**[1.  Guru Nanak Dev](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gurunana1/tp/Nanak_Dev_First_Guru.htm)**

[**Guru Nanak Dev**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gurunana1/a/Joti-Jot-Guru-Nanak-Dev-Ji.htm), first of the 10 gurus, founded the Sikh faith, introducing the concept of one God.  
Son of: Kalyan Das ji (Mehta Kalu ji), and Mata Tripta ji. Brother of: [Bibi Nanaki](http://sikhism.about.com/od/womeninsikhhistory/p/Bibi_Nanaki.htm)  
Married to: Sulakhani ji.  
Father to: sons, [Siri Chand](http://sikhism.about.com/od/historicalpersonalities/p/Baba-Siri-Chand-1494-To-1643.htm) and Lakhmi Das.

* Birthplace: [Nankana Sahib](http://sikhism.about.com/od/historicalgurdwaras/ig/Modern-Nankana/Nankana-Gurdwara-Maal-Ji-Sahib.htm) (Pakistan),[observed](http://sikhism.about.com/od/tengurus/a/Nanak_Gurpurab.htm) October 20, 1469 (April 14, 1469 Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: From birth - formally, February 20, 1507 (1499 AD at about age 30)
* Place of Death: Kartarpur, September 7, 1539 (September 22, Nanakshahi)

[**2.  Guru Angad Dev**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/angaddev/tp/Angad_Dev_Second_Guru.htm)

[**Guru Angad Dev**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/angaddev/p/Guru_Angad_Dev.htm), second of the 10 gurus, compiled the writings of Nanak Dev, and introduced the [Gurmukhi script](http://sikhism.about.com/b/2008/07/07/learning-gurmukhi-script.htm).  
Son of: Pheru Mall ji and Mata Daya Kaur (Sabhrai) ji.  
Married to: [Mata Khivi ji](http://sikhism.about.com/od/womeninsikhhistory/p/Mata_Khivi.htm).  
Father to: sons, Dasu, Datu, and daughters, Amro and Anokhi.

* Birthplace: Harike, March 31, 1504 (April 18, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Kartarpur, September 7, 1539 (September 18, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Khadur, March 29, 1552 (April 16, Nanakshahi)
* Age: 48

[**3.  Guru Amar Das**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruamardas/tp/Amar_Das_Third_Guru.htm)

[**Guru Amar Das**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruamardas/p/Guru_Amar_Das.htm), third of the 10 gurus, disavowed caste with the institution of langar, pangat and sangat.  
Son of: Tej Bhan ji and Mata Lakhmi ji.  
Married to: Mansa Devi.  
Father to: sons, Mohan, Mohri, and daughters, Dani and Bhani.

* Birthplace: Basarke (Amritsar) May 5, 1479, (May 23, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Khadur, March 26, 1552 (April 16, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Goindwal, September 1, 1574 (September 16, Nanakshahi)
* Age: 95

[**4.  Guru Raam Das**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gururaamdas/tp/Raam_Das_Fourth_Guru.htm)

[**Guru Raam Das**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/Meditation/a/Shabad-dhan-Dhan-Raam-Das-Guru.htm), fourth of the 10 gurus, began the excavation of the [sarovar](http://sikhism.about.com/od/history/a/Golden_Temple.htm) in Amritsar.  
Son of: Hari Das ji Sodhi and Mata Daya Kaur ji.  
Married to: [Bibi Bhani ji](http://sikhism.about.com/od/womeninsikhhistory/p/Bibi_Bhani.htm).  
Father to: sons, [Prithi Chand](http://sikhism.about.com/od/Villains-Of-Sikhism/p/Prithi-Chand-.htm), Maha Dev and Arjun Dev.

