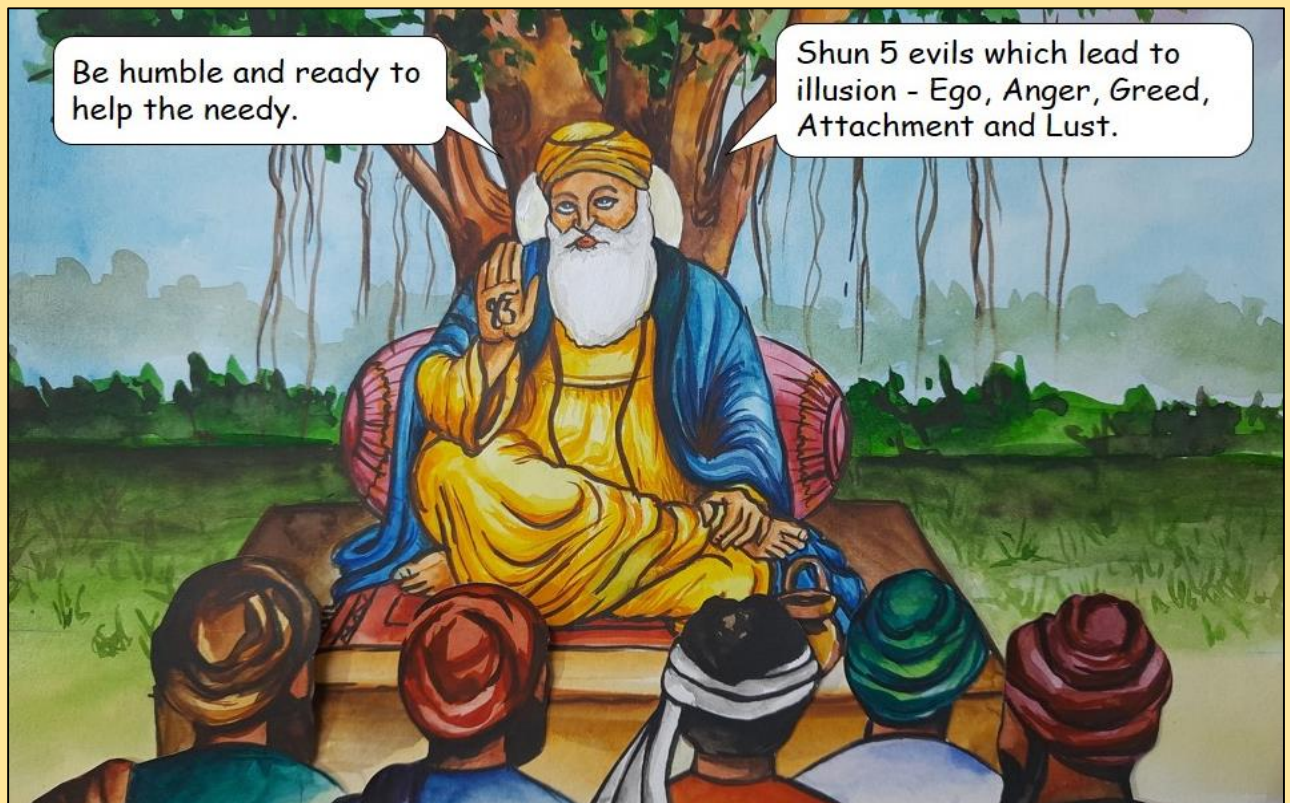
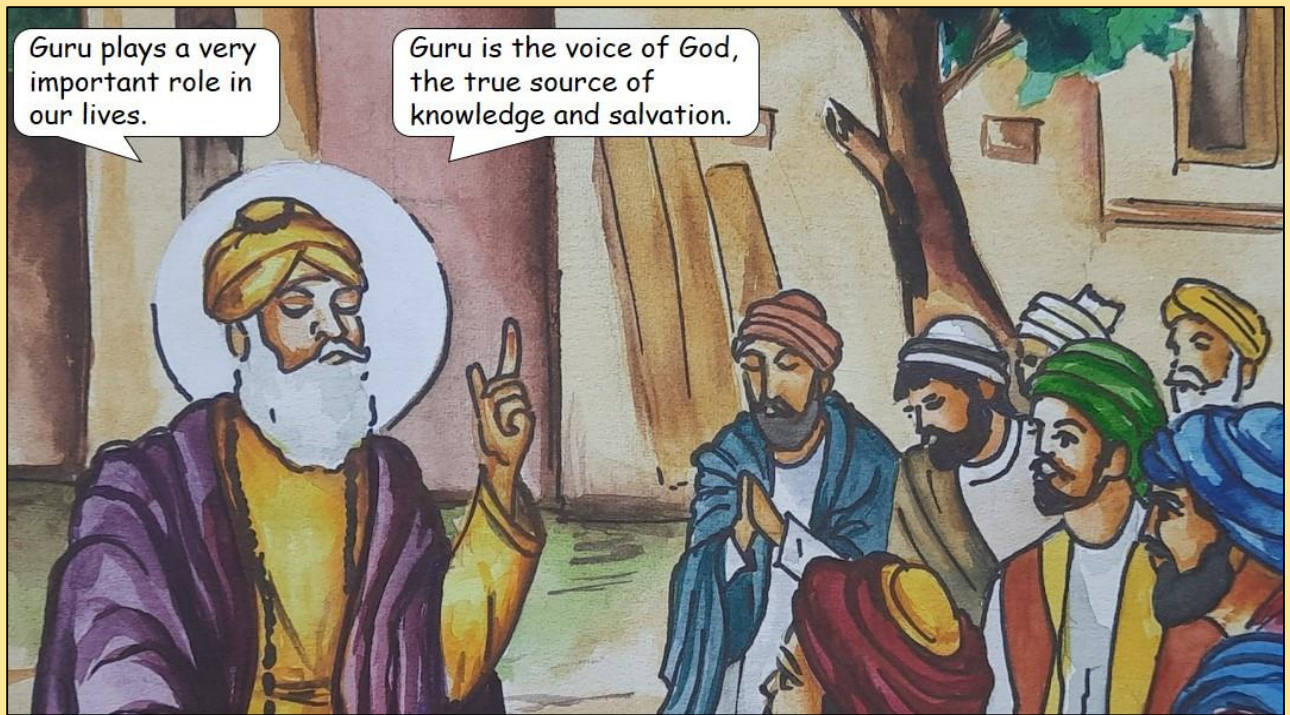
One day, Guru Nanak failed to return from his bath and his clothes were found on the bank of the stream. The locals thought, that he had left this world. After three days, he returned and stayed silent. Later, he said that he had been taken to God's court. He was offered a cup full of amrit and was blessed.

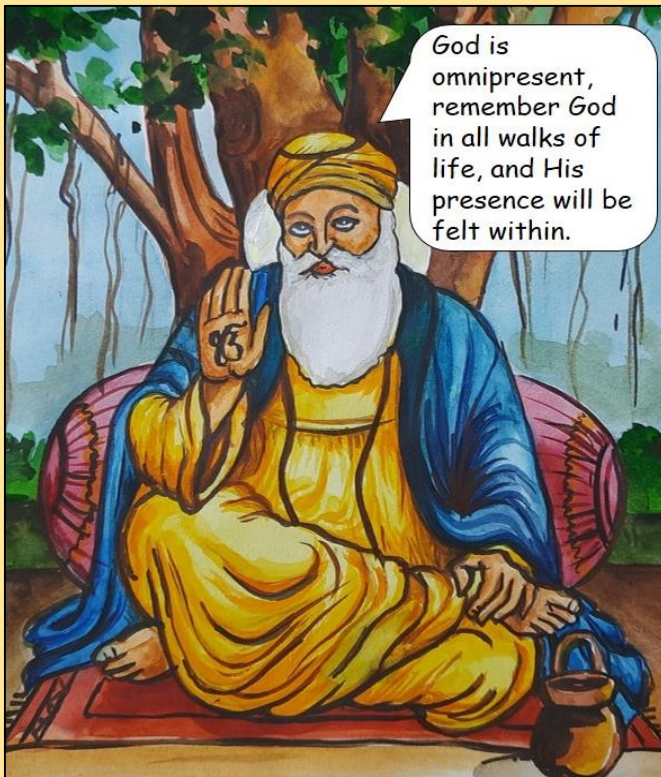


Second, Naam Jappo, chanting the holy names and remembering the God at all times. **Third**, Vand Chakho, sharing with others and helping those who are in need.

