

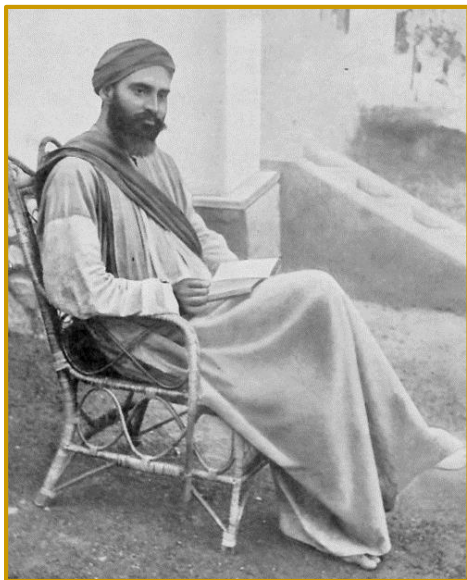
# Apostle with the Bleeding Feet

Sadhu Sundar Singh was born into an Indian family of high caste.

When he became a Christian and told his parents of his decision to follow Christ, they said, "You have broken caste. You cannot live here any longer." They immediately banished him from their home.

It was the wet season, and the rain was coming down hard as he left his home, clad in only his insubstantial Indian robes. He sat under a nearby tree all night, soaked to the skin.

He later said that he felt so radiantly happy, however, that he forgot any physical discomfort. He had the freedom to travel throughout the region telling the gospel story. Singh became known as the apostle of India.



In October 1906, he set out on his journey as a new Christian, wearing a turban and the yellow robe of a Hindu sadhu, an ascetic devoted to spiritual practice. Singh viewed himself as a sadhu, albeit one within Christianity rather than Hinduism, because he realized Christianity could not penetrate India unless it was in an Indian way. Once, he went into Tibet, where he was arrested, put into a pit and branded with irons. He bore those scars the rest of his life.

"I am not worthy to follow in the steps of my Lord," he said, "but, like Him, I want no home, no possessions. Like Him, I will belong to the road, sharing the suffering of my people, eating with those who will give me shelter and telling all men of the love of God." Singh was referred to as "the apostle with the bleeding feet" by the Christian communities of the north.

While speaking in England on one occasion, he said, "I am going back to do what I have done. I am quite aware of the cost."

Sometime after his return, he disappeared and apparently suffered a martyr's death. He is believed to have died in the foothills of the Himalayas in 1929.

Singh moved from high caste in India into a servant's caste for the gospel. His position in Christ was not only marked by the privilege of eternal life, but by the responsibility to serve others and to share Christ's love.

Rank does not confer privilege or give power. It imposes responsibility.

*For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required; and of him to whom men entrust much, they will require and demand all the more (Luke 12:48 AMP).*