* Birthplace: Chuna Mandi (Lahore, Pakistan) September 24, 1534 (October 9, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Goindwal, September 1, 1574 (September 16, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Goindwal, September 1, 1581 (September 16, Nanakshahi)
* Age: 47

[**5.  Guru Arjun Dev (Arjan Dev)**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruarjandev/tp/Guru_Arjan_Dev.htm)

[**Guru Arjun**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/prayersforalloccasisions/a/Sikh-Hymn-Of-Healing-Sagalae-Rog-Bidaarae.htm)**(Arjan) Dev**, fifth of the 10 gurus, erected the Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) in Amritsar, compiled and contributed to Adi Granth, 1604.  
Son of: [Guru Raam](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gururaamdas/p/Guru_Raam_Das.htm) das and Ji Mata Bhani ji.  
Married to: Raam Devi (issueless), Ganga ji.  
Father to: one son, Har Govind.

* Birthplace: Goindwal, April 14, 1563 (May 2, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Goindwal, September 1, 1581 (September 16, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Lahore, May, 30 1606 (June 16, Nanakshahi)
* Martyred age: 43

[**6.  Guru Har Govind (Har Gobind)**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruhargobind/tp/Guru_Har_Gobind.htm)

[**Guru Har Govind**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruhargobind/p/Guru_Har_Gobind.htm)**(Hargobind)**, sixth of the 10 gurus, constructed the [Akal Takhat](http://sikhism.about.com/od/history/a/Golden_Temple.htm). He raised an army and wore [two swords](http://sikhism.about.com/od/glossary/g/Khanda.htm) symbolizing secular and spiritual authority. The Mughal emperor Jahangir imprisoned the guru who negotiated release for whomever could hold on to his robe.  
Son of: Guru Arjun and Mata Ganga.  
Married to: Damodri ji, Nankee ji and Maha Devi ji.  
Father to: Sons, Gur Ditta, Ani Rai, Suraj Mal, Atal Rai, Teg Mall (Teg Bahadur), and daughter, Bibi Veero.

* Birthplace: Guru ki Wadali (Amritsar), June 19, 1595 (July 5, Nanakshai)
* Became Guru: Amritsar, May 25, inaugurated June 10 - 11 or 25, 1606 (June 11, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Kiratpur, February 28, or March 3, 1644 (March 19, Nanakshahi)
* Age: 49

[**7.  Guru Har Rai**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruharrai16301661/p/Guru_Har_Rai.htm)

[**Guru Har Rai**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/Sikhism_Holidays_2012/p/When-Is-Guru-Har-Rai-Jis-Birthday-Gurpurab-2012-Nanakshahi-543-544.htm), seventh of the 10 gurus, propagated the Sikh faith, maintained a cavalry of 20,000 as his personal guard, and established both a hospital and zoo.  
Son of: Baba Gurditta ji and Mata Nihal Kaur.  
Married to: Sulakhni ji (Kishan Kaur) and Daughters of Daya Ram.  
Father to: sons, Ram Rai and Har Krishan, and daughter Sarup Kaur.

* Birthplace: Kiratpur (Hoshiarpur), January 16, or February 26, 1630 (January 31, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Kiratpur, March 3, or 8, 1644 (March 14, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Kiratpur, May 30, or October 6, 1661 (October 20, Nanakshahi)
* Age: 31

[**8.  Guru Har Krishan (Har Kishan)**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruharkrishan/p/Guru_Har_Krishan.htm)

**Guru [Har Krishan](http://sikhism.about.com/od/Sikh_Stories_and_Comics/fr/guru-Har-Krishan-By-Sikh-Comics-Review.htm)**, eighth of the 10 gurus, became guru at the age of five, and is known for his wisdom and compassion.  
Son of Guru Har Rai and Mata Kishan (aka Krishan or Sulakhni) Kaur.

* Birthplace: Kiratpur, July 7, 1656 (July 23, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Kiratpur, June 10, July 7, or October 6 - 7, 1661 (October 20, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Delhi, March 30, 1664 (April 16, Nanakshahi)
* Age: 8

[**9.  Guru Teg Bahadar (Tegh Bahadur)**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruteghbahadur/p/Guru_Teg_Bahadur.htm)

**Guru Teg Bahadar**, ninth of the 10 gurus, reluctant to leave meditation and come forward as guru, ultimately sacrificed his life to protect Hindu Pandits from forced conversion to Islam.  
Son of: Guru Har Govind and Mata Nankee ji.  
Married to: Gujri ji.  
Father to: one son, Gobind Singh.