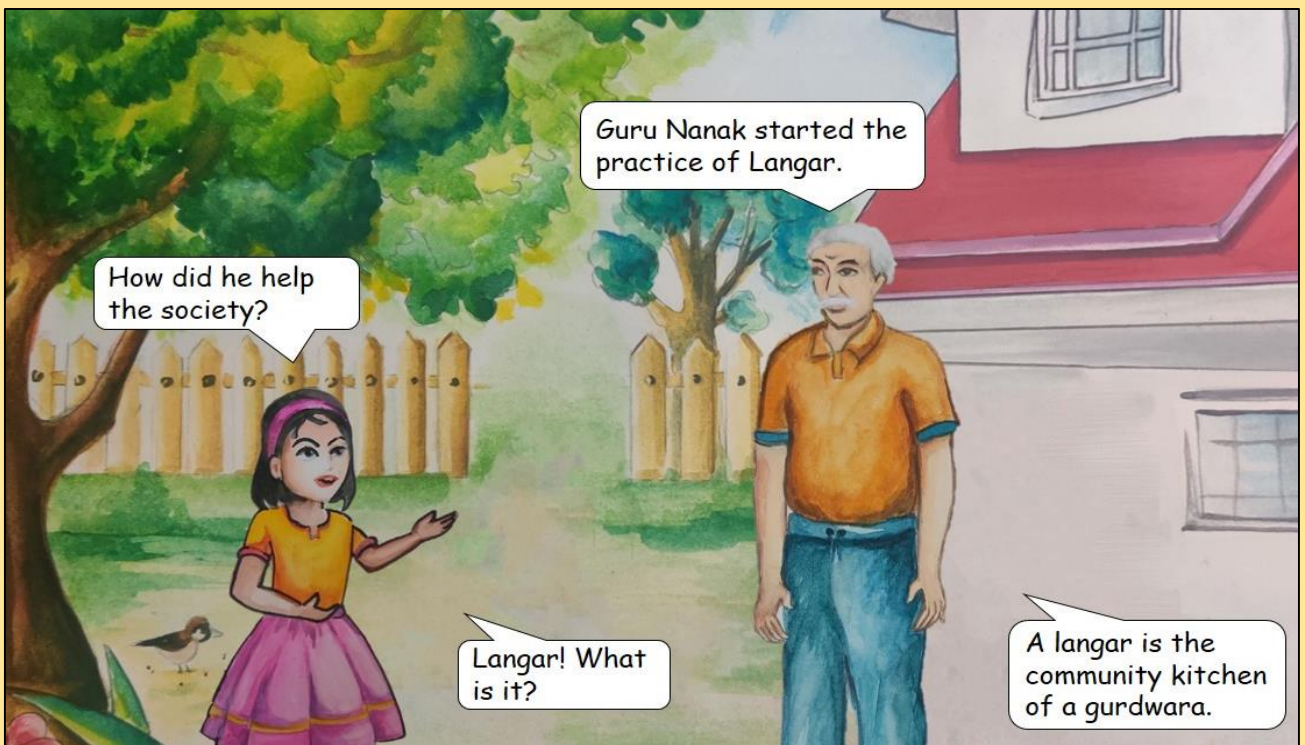


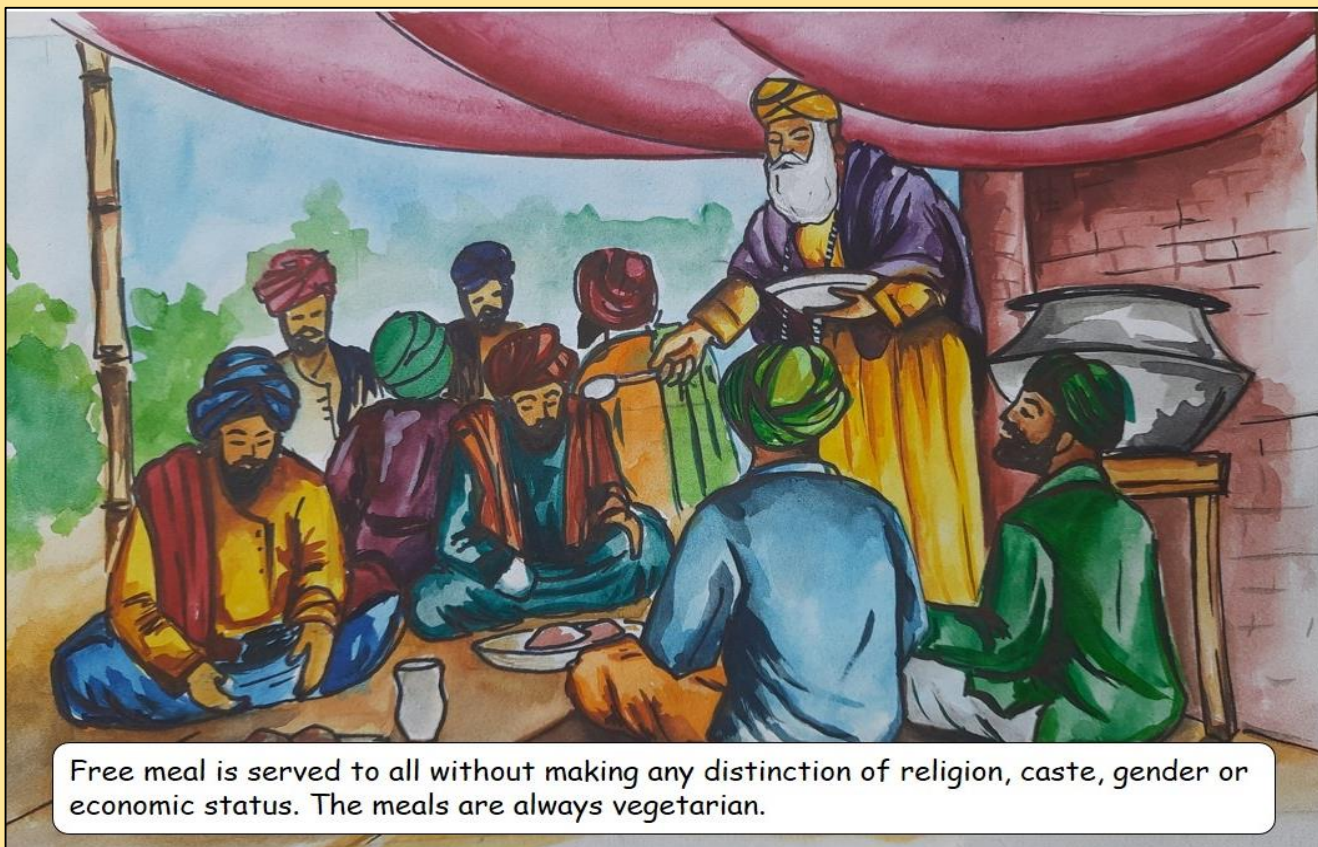






Guru Nanak's words are registered in the form of 974 poetic hymns or shabdas, in the text of Sikhism, the Guru Granth Sahib.





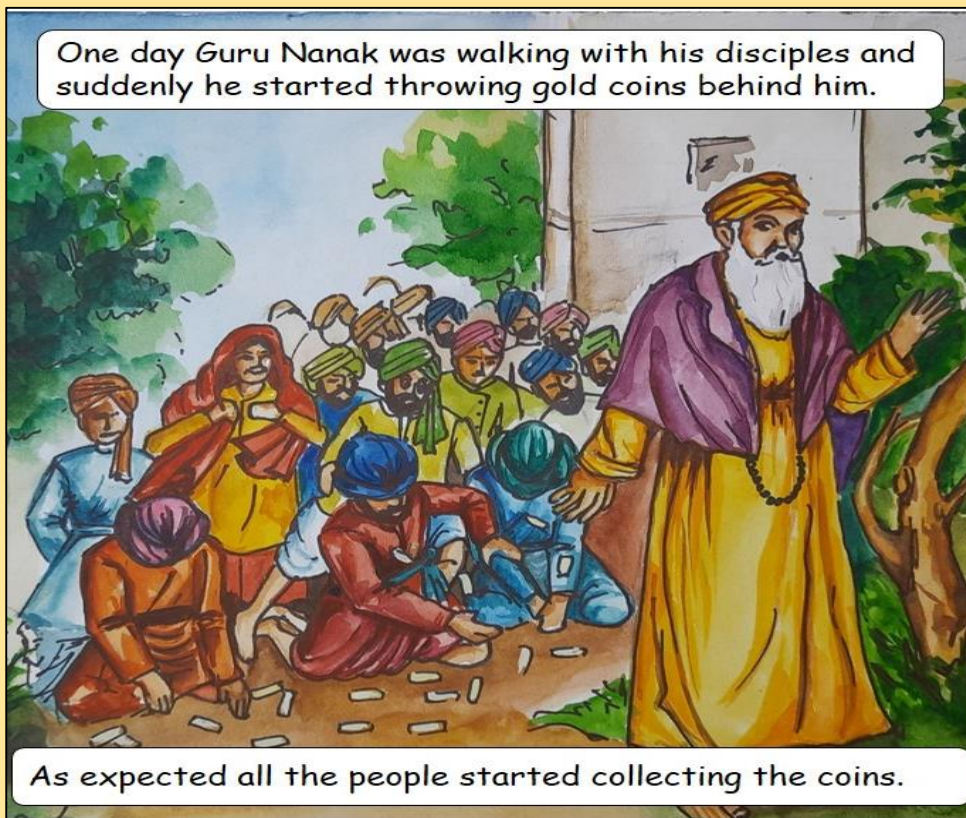
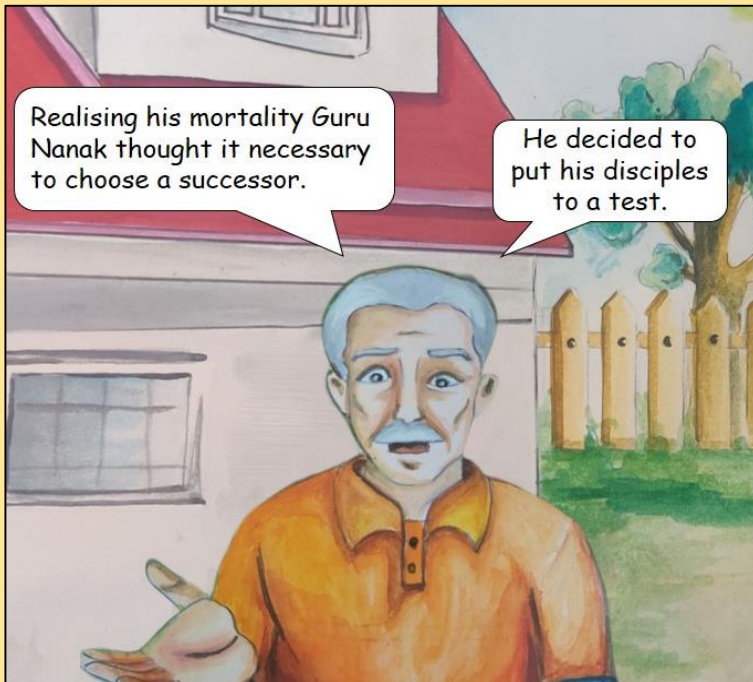
Free meal is served to all without making any distinction of religion, caste, gender or economic status. The meals are always vegetarian.



