



# ੴ Central Gurdwara Resource Centre



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## Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter and the newly founded Resource Centre.

We aim to provide an information source for all at the Gurdwara and hope to be opening a small library shortly.

Any contributions, articles, ideas and volunteers will be appreciated, in the first instance contact:

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## Sikhism: The Religion for Today and Tomorrow

One Young Sikhs personal reasons as to why Sikhism is the best faith in the world, out of all other worldly religions.

1. Sikhism does not think of other people who follow other religions as "inferior, non-believer, etc" hence does not impose its values on them and think negatively of them.
2. Sikhism is a religion of equality. Not just between Male and Female, but as well as universal equality amongst all human beings, which other religions do not have.
3. Sikhism is a modern way of life, it doesn't subject people to valueless rituals. Caste system, bathing in holy rivers, facing a certain direction for a prayer, slaughtering animals in the name of God, circumcision, etc. (NOTE I'm talking of Sikhism, not cultural practices which at times are not up to date with the teachings of the religion as can be seen in all religions)
4. Sikhism, is a religion of worship of One Almighty God. One God that has no 'chosen people', God compassionate to

all, God not binded to a "single religion", God to be found and realised by all, God that's not pleased with ritualistic behaviour, God that is only pleased by "ANYONE" who with true devotion LOVES HIM, yes God for all the UNIVERSE not of Jews, Sikh, Hindus, Muslims, etc.

Consider the Mool Mantar; the first verse written in the Guru Granth Sahib by Guru Nanak, this is a clear definition of God. (we hope to include a good explanation of this most important verse in the next edition of this newsletter)

5. Sikhism believes in reincarnation and as the worldly science is improving and people are starting to realise this phenomenon is True (through hypnosis and near-death experiences) they will understand the "Greater Glory" in the Sikh scriptures to have realised this concept while others don't believe in it at all. (Only Hinduism and Bhudism share these values of reincarnation, and many Christians are starting to believe it, and though Islam rejects this notion, I believe many Muslims believe this.)

6. Sikhism says the God judges a person do to his action, not what religion he

ੴ	Ek Onkar	God is One
ਸਤਿਨਾਮ	Sat Nam	His name is True
ਕਰਤਾ ਪੁਰਖੁ	Kartaa Purakh	He is the Creator
ਨਿਰਭਉ	Nirbhau	He is without fear
ਨਿਰਵੈਰੁ	Nirvair	He is inimical to none
ਅਕਾਲ ਮੂਰਤਿ	Akal-murat	He never dies
ਅਜੂਨੀ	Ajoooni	He is beyond births and deaths
ਸੈਭੈ	Saibhang	He is self illuminated
ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ	Gurprasaad	He is realised by the kindness of the True Guru
ਜਪੁ	Jap	Repeat His Name
ਆਦਿ ਸਚੁ	Aad sach	He was True in the beginning, before the anything existed
ਜੁਗਾਦਿ ਸਚੁ	Jugaad sach	He was True when the ages commenced and has ever been True
ਹੈ ਭੀ ਸਚੁ	Hai bhi sach	He is also True now
ਨਾਨਕ ਹੋਸੀ ਭੀ ਸਚੁ	Nanak hosi bhi sach	Satguru Nanak (says that) he will be certainly True in the future

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a religion  
which  
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practices, or was born to. Hence the theory of Karma is also a part of Sikhism. . How much does one suffer in living?? Tremendously! just reflect a bit and you will realise the amount of pain. The older you are the more you will know of it.

Unlike other religions, which offer a heavenly paradise, where one is rewarded with Virgins (only for the males as one scripture has it) and rivers of wine (which ironically is not sanctioned for one to drink here on this earth). Sikhism give people the Goal of becoming "One with God". Where the soul is emmersed back into the Godly soul, like a raindrop is emmersed into the ocean, and hence find ever lasting bliss. (Never to be re-born again)!

7. This is for both MALE and FEMALE. Sexism has no place in Sikhism. In fact Guru Nanak spoke of the equality of Women about 500 years ago, even in the UK Women only got the right to vote who governed them in this century after a very long and hard struggle. This point clearly shows the forward thinking of our religion. Both Male and Female are able to carry out prayer rights. There is no priest class, unlike many other religions

8. The Guru Granth Sahib that we have in our Gurdwaras and homes is the same the World over and is Very close to the original as our Gurus have written. It is quite possible to buy several different editions of other holy books, which is the original? Sikhs are encouraged to learn Gurmukhi so that we can read the original Guru Granth Sahib ourselves, which again is comparatively easy to read for all. This will be the "key" to enlightenment, so that one can understand the Guru's words written in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, and help themselves transcend this worldly ocean and reach the higher spiritual goals given to Humankind by God.

9 It tells its followers to be "hard workers" to earn their daily bread. To share this with others, as well as to remember the Lord in their heart. Hence within

"hard workers" to earn their daily bread. To share this with others, as well as to remember the Lord in their heart. Hence within Sikhism, there is a compassion towards all of humanity, a fact of social reform.

10. Sikhism is the only religion that allows all people, of any caste, colour, creed, religion to come to Any of their holy places, without restriction, and be given equal respect in all matters. Yes, they are served in the Gurdwara, in the kitchen with the same dignity as if they were Sikhs.

11. Sikhism allows one to follow the path to enlightenment at their own speed of growth, and their own understanding and awareness. Yes Sikhism allows people to interpret the Guru Granth Sahib for themselves (unlike other religions) and with increases awareness and understanding, the person will gain greater (deeper) understanding of the "divine" words of the Gurus, who were in direct communication with God and wrote what God told them.

12. Sikhism is the only religion that has in its Scripture, Hymns of Divine saints who had attained that state of perfection and communion with God in life. Be them Muslim or Hindu (from all castes). Hence Sikhism is truly a religion that has broken down barriers between religions, to show the world that, ANYONE can reach God by emersing themselves in his love. That's why these saints divine revelations from God are also recorded in Guru Granth Sahib, and these Saints will be honoured for their achievement throughout time. Also this shows that Sikhism is for all, no matter what religion or caste you may be born into.

Adapted from an article by Jasvinder Singh.

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