* Birthplace: Amritsar, April 1, 1621 (April 18, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Baba Bakala, August 11, 1664 (April 16, Nanakshahi)
* Place of Death: Delhi, November 11, 1675 (November 24, Nanakshahi)
* Martyred age: 54

[**10.  Guru Gobind Singh**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gurugobindsing1/p/Guru_Gobind_Singh.htm)

**Guru [Gobind Singh](http://sikhism.about.com/od/commemorativecelebrations/p/When-Is-Guru-Gobind-Singhs-Birthday-2011.htm)**, tenth of the 10 gurus, created the order of [Khalsa](http://sikhism.about.com/od/initiation/a/Initiation.htm). Sacrificed father, mother, sons and his own life to protect Sikhs from forced conversion to Islam. Completed the Granth bestowing upon it title of everlasting Guru.  
Son of Guru Teg Bahadar and [Mata Gujri ji](http://sikhism.about.com/od/womeninsikhhistory/p/Mata-Gujri-1624-1705.htm).  
Married to Jito ji ([Ajit Kaur](http://sikhism.about.com/od/womeninsikhhistory/p/Mata-Jito-Ji-ajit-Kaur-First-Wife-Of-Guru-Gobind-Singh.htm)), Sundri, and [Mata Sahib Kaur](http://sikhism.about.com/od/womeninsikhhistory/p/Mata_Sahib_Kaur.htm).  
Father to sons, Ajit Singh, Jujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.

* Birthplace: [Patna](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gurugobindsing1/a/Patna.htm) (Bihar, India) December 22, 1666 (January 5, Nanakshahi)
* Became Guru: Anandpur, November 11, 1675 (November 24 Nanakshahi)
* Creation of Khalsa: April 14, 1699
* Place of Death: Nanded, October 7, 1708 (October 21, Nanakshahi)
* Age: 42

[**11.  Guru Granth Sahib**](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gurugranthsahib/p/Guru_Granth.htm)

**Siri Guru Granth Sahib**, [Sikhism's holy scripture](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gurugranthsahib/f/Who-Are-The-Authors-Of-Sikhisms-Holy-Scripture-The-Guru-Granth.htm) is last and everlasting Guru of the Sikhs. Poetic compositions compiled by [Guru Arjun Dev](http://sikhism.about.com/od/guruarjandev/p/Ajran_Dev_Fifth_Guru.htm) known as Adi Granth or first draft. Holy manuscript confiscated by Dhir Mal. Bir, Final draft of Granth dictated from memory By Guru Gobind Singh.

* First Installation: Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar, India, September 1, 1604. Adi Granth installed by Fifth Guru Ajrun Dev.
* [Inauguration as Guru](http://sikhism.about.com/od/history/ss/Guru_Gadee.htm): Nanded, India, October 7, 1708. Siri Guru Granth Sahib, appointed by [Tenth Guru Gobind Singh](http://sikhism.about.com/od/gurugobindsing1/tp/When-Is-Guru-Gobind-Singhs-Birthday.htm) as eternal Guru of the Sikhs.

[**1. Guru Nanak - Guru from 1469 to 1539**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Nanak)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru1.jpg)

Guru Nanak

The first of the Gurus and the founder of the Sikh religion was Guru Nanak. He was born at Talwandi (now known as Nankana Sahib in Pakistan) on October 20, 1469.

Guru ji mastered [Punjabi](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Punjabi), [Sanskrit](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sanskrit) and [Persian](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Persian) at an early age and in childhood revolted against ritualism, caste, prejudices, hypocrisy and idolatry.

