



## Introducing religions

### *Initiation into a Sikh sect*

Narrator:

In 1699, the last human Guru, Guru Gobind Singh created a new martial community of Sikh's called the Khalsa. Not all Sikh's choose Khalsa initiation. But those that do, observe certain outward forms. Such as uncut hair.

In order to join the Khalsa, Sikh's undergo an initiation ceremony. Whereby they become Amritdhari. Amrit being the sweetened water used in the ceremony. The ceremony is carried out in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Five men, the Panj Piare or the Five Beloved Ones, perform the ritual.

The sugar lumps express the idea that the Khalsa will be sweet tempered, and able to live at peace, as well as strong and ready to fight if necessary. The double edged sword represents willingness to fight for justice.

Joginder Singh:

Amritdhari. is a term for those Sikh's who pledge their whole lives to the Guru. The external discipline involves wearing the five 'Ks'. So called, because each thing worn begins with a 'K' sound. They are 'kara' - 'iron bangle', 'kanga' - 'comb', 'kirpan' - 'sword', 'kachha' - 'underwear', 'kes' - 'hair'.

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