



Sikhism is a monotheistic religion (belief in one god) that originated in India in the Punjab region. It is one of the youngest of the major religions having began around the end of the 15th Century and is the fifth largest organised religion in the world.

Guru

The term Guru comes from the Sanskrit guru, meaning teaching, guide or mentor. The traditions and philosophy of Sikhism were established by ten Gurus from 1469 to 1708. Each Guru added to and reinforced the message taught by the previous, resulting in the creation of the Sikh religion. Guru Nanak was the first Guru and appointed a disciple as a successor. Guru Gobind Singh was the final Guru in human form. Before his death, he decreed that the Guru Granth Sahib would be the final and perpetual Guru of the Sikhs.

Guru Nanak Founded - 1539	Guru Angad 1539-1552	Guru Amar Das 1552-1574	Guru Ram Das 1574-1581	Guru Arjan 1581-1606	Guru Har Gobind 1606-1644	Guru Har Rai 1644-1661	Guru Har Krishan 1661-1664	Guru Tegh Bahadur 1665-1675	Guru Gobind Singh 1675-1708	Guru Granth Sahib 1708 - onwards
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The Five Ks

The Five Ks are five items that Guru Gobind Singh commanded Khalsa Sikhs to wear at all times. These aren't just symbols but are articles of faith.

Key Terms



Khanda - This is the symbol of the Sikh faith.



Guru Granth Sahib - The Guru Granth Sahib is the holy scripture for Sikhs and is regarded as the living Guru.



Gurdwara - A place of assembly and worship for Sikhs. People from all faiths are welcome.



Khalsa - To be pure, clear and free from. It formulates an initiation ceremony and rules of conduct for Khalsa warriors. Upon initiation, male Khalsa Sikhs are given the title Singh and females Kaur.



Kesh	Uncut long hair and beard in the case of men that shows a sign of spiritual devotion as well as a respect for the perfection of God's creation.
Kangha	A small wooden comb used twice a day that is worn in the hair at all times and covered by a turban.
Kara	An iron bracelet that is circular to symbolise that God is never ending.
Kachera	A shalwar-undergarment with a tie knot worn by baptised Sikhs. They must not come below the knee and were originally made as part of a Sikh soldier's uniform.
Kirpan	A dagger or sword of any size and shape which symbolises a Sikh's duty to come to the defence of others in peril. It should be worn at all times and is often covered in a sheath. The single cutting edge may be sharp or blunt.