Is there any record of Guru Nanak's teachings?

Guru Nanak's teachings are found in the Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib, as a collection of verses recorded in Gurmukhi.

Very interesting!



Coin from 1747
CE depicting
Guru Nanak
with his two
disciples, Bhai
Mardana and
Bhai Bala waving
a Chaur (fly-
whisk) as a mark
of respect.

When Guru Nanak reached his destination, he found only one of his disciple Bhai Lehna accompanying him.



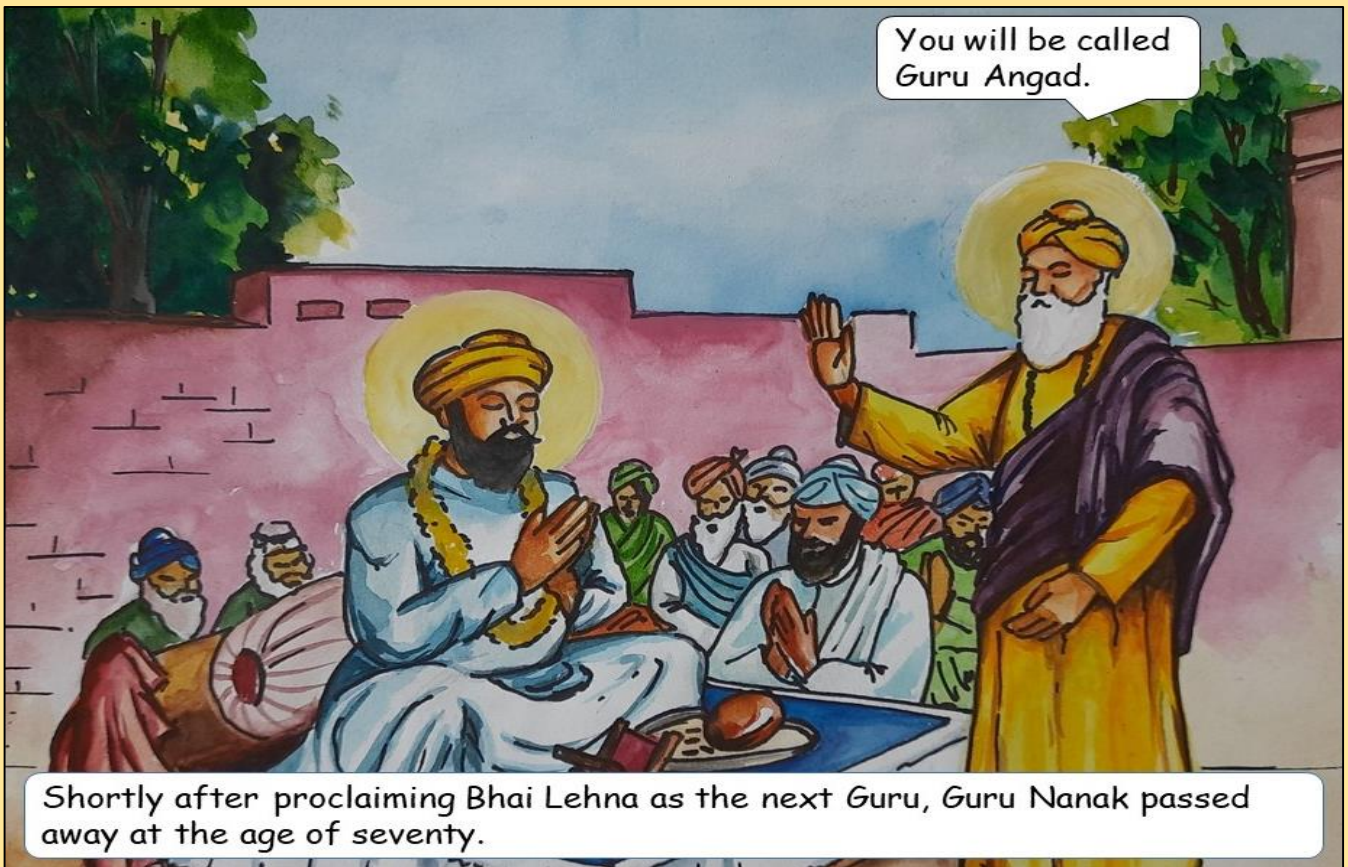
So, Guru Nanak must have been very pleased with his devotion.



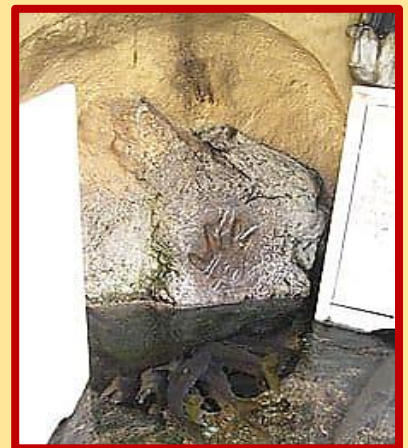
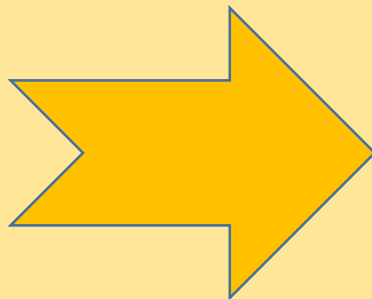
Bhai Lehna, you will do God's duty after me.



Later that day after the evening prayers, Guru Nanak made Bhai Lehna the next Guru.



Guru Nanak's handprint
is believed to be
preserved on a boulder
at the Gurdwara Panja
Sahib in Hasan Abdal,
Pakistan.



Check Your Knowledge

A. Choose the correct option:

1. Guru Nanak was born on 15th April _____.
a) 1467 b) 1500 c) 1469 d) 1430
2. _____ was the founder of Sikhism.
a) Meera Bai b) Kabir c) Guru Nanak d) Guru Angad
3. _____ early life was blessed with divine grace.
a) Kabir's b) Guru Nanak's c) Meera Bai's
d) Ramananda's
4. Guru Nanak studied Persian and Arabic and composed verses in _____ language.
a) Sanskrit b) Hindi c) Persian d) Punjabi
5. Guru Nanak travelled long distances with his friend _____ to remove _____ from this world.
a) Bhai Mardana, idol worship b) Ramananda, arrogance
c) Bhai Mardana, darkness of ignorance d) Bhai Lehna, poverty
6. God is _____, shapeless, timeless and sightless.
a) visible b) astrologer c) Ramananda d) omnipresent

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Langar is the community kitchen in a _____, which serves food to all the people without any distinction of religion, caste, gender or economic status.
2. Bhai Lehna was made the next guru of Sikhs and was given the name _____ by Guru Nanak.
3. A new script introduced by Guru Nanak was _____.
4. Guru Nanak preached worship of _____.

