

ZIRAAT NEWSLETTER

North America & Oceania

September 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Ziraat Online Fall 2023 Series:](#)

Ziraat Papers: Insights & Reflections

- Sept 8th [Unearthing the Hidden](#) – Australian Ziraat Group
- Oct 13th [Our Attitude Toward the Work](#) – Mumtaz Kammerer
- Nov 10th [Ziraat & Ecology](#) – Tasnim Stupac
- Dec 8th [Doing Our Own Work](#) – Wali Via

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Photo: Shutterstock.com

The soul is either raised or cast down by the power of its own thought, speech and action.

Hazrat Inayat Khan (Bowl of Saki, September 8)

Said a blade of grass to an autumn leaf,

*"You make such a noise falling!
You scatter all my winter dreams."*

*Said the leaf indignant,
"Low-born and low-dwelling!
Songless, peevish thing!
You live not in the upper air
and you cannot tell the sound of singing."*

*Then the autumn leaf lay down upon the earth and slept.
And when spring came, she waked again
— and she was a blade of grass.*

*And when it was autumn
and her winter sleep was upon her,
and above her through all the air the leaves were falling,
she muttered to herself,
"O these autumn leaves! They make such noise!
They scatter all my winter dreams."*

Khalil Gibran (from [Rumi Hugs Facebook](#))

NATURE'S CYCLES

Did you see the "super blue moon" rise at the end of August?
Are the days getting longer or shorter where you live?

It's early spring here and I'm enjoying the changes in the early morning light and the spring flowers are so colourful.

The seasons have marched on and Summer has given way to Fall in the North, the deciduous trees are displaying their multicolored coats which will gently fall and cover the ground.

Oh, the delights of crunching through piles of Autumn leaves.

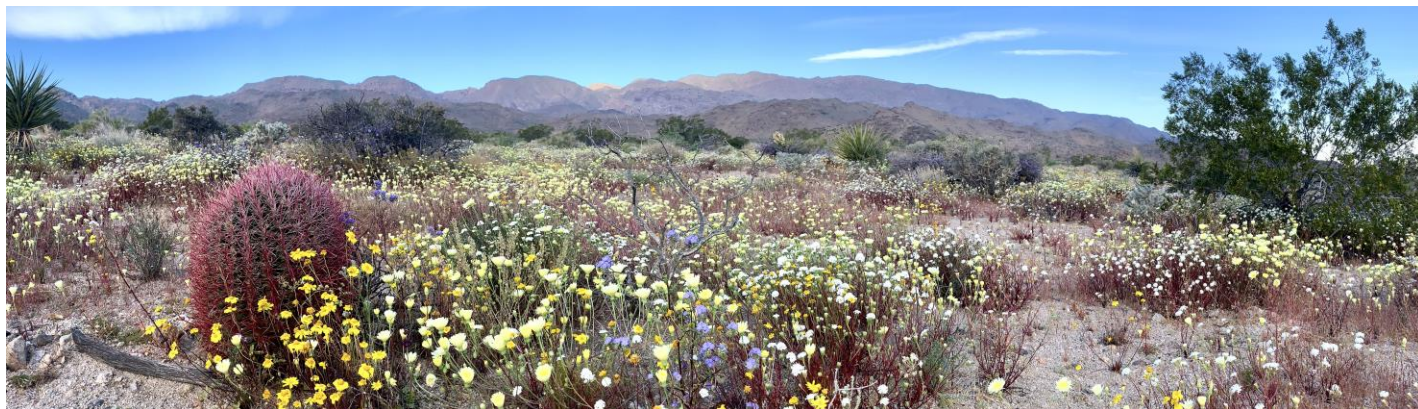


Photo: Wali Via

TEACHINGS – HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN

Vol I – Part I: Sufi Thoughts (viii)

There is One Object of Praise, the beauty which uplifts the heart of its worshippers through all aspects from the seen to the unseen.'

It is said in the Hadith, 'God is beautiful, and He loves beauty.'

This expresses the truth that the human, who inherits the Spirit of God, has beauty in him/her and loves beauty, although that which is beautiful to one is not beautiful to another. One cultivates the sense of beauty as one evolves, and prefers the higher aspect of beauty to the lower. But when one has observed the highest vision of beauty in the Unseen by a gradual evolution from praising the beauty in the seen world, then the entire existence becomes to one, a single vision of beauty.

