

Sikh Tapestry 2010



Sikh Prayer

God adjudges us
according to our deeds,
not the coat that we wear:
that Truth is above everything,
but higher still is truthful living.
Know that we attaineth God
when we loveth,
and only victory endures
in consequences of which
no one is defeated.



A very sweet benefit while working on this tapestry was to have one of the sponsors, who is a long-time practicing Sikh, be involved in the design and creation of this tapestry. During the entire process, we were blessed with Sada Simran Khalsa leading us in a number of the traditional Sikh meditative chants. In our beginning work on this tapestry, we were challenged by the fact that a great deal of the depth of Sikh spirituality involves sound, which does not easily lend itself to visual representation.

The archway in the foreground represents the archways into the Golden Temple. The Golden Temple is represented as a crown above the arch floating in the water. The Golden Temple in northern India holds the sacred text of the Sikhs. This sacred text is called the Siri Guru Granth. It is considered the "guru" of the Sikhs – divine inspiration and elevation come from reading the divine texts. The Golden Temple is surrounded by water.

The Siri Guru Granth is shown, open for study, on the pathway under the arch.

The large symbol below the book represents "Ek Ong Kar". Ek Ong Kar means there is one God for all creation. The Sikh path recognizes that all paths lead to the one God.

The walkway under the arch leads one through the Ek Ong Kare and the Siri Guru Granth toward the Golden Temple.

The mountains represent the area of India near the Himalayas, known as Punjab, the cradle of the Sikhs.

The symbol on either side of the arch is called the Adi Shakti. It is the symbol of the Sikhs. It represents the primal creative energy of the universe. The double edged sword in the symbol represents the yin and yang of life. The circle around the sword represents the infinity of God. The two swords on either side of the circle represent the protective aspects of the Sikh path. The path of the Sikh is to defend Truth wherever he/she finds it.