1. Gurdwara 2. Guru Angad 3. Gurmukhi 4. one God

Answers:

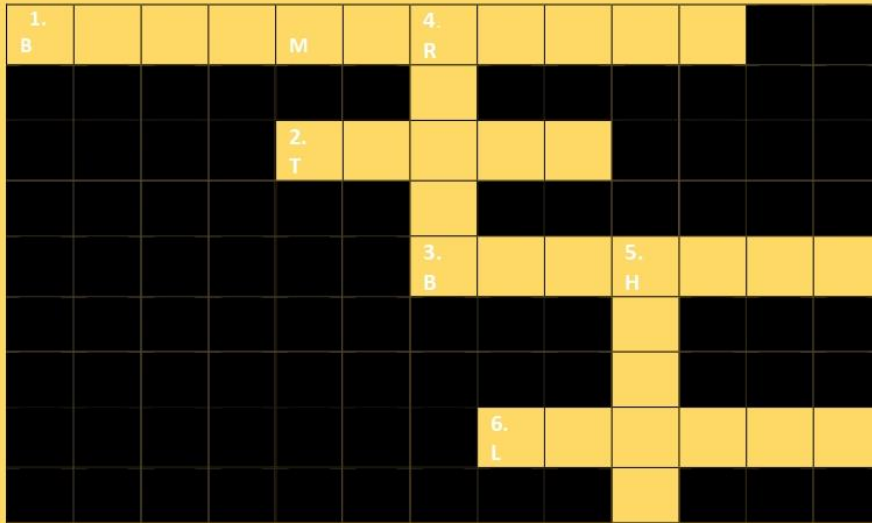
Check your Knowledge

1. When and where was Guru Nanak born?
2. What was the essence of Guru Nanak's sermon?
3. What is karma?
4. What does Guru Granth Sahib consist of?
5. What is divine grace?
6. What qualities did Guru Nanak possess?
7. What did Guru Nanak study?
8. What are the four journeys of Guru Nanak called?

Answer Key

1. Guru Nanak was born on 15th April, 1469 at Rai Bhoi ki Talwandi present Nankana Sahib, Punjab Pakistan.
2. The essence of his sermon was that God is one and his worship is for both Hindus and Muslims.
3. Karma means action, work or deed of a person.
4. The Guru Granth Sahib consists of Guru Nanak's words in the form of 974 poetic hymns or Shabda.
5. Divine Grace means a favour of God for mankind.
6. Guru Nanak possessed the qualities of a philosopher, yogi, poet and religious reformer.
7. Guru Nanak mastered Vedas. He studied Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic and composed verses in Persian language.
8. The four journeys of Guru Nanak are called as Udisis.

Crossword



Across:

1. Friend of Guru Nanak
2. Neighbouring country where Guru Nanak travelled
3. City in Iraq where Guru Nanak preached
6. Community kitchen

Down:

4. Stringed musical instrument
5. Religious songs or poems

ANSWERS:
ACROSS: 1. BHAI MARDANA 2. TIBET 3. BAGHDAD 6. LANGAR
DOWN: 4. RABAB 5. HYMNS

Map Work

Read the following travel route map of Guru Nanak Dev Ji with his followers and answer the following questions:



Q1. Locate the three countries on the western side of India.

Q2. Mark the four travels (Udasis) of Guru Nanak by numbering the coloured arrows.

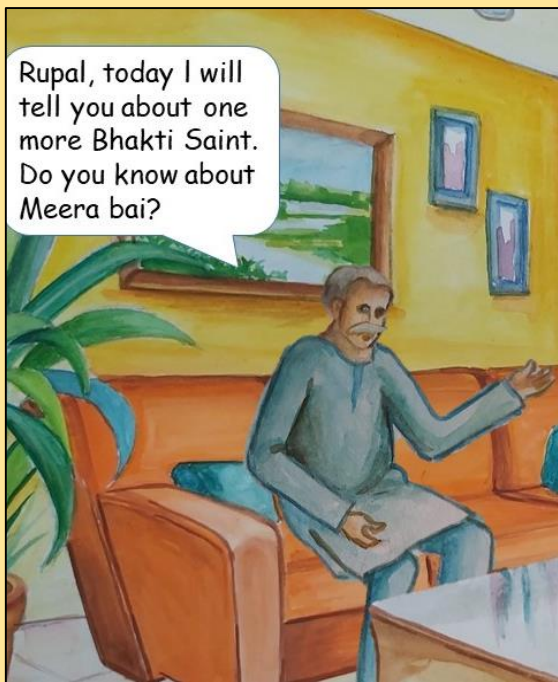
Q3. Name the two cities of Arab which are considered as places of pilgrimage for Muslims.

ANSWERS:

1. Iraq, Iran and Arabia 2. Yellow, Green, Red and Blue 3. Mecca and Medina



Meera Bai





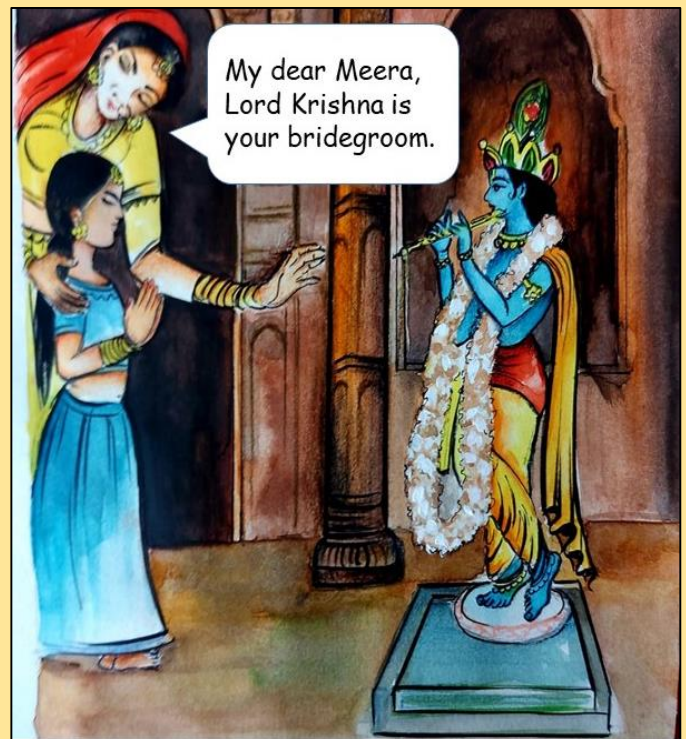
A devotee of Lord Krishna. Interesting!

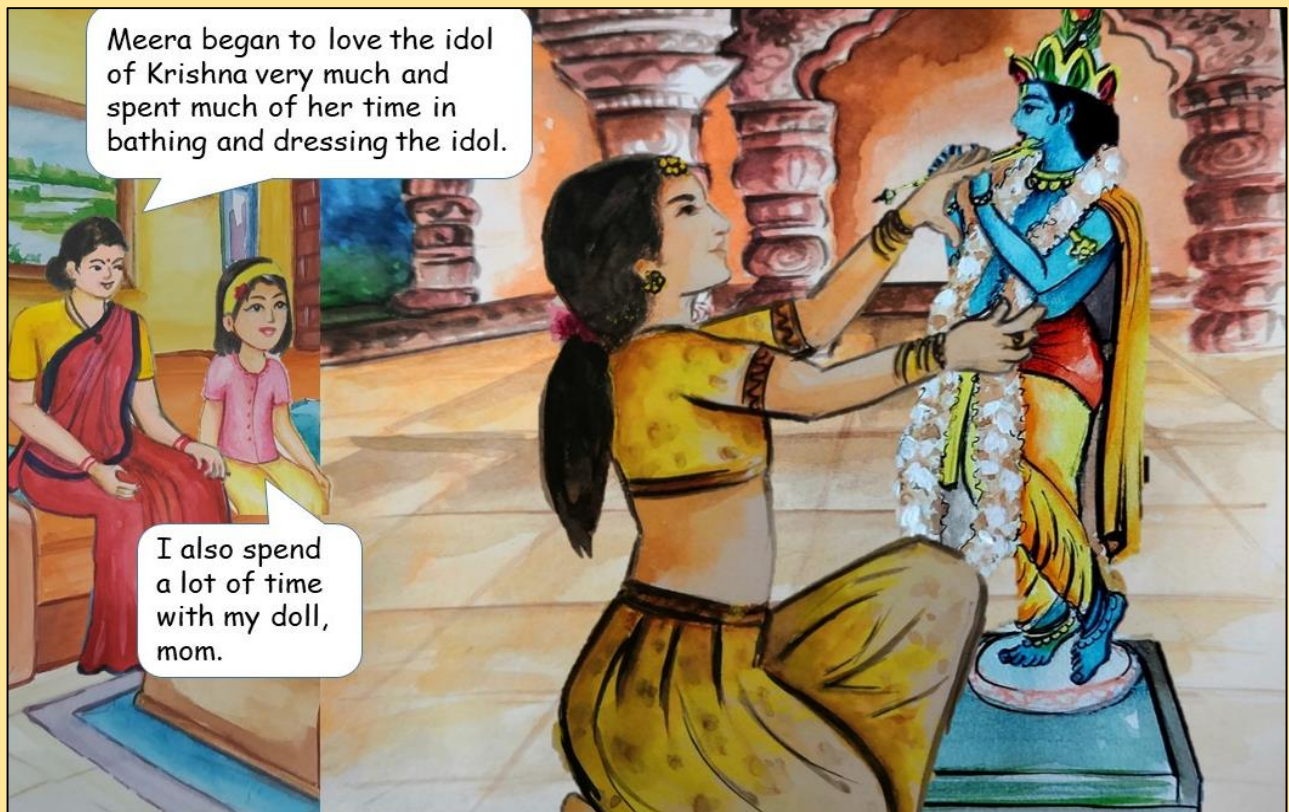


I also worship Lord Krishna.