Humanity has worshipped God, beholding the beauty of sun, moon, stars, and planets. *Humanity has worshipped God in plants, in animals. Humanity has recognized God in the beautiful merits of the human being, and one has with one's perfect view of beauty found the source of all beauty in the Unseen, from whence all this springs, and in Whom all is merged.*

The Sufi, realizing this, worships beauty in all its aspects, and sees the face of the Beloved in all that is seen and the Beloved's Spirit in the Unseen. So wherever one looks one's ideal of worship is before one. 'Everywhere I look, I see Thy winning face; everywhere I go, I arrive at Thy dwelling-place.'

Vol V – Part I: The Sufi Message of Spiritual Liberty

Beloved ones of God, you may belong to any race, cast, creed, or nation, still you are all impartially beloved by God. You may be a believer or an unbeliever in the supreme Being, but He cares not. His mercy and grace flow through all His powers, without distinction of friend or foe.

Every leaf of tree, Allah's praise displays, Only the pious mind can hear their sacred lays.

The sun, moon, and stars give light; the timely change of seasons promotes health and cheerfulness; the rain grows corn, fruits, and flowers; and the alternation of day and night provides the opportunity for work and rest.

Earth, water, fire and air, All work harmoniously.

For thee they always food prepare, Thou shouldst not eat unthankfully.

For how each day the sun shines and serves, All praise from thee, Allah deserves.

... Should we not appreciate the liberality of the Creator, and thank Him each moment with all humility and gratitude?

Praise be to Allah, the worship of whom is the means of drawing closer to Him, and the giving of thanks to whom involves an increase of benefits. Every breath which is inhaled prolongs life, and when exhaled it quickens the frame. In every breath, therefore, two blessings are contained, and for every blessing a separate thanksgiving is due.

Sadi



Photo: Wali Via

Vol I – Part II: Some Aspects of Sufism

The divine light has shone upon the mineral and vegetable kingdoms; and there too it has shown its phenomena, although its full radiance has been reached only in humanity. It can be seen in the developed intelligence, and this can be observed in the cosmic system as well as in the mineral and vegetable kingdoms. It is the light of the sun which shines upon the moon and the planets; each star is but a reflection of the same light; thus, the whole cosmic system is illuminated by the sun alone.

In the vegetable kingdom we see one little plant, a fruit or flower, spreading its influence around it, covering that part of the forest in time with the same sweet fruit or with the same fragrant flower.

When we watch the animal kingdom closely, we see the special gift of intelligence in some animals. We find that among all birds there is a leader for every flock. Among the elephants of the forest especially, there is the wise elephant who walks in front of the herd, carefully carrying the stem of a tree with his trunk. He uses it as a stick, and examines with it the path he walks upon to discover whether there are any pits in the way, for his own safety as well as that of his followers. In the jungle a troop of monkeys can be seen following the command of one among them. After he has jumped, they all jump. The foxes and dogs in the jungle have among them one who is most wary, who gives the alarm before every coming danger.



In a flock of birds one wise and courageous bird leads the whole flock. And this is the case with many other birds and beasts also. This faculty of guidance, with the maturity of intelligence, fulfills the purpose of manifestation in the evolution of man.

Moreover, it is man who may rightly be called the seed of God, for in him alone intelligence develops so perfectly that he not only appreciates God's works and worships Him, but he is even enabled to attain self-sufficiency and all-pervading consciousness of the everlasting life of God.

Man realizes his perfection in God, and God realizes His perfection in man.

PRACTICES

Nature Meditation

Say each phrase aloud (5 times), then continue in silence on the breath – then breathe without the words.

Inhale: Let me reflect thy light through my thoughts

Exhale: as the clouds reflect in color the light of the sun.

Emerald Contemplation (5)

My conscientious self: Offer respect and gratitude for Nature's bountiful gifts.

EARTH RITUAL - Wali Via (Dar-us-salam)

I'd like to share an example of a ritual ceremony that I have done many times, for many years, with farmers and other agriculturalists, across North America. I have done this with as few as 15 people and as many as 200. It has been used to close agricultural conferences and at gatherings on our farm.

I alter the form of this ceremony according to the size of the group and my inner guidance at the time, but the basic form remains the same. I frequently incorporate the Elemental breaths and the Ziraat Salutations to the Elements, though I don't mention their Sufi origin, so as not to disenfranchise anyone, out of respect.

I'd like to share this ritual with you as a guided meditation. You may wish to close your eyes and imagine you are gathered in a circle of people, in nature, or on a farm.

Each person is holding a handful of soil brought from their farms, gardens, or other places of significance to them. Imagine where you would have gathered your soil.

In the center of the circle is a beautiful bowl.

Look around you. Take in the beauty that surrounds you. Marvel in the miracle of being alive as a witness to, and part of all of this. Feel the breeze against your cheeks, the warmth of the Sun on your back.

