



Sikhism Symbols and Artefacts

For Preview Only





The Turban

Most Sikhs wear a turban. A turban is a long piece of cloth, which is wound tightly around the head and tucked in to keep it in place.



At the time of Guru Gobind Singh, many important people in India wore turbans as a sign of power. The Guru wore one as a sign of power to the Sikhs. His followers copied him, and the custom continued.



The Khanda

The Khanda is a very important symbol in Sikhism. The Khanda is seen in the Gurdwara and on the Sikh flag. The Khanda symbolizes God's Universal and Creative Power.

In the center is a double edged sword, which symbolizes the primal and almighty power of the creator.

The 'Chakra' or the circle is a symbol of continuity.

The two swords on the outside are symbols of the spiritual and political balance in the universe.





As well as the Sikh symbol, the khanda is a double edged sword. The double edged sword shows the two sided nature of the Sikh Gurus who combined the qualities of saint and soldier. Both edges of the blade must be equal, so the power between the saint and soldier is equal.





Ik Onkar

This symbol has two words which mean 'There is one and only one God'. The Ik Onkar symbol is found in many places, such as the gurdwara, on the canopy over the Guru Granth Sahib, or as a wall decoration in the home. It shows the oneness of God, a distinctive Sikh belief.





The Chari

The chari is a fan or fly whisk. It is waved by the person reading the Guru Granth Sahib in order to show respect for the holy book. The handle is normally made of precious metals or wood. The fan itself is traditionally made of yak hair, the tail hair of a white horse, or peacock feathers, but cotton or silk are often used today.

