**INTRODUCTION TO SIKHISM**

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| **Sikhism,**the youngest of the world religions, is barely five hundred years old. Its founder, Guru Nanak, was born in 1469. Guru Nanak spread a simple message of "Ek Ong Kar": we are all one, created by the One Creator of all Creation. This was at a time when India was being torn apart by castes, sectarianism, religious factions, and fanaticism. He aligned with no religion, and respected all religions. He expressed the reality that there is one God and many paths, and the Name of God is Truth, "Sat Nam". |
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Guru Nanak's Hindu and Muslim followers began to be called Sikhs (learners). He taught them to bow only before God, and to link themselves to the Guru, the Light of Truth, who lives always in direct consciousness of God, experiencing no separation. Through words and example, the Guru demonstrates to followers how to experience God within themselves, bringing them from darkness into light. Guru Nanak was a humble bearer of this Light of Truth. He opposed superstition, rituals, social inequality and injustice, renunciation and hypocrisy and inspired seekers by singing divine songs which touched the hearts of the most callous listeners. These songs were recorded, and formed the beginnings of the Sikhs' sacred writings, later to become the "Siri Guru Granth Sahib".

**Guru Nanak taught his way of life:**  
***Nam Japa***- To get up each day before sunrise, to clean the body, meditate on God’s Name and recite the Guru’s hymns to clean the mind. Throughout the day, continuously remember God’s Name with every breath.  
***Dharam di Kirat******Karni***- To work and earn by the sweat of the brow, to live a family way of life, and practice truthfulness and honesty in all dealings.  
***Vand*Ke *Chakna***- To share the fruits of one’s labor with others before considering oneself. Thus, to live as an inspiration and a support to the entire community.

The 10 Sikh Gurus  
The foundation of Sikhism was laid down by Guru Nanak. Guru Nanak infused his own consciousness into a disciple, who then became Guru, subsequently passing the light on to the next, and so on. The word "Guru" is derived from the root words "Gu", which means darkness or ignorance, and "Ru", which means light or knowledge The Guru is the experience of Truth (God).  
  
Each one of the ten Gurus represents a divine attribute:

**Guru Nanak** - Humility  
**Guru Angad** - Obedience  
**Guru Amar Das** — Equality  
**Guru Ram Das** - Service  
**Guru Arjan** - Self-Sacrifice  
**Guru Hargobind** - Justice  
**Guru Har Rai** - Mercy  
**Guru Harkrishan** - Purity  
**Guru Tegh Bahadur** - Tranquility  
**Guru Gobind Singh** - Royal Courage  
([see more on the 10 Sikh Gurus](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php?title=Ten_Sikh_Gurus))

Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Guru, exemplified the Sikh ideal of the Soldier-Saint. He was also an inspired and prolific writer, courageous warrior, and a source of Divine Wisdom to his Sikhs. "When all other means have failed," he said, "only then is it righteous to take up the sword." He was the defender of the poor, the meek, and the oppressed masses of India.

The Making of the Khalsa   
Guru Gobind Singh was the last Guru of the Sikhs in human form. He created the Khalsa, a spiritual brotherhood and sisterhood devoted to purity of thought and action. He gave the Khalsa a distinctive external form to remind them of their commitment, and to help them maintain an elevated state of consciousness. Fore more information on Baisakhi [click here](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php?title=Baisakhi). Every Sikh baptized as Khalsa vows to wear the Five "K's":

**Kesh**- uncut hair and beard, as given by God, to sustain him or her in higher consciousness; and a turban, the crown of spirituality.