Listen to the sounds of Nature. Breathe in the presence of this place.

Let us attune to the Elements with the breath and offer the Ziraat Salutations.



Photo: Hadia Jane Penton, Aotearoa

As people who work the land, we have a special connection with the soil. We understand that the soil we hold in our hands is a living miracle. That we are wholly dependent upon the soil, not only for our livelihoods, but for our very lives, as does all of Life. We, as people of the land, are entrusted with the care of the soil, for our society, and for the Earth. Just as the soil in our hands is connected, though our farms may be distant from each other, so are we connected in our purpose here today.

We must assume our roles as healers of the Earth. An Earth that has been degraded by human ignorance and greed. Take a few moments now in silence.

What do you wish for our planet? What is your prayer? As you do this, know that this wish, this prayer, has an immediate effect in the world, and also imbues the soil you hold.

Now one by one, step forward and place your soil in the bowl in the center of the circle.

As each person walks forward in turn, see them as fellow healers of the Earth.

I then ask for two volunteers, one an elder, and one of young age, to come to the center and mix the soil together. Then, they carry the bowl around the circle and each person takes a handful of soil.

Now, each person symbolically holds the wishes and prayers of everyone here and this signifies that the healing that is needed on the planet today will take all of us working together and supporting one another.

Now, you notice that there remains a little soil in the bowl. (This happens every time I have done this ritual.) It is because you are givers, not takers. Now take this soil back to your farm, garden, yard, or other place of significance, and offer it back with the wishes and prayers of us all.

May the work of all our hands be blessed!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Ziraat Papers



Method of Harrowing

The human mind is likened to the treasure buried in the ground; it needs digging. And when the earth and stones that cover the treasure are removed, then the treasure manifests to view.

Hazrat Inayat Khan

Prayer for the Planet – (Healing and Universal Worship)

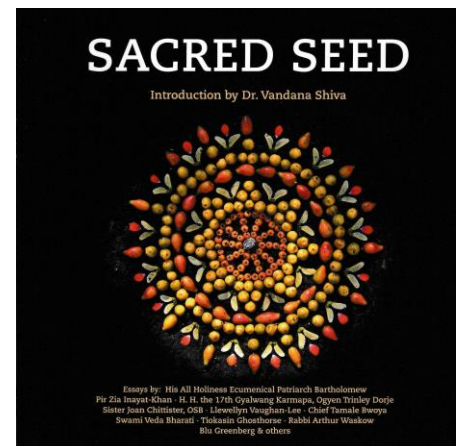
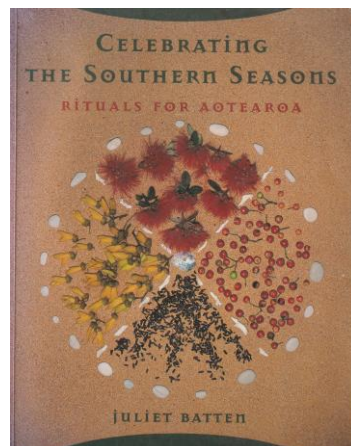
By your Divine Power Almighty God,
through the rays of the sun, through the waves in the air
and the all-pervading life in space; purify and revivify us and we pray:
Grant us wisdom in our decisions, compassion in our hearts,
and the recognition of the purity of our planet,
so that we may treat the earth and all its beings
with dignity and respect.

May we develop a covenant of self-sacrifice so that we join in unity
to realize and live the principles of love, harmony, beauty and peace. Amen

ARVO PÄRT: DA PACEM



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



Prayer of the Ute Tribe of North America

Earth, teach me quiet - as the grasses are still with new light.

Earth, teach me suffering - as old stones suffer with memory.

Earth, teach me humility - as blossoms are humble with beginning.

Earth, teach me caring - as mothers nurture their young.

Earth, teach me courage - as the tree that stands alone.

Earth, teach me limitation - as the ant that crawls the ground.

Earth, teach me freedom - as the eagle that soars in the sky.

Earth, teach me acceptance - as the leaves that die each fall.

Earth, teach me renewal - as the seed that rises in the Spring.

Earth, teach me to forget myself - as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth, teach me to remember kindness - as dry fields weep with rain.



God Courts Us – Mariam Mary Neil

God courts us with the beauty of this world

As I look deeply into the pansy's face

She engages with my glance

In this exchange we see each other

In this love there is the call of soul to soul

God recognizing God.

Ziraat Newsletter

Contributions for December Newsletter to are most welcome: Photos, Poems, Quotes, Links, Recordings-- Anything that may be of interest.

Please send contributions ziraat.newsletter@gmail.com

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