He regarded [Hindus](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hindu) and [Muslims](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Muslim) as equals and referred to himself as neither Hindu nor Muslim but as a brother to all those who believed in God and truth.

He made four great journeys, travelling to all parts of [India](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/India), and into [Arabia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabia) and [Persia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persia); visiting [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/mecca) and [Baghdad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baghdad). He spoke before [Hindus](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hinduism), [Jains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jainism" \o "wikipedia:Jainism), [Buddhists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism), [Parsees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parsee), and [Muslims](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Muslim). He spoke in the temples and mosques, and at various pilgrimage sites. Wherever he went, Guru Nanak spoke out against empty [religious rituals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ritual), [pilgrimages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/pilgrimage), the [caste system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/caste_system), the [sacrifice of widows](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sati), of depending on [books](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_text) to learn the true religion, and of all the other tenets that were to define his teachings. Never did he ask his listeners to follow him. He asked the Muslims to be true Muslims and the Hindus to be true Hindus.

[**2. Guru Angad - Guru from 1539 to 1552**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Angad)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru2.jpg)

Guru Angad

He was born in 1504. Guru Angad invented and introduced the Gurmukhi (written form of Punjabi) script and made it known to all Sikhs.

The scripture of the [Guru Granth Sahib](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Granth_Sahib) Ji is written in [Gurmukhi](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurmukhi" \o "Gurmukhi). This scripture is also the basis of the Punjabi language. It became the script of the masses very soon. Guru Angad was a model of self-less service to his Sikhs and showed them the way to devotional prayers. He took great interest in the education of the children by opening many schools for their instruction and thus greatly increased literacy.

For the youth he started the tradition of [Mall Akhara](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php?title=Mall_Akhara&action=edit&redlink=1), where physical as well as spiritual exercises were held. He collected the facts about Guru Nanak Sahib's life from Bhai Bala ji and wrote the first biography of Guru Nanak Sahib. (The *Bhai Bale Wali Janamsakhi* currently available is not the same as that which Guru Angad Sahib compiled.) He also wrote 63 Saloks (stanzas), these were included in Guru Granth Sahib. He popularized and expanded the institution of '[Guru ka Langar](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_ka_Langar)' started by Guru Nanak Sahib earlier.

[**3. Guru Amar Das - Guru from 1552 to 1574**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Amar_Das)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru3.jpg)

Guru Amar Das

He was born in 1479. Guru Amardas took up cudgels of spirituality to fight against caste restrictions, caste prejudices and the curse of untouchability.

He strengthened the tradition of the free kitchen, Guru Ka Langar (started by Guru Nanak), and made his disciples, whether rich or poor, whether high born or low born (according to the Hindu caste system), have their meals together sitting in one place.

He thus established social equality amongst the people. Guru Amardas introduced the [Anand Karaj](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Anand_Karaj" \o "Anand Karaj) marriage ceremony for the Sikhs, replacing the Hindu form.

He also completely abolished amongst the Sikhs, the custom of [Sati](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sati), in which a married woman was forced to burn herself to death in the funeral pyre of her husband. The custom of Paradah (Purda), in which a woman was required to cover her face with a veil, was also done away with.

[**4. Guru Ram Das - Guru from 1574 to 1581**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Ram_Das)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru4.jpg)

Guru Ram Das

He was born in 1534. Guru ji founded the city of [Amritsar](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Amritsar) and started the construction of the famous [Golden Temple](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Golden_Temple) at Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs. He requested the, Muslim[Sufi](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sufi), [Mian Mir](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Mian_Mir" \o "Mian Mir) to lay the cornerstone of the [Harmandir Sahib](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Harmandir_Sahib" \o "Harmandir Sahib).

The temple remains open on all sides and at all times to everyone. This indicates that the Sikhs believe in One God who has no partiality for any particular place, direction or time.

