



Inayatiyya

A Sufi Path of Spiritual Liberty

# THE BIOGRAPHY OF PIR-O-MURSHID HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN CLASS #6 NOTES

SUNDAY, 21<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023

Guest speaker: Shaikh al-Mashaikh Mahmood Khan

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*The Biography of Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan*

Four Articles in Part III: *Journal*

In these articles Murshid reveals something of his mind, feelings and personality as he functioned in the strange new Western world and what he had to go through in persisting in representing Sufism.

**Review of Religions:** Murshid discusses religions and ideological movements. His critique of Protestantism mirrors the dissatisfaction his Protestant murids related to him.

**Organization:** Murshid speaks about the different attitudes people took in joining and participating in his work and the problems that it gave rise to. More critical perception of his experiences of working in the West in an organized way.

**East & West:** An explanation of the different approaches and different cultures.

**Music:** The element of music was a culmination of Murshid's work. Presents the absorption in music and how that opened the way for mysticism.

## The Final Years and Legacy

Summer School 1925: Philosophy, Psychology, Mysticism.

1926: America

Meeting Henry Ford: “[Ford:] ‘I think if one meditates too much there is not likely to be much work done!’ [Murshid:] ‘But if one meditates somewhat, there will really be much more work done, and better done, and with it will be happiness and peace. I do not preach the denial of the things of this world, nor do I condemn worldly accomplishment. I preach only that with the things we must do here in the material world there must also be real attainment in the world of the spirit.’”

### [Newspaper Article in the Detroit News](#)

### [Fairfax Retreat Centre, USA.](#)

Summer School 1926: Education, Art, Philosophy, Psychology, Mysticism.

September 13, 1926: Cornerstone.

### [Fazal Manzil and cornerstone. Photograph from September 1932.](#)

Murshid and Pirzade Vilayat, with Sirdar van Tuyll in the background, 13 September 1926, [Confraternity ceremony. Sufi Garden, Suresnes, France.](#)

There were disagreements between the headquarters (Fazal Manzil, Suresnes) and the headquarters (Geneva). The Municipality expropriated the land and it became impossible to build the Universel in the place Murshid intended. In 1970 under the leadership of Md. Musharaff a Universel was built in Holland, Murad Hassil, the dune which Murshid named as the place of wish fulfilment.

### [Murad Hassil, Katwijk, Netherlands.](#)

In 1990, Pir Vilayat built a Universel chapel dedicated to Pirzadi-Shahida Noor in Suresnes.

### [Universel, Suresnes.](#)

Illness on and off since 1925.

“One day I was in Murshid's room and he looked so sad, so sad, so suffering, as though the sorrow of the whole world was upon him. I felt this so strongly that at last I broke the silence and asked, ‘Murshid, do you feel the grief of the world?’ ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘everything, everything.’ Later I asked him, ‘Murshid, don’t you long for your native country?’ ‘Yes,’ was the answer. ‘Do you think you will go back there?’ ‘Yes, but then my task will be fulfilled.”

Travels in India: Karachi, Lahore, Delhi, Amroha, Lucknow, Benares, Agra, Sikandra, Ajmer, Jaipur, Baroda.

Lecture at Delhi University on Sufism and the challenges that India needed to reckon with, especially with regard to the polarization between Hindu and Muslim communities.

Stay with Khwaja Hasan Nizami, visit to Ajmer, and at last his death at [Tilak Lodge](#) on Feb. 5, 1927.

Poem sent to murids at the end of 1926:

Before you judge my actions,  
Lord, I pray, you will forgive.  
Before my heart has broken,  
Will you help my soul to live?  
Before my eyes are covered,  
Will you let me see your face?  
Before my feet are tired,  
May I reach your dwelling-place?  
Before I wake from slumber,  
You will watch me, Lord, I hold.  
Before I throw my mantle,  
Will you take me in your fold?  
Before my work is over,  
You, my Lord, will right the wrong.  
Before you play your music,  
Will you let me sing my song?

[Inayat Khan's Dargah, Delhi, India.](#)

## Anecdotes

"You have nicely said to us, Murshid, how Sufism is one with all religions. Now please tell us, what is the difference between Sufism and other religions." The Murshid says, "The difference is that it casts away all differences."

Someone said to Murshid, "In your writings I read two things which contradict each other." Murshid said, "Take one of those two things with which you are in agreement and forget the other."

Someone asked Murshid, "Are you a pessimist?" He said, "No, an optimist, but with open eyes."

Someone said to Murshid, "I heard them talk against you." "Did they?" said he. "Have you also heard anyone speak kindly of me?" "Yes," the person exclaimed. "Then," said Murshid, "that is what is the light and shade to life's picture, making the picture complete."

Someone asked Murshid, "Are you the head of the Sufi Order?" "No, God," he said. "And you?" asked the man. "The foot," said he.

Someone from the audience asked Murshid after his lecture: "And what do you think of the coming of Christ?" "He has never gone for me," said Murshid.

Once, walking through the city of New York with a friend, the friend asked: "Murshid, I have read your Sufi ideas, but they are not broad enough for me." "Certainly, they are not as broad," said Murshid, "as the Broadway of New York."

## Essays

East and West: "I see as clear as daylight that the hour is coming when woman will lead humanity to a higher evolution."

Organization: "And now I got so accustomed to this condition that I feel it is natural for it to be so. But nothing in the world would discourage me. If there were not one single coin towards carrying on the work, if there was not one soul standing by my side to assist me in my work, I would still work to my last breath. For my entire strength comes from that Source, Whose Message it is, which I am destined to give. My only satisfaction, therefore, is in having done my best, and it does not matter under what circumstances."

## Abiding presence

“And, as I am leaving you all, that does not mean I really leave you. I am with you. If I am far away from you, I am closer to you for the very reason that I am away from you. In your prayers and practices and studies and meditations you will feel me with you. In your difficulties and troubles my sympathies and prayers and blessings and thoughts will be with you; and to the extent you are conscious of it you will feel it and it will be manifested to you.”

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

A murid said: “Somebody said to me, ‘What a privilege it is to have known Murshid personally!’ I said that it was a still greater privilege not to have known Murshid and yet to have that great devotion towards him. For I was fully aware that this personal tie was in a certain sense an impediment, for it made the person so important to us that it concealed his real greatness. One could not help loving that winning personality, so full of charm, so divinely serene and dignified. And when the person of Murshid had left us, I had the feeling that the spirit of Murshid had spread through the whole universe and that only now we could see the greatness of that over which his personality was only a veil: the Message.”

“You must find your ideal in yourself; no ideal in life will prove lasting and true except the one you yourself make.”

"My mureeds, I shall never be parted from you. I shall always be with you, for when you listen in silence I shall speak to your heart."

*Vadan:*

My thoughts I have sown on the soil of your mind;  
My love has penetrated your heart;  
My word I have put into your mouth;  
My light has illuminated your whole being;  
My work I have given into your hand.

Image of [Hazrat Inayat Khan](#), 1926.

**Practice:**

Phrase: Help me to serve Thy Cause

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## Upcoming Events & Links

The Lexicon of the Sufis  
Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/the-lexicon-of-the-sufis/>

Sufi Healing Service for the World  
Wednesday, May 23rd, 2023

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

Sufi Teachings & Suhbat w/ Pir Zia Inayat Khan  
Thursday, May 25th - Sunday May 28th, 2023

<https://inayatiyya.org/event/sufi-teachings-suhbat/>

Hurqalya Attunement  
Thursday, May 25th, 2023

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

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