**Kangha**- a wooden comb to properly groom the hair as a symbol of cleanliness.

**Katchera**- specially made cotton underwear as a reminder of the commitment to purity.

**Kara**- a steel circle, worn on the wrist, signifying bondage to Truth and freedom from every other entanglement.

**Kirpan**- the sword, with which the Khalsa is committed to righteously defend the fine line of the Truth.

Khande di Pahul was initiated in the times of [Guru Gobind Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh) when the Guru established the Order of [Khalsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khalsa" \o "Khalsa) at [Anandpur Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anandpur_Sahib" \o "Anandpur Sahib)on the day of [Vaisakhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaisakhi" \o "Vaisakhi) in 1699. [Guru Gobind Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh) addressed the congregation from the entryway of a tent pitched on a hill (now called Kesgarh Sahib). He drew his sword and asked for a volunteer who was willing to sacrifice his head. No one answered his first call, nor the second call, but on the third invitation, a person called Daya Ram (later known as Bhai Daya Singh) came forward and offered his head to the Guru. Guru Gobind Singh took the volunteer inside the tent, and emerged shortly, with blood dripping from his sword. He then demanded another head. One more volunteer came forward, and entered the tent with him. The Guru again emerged with blood on his sword. This happened three more times. Then the five volunteers came out of the tent unharmed.

These five men came to be known as [Panj Piare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panj_Piare" \o "Panj Piare) or the "Beloved Five". These five were initiated into the [Khalsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khalsa" \o "Khalsa) by receiving Amrit. These five were [Bhai Daya Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhai_Daya_Singh" \o "Bhai Daya Singh), [Bhai Mukham Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhai_Mukham_Singh" \o "Bhai Mukham Singh), [Bhai Sahib Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhai_Sahib_Singh" \o "Bhai Sahib Singh), [Bhai Dharam Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhai_Dharam_Singh" \o "Bhai Dharam Singh) and [Bhai Himmat Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhai_Himmat_Singh" \o "Bhai Himmat Singh). Sikh men were then given the name [*Singh*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singh) meaning "[lion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asiatic_lion)" and the women received the last name[*Kaur*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaur) meaning "princess"

*Khande Di Pahul* not only embodies the primary objects of Sikh faith and the promises connected therewith, but also is itself a promise to lead a pure and pious life to unite with Almighty Lord. It is about inward cleansing of the conscience and seeking unity with Supreme Lord through His Grace. The word *Pahul* is a derivative from the substantive *Pahu* – which is an agent which brightens, accelerates or sharpens the potentialities of a given object

beliefs

http://www.sikhs.org/images/bullet_k.gifThere is only One God. He is the same God for all people of all religions.

http://www.sikhs.org/images/bullet_k.gif The soul goes through cycles of births and deaths before it reaches the human form. The goal of our life is to lead an exemplary existence so that one may merge with God. Sikhs should remember God at all times and practice living a virtuous and truthful life while maintaining a balance between their spiritual obligations and temporal obligations.

http://www.sikhs.org/images/bullet_k.gif The true path to achieving salvation and merging with God does not require renunciation of the world or celibacy, but living the life of a householder, earning a honest living and avoiding worldly temptations and sins.

http://www.sikhs.org/images/bullet_k.gif Sikhism condemns blind rituals such as fasting, visiting places of pilgrimage, superstitions, worship of the dead, idol worship etc.

http://www.sikhs.org/images/bullet_k.gif Sikhism preaches that people of different races, religions, or sex are all equal in the eyes of God. It teaches the full equality of men and women. Women can participate in any religious function or perform any Sikh ceremony or lead the congregation in prayer.

The **philosophy of Sikhism** is covered in great detail in the [Guru Granth Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Granth_Sahib), the Sikh holy text. Detailed guidance is given to followers on how to conduct their lives so that peace and salvation can be obtained. The holy text outlines the positive actions that one must take to make progress in the evolution of the person. One must remember the Creator at all times – it reminds the follower that the "soul is on loan from God, who is ever merciful", and that the follower must dedicate their life to all good causes - to help make this life more worthwhile.