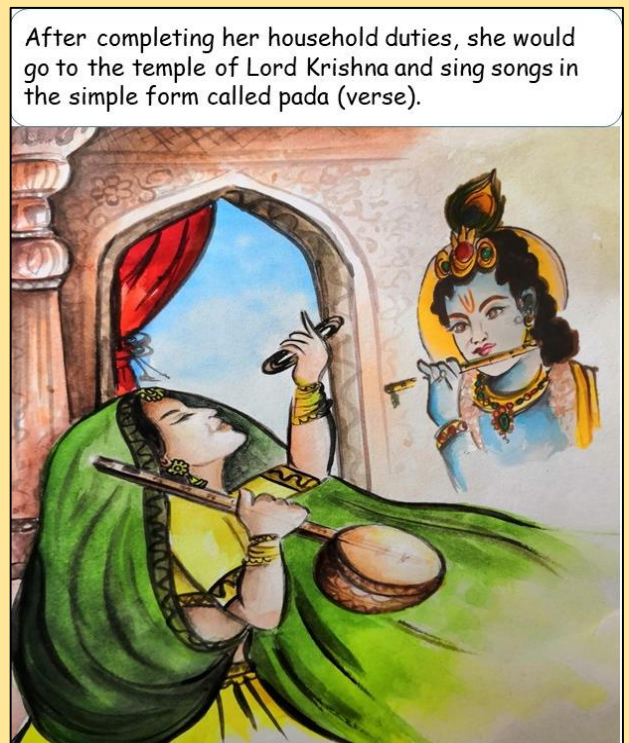
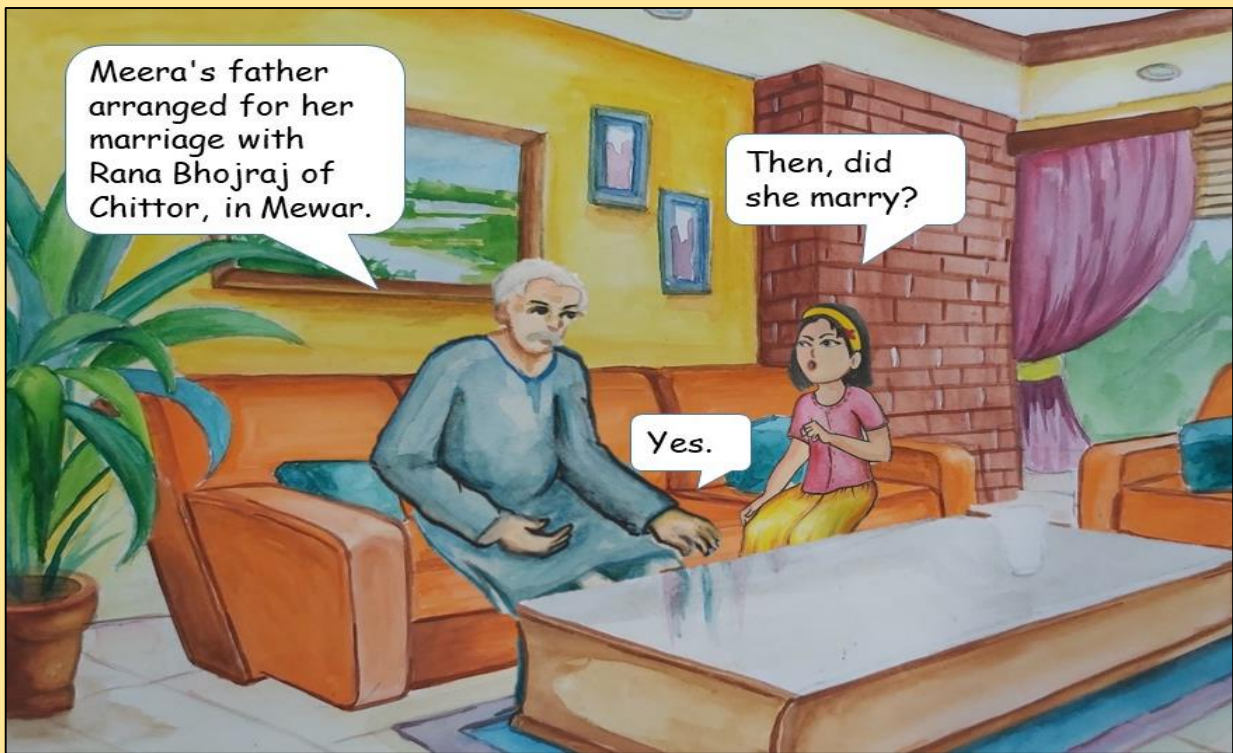


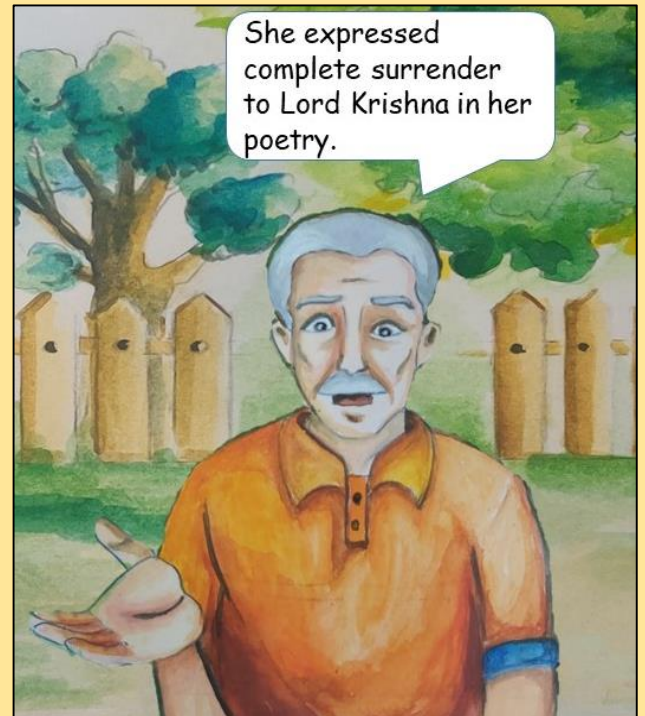
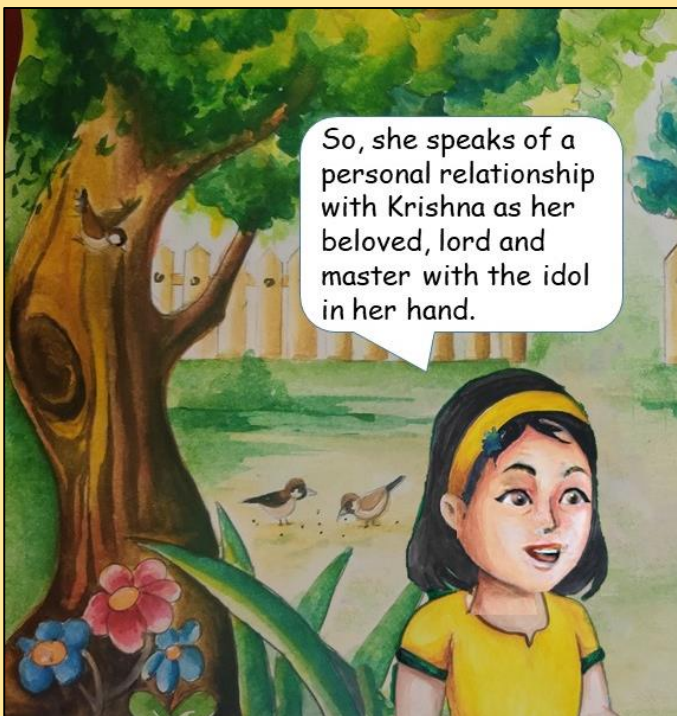
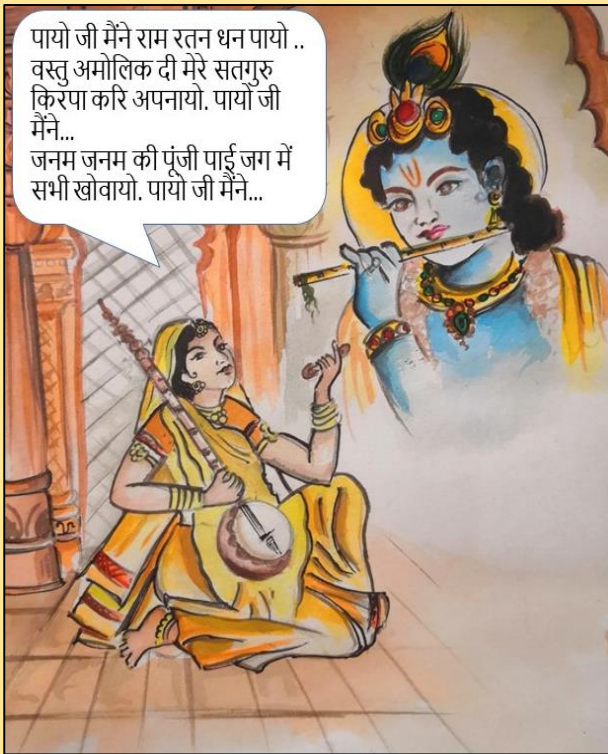
Yes, I have seen you fasting on Janmashtami.

