

# ā t̄rue mān of ḡod

Everyone in Sultanpur was talking about Guruji's safe return from the river and his saying that "There is no Hindu and there is no Muslim. We are all children of One God."

Abdulla Khan, who lived in Sultanpur, was not too happy with what he was hearing in town. He decided to go to the *Qazi* to complain.

"Qaziji," he said, "there is a man in town that is saying that there is no such thing as a Muslim. A lot of people are listening to him. Some of them are even agreeing with him! This is very dangerous talk, Qaziji, don't you think?"

The Qazi became enraged upon hearing what Abdulla Khan had just told him. He jumped up and started pacing the floor. "Who is this man, who has dared to say these words?" he demanded.

"Qaziji, his name is Nanak and he works for Governor Daulat Khan Lodhi."

“He works for *Nawab* Daulat Khan Lodhi? Are you sure about that?”

“Yes, yes, Qaziji. I am sure. He manages the Nawab’s storehouse.”

The Qazi immediately put on his shoes and hurried to the governor’s office.

“Welcome, welcome, Qaziji,” said the governor, “what brings you here today?”

“Nawabji, I have just heard very disturbing news. Nanak, your storehouse manager, is going around saying that there is no Muslim. How dare anyone say that there is no Muslim! You have to summon him right away and question him!” the Qazi said angrily.

The governor smiled and very calmly replied, “Qaziji, I know Nanak very well. He is a *fakir*, a man of God. He means no harm.”

“Nawabji, how dare this man, or any person, say that there is no Muslim! I insist that you summon him. He must be punished!”

The governor did not want to do this. He loved and respected Guruji very much. But he could not afford to

upset the Qazi. So, very reluctantly, he agreed to the Qazi's request. He called Ahmad Hassan, his messenger, and said, "Go to Nanak's house and ask him to please come and see me as soon as he can."

"Yes, Sir," said Ahmad, bowing low and rushing off.

Ahmad Hassan went straight to Guruji's home and said, "Nanakji, the governor wants to see you as soon as possible in his office."

"Go and tell the governor that I'll be right there," replied Guruji. He went inside to put on his cloak and told Jairam, who was visiting, "The governor wants to see me. I will be back shortly; please stay."

"I'll come with you, too," said Jairam, quickly putting on his shoes.

They both walked in silence to the governor's office.

When the Qazi saw Guruji enter, he immediately pounced on him, shouting, "How dare you say that there is no Muslim and that we are all children of One God? Explain what you mean by that, young man!"

The governor was shocked by the Qazi's behavior. He quickly said, "Qaziji, it's time for the afternoon *namaz*.





Let's say our prayers first." He was hoping that the Qazi's temper would cool down after the prayers.

"Alright, Nawabji, let's do that," he said reluctantly. "And since we are all children of One God, why doesn't this man also join us in our prayers," the Qazi added, glaring at Guruji.