The standard Sikh marriage ceremony known as the [Anand Karaj](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Anand_Karaj" \o "Anand Karaj) is centered around the [Lawan](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Lawan" \o "Lawan), a four stanza hymn composed by Guru Ram Das ji. The marriage couple circumscribe the Guru Granth Sahib ji as each stanza is read. The first round is the Divine consent for commencing the householders life through marriage. The second round states that the union of the couple has been brought about by God. In the third round the couple is described as the most fortunate as they have sung the praises of the Lord in the company of saints. In the fourth round the feeling of the couple that they have obtained their hearts desire and are being congratulated is described.

[**5. Guru Arjan Dev - Guru from 1581 to 1606**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Arjan_Dev)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru5.jpg)

Guru Arjan Dev

He was born in 1563. He was the third son of Guru Ram Das ji. Guru Arjan was a saint and scholar of the highest quality and repute.

He compiled the [Adi Granth](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Adi_Granth" \o "Adi Granth), the scriptures of the Sikhs, and wrote the [Sukhmani Sahib](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sukhmani_Sahib" \o "Sukhmani Sahib). To make it a universal teaching, Guru ji included in it hymns of Muslim saints as well those of low-caste pariah saints who were never permitted to enter various temples.

Guru Arjan Dev completed construction of Sri Darbar Sahib also known as Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Sri Darbar Sahib welcomes all without discrimination, which is symbolised by the four doors that are open in four directions. Guru ji became the first great martyr in Sikh history when[Emperor Jahangir](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Emperor_Jahangir) ordered his execution.

[**6. Guru Har Gobind - - Guru from 1606 to 1644**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Har_Gobind)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru6.jpg)

Guru Hargobind

He was born in 1595. He was the son of Guru Arjan Dev and was known as a "soldier saint," Guru Hargobind ji organised a small army, explaining that extreme non-violence and pacifism would only encourage evil and so the principles of **[Miri-Piri](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Miri-Piri" \o "Miri-Piri)** were established.

Guru ji taught that it was necessary to take up the sword in order to protect the weak and the oppressed. Guru ji was first of the Gurus to take up arms to defend the faith. At that time it was only emperors who were allowed to sit on a raised platform, called a [takhat](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Takhat" \o "Takhat) or throne.

At the age of 13, Guru Hargobind erected Sri [Akal Takhat](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Akal_Takhat) Sahib, ten feet above the ground and adorned two swords, Miri and Piri, representing temporal and spiritual power.

[**7. Guru Har Rai - Guru from 1644 to 1661**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Har_Rai)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru7.jpg)

Guru Har Rai

He was born in 1630, spent most of his life in devotional meditation and preaching the teachings of Guru Nanak.

Although, Guru Har Rai Ji was a man of peace, he never disbanded the armed Sikh Warriors ([Saint Soldiers](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Saint_Soldiers)), who earlier were maintained by his grandfather, Guru Hargobind. He always boosted the military spirit of the Sikhs, but he never himself indulged in any direct political and armed controversy with the Mughal Empire. Guru ji cautiously avoided conflict with [Emperor Aurangzeb](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Emperor_Aurangzeb) and devoted his efforts to missionary work.

He also continued the grand task of nation building initiated by Guru Hargobind.

[**8. Guru Har Krishan - Guru from 1661 to 1664**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Har_Krishan)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru8.jpg)

Guru Har Krishan

He was born in 1656. Guru Har Krishan was the youngest of the Gurus. Installed as Guru at the age of five, Guru ji astonished the Brahmin Pundits with his knowledge and spiritual powers.

To the Sikhs he proved to be the very symbol of service, purity and truth. The Guru gave his life while serving and healing the epidemic-stricken people in Delhi. The young Guru began to attend the sufferers irrespective of cast and creed. Particularly, the local [Muslim](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Muslim) population was much impressed with the purely humanitarian deeds of the Guru Sahib and nicknamed him Bala Pir (child prophet).

Even Aurangzeb did not try to disturb Guru Harkrishan Sahib sensing the sensitivity of the situation, but on the other hand never dismissed the claim of [Ram Rai](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Ram_Rai) also.