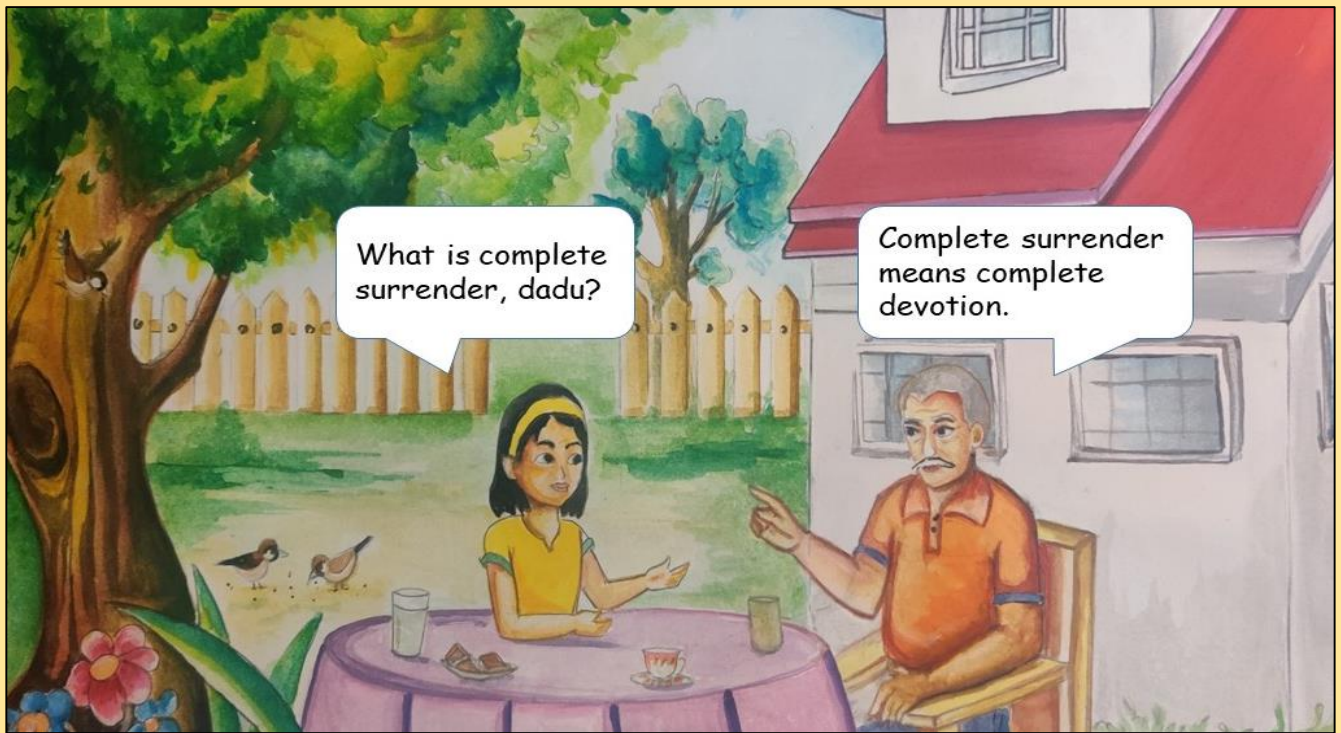




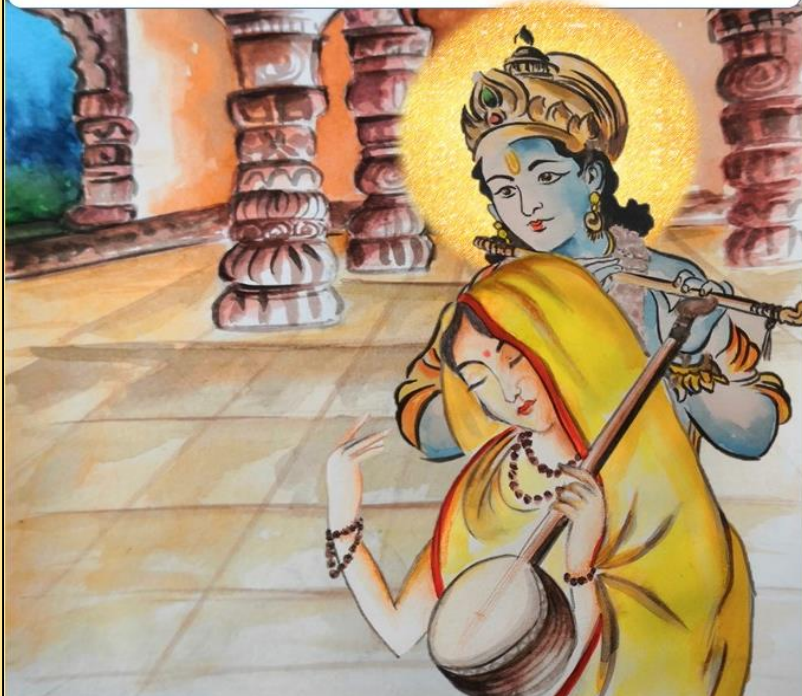
Meera Bai was the most beautiful, delightful and innocent girl of the kingdom but she was never arrogant towards anyone.







In her poetry, she is longing for the union with Krishna .
She wants to be coloured with the colour of dusk.

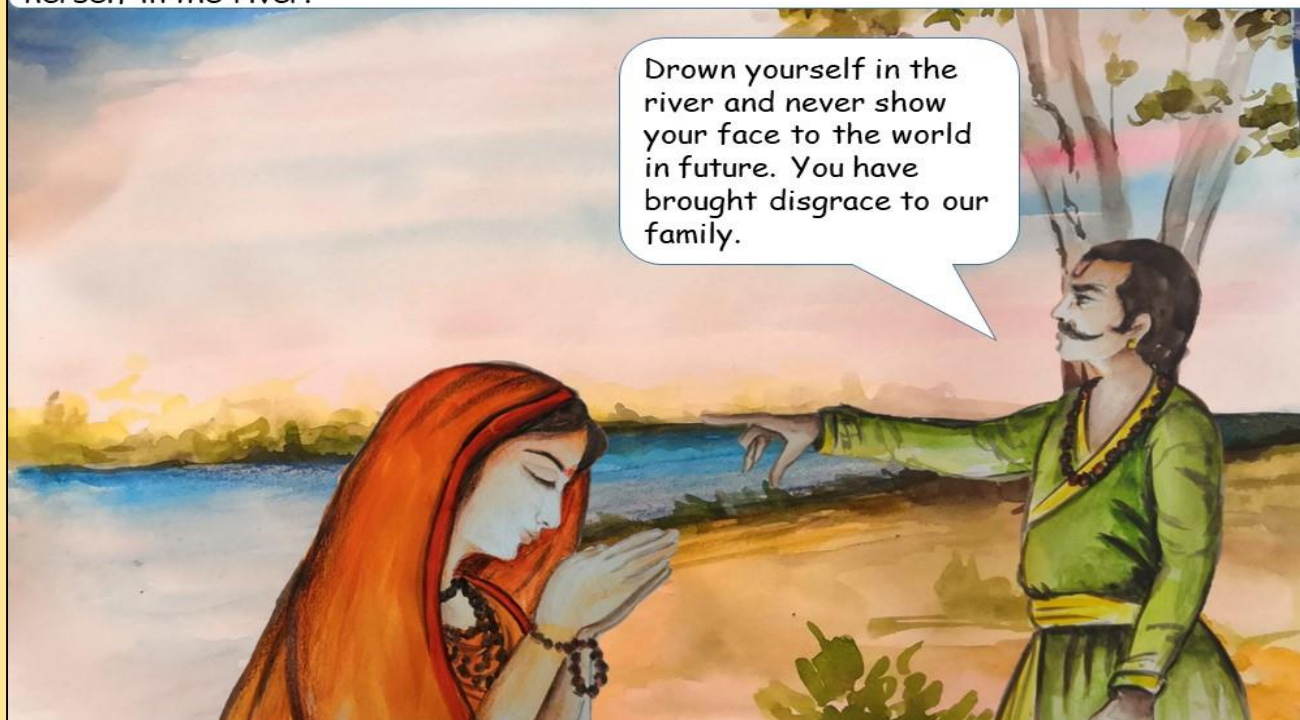


- Meera Bai has been the subject of numerous folk tales and hagiographic legends, which are inconsistent or widely different in details.
- Her bhajans still act as a soothing balm to the wounded hearts and tired nerves.
- Her lyrics infuse faith, courage, devotion and love of God.

Once Akbar also came in disguise to Chittor to hear Meera's devotional and inspiring songs. He placed an emerald necklace in front of the idol as an offering before he left Chittor.