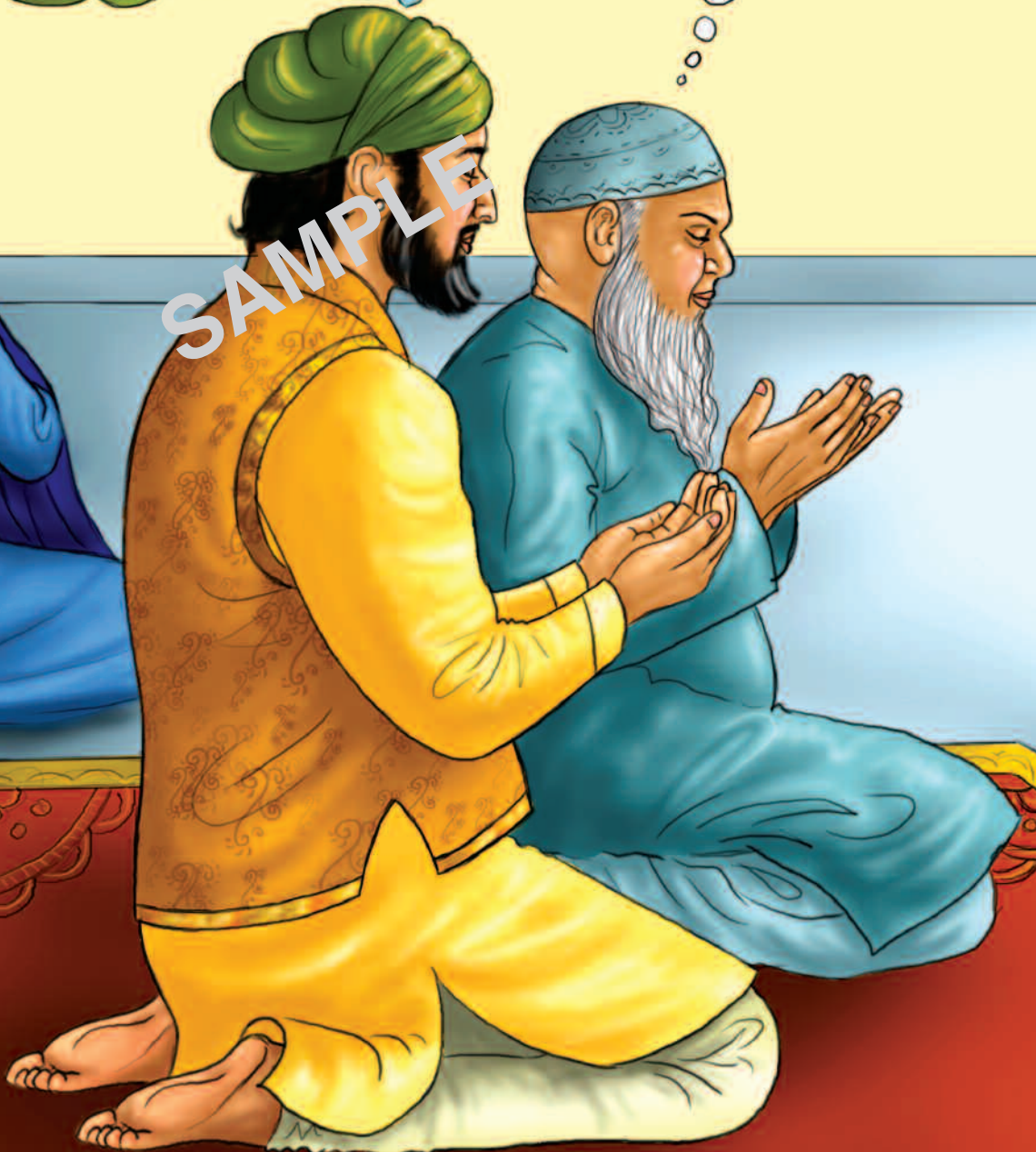
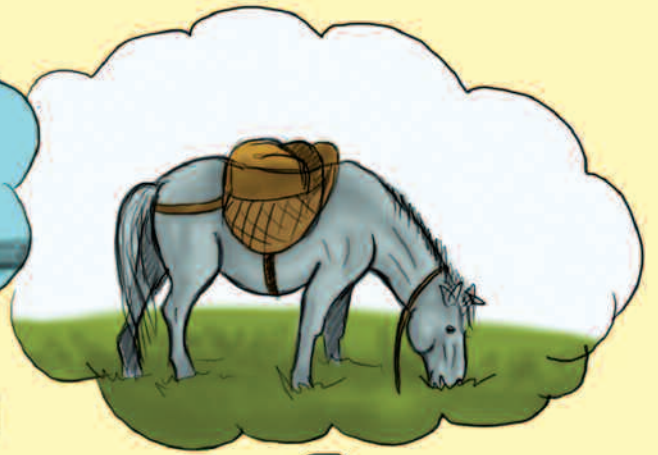
The governor and Jairam looked at each other nervously. They did not know what to do or say.



Guruji smiled and gently said, "Qaziji, I will gladly join you and the governor in your prayers."

