

## **Pledge of the Knight**

Pir Zia speaking about Murshid's Practices for Leaders

We ended this morning with a practice that Pir Vilayat has taught and it is a practice in the line of *Futuwwah* or "Spiritual Chivalry." One of the definitions that Murshid himself has given for *Yā Fattāh* is that it is for uniting with the Spiritual Hierarchy, confirming one's fealty, that is a chivalric word, one's loyalty to the sacred order embodied by the Messengers, Prophets, Saints, and Masters. And so it is done in the kneeling position and then radiating out in three stages from the heart, from the third eye, and from the crown. One could say 33 times *Ya Fattah* from the heart and then 33 times from the third eye and then 34 times from the crown. And as one recites it also the recitation gains momentum, becomes more powerful, more forceful and one feels that building enthusiasm that is the knight's *himmat*, aspiration and dedication.

So what I would like to suggest is to invoke Murshid's presence, turn within, and attune to the purpose of your life. Feel that one has a certain number of days and one has a certain work that has been given to one. Of course one's life's purpose is always expanding as the horizon recedes but what you attune to is your purpose at this *maqam*, at this station in your journey. What is the opportunity and what is the calling, what is the spiritual hierarchy asking of you? And what will it require from you in terms of direction, in terms of commitment, in terms of changes? Which habits are no longer appropriate and what are the ways of being, what are the practices in daily life that are necessary? And then one makes a kind of internal resolution, a pledge. One has received one's orders; one has recognized what is required of one to go forward; one has one's purpose. And now one pledges oneself, body, mind, heart, and soul. And say the Invocation, kneel and visualizing yourself surrounded by the lights of the Spiritual Hierarchy, recite *Yā Fattāh* from the three centers and then prostrate. And when you rise up, say the words of the prayer for the Universal. So you can do this at the end of the cycle of practices for the day as the last practice.