



The Sikh Creation Story

For millions upon millions, countless years was spread
darkness,
When existed neither earth nor heaven, but only the limitless
Divine Ordinance.

Then existed neither day or night, nor sun or moon;
As the Creator was absorbed in an unbroken trance.
Existed then neither forms of creation, nor of speech; neither wind nor water.
Neither was creation or disappearance or transmigration.

Then were not continents, neither regions, the seven seas, nor rivers with
water flowing.

Existed then neither heaven or the mortal world or the nether world;
Neither hell or heaven or time that destroys.
Hell and heaven, birth and death were then not - none arrived or departed.

Then were not Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva:
None other than the Sole Lord was visible.
Neither existed then female or male, or caste and birth--
None suffering and joy received.

Unknowable Himself, was He the source of all utterance; Himself the
unknowable, unmanifested.

As it pleased Him, the world He created;
Without a supporting power the expanse He sustained.

Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva He created and to maya-
attachment gave increase.

(To a rare one was the Master's Word imparted.)
Himself He made His Ordinance operative and watched
over it:

Creating continents, spheres and nether worlds, the
hidden He made manifest.

Creating the universe Himself, He has remained
unattached.

The compassionate Lord too has made the holy center [the human
being].

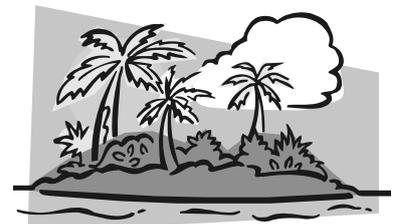
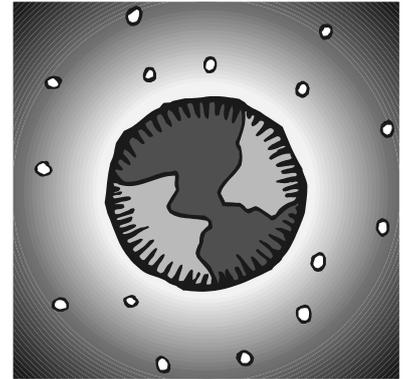
Combining air, water, and fire, He created the citadel of the body.

The Creator fashioned the Nine Abodes [of sensation];
In the Tenth [the superconscious mind] is lodged the Lord, unknowable,
limitless.

The illimitable Lord in His unattributed state of void assumed might;
He, the infinite One, remaining detached:
Displaying his power, He himself from the void created inanimate things.
From the unattributed void were created air and water.

Raising creation, He dwells as monarch in the citadel of the body.
Lord! In the fire and water [of the body] exists Thy
light;

In Thy [original] state of void was lodged
[unmanifest] the power of creation.



The Sikh Creation Story

Read the story above very carefully. (It is a very difficult story and you might need to read it more than once!)

1. Look at these pieces from the scriptures. Is anything similar?

Sikhism: As the Creator was absorbed in an unbroken trance.

Hinduism: Floating on the ocean, within the coils of the cobra, was Vishnu. Vishnu slept undisturbed.

Christianity: At first the earth was dark and empty. God's spirit moved over the waters.

2. Now look at the piece below. How is it similar to the Creation Story in Christianity and Hinduism?

Sikhism: For millions upon millions, countless years was spread darkness,

When existed neither earth nor heaven, but only the limitless Divine Ordinance.

Then existed neither day or night, nor sun or moon;

Then were not continents, neither regions, the seven seas, nor rivers with water flowing.

Existed then neither heaven or the mortal world or the nether world;

Christianity: At first the Earth was dark and empty.

Hinduism: Before time began, there was no heaven, no earth and no space in between.

4. Now look at these pieces. What do you notice?

Sikhism: As it pleased Him, the world He created;

Without a supporting power the expanse He sustained. Creating continents, spheres and nether worlds.

Christianity: And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God separated the waters below

From the skies above. On the third day he made dry land.

Hinduism: Then Brahma split the lotus flower into three. He stretched one part into the heavens. He made another part into the Earth. The third part, he made into the skies.

5. Look at these pieces about the creation of people. How are they similar?

Sikhism: The compassionate Lord too has made the holy center [the human being].

Combining air, water, and fire, He created the citadel of the body. The Creator fashioned the Nine Abodes of sensation;

Christianity: The Lord God made man from the dust of the ground.

Hinduism: Next he created the animals, (presumably including people), and insects, fish and birds. To these he gave senses of touch and smell. He gave them the power to see, hear and touch.

6. Why do you think that these stories are similar in many ways?

7. Why do you think cultures around the world told stories such as these?

8. If our religious stories and beliefs are similar, what does that tell you about us?

9. Can you re-write the Sikh Creation Story in just a few lines? (Pre'cis.)

We cannot attribute all elements of this document. If you recognise your work, contact us and we will be pleased to attribute it or remove it from the website, should you wish. (We make no income from the Education site.)