



Inayatiyya

A Sufi Path of Spiritual Liberty

THE BIOGRAPHY OF PIR-O-MURSHID HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN CLASS #1 NOTES

SUNDAY, 16TH APRIL 2023

Guest speaker: Shaikh al-Mashaikh Mahmood Khan

QUOTES & NOTES

Childhood and Youth (1882-1903)

Genres of Sufi literature: (1) Kitab & Risala (longer and shorter writings composed by the saints themselves), (2) Maktub (letters), (3) Malfuz (works that are dictated or are recorded by a scribe in an assembly when the saint is speaking), (4) Ash'ar (poetry), and (5) Tazkira (the biography of the saint written by murids).

In connection with Murshid we have: (1) *A Sufi Message of Spiritual Liberty*, (2) his letters to Murshida Rabia Martin, (3) the Message volumes and other collections of verbal teachings, (4) the *Diwan of Inayat Khan* and *Gayan, Vadan, Nirtan*, and (5) a number of biographies, the primary one being the official biography compiled by the Nekbakht Foundation.

“The one whom you expect to be your ideal will prove to be your ideal some day when he has gone past.” (Gayan)

Between hagiography and expose

“Real democracy is raising oneself higher by appreciating the ideal one meets. In this way one rises to a higher ideal; but many people do not appreciate a high ideal. Democracy means being equal on a higher plane instead of being ignorant. Pulling a high person down to the earth and then speaking of democracy is wrong democracy.”

Maulabakhsh (1833-1896): Orphan, pioneer, contest winner, raj-kufu, groom of Qasim Bi, Gayanshala founder

"The king is honored in his country,
a chief is honored in his district,
a fool is honored in his home but a
genius is honored everywhere."

"Your highness, my kingdom is everywhere"

Murtuza Khan (d. 1924), Alaoddin Pathan (d. 1948; Dr, London, Royal Academy of Music)

Fatima Bi (d. 1880), Inayat Bi (d. 1882) ("He is born with the ideal for which I am dying"), Khadija Bi (d. 1902)

Rahmat Khan: Yuzkhan from Sialkot

"Khadija Bi (1868-1902) Inayat's mother, before his birth had dreams, in which she saw Christ coming and healing her and sometimes Muhammad appeared and blessed her, sometimes she found herself in the midst of prophets and saints, as though they were taking care of her or receiving her, or were waiting for something coming or preparing for a time which they had foreknown.... Khadija Bibi was rather confused, frightened and yet resigned to the will of God. She was careful to ask the protection of God and help of every saint and prophet that she knew. She addressed them saying:

As-salam 'alaika ya 'Isa Ruh Allah
As-salam 'alaika ya Musa Kalim Allah
As-salam 'alaika ya Ibrahim Khalil Allah
As-salam 'alaika ya Muhammad Rasul Allah.

Which means:

Hail to Thee, O Jesus, the Spirit of God,
Hail to Thee, O Moses, the Word of God,
Hail to Thee, O Abraham, the Friend of God,
Hail to Thee, O Muhammad, the Prophet of God."

Story of the sweets, showing Inayat Khan's remarkable intuition

Rahmat Khan's stories

Mahratti school, hymn to Ganesha, visits to sages

Age 12, leaves home for vairagya (renunciation)

“Inayat's father saw that he had a great tendency towards vairagya, a solitary and ascetic life in the forests or caves of the mountains and that he always longed for that, and by showing the great importance of the life in the world, he brought about that balance in Inayat's thought which prepared him for his work in the future. He told him that the man who thought deeply on life and helped his fellow men, was greater than the one who dwelt in the forest and thought deeply for himself. ... He said the world was created for some purpose and that purpose can best be fulfilled by living for one's fellow man and loving him and in this way living for God and loving God.”

Rahmat Khan on *adab* (an upright, proper, and elegant manner), reflected in Pirzadi Shahida Noor's lesson “Little Inayat” (in *Dream Flowers*) and the Chivalric Rules (in the *Vadan*)

“Great initiation” communicated to Inayat at 13 (*Confessions*)

“One evening in the summertime I was kneeling on the house roof offering my *Namaz* to Allah the Great when the thought smote me that although I had been praying so long with all trust, devotion and humility, no revelation had been vouchsafe to me and it was therefore not safe to worship him, that One whom I had neither seen nor fathomed. I went to my grandfather [Maulabakhsh] and told I would not offer any more prayers to Allah until I had both beheld and gaged him. Instead of being vexed, Maulabakhsh was pleased with my inquisitiveness, and after a little silence, he answered me by quoting a Sura of the Qur'an: “We will show them our signs, in the world and in themselves, that the truth be manifested to them” and then he soothed my impatience by saying: “The signs of God are seen in the world and the world is seen in thyself.” These words entered so deeply into my spirit, that from this time every moment of my life has been occupied with the thought of divine immanence, and my eyes were thus opened as the eyes of the young man by Elijah, to see the symbols of God in all the aspects of nature and also in that nature which is reflected within myself. This sudden illumination made everything appear so clearly to me as in a crystal well or a translucent jewel. Henceforth I devoted myself to the absorption and attainment of truth, the immortal and perfected grace.”

