

### Key concepts

- The Guru Granth Sahib describes the characteristics of God. It begins with Ik Onkar which means "There is One God".
- Sikhs believe that there is one endless God. He is indescribable, inestimable, indubitable, infallible, intangible, imperishable, immutable, immortal, immaculate, immanent, unconquerable, unique, formless, fearless, deathless, timeless, ageless, compassionate, omnipresent and creator of all.
- There cannot be any image or statue of God.

- Sikhs believe there is no one superior to God. Furthermore, Sikhs believe that God created all beings, animals, birds, creatures, including humans.
- Guru Nanak taught that that God is formless. God is beyond gender and shape.
- Naam means the Numenon or a Numinous feeling. Numinous means a sense of awe such as when one sees the stars at night. SatNam means that the Presence of God is the True Reality.
- Naam also means Names. The Names of God such as Ram (from Hinduism), Allah and Rahim (from Islam) and Sunnya (from Buddhism) are all true. The Names describe the actions of God.
- The most popular Sikh names are WaheGuru (wonderful or amazing grace), Akal Purukh (eternal spirit), and SatNam (true reality).

- God's Light is the Inner Light of all beings. Since God is with everyone there is no one to fear or to hate - all people are equal.
- God existed before the beginning of creation and will exist after the end of creation.
- God is both nirguna and saguna.
- Sikhs believe that God can't be understood properly by human beings, but he can be experienced through love, worship, and contemplation.
- Sikhs look for God both inside themselves and in the world around them. They do this to help themselves achieve liberation and union with God.

### Key quotes

'God is One. He is the Supreme Truth. He the Creator, is without fear and without hate. He is immortal. He is neither born and nor does He die. By Guru's grace shall He be met. Chant And Meditate on His Name. In the beginning, He was the Truth. Throughout the ages, He has been the Truth. He is the Truth now and He shall be the Truth forever.' (Mul Mantra)

'From Ongkaar, the mountains and the ages were created.' – Adi Granth 929

'There was no earth, nor skies, only the infinite divine will... Constantly you exercise Your creative power, You also then watch and govern over all You formed the planets, solar systems and unseen realms What was hidden (gupat) you made manifest (pargat)....' Guru Granth Sahib, p. 1035-6.

'In the primal void, You assumed your infinite power You who are unattached, infinite and incomparable' Guru Granth Sahib, p. 1037

'Sweet is the speech of my Infinite Master, My Innermost Friend I have grown weary of testing Him, never does He utter a bitter word.' Guru Granth Sahib, p. 784

### Key words

Ik Onkar	Naam	SatNam	Waheguru	Akhal Purukh
nirguna	saguna	Mul Mantra	intangible	immutable
Ram	Allah	Rahim	Sunnya	immanent
formless				

### Issues for analysis and evaluation

#### Key arguments/debates

Some would argue that the Sikh understanding of the concept of God comes from other religions. Others would argue that the Sikh understanding of God is unique. Some would argue that there are shared beliefs with other religions.

#### Key questions

Is the Sikh concept of God different to other religions such as Islam?  
Is the Sikh understanding of God the most important teaching of the religion?  
Is a personal God the most important Sikh understanding of God?

