

# Jainism, sikhism



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### Origins of Jainism

The origin of Jainism is in India, however the timing of the origin is quite difficult to identify. The nature of the universe is cyclical according to this religion. Jainism suggests that the universe does not have any beginning, end or creator and thus they believe in current cycle in relation to the cosmos. The expression ' Jain' refers to the ones who are the supporters of the Jinas. In Jainism, it is believed that God is not the maker of the universe but is believed to be the liberated soul who has been successful at attaining Moksha. The origin of this religion is known to have been before the commencement of Pre-historic culture.

The ethical practice of the religion is the practice of non-violence which has been followed since the very existence of the religion around 5000 years ago (JainUniversity, " Origins of Jainism").

### Unique Characteristics of Sikhism

Sikhism is considered to be a new religion in India when compared to that of other religions such as Jainism or Hinduism. The religion has been founded by Guru Nanak. Some of the unique characteristics of the religion are that they do not believe in pilgrimage, superstitions, fasting as well as other such kinds of rites. It tries to provide services to the community and thus tries to extend its help to the ones who need them. The Sikhs are supposed to dress as per the Guru Gobind Singh's order. According to the religious doctrines, the Sikhs should also wear turbans. Regular pray and meditation is done by means of repeating the name of the God. The Khalsas' in the Sikh religion are expected to monitor five K's such as Kaccha, Kara, Kirpan, Khanga and

Kes. This religion does not follow any symbolism or ritualism. There are not any altars or idols in the Gurudwara. The fact that every Gurudwara keeps the holy Sikh Scripture, which is also known as Guru Granth Sahib or Satguru, is a unique characteristic (Pecorino, “ Philosophy of Religion”).

#### Similarities between Sikhism and Jainism

It can be mentioned that both the religions namely the Sikhism and the Jainism are of the belief that they are inhabitants to the Indian subcontinent. It was found that like Sikhism, Jainism also refused the power of the Vedas and thus developed independent textual norms and traditions that were based upon the words as well as the illustration of their early teachers. It finally evolved complete new ways of communicating their thoughts with the common people (Apex Learning, “ 3e Jainism and Sikhism”).

The main similarities of both the religions are that both of them commemorate Diwali, a festival of lights. Jains are strictly vegetarians but the Sikhs are non-vegetarians. However, it can be observed that in Gurdwaras, the food that is served is completely vegetarian so that it is capable of obliging all the segments of the society. The other similarity among the two religions is found in their way they tend to remember god. Sikhs are supposed to practice truth and consciousness by means of Nam Simran. The Jainism also believes in prayers as well as meditation.

Furthermore, the Jains as well as the Sikhs are perceived to place greater emphasis in the theory of karma as well as re-embodiment of the soul.

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