

ZIRAAT NEWSLETTER

North America & Oceania

July 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ziraat Retreat with Pir Zia 2023

Zenith Camp W2: (30 Jul – 5 Aug)

This event is being offered Online as well as in person. Recordings will be sent to those who have registered.

[Online Schedule & Registration:](#)

(Standard CHF 300 / Reduced CHF 200)

Zenith Institute plan to make the full set of recordings available for purchase after the event. (CHF 180)

Ziraat Online Fall 2023 Series:

[Ziraat Papers Insights & Reflections](#)

2nd Friday on month (Sept – Dec)

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Photo: Wali Via

***As the light of the sun helps the plant to grow,
so the divine Spirit helps the soul towards its perfection.***

Hazrat Inayat Khan (Bowl of Saki, April 8)

SOLSTICE TRANSITIONS

Towards the end of June, Ziraat Lodges are often held as a ritual to mark the Solstice – a time of transition for all of us, no matter where we live. The energy and light of the sun has a powerful symbolic and mystical presence at the time of the solstice.

Even though it is the Earth rotating and revolving around the sun on its tilted axis, at this time of year, when the sun reaches its highest or lowest elevation in the sky, it appears to be stationary and the name "solstice" (derived from Latin: *sol* – sun and *sistere* – to stand still), was given by ancient astronomers.

It's the Summer Solstice (longest day) for those living in the Northern Hemisphere and prayers of gratitude are offered to the Sun and to the life-sustaining Light – for the long, active, light-hearted summer days and hoped-for bountiful harvest.

At the same time in the South, it's the Winter Solstice (shortest day) and prayers of gratitude are offered for survival through the long winter-nights and the hoped-for return of the Light. Thoughts turn to the tasks to be undertaken in the months ahead – preparing the ground for planting and sowing.

***In Summer the Masters feel December frosts,
In sunbeams they detect shadows,
In grapes, they taste the wine
In emptiness they find everything they were looking for.***

(Rumi Wisdom, by Timothy Freke, p52)



TEACHINGS – HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN

Vol XI – Part III: Mysticism - Chap XVI: The Vision of the Mystic

As there is a season for everything, as there is a fixed time for nature to manifest, so there is a season for every happening. Good luck, bad luck, rise, fall, health, illness, success, and failure all depend upon a certain time. There is a time for every season as well as every experience; and as there is a time for birth so there is a time for death. Every thought, every action, and every condition has a birth and a death, and each has a fixed time. When one has become convinced of the fact that every happening is brought about by time and is fixed at a certain time, then naturally one develops faith. Then one believes that what is not realized today will be realized tomorrow, some day.

The great drawback we find in humanity today is its lack of patience.

Supplementary Papers – Art and Music I

What do we see as the principal expression of life in the beauty visible before us?

It is movement: in line in color, in the changes of the seasons, in the rising and falling of the waves, in the wind, in the storm, in all the beauty of nature there is constant movement. It is this movement which has caused day and night, and the changing seasons; and this movement has given us the comprehension of what we call time; otherwise there would be no time, for it is eternity. And this teaches that all we love and admire, observe and comprehend, is the life hidden behind, and that life is our Being. It is owing to our limitations that we cannot see the whole Being of God, but all that we love in color, line, form, or personality, all that is beloved by us, belongs to the real beauty, Who is the Beloved of all.

Vol II – Part I: The Mysticism of Sound – Chap IV: Rhythm

A keen observation shows that the whole universe is a single mechanism working by the law of rhythm; the rise and fall of the waves, the ebb and flow of the tide, the waxing and waning of the moon, the sunrise and the sunset, the change of the seasons, the moving of the earth and of the planets, the whole cosmic system and the constitution of the entire universe are working under the law of rhythm.

Cycles of rhythm, with major and minor cycles interpenetrating, uphold the whole creation in their swing. This demonstrates the origin of manifestation: that motion has sprung from the motionless life, and that every motion must necessarily result in a dual aspect. As soon as you move a stick, the single movement will make two points, the one where it starts and the other where it ends, the one strong and the other weak; to these a music conductor will count 'one, two,' 'one, two,' a strong accent and a weak accent: one motion with two effects, each distinct and different from the other. It is this mystery that lies hidden under the dual aspect of all phases and forms of life; and the reason, cause, and significance of all life is found in rhythm.

