(9) 33.

Affidavit of Syed Mohd .Anis dated 7.10.58 .re: rites and Ceremonies of Khadims.

## Affidavit of Syed Mohammad Anis S/o Mohammad Umar,

aged 60 years, resident of Khadim Mohalla,

Aimer, dated 7-10-58.

Civil Mis. Petition No. 17 of 1957.

**Syed Hussain Ali -Petitioner** 

## Versus

## **DARGAH COMMITTEE & others Respondents**

- 1. Syed Mohd. Anis do hereby make oath and state as under:
- (1) That I am a Khadim.
- (2) That the religious rites and ceremonies performed by me and other Khadims with respect to the sacred shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishty are briefly described in the paragraphs followings. .
- (3) That every day one Khadim in rotation according to old custom ,at 4.am opens the first gate of the dome containing the Shrine after pronouncing the sacred call named the "AZAN" Having thus opened he accompanied by a few other Khadims enters the dome, and proceeds to the second gate of the Dome pronouncing the sacred formula of three names in adulation of Khawaja Saheb, and then opens the 2<sup>nd</sup> gate. Thereafter the Khadims then present, remove the old flower from the "MAZAR" put fresh flowers thereon called the "Sej" and then clean the dome premises, burn "Loban" and deposit the removed flower in a sacred depository. the Khadims then offera general prayer for well being of all.
- (4) That after this ceremony the Mazar is open for pilgrims. The pilgrims always find one Khadim on duty inside the Dome and some other outside to guide the pilgrims. The Khadim inside the Dome helps the pilgrims to "Kiss" the "Mazar" and prays for him after putting the "Daman" i.e. the cloth covering of the grave over the pilgrims head. The pilgrim then according to religious practice presents a "Nazar" pilgrims also present "Nazars" to Khadims who are outside the Dome and guide the pilgrims or who offer special prayers for the pilgrims.

Mohd. Anis dated 7.10.58. re: rites and CeremoniesofKhadims.

- (5) That at 3 p.m again Dome gate are closed by the Khadim on duty and once again changes flower "Sej" and cleans sacred enclosure in the Dome and in addition a "Sandal paste paint" is given to the Mazar and the "Kabar Posh" is altered. Then the same Khadim prays for all the four silsilas of the Sufies and all other human beings. After this the Mazar if again opened to pilgrims as be fore with Khadims on duty inside and outside the Dome.
- (6) That at lighting up time each Days, before a congregation of devotees, which gathers up at the sound of a Nakkara suspending all other works; four or more Khadims carry lamps inside inside Dome, while carrying the lamps they touch the heads of devotees with the lamps and having reached inside they light the lamps with the fire in the "Agardani" at the Mazar Those Khadims then put those lamps in the lamps stands of silver, on their heads and recite "Madha" which is a Sacred song in praise of Khwaja Saheb. They also recite "Dua" i.e. a prayer for all Chishties whereupon the attending devotees all admit with "Amin";
- (7) That after the above ceremony the Mazar remains open for pilgrims till about 10.p.m 'when 3 Khadims give a ceremonial sweep thrice inside the Dome and then lock it for the night .
- (8) That the same routine is repeated the next day with Khadim in the next rotation on duty.
- (9) That during Urs. A special ceremony called "Gusal" is performed twice a night in which Sajjadanashin and Mutwalli also participate in the second "Gusal" each night. In "Gusal" the "Mazar" if s given a ceremonial bath with water, rose water and scents, which water becomes deposited in a reservoir, from where it is distributed by the Khadims to the devotees attached to them as "holy waters' which Chishties believe to possess mystic powers of removing ailments both physical and spiritual.
- (10) That on the day of Basant Panchmi, "Kavvals" bring fresh green plants, corn spikes, flowers as present to the Mazar which flowers are handed over to the Khadim on duty inside the Dome and he place these plants and flowers over the Mazar and prays for those who present the same.

35 Affidavit of Syed Mohd. Anis Dated 7.10.58. re: rites and Ceremonies of Khadims.

I , Syed Mohd.Anis above named do hereby declare that the contents of this my Affidavit are true to my Knowledge , that it conceals nothing and that no part of it is false. Verified this  $7^{\rm th}$  day of October, 1958 at Jodhpur .

Seal of Oath Commossioner, Rajasthan High Court , Jodhpur .

Sd /- SYED MOHD. ANIS.