

INITIATION CEREMONIES

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Traditional Reception of Laborers

The Initiator asks someone to present the Laborer(s) for initiation.

Initiator:

Are there any Laborers who wish to work on the Farm?

Presenter: *Here is a Laborer, wishing to toil, who is asking for work on the Farm.*

or Laborer: *I am a Laborer, wishing to toil and am asking for work on the Farm.*

Initiator: Have you decided to devote yourself to the work?

Laborer: *I have, Experienced Farmer /Farmer.*

Initiator: Will you be regular in your work?

Laborer: *I will, Experienced Farmer/ Farmer.*

Initiator: What wage do you ask?

Laborer: *Gold and silver, Experienced Farmer/Farmer.*

Initiator: In what form do you desire it?

Laborer: *In the coin which is current in the North, in the South, in the East, in the West.*

Initiator: I will engage this Laborer.

Method of Ploughing

The initiator may choose to say a few words about the use of the term plough being used symbolically rather than as a preferred farming technique.

Initiator: Let us listen to the Method of Ploughing taught by the Great Farmer.

Before a field can be sown with fresh seed, everything previously sown there must be cleared away, the field left empty and bare to the purifying rains and winds of God.

But even that is not enough, for underneath the brown earth, deep down and hidden from sight, there may be many old roots and stems of a past Harvest.

All these must be uprooted before the sowing can begin. This is the work of the Plougher who, once having begun work, must continue to the end, for “no one having put their hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.”

Every part of the field must be ploughed up and the furrows made straight and deep. From Sunrise to Sunset must one labor until the field is ready for sowing. Nevertheless, of this task one must not weary, for in the heart of the Plougher is the joy of a fresh beginning and the labor of one’s hands shall be blessed. In the solitude of one’s toil, one shall not feel alone for, in one’s Soul one heareth the “Song of Return”.

Initiator:

Have you listened to all that has been said about Ploughing?

Laborer: *I have, Experienced Farmer /Farmer.*

Initiator: Are you then ready to accept your work?

Laborer: *I am, Experienced Farmer /Farmer.*

Initiator:

Then, Laborer, I accept you as a Worker in the Name of the Sovereign of the Farm.

Know that from this moment, you begin your work on the Farm with the Farmer under the direction of the Great Farmer.

So, please repeat after me:

I will feel my responsibility.

I will do my duty.

I will not be weary.

I will seal my lips.

Initiator:

With palms forward toward the Worker

May your labor be approved by the Sovereign of the Farm.

In the Name of God, the Sovereign of the Farm, I bless you.

Lightly touch the top of the head of the Worker and without touching the Worker, move hands downward on either side of the Worker.

Non-Traditional Reception of Laborers

Initiator: Are there those present who wish to be initiated in the Ziraat Activity?

They stand and face the initiator

Initiator: Initiation in Ziraat is a vow to work on one's inner spiritual life and to act in accordance with one's realization. Have you decided to devote yourself to this work?

Laborer: *I have.*

Initiator: This requires that regular attention be given to one's work. Will you be regular in your work?

Laborer: *I will.*

Initiator: The fruits of your work, inwardly and outwardly, are precious, for they lead to the fulfillment of your life's purpose. Do you understand that these fruits are the compensation for your work?

Laborer: *I do.*

Initiator: I will engage this Laborer.

Method of Ploughing (Optional)

Initiator: You will now make several vows.

The first is, I will feel my responsibility.

This means that you will be attentive to evolving spiritually and be sensitive to the needs of the world.

Please repeat after me:

I will feel my responsibility.

The second is, I will do my duty.

This means that you will be dedicated to your responsibility.

Repeat after me:

I will do my duty.

The third is, I will not be weary.

This means that no matter how challenging your work is, that you will not give up.

Repeat after me:

I will not be weary.

The fourth is, I will seal my lips.

Murshid says, “The secret of all attainment is centered in reserve. Spiritual or material, when a person has told his plans to others, he has let out the energy that he should have kept as a reservoir of power for the accomplishment of his object.”

And he says, “The wise speak with their mind many times before they speak about it to anybody.” This means that you must use discretion with whom you share your Ziraat work.

Repeat after me:

I will seal my lips.

Additional Vows (Optional)

Initiator: I recognize and accept this Worker as a companion on the Ziraat path.

Initiator:

With palms forward toward the Worker

May your labor be approved by the Sovereign of the Farm.

In the Name of God, the Sovereign of the Farm, I bless you.

Lightly touch the top of the head of the Worker and, without touching the Worker, move hands downward on either side of the Worker.

Additional Vows (Optional)

Initiator:

Will you honor and protect the Earth with gratitude, allowing Earth's generosity to transform that which you no longer need, and allowing Earth's fertile seedbed to nurture your service in the world?

Laborer: *I will.*

Initiator:

Will you honor and protect the Water with gratitude, allowing Water to wash away that which you no longer need, and allowing the flow of life-giving Water to give growth to your initiatives of service in the world?

Laborer: *I will.*

Initiator:

Will you honor and protect the Fire with gratitude, allowing Fire to burn away that which you no longer need, and allowing Fire to fill you with light and warmth, and motivate your endeavors in the world?

Laborer: *I will.*

Initiator:

Will you honor and protect the Air with gratitude, allowing Air to blow away that which you no longer need, and allowing Air to creatively inspire you in your service to the world?

Laborer: *I will.*

Initiator:

Will you honor the Ether with gratitude, allowing Ether to disclose to you the essence of Life, your interconnectedness with all beings, in the unity of the One?

Laborer: *I will.*
