

GURDWARA PROTOCOL EXCERPTS FROM SIKH DHARMA TRAINING MANUAL

Dharmic Education Commission of the Khalsa Council, 1980

"This manual is for all Khalsa who desire to be knowledgeable about the Gurdwara and who wish to be able to fulfill any function necessary with relation to Siri Guru Granth Sahib."

PREFACE: "It is vital to establish Siri Guru Granth Sahib in the most beautiful and dignified manner possible in all our Gurdwaras. This is not to be done out of tradition, to fill a space, or out of love of ritual, but because all must realize that only the supreme Word of God presides in our congregations, leading us to liberation. This process will also make all Sikhs secure that such beauty belongs to them, and that they belong to it. It will stimulate the imagination of the grace and majesty of the Word of God, and create a feeling of humility and equality among all Sikhs before the Guru and God."

PREFACE - THE GURDWARA:

A Scientific Understanding: Pages n. and o.:

"The Guru Granthi, the one who attends to and cares for the Guru, is sitting in attendance to the Guru. He is not there for any other purpose. Therefore his focus and mind should be on the Guru. He is there to protect and care for the body of the Guru and is responsible for that even though it means his own death. (i.e., if someone tried to attack or damage Siri Guru Granth Sahib.)

SECTION II - SET-UP OF THE GURDWARA:

Moving of Siri Guru Granth Sahib page II-7

The following guidelines are used whenever the Guru is moved from one location to another.

3. The procession then proceeds to the Gurdwara, led by a sevadar carrying a drawn sword (for protection and to show the respect), while someone waves chaur over the Guru from behind.

SECTION III - PERSONAL AND GROUP PROTOCOL

(Appropriate behavior)

F. Equality, Discipline, and Danger

Page III - 5 and III - 6

2. Disciplinary Measures (If anyone is acting in an ungraceful manner:

a. (4) If need be, have them quickly and quietly removed by several sevadars. Avoid any loud arguments or fights in front of the Guru.

(5) Note: We do not cater to any person who willfully disrespects our Guru nor do we tolerate them in our Gurdwara.

3. Danger

c. Immediate Human Danger. If the Guru's honor or person is threatened, place yourself in between the Guru and the danger. The Guru must be defended and protected at the cost of your life if it is inevitable. Such is the commitment of the Khalsa to the Word of God.

SECTION V - SERVICES AND CEREMONIES

B. - Paat

2. - Akand Paat

Sevadar Guidelines - V-3 and V-10

"When Guru Gobind Singh finished writing Siri Guru Granth Sahib... there were five sevadars to take care of anything around Siri Guru Granth Sahib during Akhand Paat, five guards to stand and guard the place... "YOU ARE THE PROTECTORS OF SIRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB AND THE GUARDIANS OF THE AKHAND PAAT. WITH YOU RESTS THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY

AND RESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF SIRI GURU
GRANTH SAHIB, AND FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE
AKHAND PAAT."

SECTION V -11

(10) "You have the right to ask someone to leave the
Gurdwara until he/she improves his/her dress or
conduct. (Provided these things are really objectionable).

(18) It is your duty to protect Siri Guru Granth Sahib in any
event of fire, natural catastrophe, or attack, even if it means
the cost of your life." --

NOTE: This Training Manual is currently out of print. See
http://www.harisingh.com/SikhDharmaManual_1980.pdf
for a complete digital copy of manual.