

Sikhism

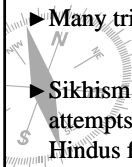


"Realization of Truth is higher than all else. Higher still is truthful living".



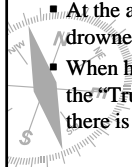
Sikh History

- ▶ With the advent of the muslim invasion & the establishment of the Mogul empire, the native Hindus & invading muslims were in a state of constant warfare.
- ▶ Many tried to find a way to peacefully coexist.
- ▶ Sikhism was the most successful of these attempts, however, they were identified as Hindus for their first 400 yrs.



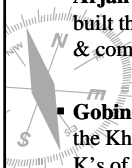
▶ Nanak – (1469 – 1539) the founder of Sikhism

- Was born & raised as a Hindu, but was very interested in other religions & esoteric ways.
- His calming personality & high intellect were recognized early on by his sister, Nanaki, & his employer. They both encouraged him to travel & to get an education.
- At the age of 30, he went missing & was presumed drowned in the river while bathing.
- When he returned, he felt that God had revealed to him the "True Name" & he stated that "there is no Hindu, there is no muslim".



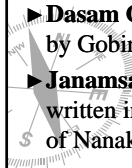
▶ The 10 Gurus (listed in text, pg. 158)

- **GOD** – the one True Guru
- **Nanak** – the founder & author of over 1,000 hymns in the "Adi Granth"
- **Arjan** – the 5th Guru & 1st martyred Sikh leader. He built the Golden Temple, established the Sikh canon, & composed over 1/3 of the hymns.
- **Gobind Singh** – the 10th & last Guru. Established the Khalsa movement, militant Sikhism, and the Five K's of Sikhism



Sikh Texts

- ▶ **Adi Granth** – aka, Granth Sahib, meaning the "First Book". Focuses on Sikh devotional life, contains over 6,000 hymns. Mainly written by the 1st Five Gurus, with some Hindu & Sufi influences.
- ▶ **Dasam Granth** – "Tenth Book". Hymns written by Gobind Singh, the 10th Guru.
- ▶ **Janamsakhis** – "Birth Stories". Prose works written in the 1600's that recount the birth & life of Nanak



Sikh Symbols

► The Five K's

- **Kes** – uncut hair & beard, but must be kept clean & tidy
- **Kangha** – the comb used to keep one's hair clean & tidy
- **Kirpan** – sword or ceremonial dagger. Symbolizes the military history & to defend one's faith
- **Karha** – the steel bracelet worn on the right hand.
- **Kachha** – the long shorts, now a type of under garment, originally worn by soldiers & fighters.

► **Turban** – traces its roots to those worn by Muslims

► **Nishan Sahib** – the triangular yellow or saffron Sikh flag & bears the Khanda symbol

► **Ik Onkar** – the term used for the One God.

► **Japji** – the main prayer said every morning.

- There is but one God, whose name is True, the Creator, devoid of fear & enmity, immortal, unborn, self-existent, great & bountiful The True One was in the beginning, The True One was in the primal age, The True One is, was, O Nanak, and The True One as shall be.

► **Baptism by the Sword** – initiation into the Khalsa is by dipping & stirring sugar water in a bowl with a sword & dripping the water over the head & eyes of the initiate.

► **Taking the Hukam** – opening the Adi Granth at random & the first letter of the first word of the first passage determines the first letter of a child's name.

► **Path** – reading the entire Adi Granth, nonstop, continuous reading until completed. This takes about 48 hours & it is called the "Akhand Path".

Sikh Groups

► **Khalsa** – originally a military brotherhood within Sikhism, formed by the 10th Guru, Gobind Singh in 1699. Members are known for wearing the Five K's.

► **Sahajdharis** – "slow adopters". Those who have not joined the Khalsa. They cut their hair, do not wear the turban & are pacifists like the original Sikh movement.

► **Udasis** – an ascetic group formed by Nanak's oldest son, Siri Chand. Many group them as Hindu rather than Sikh.

► **Nihangs** – are Sikhs with military &/ or fighting skills. They are always ready to fight for & defend Sikhism & its followers. They mainly belong to the Khalsa group.

► **Bhais** – a Sikh priest or those that assist with worship.

Sikh Sacred Sites

► **The Golden Temple** – "Har Mandir" the Temple of God. Built by the 5th Guru, Arjan. It is located on an island in a large artificial pool in Amritsar.

► **Amritsar** – "Pool of Immortality", the Sikh Holy City located in the Punjab.

► **Khalistan** – the ideal & anticipated independent Sikh state in the Punjab.

► **Gurdwara** – Sikh community center, Sikhs share a weekly meal & read from the Adi Granth.