The sections below give more details of the underlying message of this faith. It is easiest to discuss the topic if the details are divided into the following sections:

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Underlying values[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sikh_philosophy&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Underlying values)]

*Main article:*[*Sikhism underlying values*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikhism_underlying_values)

The Sikhs must believe in the following values:

1. **Equality:** All humans are equal before God – No discrimination is allowed on the basis of caste, race, gender, creed, origin, color, education, status, wealth, et cetera. The principles of universal equality and brotherhood are important pillars of Sikhism.
2. **Personal right:** Every person has a right to life but this right is restricted and has attached certain duties – simple living is essential. A Sikh is expected to rise early, meditate and pray, consume simple food, perform an honest day's work, carry out duties for his or her family, enjoy life and always be positive, be charitable and support the needy, et cetera.
3. **Actions count:** Salvation is obtained by one’s actions – good deeds, remembrance of God – [Naam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naam" \o "Naam) [Simran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simran_(Sanskrit_word)" \o "Simran (Sanskrit word)), [Kirtan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirtan" \o "Kirtan).
4. **Living a family life:** Encouraged to live as a family unit to provide and nurture children for the perpetual benefit of creation. (as opposed to living as a wild hermit, which was, and remains, a common spiritual practice in India.)
5. **Sharing:** It is encouraged to share and give to charity 10 percent of one’s net earnings.
6. **Accept God’s will:** Develop your personality so that you recognise happy event and miserable events as one – the will of God causes them.
7. **The four fruits of life:** Truth, contentment, contemplation and Naam, (in the name of God).

Religious Emblems

### Khanda

The Khanda is the symbol of the Sikhs, as the Cross is to Christians or the Star of David is to Jews. It reflects some of the fundamental concepts of Sikhism. The symbol derives its name from the double-edged sword (also called a Khanda) which appears at the center of the logo. This double-edged sword is a metaphor of Divine Knowledge, its sharp edges cleaving Truth from Falsehood. The circle around the Khanda is the Chakar. The Chakar being a circle without a beginning or and end symbolizes the perfection of God who is eternal. The Chakar is surrounded by two curved swords called Kirpans. These two swords symbolize the twin concepts of Meeri and Peeri - Temporal and Spiritual authority introduced by Guru Hargobind. They emphasize the equal emphasis that a Sikh must place on spiritual aspirations as well as obligations to society.

### Nishan Sahib

Nishan Sahib is the name given to the flag which is seen flying outside every Sikh Gurdwara (Temple). It is a triangular piece of ochre or saffron coloured cloth with the Khanda emblem in the middle. The flagpost also has a khanda or spear on top and is usually covered with the same cloth as the flag. The use of the Nishan Sahib was first introduced by Guru Hargobind.

### Ik Onkar

"There is Only One God". The first two words in the Guru Granth Sahib & one of the cornerstones of Sikhism. They appear at the beginning of the Mul Mantra written by Guru Nanak describing the qualities of God in the Japji.

