



Inayatiyya

A Sufi Path of Spiritual Liberty

THE BIOGRAPHY OF PIR-O-MURSHID HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN CLASS #3 NOTES

SUNDAY, 30TH APRIL 2023

Guest speaker: Jelaluddin Moskalev

QUOTES & NOTES

Musical attunement: [Shakuntala](#).

Murshid on humor:

“Without humor, life is empty. Moreover, humor is the sign of light from above. When that light touches the mind, it tickles it and it is the tickling of the mind that produces humor.”

All four lineages – Chishtiyya, Suhrawardiyya, Qadiriyya, Naqshbandiyya – were received together by Murshid from Sayyid Abu Hashim Madani.

America, France, Russia (1910-1914)

Hejirat day is celebrated on September 13th. Hejirat day is the day of going forth into lands beyond – when Murshid and his brothers set off from Baroda.

Maheboob Khan had a gentle, fine disposition. The depth of his being comes through his music. His compositions – musical interpretations of the Gayan, Vadan, Nirtan – are the core repertoire of our Indic-Western body of songs.

Mohamed Ali Khan was a powerful figure, a sportsman and also a healer.

Musharaff Khan joined in 1912.

Together they formed The Royal Musicians of Hindustan.

Inayat Khan 1910-1919 (Fourth row from the bottom, second column): [Royal Musicians of Hindustan, c1914. HIK21](#).

From Murshid while he was on the ship:

“The ocean that I had to cross seemed to me a gulf between the life that was passed and the life which was to begin. I spent my moments on the ship looking at the rising and falling of the waves and realizing in this rise and fall the picture of life reflected, the life of individuals, of nations, of races, and of the world. ... I tried to think where I was going, why I was going, what I was going to do, what was in store for me. ‘How shall I set to work? Will the people be favorable or unfavorable to the Message which I am taking from one end of the world to the other?’ It seemed my mind moved curiously on these questions, but my heart refused to ponder upon them even for a moment, answering apart one constant voice I always heard coming from within, urging me constantly onward to my task, saying: ‘Thou art sent on Our service, and it is We Who will make thy way clear.’ This alone was my consolation. This period while I was on the way, was to me a state which one experiences between a dream and an awakening; my whole part in India became one single dream, not a purposeless dream, but a dream preparing me to accomplish something toward which I was proceeding.”

Seeing wings on the Statue of Liberty: “Its wings suggested to me that it wanted to rise from national liberty to world liberty.” (“The tendency of the mystic is to turn everything into that which he wishes it to be.”)

Immediately struck by the fast-paced life of New York City: “Everything seemed moving, not only the trains but even the stations...”

Introducing Indian music: “My music which was most valued as science and art was put to a hard test in a foreign land, where it was as the old coins brought to a currency bank.”

“For the Message the time was not yet ripe, I was at that time rather studying the psychology of the people than teaching.”

He gave a lecture at Columbia University and met Ruth St. Denis who was a pioneer of modern dance, an Orientalist artist.

On tour with St. Denis: “Our music became as a color and fragrance to an artificial flower... For the public, which was for amusement, our music became merely an entertainment... This was an amusement for them, and therefore painful for us.”

Lectures at the universities of Los Angeles and Berkeley.

Meeting Rabia Martin at the Vedanta Society temple. He initiates her in Seattle – his first murid.

The Four Murshidas (second row, first column): [Murshida Rabia Ada Martin. FM6](#)

As he had to travel, he instructed her by mail.

In New York he is a guest of Baba Bharati, who is a Bhakti Yoga teacher.

He initiates C.H.A. Bjerregaard of the Astor Library.

An infiltrator took initiation to spy on Murshid.

Murshid speaking of Ora Ray Baker: "If I can recall any great achievement in America, it was to have found the soul who was destined to be my life's partner."

Ameena Begum (first row, last column): [Ameena Begum. AB8.](#)

On African Americans: "In every position of outward humiliation he is put to, he stands upright with a marvelous spirit... The color prejudice in some nations of Europe is even more, but it is often hidden under the garment of politeness."

Article on Murshid in the Washington Post of 1914. The fear-mongering story describes him as a mesmerist, enchanting innocent young white women by the force of his personality: "The dark liquid eyes of the preacher are luminous with emotion... fair bosoms rise and fall, for a major part of the audience is women. The atmosphere is electrical. A new sensation is experienced; there is something new to think of, an attraction springs up between teacher and pupils and a new religion or a new obsession is formed and propagated. With American women for disciples and a dark skinned hierophant from the mountains of Afghanistan as the master."

In 1912, travels to England and meets various musicologists. "In music I found little response." He is encouraged to travel to France, where his music would be more appreciated.

Travels to Paris in 1913; Edmond Bailly, Debussy, Isadora Duncan. Occult writer Henri Antoine Jules-Bois becomes a murid.

Murshid's first book, *A Sufi Message of Spiritual Liberty* came out first in French.

Frontispiece to 1914 English edition painted by H.H. Thurburn.

Inayat Khan 1910-1919 (Fourth row from the bottom of the page, fourth column): [1913 print of painting by MH Thurburn. HIK20.](#)

A Sufi Message of Spiritual Liberty then came out in Russian, and only then did it come out in English.

Some words of Murshid during this period: "I found that a man today in the West is agitated, not only against the Church, but also against the autocrat God, who works without a parliament, and no one before His government has a vote... The

modern man does not want anyone to be superior to himself.. If there is anything that appeals to him it is to know of the divine character to be found in the innermost nature of man... I had the greatest difficulty to modify my teachings, which are of democratic spirit but of aristocratic form, to those quite opposed to the presentation of the God-ideal in religious form... The religious man thought he had a religion, I was intruding upon his belief... The unbeliever thought I was interfering with his disbelief, which he continuously guarded against my invasions.”

Back to London in 1913, then to Russia where he misunderstood an invitation, finding himself at Maxim’s, a nightclub where his music was not understood in an atmosphere of gaiety.

Secret interview at orthodox church: “The only wonder to them was, how could the truth exist in such a perfect form, as I did present, outside their Church, which alone they had so far believed to be the center of all truth.”

Murshid was warmly welcomed by Scriabin who was envisioning a multimedia performance to take place in the himalayas; an interreligious, inter-artistic event that would bring about a transformation in the world.

Murshid initiated Mr Balakhin who was sent to keep an eye on him and who then confessed he was a spy. Murshid said, “That is alright, you serve your government and I serve my government.”

Murshid returns to Paris for a musical congress; WWI breaks out in August 1914, and the family returns to London.

[Archive](#) of newspaper and magazine cuttings from around the world provided by Jelaluddin Moskalev.

Phrase: La ilaha illa’llahu (201 times, or 33 times)

Upcoming Events & Links

Seven Supports for Meditation

Thursday May 4th, 2023

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

Hurqalya Attunement

Thursday, May 4th, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/hurqalya-weekly-attunement/>

Music and Mysticism

Friday, May 5th, 2023

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

An introduction to Knighthood

Saturday, May 6th, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/an-introduction-to-knighthood/>

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