PRACTICES

Nature Meditation

Repeat each phrase silently on the breath (11 times) and then continue to breathe without the words.

Inhale: In the light – I see Thy beauty

Exhale: In shade – I find Thy mystery

Contemplate these questions from the Ziraat Dialogue

What fertilizes the soil? Cultivation

What nourishes the land? Rain

What raises the crops? The Sun



Emerald Contemplation (10)

My conscientious self: delight in the sun, the rain, the trees, the creatures, the soil, the breeze.

ZIRAAT SOLSTICE MESSAGE – Wali Via (Dar-us-salam)

The different times of the year stimulate in us different moods and inclinations. For instance, during the winter much of nature moves toward dormancy or relative dormancy. How wonderful when our lives mesh with Nature's rhythms and we are able during the winter to take time to reflect and go within. But our modern lives may call us to be quite active during the winter months. When our lives require us to be out of sync with nature's rhythms, can we still honor and use that rhythm within us? For instance, if we are embarking on a new initiative in the Winter, an activity naturally suited to the Spring, can we bring the inner reflections and attunements of Springs of the past to inspire our forward movement?

During the winter Nature's cycle asks us to care for the seeds produced by the previous year's harvest, we garner. We hold those seeds in our awareness and their value in our hearts. This is not only a physical reality for farmers, but is true in relation to our lives. What do we hold dear? What do we wish to unfold further in our lives?

With the coming of spring comes the time for sowing. It is a time for action. The seeds we plant, literally and figuratively, germinate, the new plants grow and develop, often flowering and even setting young fruit.

With summer, comes an intensification of light and heat, which brings ripening. At the summer solstice the length of light is at its pinnacle, yet it takes more time for the influence of the light's heat to overcome the chill of the preceding months, so heat intensifies after the solstice. What does ripening mean? With ripening comes quality as flavor, fragrance, and color develop. Likewise, initiatives we have undertaken need time to develop and ripen. We must be wise and not reap too soon, or the quality, the fulfillment of our intention will not be complete.

Fall brings the joy of the harvest and is the time of year to assess the harvest. As threshing and winnowing grain removes chaff, debris, and weed seed from the kernels of grain, so we must sort the yield of our efforts and life initiatives. What shall be retained as precious seeds for planting in the coming year and what will be added to the compost pile, bringing fertility for future crops.

If you live in the Southern Hemisphere, here is my winter solstice question for you.

What ideals do you carry deep within you, as seeds that you hold dear, to plant come spring?

And if you live in the Northern Hemisphere, here is my winter solstice question for you.

What is ripening in your life at this time and do you have the patience to allow it to develop qualitatively?

ZIRAAT COUNCIL – NORTH AMERICA & OCEANIA

Ziraat Newsletter

We hope you enjoy this new version of the Ziraat Newsletter, which will be issued on a quarterly basis around the time of the Solstice and Equinox.

Contributions are most welcome – please send to: ziraat.newsletter@gmail.com

Ziraat Council

When Wali began his role as Dar-us-salam (Vice President of Ziraat - North America and Oceania), he invited others with an interest in this Activity to join the Ziraat Council to help progress and complete a number of new projects.

Over the past 2 years, in conjunction with The Astana, the Council has established the Ziraat Spring and Fall online programs, the two discourse E-lists (General Ziraat list and Farmers list) and the [Ziraat website](#) for North America and Oceania. Current projects include this Newsletter and Ziraat curriculum.

The current members are: Wali Via, Shakur Johnson, Aziza Barker-Stanton, Saraswati Burke, Ata'allah Meacham, Vakil Inayat Culpepper, Jamia Haqq Paul (NZ), Nehmat Kyan (Aus). Kalyani Marshall has joined the Curriculum Committee. (See photos below.)