| **Festival** | **Date Observed [from year to year dates vary]** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Maghi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maghi) | January 14 | [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d0/Gurudwara_Muktsar_Sahib.jpg/220px-Gurudwara_Muktsar_Sahib.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gurudwara_Muktsar_Sahib.jpg)  Gurudwara Muktsar Sahib  This festival commemorates the Battle of Muktsar and was initially chosen by Sri Guru Amar Das Ji for Sikhs to attend the Gurdwara. |
| Parkash Utsav Dasveh Patshah | January 31 | This festival's name, when translated, means the birth celebration of the 10th Divine Light, or Divine Knowledges.It commemorates the birth of[Guru Gobind Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh), the tenth Sikh guru. The festival is one of the most widely celebrated event by Sikhs. |
| [Holla Mohalla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holla_Mohalla) | March 17 | [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5f/A_young_boy_practising%2C_Gatka%2C_SIkh_martial_art.jpg/190px-A_young_boy_practising%2C_Gatka%2C_SIkh_martial_art.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:A_young_boy_practising,_Gatka,_SIkh_martial_art.jpg)  A young Sikh performer at Holla Mohalla  An annual festival of thousands held at Anandpur Sahib. It was started by [Guru Gobind Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh) as a gathering of Sikhs for military exercises and mock battles. The mock battles were followed by [kirtan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirtan" \o "Kirtan) and valour poetry competitions. Today the [Nihang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nihang" \o "Nihang) Singhs carry on the martial tradition with mock battles and displays of swordsmanship and horse riding. There are also a number of darbars where kirtan is sung. It is celebrated by Sikhs across the world as 'Sikh Olympics' with events and competitions of [swordsmanship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swordsmanship), horse riding, [Gatka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gatka" \o "Gatka)(Sikh martial arts), falconry and others by Nihang Singhs. |
| [Vaisakhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaisakhi) | April 13 | [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/e/eb/Birthplace_of_Khalsa.jpg/200px-Birthplace_of_Khalsa.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Birthplace_of_Khalsa.jpg)  Vaisakhi at [Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takht_Sri_Keshgarh_Sahib" \o "Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib) at [Anandpur Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anandpur_Sahib" \o "Anandpur Sahib), the birthplace of the [Khalsa Panth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khalsa_Panth" \o "Khalsa Panth)  In [Punjab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjab_(India)) it is celebrated as the Birth of [Khalsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khalsa" \o "Khalsa) brotherhood. It is celebrated at a large scale at [Kesgarh Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kesgarh_Sahib" \o "Kesgarh Sahib), [Anandpur Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anandpur_Sahib" \o "Anandpur Sahib). In [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [U.K.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.K.), [Canada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada), [USA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA), and other Sikh populated areas, people come together for a public [mela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mela" \o "Mela) or [parade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parade). The main part of the mela is where a local Sikh Temple ([Gurdwara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurdwara" \o "Gurdwara)) has a beautiful Sikh themed float on which the [Guru Granth Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Granth_Sahib) is located and everyone offer their respect by bowing with much reverence and fervour. To mark the celebrations, [Sikh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikh) devotees generally attend the[Gurudwara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurudwara) before dawn with flowers and offerings in hands. Processions through towns are also common. Vaisakhi is the day on which the [Khalsa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khalsa" \o "Khalsa) was born and Sikhs were given a clear identity and a code of conduct to live by, led by the last living [Sikh Guru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikh_Guru), [Guru Gobind Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Gobind_Singh) Ji, who baptized the first Sikhs using sweet nectar called Amrit.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sikh_festivals#cite_note-BBC_Sikh-1) |
| Martyrdom of [Guru Arjan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Arjan) | June 16 | [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/64/Panj_Pyare%2C_leading_a_procession.jpg/220px-Panj_Pyare%2C_leading_a_procession.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Panj_Pyare,_leading_a_procession.jpg)  Panj Pyare, leading a procession of nagar kirtan marking the Shaheedi divas (martyrdom)  The martyrdom anniversary of [Guru Arjan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Arjan), the fifth Guru, falls in June, the hottest month in India. He was tortured to death under the orders of Mughal Emperor, Jahangir, on the complaint of a Hindu banker Chandu Lal, who bore a personal enimity with Guru, at [Lahore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahore) on 25 May 1606. Celebrations consist of[Kirtan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirtan), Katha and Langar in the Gurdwara. Because of hot summer, chilled sweetened drink made from milk, sugar, essence and water is freely distributed in Gurdwaras and in neighborhoods to everybody irrespective of their religious belief as a sign and honour of the humble Guru who happily accepted his torture as a will of [Waheguru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waheguru" \o "Waheguru) and made no attempt to take any action. |
| Phalia Prakash Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji | September 1 | [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/ad/Guru_Granth_Sahib.jpg/200px-Guru_Granth_Sahib.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Guru_Granth_Sahib.jpg)  A copy of [Guru Granth Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Granth_Sahib), the eternal Sikh Guru  It is the day when the Guru Granth Sahib was bestowed with the title of being the eternal and final Sikh guru thus ending the line of Human gurus. |