Anyone who invokes Guru Har Krishan with a pure heart has no difficulties whatsoever in their life.

[**9. Guru Tegh Bahadur - Guru from 1665 to 1675**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Tegh_Bahadur)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru9.jpg)

Guru Tegh Bahadur

He was born in 1621 in [Amritsar](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Amritsar).

He established the town of Anandpur. The Guru laid down his life for the protection of the Hindu religion, their Tilak (devotional forehead markings) and their sacred (janeau) thread. He was a firm believer in the right of people to the freedom of worship.

It was for this cause that he faced martyrdom for the defence of the down-trodden Hindus. So pathetic was the torture of Guru Tegh Bahadur that his body had to be cremated clandestinely (a follower burned down his own home to cremate the Guru's body) at Delhi while his severed head was secretly taken four hundred kilometers away to Anandpur Sahib for cremation. Because of his refusal to convert to Islam a threatened forced conversion of the Hindus of Kashmir was thwarted.

[**10. Guru Gobind Singh - Guru from 1675 to 1708**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Gobind_Singh)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru10.jpg)

Guru Gobind Singh

He was born in 1666 and became Guru after the martyrdom of his father Guru Tegh Bahadur.

He created the [Khalsa](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Khalsa" \o "Khalsa) (The Pure Ones) in 1699, changing the Sikhs into a saint-soldier order with special symbols and sacraments for protecting themselves. After the Guru had administered [Amrit](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Amrit" \o "Amrit) to his Five Beloved Ones, he stood up in supplication and with folded hands, begged them to baptize him in the same way as he had baptized them. He himself became their disciple (Wonderful is Guru Gobind Singh, himself the Master and himself the disciple). The Five Beloved Ones were astonished at such a proposal, and represented their own unworthiness, and the greatness of the Guru, whom they deemed God's representative upon earth. He gave the Sikhs the name Singh (lion) or Kaur (princess).

He fought many battles against the armies of Aurangzeb and his allies. After he had lost his father, his mother and four sons to [Mughal](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Mughal" \o "Mughal) tyranny, he wrote his famous letter (the zafarnama) to Aurangzeb, in which he indicted the Grand mughal with his treachery and godliness, after which the attacks against the Guru and his Sikhs were called off. Aurangzeb died soon after reading the letter. Soon, the rightful heir to the Mughal throne sought the Guru's assistance in winning his kingdom. It was the envie and fear of the growing friendship between the new Emperor and the Guru which lead to the sneak attack of the Pathan assasins of [Wasir Khan](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php?title=Wasir_Khan&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Wasir Khan (page does not exist)) who inflicted the wound which later caused the Guru's death.

Thus the tree whose seed was planted by Guru Nanak, came to fruition when Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa, and on 3 October 1708, appointed Guru Granth Sahib as the Guru. He commanded:*"Let all bow before my successor, Guru Granth. The Word is the Guru now."*

[**11. Guru Granth Sahib - Guru from 1708 to eternity**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Guru_Granth_Sahib)

[](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/File:Guru11.jpg)

Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Guru Granth Sahib (also known as the Adi Granth) is the scripture of the Sikhs. No Sikh ceremony is regarded as complete unless it is performed in the presence of Guru Granth Sahib.

The Granth was written in [Gurmukhi](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurmukhi" \o "Gurmukhi) script and it contains the actual words and verses as uttered by the Sikh Gurus.

It is considered the Supreme Spiritual Authority and Head of the Sikh religion, rather than any living person. It is also the only scripture of its kind which not only contains the works of its own religious founders but also the writings of people of other faiths.

The living Guru of the Sikhs, the book is held in great reverence by Sikhs and treated with the utmost respect.

Guru Granth Sahib is a book of Revelation. It conveys the Word of the Master through His messengers on earth. It is universal in its scope.

The greatness of the Guru Granth Sahib lies not only in its being the Holy Scripture of the Sikhs but also in it being a general scripture available to mankind, intended for everybody, everywhere.