

RESIGNATION LETTER

April 2024

Open Letter to the SSSC and broader community,

We the below signed Trustees of the Siri Singh Sahib Corporation love this community and all of the teachings of Kundalini Yoga and Shabad Guru that Yogi Bhajan shared. To us, our community always has been, and continues to be, a vibrant melting pot that includes anyone and everyone who self-identifies as part of it. Everyone who even chants “Sat Naam” once is part of the extended family that we serve.

We choose to be part of a community based on love for these teachings, treating one another with respect and kindness, and striving to be inclusive and compassionate rather than judgmental and exclusionary.

Unfortunately, it is our experience that a majority faction of the SSSC Trustees do not seem to share this vision or definition of our community, nor do they demonstrate a commitment to many of the values that we want to embody. It’s not that we “just” have a difference of opinion or disagree on some points. Being a “loyal opposition” would be a fine role to play within a community of shared values and identity.

It is as if we are not included in this majority faction’s idea of “community.” We have served on the SSSC board for the past 7 months and never has the majority faction attempted a dialogue about the critical issues that are fracturing our community right now. We entered this body thinking to give it a go, honestly believing that when conscious people sit together, they will always end up doing the right thing, following the rules and procedures, trusting the group consciousness. But instead of viewing the election results and the narrow majority they hold on the SSSC board of Trustees as a sign of our divided community, and as a call to find common ground and work towards healing and unity, this majority faction has explicitly taken the stance of, “ we have the votes and we have the power and we can and will do whatever we want.”

Fortunately, the SSSC is NOT synonymous with our global community. SSSC only oversees a portion of our real breadth and scope around the world, and with the abuse allegations against Yogi Bhajan, their current hardline stances, and their ill-conceived board take-overs, the portion of our real community represented by and covered by the SSSC continues to shrink.

We will always love the body of teachings Yogi Bhajan shared, and we remain dedicated to sharing them and helping as many people as possible with these precious teachings. We remain committed to always acting with respect for all people, honoring differences of opinion with inclusion and deep listening, and communicating openly and as transparently as possible. The actions of the current SSSC majority faction do not reflect the same commitment to those values. And their statements (during their campaign and since seated) do not paint a picture of a future we support.

Therefore, we are choosing to stop investing our time and prana into SSSC. It does not reflect who we are, or what we want to be part of. Please accept this letter as our Resignation effective April 2, 2024.

There are so many beautiful members of our community who are committed to goals similar to what we have described here, and who are committed to operating with the values that are important to us. We support their honest efforts to continue serving the world through Yogi Bhajan's teachings, even if this means that the entities and programs underneath the SSSC's purview continue their slide into less and less relevance.

As people committed to diversity, we wish to be clear that we are not trying to ostracize the people in the current SSSC majority faction, nor their supporters. We feel that they represent a small, somewhat extreme fraction of our total community. And we hope that a day will come when we can embrace one another as brothers and sisters of destiny with simple disagreements. But until the current SSSC leadership is open to feedback or dialogue, we feel it is currently impossible to remain in relationship with the SSSC which they now control. Disagreement is not valued as it needs to be in a diverse community, as a way to harness the creative energies of group consciousness. Instead the majority faction appears to hold their beliefs as almost religious dogma that cannot be questioned or debated. This is not a characteristic of a healthy community. We suspect that it is not a characteristic that most of our broader Kundalini Yoga and Sikh Dharma community would want either.

There is always a play of both the form and the formless, the structure and the spirit, the finite and the infinite. Our vision is that we are a community always striving to keep the formless and the spirit at the forefront, as we attempt to manifest the infinite in the finite. Which means to us that at the end of the day, the legal structures of the SSSC and all the subsidiary organizations need to be secondary to the primacy of the awakening spirit we want to embody and inspire in others.

Filled with hope and gratitude, we know that even if the legal organizations under the SSSC umbrella go through a process of becoming less and less relevant, the broader community will continue to thrive.

Dharma will always prevail.

We are not sad to be resigning—we are honestly relieved. And to you, the broadest definition of our beloved community, you deserve better leadership than you currently have. We are excited to know that you will always discover the best ways to serve in today's world.

With love and hope,

SS Amrit Singh Khalsa
SS Hari Charn Kaur Khalsa
MSS Guru Raj Kaur Khalsa