
RESOLUTION AT THE IUS SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 18, 2004

A majority of the papers presented at the Fourth International IUS Seminar – 2004 for celebration of Quadricentennial of Compilation and Installation of the Aad Guru Granth Sahib focused on the current religious practices that have deviated significantly from the original mission of the Sikh Gurus. For example, these practices include a return to ritualism, among others. In order to initiate concrete changes in current Sikh religious practices, the following resolution was proposed by Dr Harjeet Singh Bhabra and seconded by Dr Harbans Lal. After a brief discussion, the resolution was adopted unanimously by all in attendance.

Whereas the year 2004 is an auspicious occasion for celebration of Quadricentennial of the Aad Guru Granth Sahib since it was compiled by Guru Arjan in 1604,

Whereas the AGGS embodies the universal values of truth, equality, justice, love and compassion,

Whereas, the Institute for Understanding Sikhism (Laval, QC, Canada) is celebrating this occasion with the Fourth

International IUS Seminar - 2004 in Laval, Quebec on September 18, 2004, co-sponsored by the North American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (Surrey, BC, Canada), Academy of Guru Granth Studies (Arlington, TX, USA) and Sikh Virsa (Calgary, AL, Canada),

The participants in the seminar recognize that the Sikh communities all over the world are drifting away from the real teachings of the AGGS in their religious practices and beliefs, and deplores the current emphasis on ritualism and commercialization of Sikh religious practices, such as treating the AGGS as an idol and reading Gurbani as a *mantra*.

It is resolved that the greatest tribute to the AGGS on the Quadricentennial of its compilation will be a commitment by the Sikh communities to return to the roots by seeking guidance entirely from the teachings of the AGGS in all their social and religious affairs.

The Sikhs are urged to prepare guidelines for their community practices according to the AGGS.
