Sarush Arora 12/3/20

Cultural Anthropology

LAGCC

The object that I am going to be doing research on the sikhism kara. I have been wearing the Kara since the time I was borned. This kara was given to me for protection against any type of evil. Many sikh people around the whole world wear the kara because those people are devoted to sikhism. The Kara was first used by the sikh guru Gobind sikh ji and after everybody started wearing a kara. The kara represents the god and wearing this it keeps the god near you.

A Kara is made out of steel and it looks like a bracelet. A symbol of permanent bonding to the community- being a link in the chain of Khalsa. The Kara is made out of steel, rather than gold or silver, because it is not an ornament. This Kara links them to the other Sikh people around the whole world. The bracelet that sikh people wear and the bracelet that normal people wear is different. This is the containment of the kara that is in Sikhism.

The kara is one of the 5k in sikhism. The first k in sikhism is a kesh that is uncut hair, in sikhism the traditional sikh can not cut their hair or beard. The second k is a kara, this reminds the sikh of one god without beginning or end. The third k in sikhism is a kanga, what this is a comb it helps them keep their hair straight. The fourth k in sikhism is a kirpan, This a sword and it is used to defend their faith, the poor and helpless. The fifth and final k is the kachera, this is a baggy shorts that sikh used to wear into battle. These are the five k of sikhism and the people that are sikh follow these 5k.

The story of the kara has to do with guru gobind singh ji and how he tried to say the sikh culture. So the story is that one day a brahmin met the guru and told him the fate of sikhism. He told him the one way that this problem can be solved if he donates some mustard oil to saturn and if he does that then maybe saturn will be pleased then he will return the good times to the sikhs. He did not agree with the brahmin at first then he ended up agreeing to do what the brahmin said to do. When the followers knew what gurur did they questioned him and they knew that the guru was testing the thought of sikhism since the first two year. The brahmin gave an iron which is called the kara and from then own people wear this Kara. This is the story of Kara.

I was given this Kara when I was born because they consider it to be for good health of the baby. Before I was born it was given to my sister because she was born and then when I was born I was given a new Kara. I personally have followed only one of the k that is the Kara I do not follow the other k. The Kara is mainly used to protect them from an attack or shield them. These are the main uses of the Kara and why it is given to newborn babies.

The Kara was mainly used by the warriors who protected the Sikhism culture. The Kara originated as a protective ring to guard the sword arm of the Khalsa warriors during battle when fighting arms with swords. The person who wears Kara has to keep to it clean, and not to

remove it until it is an extreme requirement. It was also historically used like a knuckle duster for hand to hand combat. Kara is mainly used in wrestling and in combat.

The Kara is a symbol of restraint and gentility. A symbol that a Sikh is linked to the guru. It acts as a reminder that a Sikh should not do anything that a Sikh guru might not approve of . A symbol of god has no beginning or end. Anybody who follows Sikhism can not do anything that their guru might not do. The Kara gives them a closer link to all the Sikh gurus that were alive. This is the Kare symbol with Sikh religion.

The non Sikhs can also wear Kara but mainly you will see it in the hands of the Sikhs. Wearing the Kara is a Hindu religion tradition and Hinduism is a majority religion in India. Mainly the sikhs wear it in the left hand because it is proved to be lucky but some people wear it in both hands. There are many people in India that wear a Kara but do not follow Sikhism.

The description of the Kara is like a regular bracket that everybody wears. The Kara is a circular object that has hard edges . The two colors that Kara comes in is one is silver and the other is gold. The Kara is made out of a ton of gold. The Kara is worn in both right and left hands. The Kara has sharp edges to protect them from an attack from somebody else. This is what Kara can be described as.

Sikhism was born in the Punjab area of South Asia. This now falls in the present States of India and Pakistan. The main religion of the area at that time was Hinduism and Islam. The Sikh faith began around 1500 CE. When guru nanak began teaching a faith that was quite distancing from Hinduism and Islam. Once Sikhism started there were ten gurus and after those 10 gurus there were no more. This is how the religion of Sikhism started.

You can wear this Kara everywhere there is no specific place. Once you wear this Kara you are not allowed to take it out. The only time you can take out your Kara when there is an emergency like when you're having a surgery you have to take it out so they can see your veins. People that are non Sikhs can also wear this like Hindus do not follow Sikhism but they wear it because they believe in it. This is where you can where the Kara.

The kara has been in my family for a very long time and everybody in my family has a Kara. I was given the kara from my family when i was born and even my sister was given a kara when she was born. The kara was given to generation to generation in my family. The kara helps us identify the sikh people and keep us connected to the community. You can buy the kara at any jewelry store in jackson height and you can change the size of the kara. This is how the kara has been in my family.