**COVER PAGE WORDING**

Motif Name: Ek Onkar #1 (refer to Motif Library to see all motifs)

Wedding Ceremony

Anand Karaj

Baani & Harbir

Sunday, 10th December 2050

Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur

**INSIDE-LEFT WORDING**

“They are not said to be husband and wife, who merely sit together.

Rather, they alone are called husband and wife, who have one soul in two bodies.”

-Sri Guru Granth Sahib

We would love for you to be engaged in the rituals that will be performed. To make it easy for you to follow, we have explained the rituals below.

**Entering the marriage hall and Shabad Kirtan**

Out of respect, all guests remove their shoes and cover their heads before entering the presence of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture. It is Sikh custom to bow before Sri Guru Granth Sahib by touching one’s forehead to the ground before being seated. The ceremony begins with shabads (musical renditions of sacred verses taken from Sri Guru Granth Sahib). As the hymns are sung, the congregation enters and sits on the ground, facing the holy book.

Harbir sits at the front of the room in the presence of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. When the Shabad Kirtan draws to a close, Baani enters and sits to his left.

**Ardas**

Ardas is a prayer invoked at the start and conclusion of every Sikh event. The ceremony begins with the priest asking the couple to stand with their parents, seeking God’s blessing.

**Hukamnama**

The priest reads a passage from Sri Guru Granth Sahib selected at random, which is interpreted as a holy command that the ceremony may commence.

**Palla Ceremony**

Baani’s father places one end of the palla (scarf) over Harbir’s right shoulder and the other end into Baani’s hand. This act has a dual significance as it symbolizes the father giving his daughter away, but also represents the couple’s commitment to each other and their vow to live a truthful life.

**INSIDE-RIGHT WORDING**

**The Four Laavan**

The four verses describe the progression of love between a husband & wife, which is analogous to that between the soul & God. Each verse is first recited and then sung, as Baani & Harbir circle Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Baani’s brothers help her complete each laav with Harbir, signifying their support as she leaves one family for another. At the close of the fourth lavaan, they are officially husband and wife.

**The First Laav: Awe**

The Guru urges the practice of Simran, meaning meditation upon God’s name. Simran washes away past sins and brings stability to the mind, thus laying the foundation for the couple’s marriage.

**The Second Laav: Love** Through Simran, one begins to recognize God’s presence in everyone andeverything. Egotism and fear slowly vanish.

**The Third Laav: Longing**

Through God’s grace, one begins to feel Bairaag, an intense longing for a complete union with God and each other.

**The Fourth Laav: Harmony**

As Simran is practiced continuously and consistently, the couple achieves complete harmony with each other and with God. It is a stage of complete oneness, of perfect balance, which knows no separation and no mistrust. The bride and groom become “Ek jot doey murati” - one soul in two bodies.

**Conclusion of the ceremony**

Following the Laavan, the priest recites the Anand Sahib, the concluding hymn of the ceremony. The entire congregation stands as the priest performs Ardas. The priest opens Sri Guru Granth Sahib to a page at random (Hukamnama). This hymn is the scripture of the day that devotees dwell on for inspiration. Karah Prashad, the ceremonial sacrament made from whole wheat, sugar, butter, and water, is served to the congregation at the conclusion of the ceremony.

We appreciate your patience as Sri Guru Granth Sahib is carried out of the marriage hall after the conclusion of the ceremony.

**BACK WORDING**

Bride & Groom's Family

Parents of the Bride

Sardarni Gurinder Kaur and Sardar Inderjit Singh Gill

Parents of the Groom

Mrs. Katelyn and Mr. Steven Miller

Grandparents of the Bride

Sardarni Gurpreet Kaur and Sardar Baldev Singh Gill

Sardarni Parvinder Kaur and Sardar Paramjeet Singh Sodhi

Grandparents of the Groom

Mrs. Maurice and Mr. Jack Miller

Mrs. Rachel and Mr. Charles Smith

Sister and Brother-in-Law of the Bride

Gurbani and Manik Singh

Brother and Sister-in-Law of the Groom

Jill and Mark Robson

Nieces of the Bride

Amyra and Alia

Rhea

Niece and Nephew of the Groom

Amy and Will