Rana Bhojraj and his brother Vikramaditya became angry and told Meerabai to drown herself in the river.



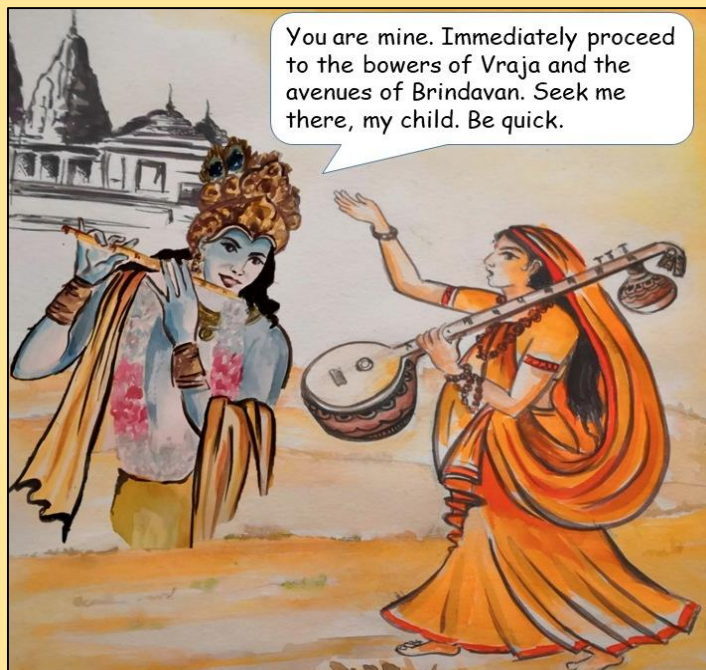


Meera obeys her husband and proceeds towards the river to drown herself. As she puts her feet in the river, she is stopped from behind.



Meera Bai taught the world, the way to love God. She rowed her boat dexterously in a stormy sea of family troubles and difficulties and reached the shore of supreme peace by faith and devotion towards Lord Krishna.





She expressed her devotion towards Lord Krishna through the songs composed by her.



So she reached Brindavan and found her flute bearer there.



Meera had the beautiful cosmic vision. She saw Krishna all around her, in trees, stones, creepers, flowers, birds and among all living beings.

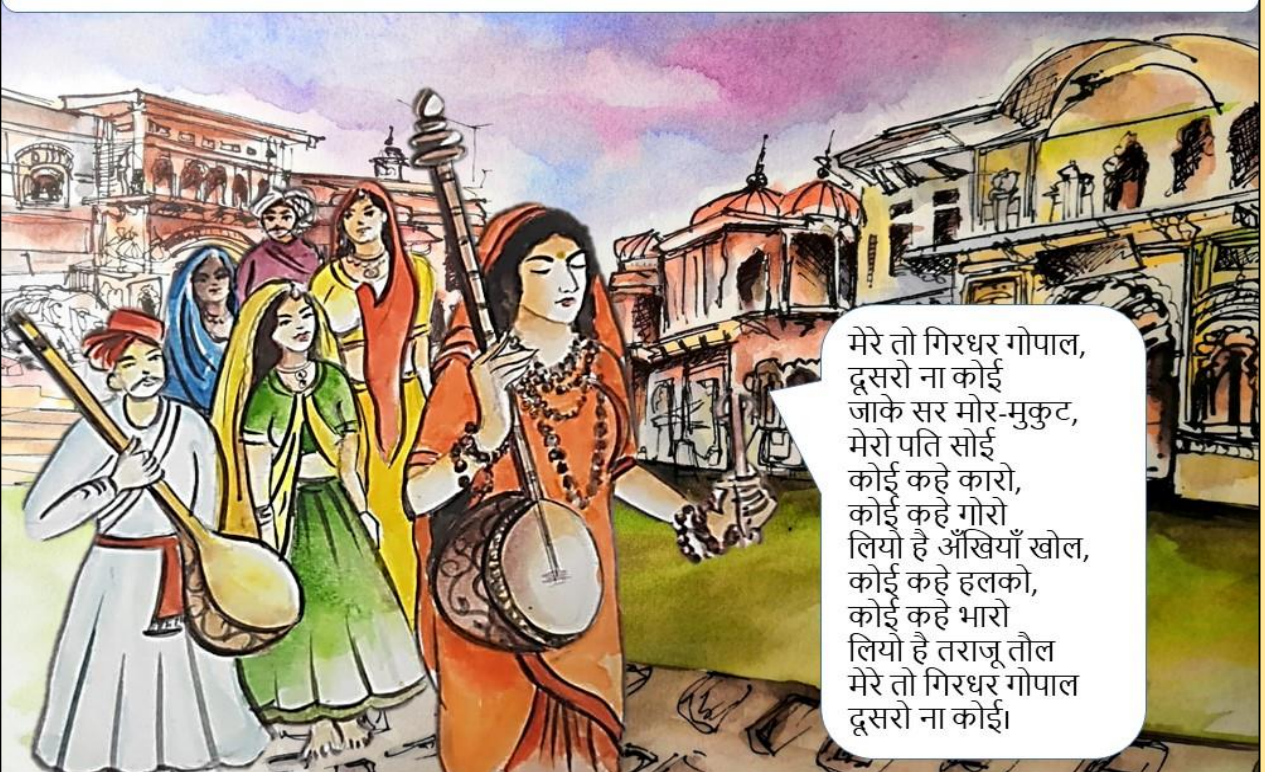


In Brindavan, Meera bai was free to worship Giridhar to her heart's content.



हरि तुम हरो जन की भीर।
द्रोपदी की लाज राखी, तुम
बढ़ायो चीर॥
भक्त कारण रूप नरहरि,
धरयो आप शरीर।
हिरणकश्यपु मार दीन्हों,
धरयो नाहिंन धीर॥
बूडते गजराज राखे, कियो
बाहर नीर।
दासि मीरा लाल गिरिधर,
दुःख जहाँ तहँ पीर॥

She would spend time in singing bhajans and in ecstatic communication with Krishna.

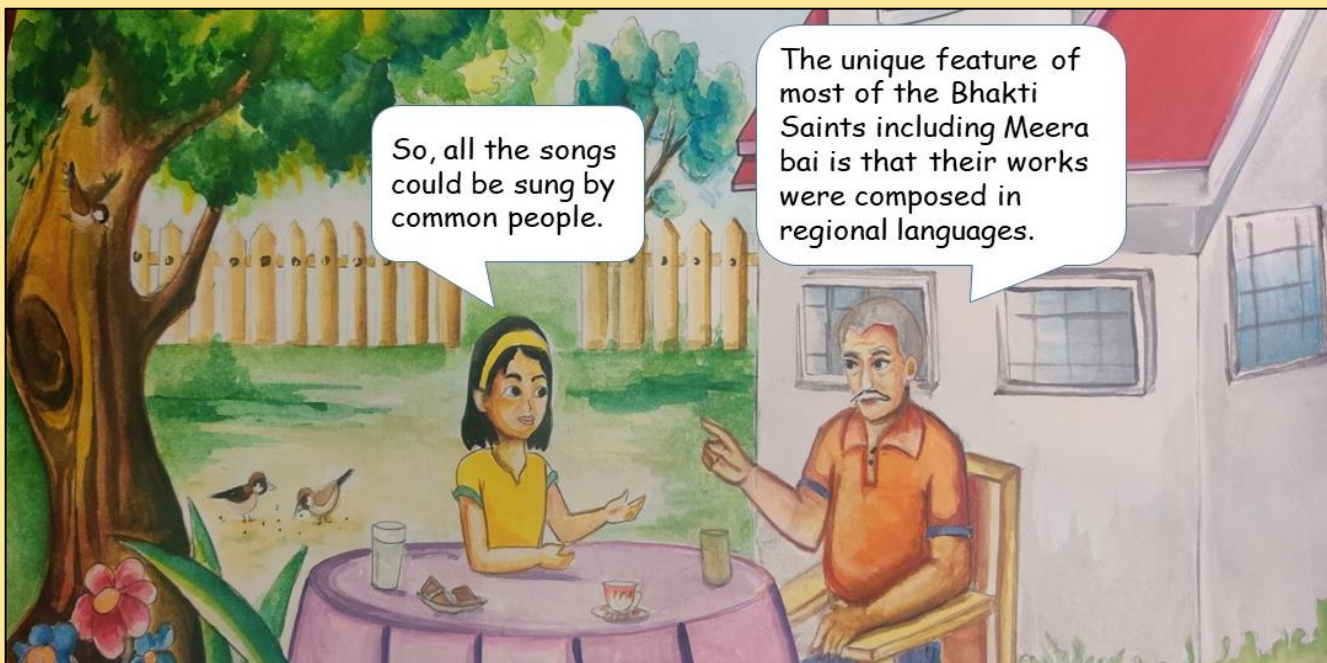


मेरे तो गिरधर गोपाल,
दूसरो ना कोई
जाके सर मोर-मुकुट,
मेरो पति सोई
कोई कहे कारो,
कोई कहे गोरो
लियो है अँखियाँ खोल,
कोई कहे हलको,
कोई कहे भारो
लियो है तराजू तौल
मेरे तो गिरधर गोपाल
दूसरो ना कोई।



Meera bai considered herself to be the Gopi of Brindavan, engulfed with pure love for Krishna.





