





Glossary

Bebe - refers to sister in Punjabi.

Bibi - refers to daughter in Punjabi.

Chaali Mukte - 40 Sikhs who initially left Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the fort of Anandpur because they were not able to live without food and water. Mata Bhaag Kaur Ji instilled them with courage and led them to battle against the Mughals, where they sacrificed their lives fighting for their Guru. These 40(chaali) Sikhs were blessed with eternal liberation(mukti) by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Gurbani - The Guru's word -- the hymns in Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji which contain universal messages Gursikh - A Guru's Sikh who applies the Guru's teachings in his or her day to day life.

Guru - a spiritual teacher, one who takes you from darkness to light, from ignorance to wisdom, thus spiritually uplifting you.

Kaur - Last name given to all women of Sikh faith to promote equality.

Khalsa, Khalsa Panth – In April of 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru called for his followers to Anandpur Sahib, and according to historic resources, pulled out a naked sword and asked for a head. One by one, five Sikhs came forward, who were then baptized by Guru Gobind Singh Ji and became known as the five beloved ones. Many more from the congregation were then baptized and became known as the Khalsa (the pure), thus creating the Khalsa Panth (the pure community). He ordered his Khalsa to wear five articles of faith so they would stand out in a crowd. He also ended the system of one's last name signifying one's caste/social status and promoted equality by giving the last name Singh to the men, and Kaur to the women.

Kirtan - singing of hymns contained in Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Langar - free and open community kitchen where meals are served to all humans sitting side by side regardless of their caste, color, gender, race, religion etc.

Mata - refers to mother in Punjabi.

Sahibzaaday - refers to the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji (the tenth Guru). Their names were Sahibzaada Ajit Singh Ji, Sahibzaada Jujhaar Singh Ji, Sahibzaada Zorawar Singh Ji, Sahibzaada Fateh Singh Ji.

Sangat - congregation or community that helps foster an environment where Sikhs can grow spiritually with each other's help and support.

Saroop - word used to refer to the physical form of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Seva - selfless service for humanity.

Shabad - see Gurbani.

Sikh - a learner or disciple; one who follows Sikhism. The Sikh religion is monotheistic and was founded in the fifteenth century in Northern India by Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He taught the principles of earning a living by honest means, meditating on the name of the Lord, and sharing one's earnings. Sikhs believe in equality of all humankind and are major proponents of gender equality. Sikhism emphasizes service to humanity as one of its main messages. For more information, click here.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib JI - the eternal Guru/teacher of the Sikhs; Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji has writings from six of the Sikh Gurus as well as several Hindu and Muslim spirtual personalities whose views resonated with the Sikh faith.