

## Student Handout 7.10 for Basant 3, Asa 3, Adi Granth (Guru Granth Sahib) (Source 4)

### *Basant 3, Asa 3, Adi Granth*

Basant 3, Asa 3, Adi Granth is a passage from the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh scripture) in which Guru Nanak expressed his beliefs about how to gain salvation. In sections I – III of this activity, you will learn or review some general vocabulary used in the passage as well as learn or review some vocabulary and references specific to other religions you have studied. In section IV, you will examine the passage in full and reflect on Guru Nanak’s message about salvation.

**I. Understanding General Vocabulary.** Use a dictionary or your prior knowledge, or consult your peers, to fill out the following chart with (1) the meaning of each word and (2) at least one memory cue to reinforce your understanding of each word. (A memory cue could include an illustration, a synonym and antonym, or an example of the word in a context-rich sentence.)

Word	Meaning	Memory Cue
<i>auspicious</i>		
<i>prescribed</i>		
<i>meditation</i>		
<i>abode</i>		
<i>futile</i>		

**II. Understanding Religious Vocabulary.** Use your prior knowledge, notes from prior units, internet research, or discussions with peers to help you explain each of the terms below and their connection to various religious traditions.

Word	Meaning / Connection to Religious Tradition
<i>eighteen Puranas</i>	
<i>four Vedas</i>	
<i>caste</i>	
<i>qazi</i>	
<i>mullah</i>	
<i>sheik</i>	
<i>yogi</i>	
<i>jangam</i>	

**III. Understanding Other References to Religious Traditions.** Use your prior knowledge, notes from prior units, internet research, or discussions with peers to help you identify which religion(s) these lines from the passage refer to. (The word *ochre* means yellowish orange.)

Lines from the Passage	Connection to Religious Tradition
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<p><i>“one may bathe on auspicious days”</i></p>	
<p><i>“one may [ . . . ] give to each according to the rules prescribed for each caste”</i></p>	
<p><i>“one may [ . . . ] fast and observe regulations day and night”</i></p>	
<p><i>“one may be [ . . . ] wearing ochre robes”</i></p>	

**IV. Examining the Full Passage.** Now read the full text below and answer the questions that follow. (The *abode of Yam* is a reference to hell, because Yama was the god of the dead in Hindu stories.)

Passage:

*One may have a hand-written copy of the eighteen Puranas and be able to recite the four Vedas by heart, one may bathe on auspicious days, give to each according to the rules prescribed for each caste, fast and observe regulations day and night; one may be a qazi, a mullah, or a sheikh, a yogi, a jangam, or one wearing ochre robes . . .*

*. . . but without the understanding (which comes from meditation upon the Name) all are bound and driven off (to the abode of Yam). . . .*

*Caste and status are futile, for the One watches over all.*

Questions:

1. In the first paragraph of the passage, which religions are primarily being referenced with the traditions listed?

2. Across religions, what type of individual is being described in the first paragraph?

3. What does Guru Nanak suggest is more important for salvation?

4. To whom do you think these ideas would have appealed?