

Basic Sikh beliefs

Sikh—learner or disciple

Guru—spiritual teacher of wisdom

Guru Granth Sahib—the holy scripture of the Sikh faith, regarded as the ultimate authority

Monotheism—belief in one God



Knowledge Organiser Sikhism: Beliefs & Teachings



3. Karma, Rebirth, Mukti

Karma — Law of action and consequence; that each action has a corresponding consequence; belief that these actions create our future life experiences.

Rebirth — Belief that each soul is born into a new physical lifetime after the death of the old.

Mukti — Liberation/freedom from rebirth.

Five Khands — Five stages of liberation - realm of righteous action/piety; realm of knowledge; realm of spiritual endeavour/effort; realm of grace; realm of truth.

Barriers to mukti — The characteristics that act as blockers to liberation - Anger (krodh), Lust (kam), Greed (lobdh), Worldly attachment (moh), Pride (ahankar).

1. The Nature of God

Creator — role of God to create the universe from nothing

The Mool Mantra — Sikh declaration of faith, describing God.

‘There is only One God. (Ik Onkar)

Truth is His name. (Satnam)

He is the creator. (Karta Purakh)

He is without fear, He is without hate. (Nirhau, Nirvair)

He is immortal, without form, (Akaal Moorat)

He is beyond birth and death, (Ajooni)

He is self-existent’ (Saibhang)

He is realised by the kindness of the true Guru...’ (Gur Prasad)

4. The importance of being God-centred

Gurmukh — God-centred; having focus always on God.

Manmukh — Man-centred; materialistic; self-centred.

Haumai — Pride, ego, self-centredness.

5. The Oneness of Humanity and the Equality of All

Equality — Belief that all are equal in value and worth, regardless of status, gender, etc.

Guru Nanak — Founder of Sikhism and first Guru.

Guru Gobind Singh — Tenth human Guru; established Khalsa.

Amrit sanskar — The ceremony of initiation into the Khalsa

Amritdhari Sikh — A Sikh who has gone through the amrit ceremony, and taken the Khalsa vows, so lives by that code.

Five Ks — Five symbols worn by Sikhs - kesh, kara, kirpan, kaccha, and kanga.

2. The Nature of Human Life: Virtues

Truthful living (sat) — fundamental quality to develop to achieve mukti. Honesty and justice, not discriminating.

Justice — Part of Sikh virtues of truthful living (sat); means working to make all things fair, or to bring equality.

Compassion (daya) — fundamental quality to develop to achieve mukti. Considering others and trying to help relieve their suffering.

Patience — being able to accept/put up with delays/problems with a calm mind and attitude.

Contentment (santokh) — fundamental quality to develop to achieve mukti. Not being greedy, being satisfied with one’s lot, maintaining detachment.

Courage — being brave.

Humility (nimrata) — fundamental quality to develop to achieve mukti. To be humble, not proud.

Self-control — means being able to control one’s temper and behaviour

Temperance — not partaking of alcohol or drugs.

Wisdom — means having experience, knowledge and good judgement.

6. Sewa and Sangat

Langar — Communal meal at gurdwara; act of sewa.

Sewa — Service; three types - physical (tan), mental (man), and material (dhan)

Sangat — Sikh religious community.