Please contact [Wali](#) if you are interested in helping with Ziraat projects or would like more information.

Updating Farmer Contacts

You can help us update the Ziraat Farmer and Experienced Farmer contact lists by reaching out to Farmers and Experienced Farmers that you know and asking them if they have been contacted by Ziraat in the last two years. If they haven't, or are not sure, please have them contact Wali.

Oceania Solstice Blessing



Photo: NASA

Seasons change and with each change, we have an opportunity to make changes too. Here in Aotearoa New Zealand we are celebrating, the arrival of **Matariki**.

Matariki is the name of a star cluster, commonly known as Pleiades, which rises on the horizon towards the end of June, it heralds also the Te Maatahi o te Tau, the Maori New Year. The arrival of Matariki is the time for people to gather, honour the dead, celebrate the present and make plans for the future.

For Aotearoa New Zealand this will be the 2nd year that this has become a Public Holiday.

So from our land, we wish all who read this, Happy New Year, and New Beginnings.
Many blessings to you all, Arohanui - Jamia Haqq

Method of Ploughing

***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".***

Hazrat Inayat Khan

FIRST MEMORIES OF ZIRAAT

Wali Via



In 1978 Pir Vilayat introduced Ziraat to the then Sufi Order of the West, first at the East Coast Summer Camp and later that year at one on the West Coast. I attended the latter one. Perhaps 10 of us lined up to be initiated. Cords had been prepared and dyed gold for the ceremony and Pir Vilayat initiated us each in turn. Then he looked us over with his piercing eagle eyes and selected my good friend Shakur to be the first West Coast Farmer. I remember talking and wondering with Shakur afterwards what this all meant. We both were clueless, but willing to faithfully carry on. A seed had been planted that was destined to germinate.

Owing to my geographic isolation, farming responsibilities, and general lack of funds I was never able to travel to the various Ziraat events that began to emerge in subsequent years, and rarely to other Sufi events. Ziraat primarily remained a personal concentration.

In 1979, at the Summer Camp at the Abode, I slipped Pir Vilayat a paper with some ideas about Ziraat. I had to leave the camp early and later heard that he had conducted a Ziraat session and was looking for me to initiate me as a Farmer. That initiation wasn't to happen until Kainat bestowed that responsibility upon me in 2011. Then in 2021, when Pir Zia appointed me Dar-us-salam (VP) of Ziraat for North America and Oceania, he initiated me as an Experienced Farmer.

My Ziraat journey has slowly developed over a span of 45 years. In this fast-paced world it is easy to become impatient. But rushing often doesn't allow for proper maturation. A farmer learns that creating a farm takes time. It is a never-ending process with each season and year adding significantly to the living being that is the farm. The farm, like each of us, is both steeped in our experience, and ever new, always evolving and further actualizing the divine potential within.



Shakur Johnson



My remembrance of being initiated into Ziraat by Pir Vilayat in 1978

We went to the West Coast Camp in southern California. Pir Vilayat was initiating the first people into Ziraat on the West Coast. I saw some cords that had been dyed by turmeric for our ceremony. We knew little about Ziraat except it had to do with farming and nature, as it had just been opened by Pir Vilayat.

It began to happen, and we were all in a line awaiting initiation. We recited some prayers, and each got one cord that was put over our right shoulder. Pir Vilayat then stated that he needed to make one of us a Farmer. He looked up and down our group. Then his eyes settled on me looking deep into my being and walked to me. We had a short ceremony and I read the Farmer's Dialogue with him. He then put a second cord on my left shoulder, and I was welcomed as the first Farmer on the West Coast.



I have been active in Ziraat doing Lodges and ceremonies in Oregon and at the Abode for over 45 years. I have done lots of Ziraat Activities and Lodges with Wali Via for many years. I have done a Lodge every month for 20 years and have done this mostly on Zoom the last 3 years. I have studied the Ziraat ceremony with Shahabuddin at Ziraat camps and with Kainat Sharifa Norton and Moinuddin for many years. Ziraat has been a big part of my life and continues to be.