The Qazi and the governor took off their shoes. They knelt and started to say their prayers. In the midst of the prayers, the Qazi looked over to see what Guruji was doing. When he saw that Guruji was not kneeling, he became furious. He quickly finished his prayers and then angrily said, "See, Nawabji, your fakir did not kneel in prayer with us. He doesn't fool me one bit! He is a very dangerous man and must be severely punished for saying that there is no Muslim."

The governor and Jairam had worried looks. They were not sure what was going to happen next.







Guruji smilingly replied, “Qaziji, I would have joined both of you in the prayers, except I didn’t know whose prayers to join in. You were just repeating words, because your mind was on your newborn pony. You were worried about it. You were hoping that the pony would not wander off and fall into the well. And the governor was thinking about buying some horses in Kabul on his next trip.”

Both the Qazi and the governor were shocked and embarrassed! Their faces turned red. They were amazed that Guruji had read their thoughts.

The Qazi quickly stood up in a huff. He put on his shoes and furiously stormed out of the governor’s office, without saying a word.

The governor hesitatingly said, “You are right. I was thinking about buying some horses on my next trip to Kabul. How did you know?”

Guruji smiled. His face glowed. The governor was stunned by its radiance. He couldn’t take his eyes off Guruji.



Guruji then said to the governor:

“It is not easy to be called a Muslim.  
If one truly wants to be called a Muslim,  
Then, first, one should love completely  
And one must get rid of all pride.  
One should become a true disciple of the Prophet;  
One should overcome the doubt of life and death.  
One should accept the will of God;  
One should believe in the Creator;  
And one should get rid of one’s ego.  
And when one becomes truly kind to all living beings,  
Then, says Nanak, one will be called a Muslim.”

ਮੁਸਲਮਾਣੁ ਕਹਾਵਣੁ ਮੁਸਕਲੁ ਜਾ ਰਹਿ ਤਾ ਮੁਸਲਮਾਣੁ ਕਹਾਵੈ  
ਅਵਲਿ ਅਉਲਿ ਦੀਨੁ ਕਰਿ ਮਿਠਾ ਮਸਕਲ ਮਾਨਾ ਮਾਲੁ ਮੁਸਾਵੈ  
ਹੋਇ ਮੁਸਲਿਮੁ ਦੀਨ ਮੁਹਾਣੈ ਮਰਣ ਜੀਵਣ ਕਾ ਭਰਮੁ  
ਰਬ ਕੀ ਰਜਾਇ ਮੰਨੇ ਸਿਰ ਉਪਰਿ ਕਰਤਾ ਮੰਨੇ ਆਪੁ ਗਵਾਵੈ  
ਤਉ ਨਾਨਕ ਸਰਬ ਜੀਆ ਮਿਹਰੰਮਤਿ ਹੋਇ ਤ ਮੁਸਲਮਾਣੁ ਕਹਾਵੈ

*Shalok, First Mahala [GGS: 141]*

Tears rolled down the Governor’s cheeks as he listened to Guruji’s words. With his hands folded, he said,  
“Please forgive me; please forgive me. You are a true fakir. You are a true man of God. Sultanpur is blessed because of you.”



Some of the people at the governor's office had seen what had happened. They couldn't wait to tell their family and friends that Guruji could read people's innermost thoughts. They were now certain that Guruji was a true man of God.

The governor escorted Guruji and Jairam to the front door and bowed before Guruji as the two men left.

Guruji and Jairam walked back home in silence.

### **Discussion Points:**

1. Point out how Guruji did not get angry with the Qazi, even though the Qazi was rude to him.
2. Spend some time with the children going over the meaning of the *Shabad* in this chapter.
3. Highlight the way the governor apologized to Guruji when he realized his error. Discuss how we should act when we make a mistake.
4. Remind the children that when someone gets angry with us, we should try to handle the situation like Guruji did. Have them explore a time when someone got angry with them. How did they react? How did it make them feel? Was it the right way to handle the situation?