| [Bandi Chhor Divas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandi_Chhor_Divas)([Diwali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali" \o "Diwali)) | November 9 | [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/65/Dipavali-Coventry.jpg/220px-Dipavali-Coventry.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Dipavali-Coventry.jpg)  Diwali celebrations in [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom).  On the day of Bandhi Chhor Diwas (The Celebration of Freedom), Sikhs celebrate the release from prison of the sixth guru, [Guru Hargobind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Hargobind), who also rescued 52 [Hindu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu) kings held captive by Mughal Emperor[Jehangir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehangir) with him in the [Gwalior Fort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwalior_Fort) in 1619. The Sikhs celebrated by lighting their homes with lights and candles with the tradition continuing till date with [Harmandir Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmandir_Sahib" \o "Harmandir Sahib) beautifully decorated with colourful lights to mark this celebration. It is celebrated by lighting divas and going to a Gurdwara to listen to gurbani. |
| [Guru Nanak Gurpurab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Nanak_Gurpurab) | November 22 | On this day Guru Nanak was born in Nanakana Sahib,now situated in Pakistan. Every year Sikhs celebrate this day with large scale gatherings. Candles, divas and lights are lit in [Gurdwaras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurdwara" \o "Gurdwara), in the honour of Guru along with fireworks. The birthday celebration usually lasts three days. Generally two days before the birthday, [Akhand Path](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhand_Path" \o "Akhand Path) (forty-eight-hour non-stop reading of Guru Granth Sahib) is held in the Gurdwara. One day before the birthday, a procession is organized which is led by the Panj Pyares (Five Beloved Ones) and the Palki (Palanquin) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib and followed by teams of [Ragis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragi_(Sikhism)" \o "Ragi (Sikhism)) singing hymns, brass bands playing different tunes and devotees singing the chorus.  [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/17/Nankana_Sahib.JPG/300px-Nankana_Sahib.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nankana_Sahib.JPG)  Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan)  [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/20/4thFireworks1.JPG/150px-4thFireworks1.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:4thFireworks1.JPG)  A fireworks show celebrating the Birth of[Guru Nanak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Nanak) in the [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India).  [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c2/Akal_Takht_illuminated%2C_in_Harmandir_Sahib_complex%2C_Amritsar.jpg/270px-Akal_Takht_illuminated%2C_in_Harmandir_Sahib_complex%2C_Amritsar.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Akal_Takht_illuminated,_in_Harmandir_Sahib_complex,_Amritsar.jpg)  [Akal Takht](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akal_Takht) illuminated on [Guru Nanak Jayanti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Nanak_Jayanti), in [Harmandir Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmandir_Sahib" \o "Harmandir Sahib) complex, [Amritsar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amritsar). |
| Martyrdom of [Guru Tegh Bahadur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Tegh_Bahadur) | November 22 | On this day [Guru Tegh Bahadur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Tegh_Bahadur) was martyred when he refused to convert to Islam.  [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/00/Gurdwara_sis_ganj.jpg/280px-Gurdwara_sis_ganj.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gurdwara_sis_ganj.jpg)  [Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gurdwara_Sis_Ganj_Sahib) where the Guru was martyred  The Mughal Emperor, [Aurangzeb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurangzeb) cherished the ambition of converting India into a land of Islam. His experiment was first carried out in [Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmir). The viceroy of Kashmir carried out the policy vigorously and set about converting non-Muslims by force.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sikh_festivals#cite_note-allabout-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sikh_festivals#cite_note-singh-3)  A group of [Kashmiri Pandits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmiri_Pandit) (Kashmiri Hindu Brahmins), approached Guru Tegh Bahadur and asked for his help. They, on the advice of the Guru, told the Mughal authorities that they would willingly embrace Islam if Guru Tegh Bahadur, did the same.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sikh_festivals#cite_note-allabout-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Sikh_festivals#cite_note-singh-3)  [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/b/b9/Gurudwara_Sisganj_Sahib.JPG/220px-Gurudwara_Sisganj_Sahib.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gurudwara_Sisganj_Sahib.JPG)  Gurudwara Sisganj Sahib in[Anandpur Sahib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anandpur_Sahib) where the head of guru was brought and cremated in defiance of Mughals  Orders of the arrest of the Guru were issued by Aurangzeb and the Guru was arrested at a place called*Malikhpur* near [Anandpur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anandpur_Sahib" \o "Anandpur Sahib) after he had departed from Anandpur for Delhi. He was arrested, along with some of his followers and sent to [Sirhind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirhind" \o "Sirhind) the following day. The Governor ordered him to be detained in [Bassi Pathana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bassi_Pathana" \o "Bassi Pathana) and reported the news to Delhi. His arrest was made in July 1675 and he was kept in custody for over three months. He was then cast in an iron cage and taken to Delhi in November 1675. The Guru was put in chains and ordered to be tortured until he would accept Islam. When he could not be persuaded to abandon his faith to save himself from persecution, he was asked to perform some miracles to prove his divinity. On his refusal, Guru Tegh Bahadur was beheaded in public at [Chandni Chowk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandni_Chowk" \o "Chandni Chowk) on 11 November 1675. Guru Ji is also known as "Hind Di Chadar" i.e. "the shield of India", suggesting that to save Hinduism, Guru Ji gave his life. |