Aziza Baker



Do I remember when I became a plower in Ziraat?

I remember hosting Shahabuddin for a Ziraat weekend when I lived in Austin and subsequently many lodges & weekends followed hosted by others.

The Ziraat ceremony was always outdoors, in a garden if available, usually sunrise, simple, direct, someone was asked to read the questions of the dialogue & we all answered. We were encouraged to memorize the Address of the Great Farmer. The ceremony connected us to each other and the space of the ceremony was sacred.

I continued to hold Lodges at various outdoor locations around Austin & we had a sweet community of murids who attended. Pir Zia initiated me as a Farmer w/ Thresher concentration so I could continue the work of the stations. Maybe that was at a Leaders Camp on Whitbey Island. There I met Asha and entered into many Ziraat conversations in following years.

I have a wonderful collection of Ziraat Newsletters and Rainbow Bridge Magazines from 80's and 90's. I am respectfully grateful to be re-involved with the Council.

May we continue to find the gems given us by the Great Farmer.



Kalyani Marshall



My experience in being exposed to the mystery of the Lodge called Ziraat.

It was a positive energy, something a person was drawn to. I recall having a Lodge during the Summer School at the Abode. We were divided into two groups, the Plowers, Harrowers, and Sowers in one group and the Reapers, Threshers and Farmers in the other group. We were asked for feedback on our experience at the conclusion, and it was amazingly different between the two groups. The Reapers, Threshers, and Farmers all had a high spiritual experience. The first group were on a lower plane. I could never do the Lodge in the evening for I would be opened to tremendous energy and couldn't sleep for hours. The Lodge is a special ritual which affects each of us personally.

I was at the Abode a lot, and always held a morning Lodge at the Ziraat Rock, the large boulder to the right as we approached the tent. I often led Ziraat workshops and the core energy was always the Lodge. I don't think any of us could say that we understood everything that we read, but our sincere intent was always present.

Now I think about the Ziraat Angel. No one has ever spoken about this possibility, but I wonder if the Angel feeds us individually on the spiritual path, through the Ziraat Lodge.

Other Council Members



Ata'allah



Saraswati



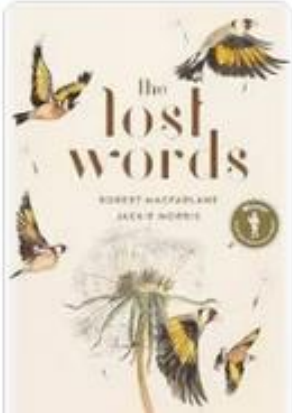
Jamia Haqq



Nehmat

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Lost Words



<https://thebirdsings.com/lost-words-blessing/>

The Lost Spells



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aDLTMb3ax8>

Lost Words Blessing

*Enter the wild with care, my love
And speak the things you see
Let new names take and root and thrive and grow
And even as you travel far from heather, crag and river
May you like the little fisher, set the stream alight with glitter
May you enter now as otter without falter into water*

*Look to the sky with care, my love
And speak the things you see
Let new names take and root and thrive and grow
And even as you journey on past dying stars exploding
Like the gilded one in flight, leave your little gifts of light
And in the dead of night my darling,
find the gleaming eye of starling
Like the little aviator, sing your heart to all dark matter*

*Walk through the world with care, my love
And sing the things you see
Let new names take and root and thrive and grow
And even as you stumble through machair sands eroding
Let the fern unfurl your grieving, let the heron still your breathing
Let the selkie swim you deeper, oh my little silver-seeker
Even as the hour grows bleaker, be the singer and the speaker
And in city and in forest, let the larks become your chorus
And when every hope is gone, let the raven call you home*

The Circle of Life - Marina Wiederkehr

*When I am able to hear the voiceless invitations
of the seasons of the earth,
I am almost always called to prayer:
a natural prayer that rises spontaneously
from a heart that has learned to listen to the moments.*



CONTACT:

Inayatiyya Ziraat – North America & Oceania

Email: ziraat@inayatiyya.org

Website: <https://inayatiyyaziraat.org/>

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