Also Rahmat Khan's answer (*The Story of my Mystical Life*)

“Then I went back home. So I asked my father: "What is God, really?" He answered with a Persian verse, which gives a picture of the secret of God:

*The bubble [drop] can say to the sea,
"thou art no different from me
and I am no different from thee.
Though thou art the perfect,*

*while I am the imperfect being,
yet thou art not separate from me,
nor I from thee."*

This little hint of the relation between God and man was enough. I needed no more explanation. It was as if a seed had been sown in the fertile ground of my heart and it grew from that time. Whatever I saw ever after, whatever I heard, whatever I tasted, I kept thinking of the secret of my life."

Maulabakhsh dies when Inayat Khan is 14.

Nepal (*The Story of my Mystical Life*)

"After we reached the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu, I was given a still better opportunity. Why? Because instead of being expected to go to school, I was given a very nice horse and I rode on it to the forest, the hills, the mountains; sometimes I went on foot and sat on the rocks and thought about the deep things, wherever my mind would take me, wherever my feelings might take me. Whenever they were not stopped, I gave free expression to my thoughts and feelings. The openness of Nature made a free way for me to everything; so much freedom in my soul that it could reach up to the sun, the mountains, the hills and the trees, where there is no one to talk to, no one to trouble you, as one sits quietly listening to the sounds as they fall on the ear; the sounds of the wind, the waterfalls — so that one becomes one with Nature. It was like this all the time. My father did not know what I was really doing. He only knew that I was very fond of going about. But I did not know what I was doing either! Only this, that there was something in me which was being revealed, something that was becoming free, going out of me and meeting with something which belonged to it. Sometimes I recited verses. Sometimes I wrote songs, sometimes I hummed to myself. Sometimes I was quiet, sometimes I shed tears, sometimes I smiled for no apparent reason, as if nature was saying something to me with so much sympathy. It is as if we were not two, but one. Sometimes I was looking at it, and then closed my eyes, and there came such a peace, such calmness, such stillness — a vision of wonder — I knew not what it was that came about, except that the sorrow and sadness and loneliness produced by the passing of my grandfather was forgotten. Then after a year I returned home."

Dr Alaoddin Pathan's return: suits and Western music

Professor at the Gayanshala, authored textbooks including *Balasangitmala*, promoted musical education of girls

Death of Karamat and Khadija Bi when Inayat Khan is 20

“Between Inayat and his mother understanding grew greater day by day, making their lives more wrapped up in each other; and it was a sudden blow to Inayat when his mother passed away after a very brief illness. Then once again the world appeared to him in a new light. It seemed to him as if there had been a shelter under which he had taken refuge from every hurt and harm coming from the world; and now that this shelter was removed and he found himself deprived of it, he realized by this two things: that with all love and kindness the father cannot fill the place of the mother, and that true love, unlimited, self-sacrificing and above all passion, is the mother's love, which cannot be compared with any other; and that the mother's love is a divine blessing, and if there be any sign of God's mercy and compassion, it is truly in the love of the mother.”

“Mother” poem (in the *Diwan* of Hazrat Inayat Khan)

Death of Karamat Khan when Inayat Khan was 18; death of Khadija Bi two years later

Two marriages: Ulma Bi, daughter of Alaoddin Pathan, then Amiran Bi

Travels to Ajmer, other cities, and finally Hyderabad, aged 21

Shaikh al-Mashaikh on the Maulabakhsh Khandan

Phrase: *Chiragh roshan murad hasil* - “The lamp is lit, the desire is attained”

Practice:

- Say it 11 times on the breath
 - Silent *fikr*
Exhaling: *Chiragh roshan*
Inhaling: *murad hasil*
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Upcoming Events & Links

Sufi Healing Service for the World

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/sufi-healing-service-for-the-world/>

The Sufi Tarot – Readings & Reflections

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/the-sufi-tarot-readings-reflections/>

Seven Supports for Meditation

Thursday April 20th, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/seven-supports-for-meditation/>

New Rain Attunement

Thursday, April 20th, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/new-rain-attunement/>

Kinship Circles – Courageous Conversations

Friday, April 21st, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/kinship-circles-iii/>

Music and Mysticism

Friday, April 21st, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/music-and-mysticism/>

Earth day Gathering

Saturday, April 22nd, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/earth-day-2023/>

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