* **Kaam :**refers to lust and illegitimate sex. It is one of the greatest evils that tempts people away from God. It makes an individual weak-willed and unreliable. Normal sexual relationship as a house-holder is not restricted in any way in Sikhism. But sex outside marriage or sex against the will of the partner is taboo, as it can cause unlimited sorrows.

* **Krodh :**is anger and needs to be controlled. A person overcome by 'krodh' loses his balance of mind and becomes incapable of thinking. According to Sikhism, 'krodh' takes a person away from God as hatred has no place in religious practice.

* **Lobh :** means greed, a strong desire to possess what rightfully belongs to others. It makes an individual selfish and self-centred. It takes a person away from his religious and social duties. A person can become blind with greed if an effort to control the desire for unlimited possessions is not made.

* **Moh :** refers to the strong attachment that an individual has to worldly possessions and relationships. It blurs the perspective of a human being and makes him narrow minded. It deviates a person from his moral duties and responsibilities and leads him towards a path of sin.

* **Ahankar :** means false pride due to one's possessions, material wealth, intelligence or powers. It gives an individual a feeling that he is superior to others and therefore they are at a lower level than him. It leads to jealousy, feelings of enmity and restlessness amongst people. Sikhism requires that a person serves the society and community with humility. Hence, the practice of cleaning the footwear of visitors to a Gurdwara is followed by many devout Sikhs.

The five virtues commonly recognised in [Sikhism](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikhism) are:   
[Sat](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sat) (Truth), [Santokh](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Santokh) (Contentment), [Daya](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Daya) (Compassion), [Nimrata](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Nimrata) (Humility) and [Pyare](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Pyare" \o "Pyare) (Love).

## Truth

**Truth -**[**Sat**](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sat):

One of the most important virtues which [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) try to develop during their life is that of **truth**. **God is Truth** and by trying to **practise truth**, i.e. live a truthful life, [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) believe that they can live in accordance with God’s Will ([Hukam](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hukam" \o "Hukam)).

Truth is not just about speaking the truth but also about recognising and living in line with the true nature of reality. Acting justly towards others, honesty, treating everyone as equals and avoiding criticising others are all examples of **truthful living** for Sikhs.

[Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) believe that human beings must work at developing all the **God-like qualities** they have in order to truly love God. Love of God is not just a feeling but always involves showing love for God by selfless service to God’s creation. A person who is [gurmukh](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurmukh" \o "Gurmukh) does not act out of selfishness but, by focusing on God, acts out of compassion for others **"… becomes the slave of the Lord’s slaves, then …. finds the Lord and eradicates ego from within"**.

## Compassion

**Compassion - [Daya](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Daya" \o "Daya)**:

[Daya](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Daya) is a **divine quality** and a moral virtue highly prized in all religious traditions. Daya is a virtue of the mind. In [Indian](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/India) thought, virtues are classified into (i) those of the body: [dana](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php?title=Dana&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Dana (page does not exist))(charity), paritrana (succouring those in distress), paricharana (social service); (ii) those of speech: satya (veracity), hitovachana (beneficial speech), priyavachana (sweet speech), svadhyaya (reciting of Scriptures) and (iii) those of the mind which, besides daya, also include aparigraha (unworldliness) and sraddha (reverence and piety).

