

THE FORMAL ZIRAAT LODGE

Sufi Invocation

All together, preferably standing

Toward the One, the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty, the Only Being, united with all the Illuminated Souls, who form the embodiment of the Messenger, the Spirit of Guidance.

Ziraat Invocation

Lodge leader standing, hands raised, palms upward

We invoke the Presence of the Sovereign of the Farm.
We offer our wholehearted devotion to the Great Farmer.

Greetings

Lodge leader standing

Leader: Our faithful greetings to you, our Ziraat Family.

Members: Our respectful greetings to you, our Experienced Farmer /Farmer /Lodge Leader.

Salutations to the Elements

All together, preferably standing

**O, all-productive Earth,
we humbly offer our homage to Thee.**

Standing straight, arms down slightly out from sides, palms parallel to the earth

**O, all-purifying Water,
we willingly offer our homage to Thee.**

Hands at forehead, fingers pointing downwards almost touching, imitating water dripping

**O, all-consuming Fire,
we wholeheartedly offer our homage to Thee.**

Hands crossed over head, right in front of left, fingers upward, imitating a flame

**O, all-pervading Air,
we gladly offer our homage to Thee.**

Arms in the same position as above wrists crossed waving slightly front-to-back

**O, Ether, essence of all,
we passively offer our homage to Thee.**

Arms crossed over chest, right over left, with hands on shoulders

The Ziraat Dialogue

Between two designated attendees

For what purpose have we assembled here?

For Farming

What is the length of the Farm?

As long as time

What is the breadth of the Farm?

As broad as space

To whom does the Farm belong?

It is our parents' heritage

What is the Farmer's religion?

The Farmer's work

With what attitude does the Farmer work?

The Farmer ploughs with toil, sows with hope and reaps with joy.

What is the achievement of the Farmer?

A successful harvest

What are the principles of the Farmer?

Good seed is more precious than pearls; Fertile soil is more valuable than gold; That an experienced Farmer can make greater riches by sowing, than a moneylender by the interest earned on money.

Of what does Farming consist?

*Mainly of three kinds of work:
ploughing, sowing and reaping*

What fertilizes the soil?

Cultivation

What nourishes the land?

Water

What raises the crops?

The Sun

At what time of day is ploughing done?

At dawn

At what time of day is sowing done?

At sunrise

When does the Farmer take the midday rest?

When the sun reaches its zenith

At what time of day is reaping done?

Towards sunset

What does a Farmer do at night?

The Farmer keeps watch

What does a Farmer do during the day?

The Farmer works

When does a Farmer begin work?

When the moon is waxing

When does a Farmer rest from work?

When the moon is waning

The Address of the Great Farmer

I should like to speak a few words upon the need of cultivation of our souls, our hearts and of our minds. The human in essence of being is divine. The source from which the human soul has come is the Eternal One. But in order to manifest in human form, the soul has to pass through different phases, and the process through which the human soul manifests, being conscious and afterwards unconscious is when the soul realizes, "I am a human being".

In the journey, the soul has passed not only through the angelic and djinn spheres, but through rocks and plants and through lower creation it has risen to become human.

Therefore, through all the names and forms we see in this world, even of the smallest germs and insects, the soul is working out its perfection to express itself in humanity.

A picture of the journey may be made as if an angel from the highest Heaven came down and descended to the lowest depths of the earth and from there, feeling after and longing for the Paradise it has left, has worked its way through the lower creation and arrived at the form of the human being.

Although in essence, even after touching the deepest depths of the earth, the soul is divine. In order to realize for itself that Divine Element, it has a task waiting even after being [becoming] human, and it is the manner in which that task is accomplished and the object gained which is called Ziraat, in which we all unite to offer our homage to the Sovereign of the Farm.

Initiations

Any Reception of Laborers is conducted here in the Formal Lodge

Reading from Ziraat Teachings (Optional)

Meditation on Ziraat Teachings (Optional)

Salutations to the Elements

Preferably standing, all together, performed silently, with hand positions

Closing

Traditionally done by the Leader, but others may join

Let us depart, knowing ourselves the willing workers of the Sovereign of the Farm, in whose service is Perfect Freedom.

Prayer Khatum (Optional)

O Thou, who art the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty, The Sovereign of heaven and earth, open our hearts, that we may hear Thy Voice, which constantly comes from within.

Disclose to us Thy Divine Light, which is hidden in our souls, that we may know and understand life better.

Most Merciful and Compassionate God,
Give us Thy great Goodness,
Teach us Thy loving Forgiveness,
Raise us above the distinctions and differences
which divide us.

Send us the Peace of Thy Divine Spirit,
And unite us all in Thy Perfect Being. Amen