The Bhakti Saints challenged the caste hierarchy, emphasized the individual's direct connection to God and the possibility of salvation for all, through good deeds and simple living.



Check Your Knowledge

A. Choose the correct option:

1. Meera from her childhood believed _____ as her beloved, lord and master.
a) Krishna b) Shiva c) Vishnu d) Ram
2. Once _____ came in disguise to hear Meera's devotional and inspiring songs.
a) Raja Bhoj b) Sher Shah Suri c) Akbar
d) Jalaluddin Fateh Sahib
3. Meera belonged to the royal family of _____.
a) Jobner b) Sikar c) Merta d) Pali
4. Songs sung by Meera became popular among the people of Rajasthan and _____.
a) West Bengal b) Gujarat c) Maharashtra d) Karnataka
5. Meera expressed her love for Lord Krishna in her devotional songs called _____.
a) sakhis b) bhajans c) shlokas
d) preachings

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. Meera Bai was married to _____.
2. Meera Bai sang devotional songs in the streets of _____.
3. Meera had a _____ vision, she saw Krishna in flowers, trees, stone and everywhere.

1. Raja Bhoj 2. Brindavan 3. cosmic

Answers:

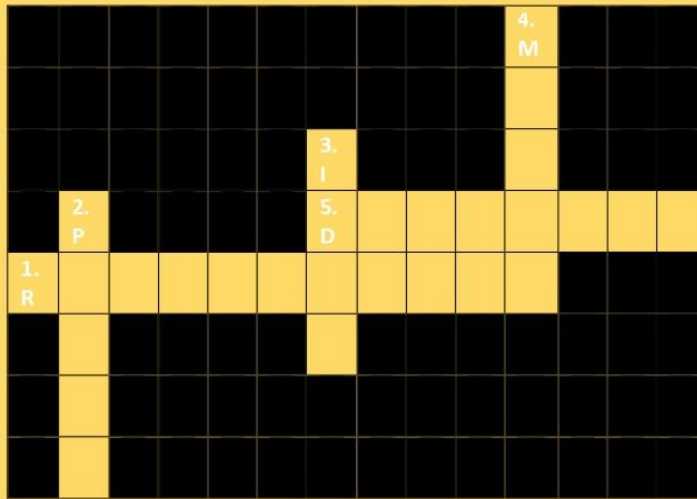
Check your Knowledge

1. Whom did Meera bai believe to be her groom?
2. What would Meera bai do after completing her household duties?
3. What did Meera bai express in her poetry?
4. Who visited Meera bai in disguise?
5. What did Akbar present to the idol?
6. What did Rana Bhojraj tell Meera bai in anger?
7. What did Lord Krishna tell Meera bai?
8. What did Meera bai do after reaching Brindavan?

Answer Key

1. Meera bai believed that Lord Krishna was her groom.
2. After completing her household duties, Meera bai would go to the temple of Lord Krishna and sing songs in a simple form called pada.
3. Meera bai expressed complete surrender to Lord Krishna in her poetry.
4. Akbar, the ruler of India visited Meera bai in Chittor in disguise.
5. Akbar presented an emerald necklace in front of the idol as an offering before he left Chittor.
6. Rana Bhojraj ordered her to drown herself in the river and never show her face to the world in future.
7. Lord Krishna asked Meera bai to proceed to the bowers of Vraja and the avenues of Brindavan.
8. Meera bai expressed her devotion towards Lord Krishna through songs composed by her, after reaching Brindavan.

Crossword



Across:

1. Meera was married to
5. Complete surrender

Down:

2. Song sung in simple form by Meera
3. Synonym of statue
4. Meera was the princess of

Answers:
ACROSS: 1. RANA BHOIRAJ 5. DEVOTION
DOWN: 2. PADAS 3. IDOL 4. MEERTA



While Kabir and Nanak spoke of the formless God (nirgun bhakti), Meera bai composed and sung devotional verses in praise of Lord Krishna. They all emphasised religious simplicity and stressed upon moral values.



Summary

Bhakti Saints, advocated the union of the individual soul with the Supreme God. They rejected all kinds of rituals and discrimination on the basis of caste. They rejected the concept of renouncing the world and preferred to stay with their families and serve fellow humans. This was a new form of bhakti where happiness was in sharing the pain of others.

KABIR

- ❖ Kabir Das was a poet and writer whose ideals and compositions shaped religious ideologies in Northern India in the seventeenth century.
- ❖ Kabir's teachings were based on complete rejection of the major religious traditions. He believed in a formless Supreme God and preached that the only path to salvation was through bhakti or devotion.
- ❖ Kabir wrote many verses called sakhis and pads which were sung by wandering bhajan singers. Many of his writings were later compiled in the Guru Granth Sahib, Panch Vani, and Bijak.

GURU NANAK

- ❖ Guru Nanak emphasised on the worship of one God and was of the opinion that caste, creed, and gender were irrelevant and the prevalent religious practices were not the path to achieve salvation.
- ❖ According to him, pursuit of an active life would liberate humans, and he also used the terms naam, daan, and isnaan to mean right worship, welfare, and purity of conduct.
- ❖ His ideas today are called Kirat Karo, Naam Jappo, and Vand Chakho, which mean right belief and worship, honest living and helping others.
- ❖ Guru Nanak founded Sikhism to preach worship of one God and love for fellow humans. His successors worked towards making Sikhism a popular religion which is now followed by millions.
- ❖ The Sikhs call their faith Gurmat (the way of the Guru).

MEERA BAI

- ❖ Meera Bai was a Rajput princess married in the royal family of Mewar. She was a devotee of Lord Krishna and composed many bhajans which became popular among the people of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ❖ In most of her poems, she describes her unconditional love for her Lord and promotes Krishna bhakti as the best way of life. She sets an example of true devotee towards Lord Krishna. With ektara in her hand, she chanted hymns that she composed.

Glossary

- ❖ **beaming-** smiling broadly
- ❖ **curious** - eager to know or learn something
- ❖ **custom** - an age old practice observed by a person or a group in a society
- ❖ **development** – the process of becoming better or creating something more advanced
- ❖ **devotion** – it is great love, affection, or admiration for someone
- ❖ **elating** - filled with happiness
- ❖ **genuine** - it means true or authentic
- ❖ **meditating-** it is a practice where an individual learns to focus on a particular object, to be in a calm and stable state
- ❖ **occasion** – particular event, or the time at which it takes place
- ❖ **preaching** - religious address to an assembled group of people
- ❖ **prevailing** - existing at a particular time
- ❖ **procession** -the act of moving along or proceeding in an orderly succession or in a formal and ceremonious manner
- ❖ **proclaiming** - announce officially or publicly.
- ❖ **religious practice-** it includes rituals, sermons, sacrifices, festivals, feasts and other aspects of human culture
- ❖ **salvation** – it generally refers to the deliverance of the soul from sin and its consequences
- ❖ **surrender** - to give up or hand over ones' life to God
- ❖ **vanish** - disappear completely

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Websites:

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This Graphic Novel is an outcome of the efforts of entire team of mentors, teachers and the students of Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School, Jaipur. We would like to express our gratitude to one and all in the making of the Novel.

Disclaimer: This Novel is published as a supportive reading material to enable the students to have a better understanding of the topic. The characters used in this Graphic Novel are fictional and resemblance of any character is merely a coincidence.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The **Jaipur History Festival** held at the City Palace organised by the **Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust** in 2019 gave us the opportunity to initiate the project of Graphic Novel at Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School, Jaipur.

The process of making of the Graphic Novel based on the text book proved to be a great learning experience for the entire team of teachers and students of MSBSS involved in the project. Three Bhakti Saints namely Kabir, Meera Bai and Guru Nanak were selected from the chapter - Devotional Paths to the Divine (NCERT book for Social Studies - Class VII). We developed a story board, taking care to keep factual knowledge correct, while at the same time adding a bit of humour and stories to keep the interest of the students alive. The novel led to the integration of subjects such as Social Studies, Art, Languages and IT.

The Graphic Novel is based on the **National Education Policy 2020**, ensuring a student centric approach and following the multiple intelligences pedagogy. It is an attempt to provide another tool to the teacher to engage the students.

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Best wishes,

Vaidehi Singh

Vaidehi Singh (Principal)

Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School

This Graphic Novel emphasises on the teachings of the Bhakti Saints like Kabir, Guru Nanak and Meera Bai, who preached that there is only one God and all are equal in the eyes of God. The three saints laid stress on leading a pure and simple life. They rejected the concept of renouncing the world and preferred to stay with their families and serve fellow humans. They believed that happiness was in sharing the pain of others. The contents in the novel revolve around the significant role played by Bhakti Saints in the field of religion during the medieval times. They transformed Hinduism by introducing devotion or bhakti as the means to attain God.



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