In the [Sikh Scripture](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh_Scripture), mahadaial (super compassionate), daiapati (lord of compassion), daial dev (merciful god), karima, rahima (the merciful one), etc., have been used as attributive names of God (GG, 249, 991, 1027, 727). In [Sikh](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) ethics, too, daya is inter alia, a basic moral requirement, a moral vow. “Keep your heart content and **cherish compassion for all beings**; this way alone can your holy vow be fulfilled” (GG 299).

## Contentment

**Contentment - [Santokh](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Santokh" \o "Santokh)**:

Another **important virtue is that of contentment**. Instead of constantly thinking of how to satisfy personal desires, [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) try to accept the circumstances of their lives and concentrate on acting in accordance with God’s Will ([Hukam](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hukam" \o "Hukam)). They try to remember that all aspects of life are a result of God’s Will ([Hukam](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hukam" \o "Hukam)). **Contentment leads to freedom from care, fear and worry**.

Because [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) believe that self-centredness ([haumai](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Haumai" \o "Haumai)) leads the **soul away from God**, they also try to develop a selfless attitude to everything they do. By concentrating on God while going about their day-to-day lives in the world, [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) believe that [haumai](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Haumai" \o "Haumai) will gradually be conquered. Focusing the mind on God helps people to stop thinking about themselves and their actions eventually become truly selfless.

Living truthfully, trying to remain content and **acting selflessly** are difficult attitudes for human beings to develop. [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) recognise this and believe that they must work hard to train their minds to **think and act virtuously**.

## Humility

**Humility - [Nimrata](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Nimrata" \o "Nimrata)**:

**Nimrata** is a virtue that is vigorously promoted by [Gurbani](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurbani" \o "Gurbani). The literal translation of this [Punjabi](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Punjabi) word is **"Humility"**, **"Benevolence"** or **"Humbleness"**. This is a very important human quality that needs to be part of a [Sikh](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh)'s Mind Set and must accompany the Sikh at all times. The other four qualities in the arsenal are: Truth ([Sat](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sat)), Contentment ([Santokh](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Santokh" \o "Santokh)), Compassion ([Daya](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Daya" \o "Daya)) and Love ([Pyar](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Pyar" \o "Pyar)). These five qualities are essential to a Sikh and it is their duty to meditate and recite the [Gurbani](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurbani" \o "Gurbani) so that these virtues become a part of their personality.

## Love

**Love - [Pyare](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Pyare" \o "Pyare)**:

This is a very positive and powerful tool in the [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) arsenal of virtues. When one's mind is full of love, the person will overlook deficiency in others and accept them wholeheartedly as a product of God.[Sikhism](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikhism) asks all believers to take on "god-like" virtues and this perhaps is the most "god-like" characteristic of all. [Gurbani](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurbani" \o "Gurbani) tells us that [Waheguru](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Waheguru" \o "Waheguru) is a "loving God", full of compassion and kindness. It is the duty of the [Sikh](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh) to take on qualities of this nature and to easily forgive; to never hate anyone; to live in His [Hukam](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hukam" \o "Hukam) - "Will" and to practise compassion and humility.

**"My mind is imbued with the Lord's Love; it is dyed a deep crimson. Truth and charity are my white clothes."** (SGGS page 16) Ones mind has to be immersed in "love" of the Lord at all times to comply with this line from [Gurbani](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurbani" \o "Gurbani). **"Join the Sat Sangat, the True Congregation, and find the Lord. The Gurmukh embraces love for the Lord."** (sggs page 22) and **"Attuned to the Love of the One, there is no sorrow or suffering. ||3||"** (sggs page 45), when one loves the Lord, all their sorrows and suffering are removed.

For many [Sikhs](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Sikh), reunion with God seems far away. Serving God by training the mind to live in harmony with His Will ([Hukam](http://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Hukam" \o "Hukam)) is the most immediate goal during life. If spiritual progress is made, then the soul may be reborn in human form and it can continue to move closer to reunion.