

# The Ashes Ceremony

By SatKirin Kaur Khalsa  
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**W**e had just completed our Spring Khalsa Council meetings in the sacred Native American lands of Espanola, New Mexico. What an intense session! Everyone was spinning from the passing of the Siri Singh Sahib Ji. It was a new world for us, moving forward without the physical presence of Yogi Bhajan. Lots of feelings were felt and expressed, and mental adjustments were made as we learned to look to ourselves and to each other for support, leadership, and unity.

On Saturday, April 23, 2005, in the ambrosial hours before dawn, we held the ending ceremony of the weekly Akhand Path (continuous reading of sacred Sikh writings). This time it was dedicated to the fulfillment of the last wish of the Siri Singh Sahib Ji, that a portion of his ashes be dispersed at Ram Das Puri.

After sadhana, at 5:30 a.m., we sat wrapped

in blankets. About one hundred of us were cozied up in the Gurdwara around the small alcove that contained the Siri Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh sacred writings and living Guru). Sangat members from as far away as Alaska, England, Germany, France, Holland, India, Mexico, South America, Norway, Canada, and Singapore were present.

How can we ever know the depth and power of these seemingly routine gatherings? It's a blessing to have a place where the daily darshan (blessing) of Guru and Sadh Sangat (congregation) takes place and energetically builds a powerful center of light over the years, the vibrations of Gurbani (sacred language) like a great generator of spiritual energy. Langar (traditional serving of food) was held outside on the lawn. It was a remarkably beautiful sun-filled morning, the expansive blue skies sparkling above us.

