

Ch. 10 Encounters with the Others

Large number of South Asian immigrants arrived in California after 1965

- Altered context in which Punjabi pioneers built their identity.
- Punjabi men had struggled for their right for U.S. citizenship which in turn they struggled to try and become Americanized.
- They now had a new sense of being Punjabi.
- The new immigrants helped the pioneers re-establish and revitalize their Hindu heritage.
 - A: Their heritage extended to wives and children.
 - B: Wives and children were visiting Pakistan and India.

Visits to the old country and encounters with the new immigrants made the Punjabi pioneers realize that they had a new sense of identity that was a mixture of Hispanic/Hindu culture while being Americanized.

Encounters with New Immigrants

- New immigrants came from all over India not just Punjab area.
- They were wealthy, educated and brought spouses and children who spoke English.
- They opened businesses that catered to South Asians.
- New immigrants wanted their children to stay true to their Hindu culture.
- Punjabi pioneers felt resistance from the new immigrants, new immigrants accused Punjab Pioneers of not being "true" Hindu.
- Hostility from Punjabi pioneers as well, the pioneer Punjabi disapproved of the new immigrants Preservation of the Hindu culture.
- New comers disapproved of Punjabi-Mexican marriages.
- New comers would not accept "mixed-blood" into the Hindu culture.
- New immigrants built new temple which started a greater division between the groups.
- Some of the Punjabi-Mexican Americans donated money to the building of the temple.
- Conflicts between Punjabi wives and Hispanic wives. Pg. 188

Disgust from the Old immigrants pg. 190-191

-Complained that the new comers were hanging on to the Hindu culture too tightly.

- A: They need to use chairs.
- B: Everyone should be allowed to church.
- C: Beards should be shaved and hair cut.
- D: O.k. to marry outside race.
- E: Not so much concern over money

Disgust between old and new Pakistanis

-New comers too worried about money. Pg.192

-Spanish-Pakistanis felt that staying true to the "old ways" was very important.

Education and Superiority

-India began to educate girls before the American Punjab and money was being sent home.
Pg.194

-Education was encouraged more among Punjab than by Anglo parents.

-New immigrants claimed to be superior to the old immigrants through marriage practices.

-Punjabi-Mexican women were expected to marry "real" Indian men but Punjabi-Mexican men
Were not expected to marry "real" Indian women.

-There were prejudices from the new immigrants concerning these marriage practices.pg.194

The encounters with the new immigrants made the Punjabi pioneers emphasize their identity as Americans. The old Punjabi became frustrated with the new immigrants after providing hospitality and the new comers didn't "keep the quality up".

-the new comers stole from the old Punjabi.

To be Hindu

-Hispanic, Indian and American name choice.

-Naming was a powerful indicator of ethnic identity among Punjabi(old).pg. 196

-A trip to India by Alfred Sidhu to help his brother made him realize that he had prejudices about
The old country. Pg. 200

-These encounters produced more misunderstandings than revelations.

The dual conflict between the old and new comers was that of identifying with a modern society and claiming to be American. The old Punjabi did not want to identify with a third world country and were re-creating their culture. The new immigrants wanted to hold on to their ties with the old country and traditional ways. The Punjabi-Mexican people had experienced their third identity change since their ancestors arrived two generations ago.