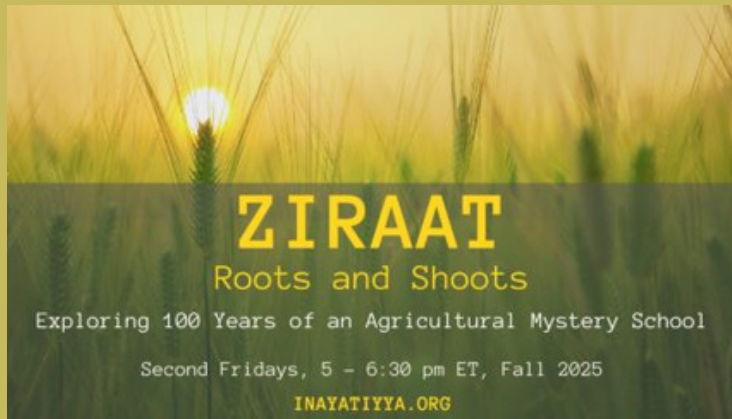


July 2025

# ZIRAAT NEWSLETTER

INAYATIYYA - NORTH AMERICA AND OCEANIA

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## 2025 Fall Program

### Roots and Shoots

Second Friday of month (Sept-Dec)

[Link to program & registration](#)

**Registration is open now.** For scholarship / discounts please contact: [astana@inayatiyya.org](mailto:astana@inayatiyya.org)

**Sept - Nov: previous Vice-Presidents (USA)** Shahabuddin Less, Kainat Norton, Wali Via, share their thoughts about Ziraat and ways it is evolving to address the needs of the planet and humanity today.

**Dec: current Co-Vice-Presidents (Europe, North America and Oceania)** Jamia Haqq, Nehmat, Raqib and Tasnim share their vision of our work in Ziraat looking to the future.

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## Rewilding Discussion Group

Over Summer (June - August): Aziza, Zebunissa and Sharifa are co-ordinating a monthly group for anyone interested in continuing to explore deeper connections with the elements and realms of nature. The sessions include "technologies of relationship" to honour the earth, song, movement and stories which help connect with all of nature.

**The group meets via Zoom on the 4th Friday (July 25 and August 22)**  
at 3-4:15 pm EDT / 12 noon PDT / 9 pm CEST

**To join and to be added to the mailing list,** please contact Aziza: [azizabarker@gmail.com](mailto:azizabarker@gmail.com)

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Graphic: *Numinosity Mandala*  
– designed by Cristina McAlister



## Book Corner:

### Sacred Kinship – Hearing the Call of the Earth

**Author:** Zebunissa Pamela Overeynder

Link: <http://www.onesacredearth.com>

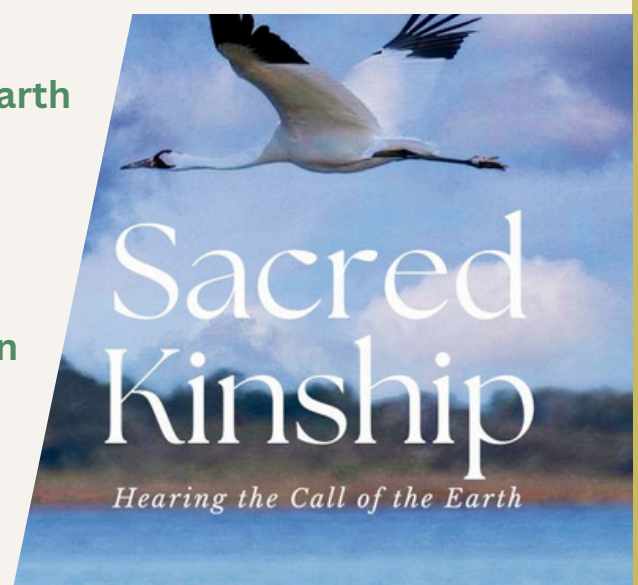
### Rewilding the Human Heart

- A journey of reunion

**Author:** Sharifa Oppenheimer

Link to [meditations](#)

Link to [purchase](#)



## CONTEMPLATION / PRACTICES

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### Haiku - from Zebunissa:

*sage breathes in - sage breathes out - purple blossoms*

### Nature Meditation:

*I bend toward the mother earth, in delight of the father in heaven.*

Inhalation: I bend toward the mother earth

Exhalation: in delight of the father in heaven

### Emerald Contemplation:

*Draw strength from the Earth, give kindness in return.*

### Quotes from Murshid:

*And when the mind becomes smooth by unlearning and by digging out all impressions, of good and bad, of right and wrong, then the ground of the heart becomes as cultivated ground, just as the land does after plowing. All the old stumps and roots and pebbles and rocks are taken off, and it is made into ground which is now ready for the sowing of the seed. But if there are rocks and stones and bricks still scattered there, and still some of the old roots lying there, then it is difficult for the seed to be sown; the ground is not in the condition the farmer wishes it to be.*

**Volume I - The Way of Illumination Section II - The Inner Life Chapter VIII -The Attainment of Inner Life**

*Those who have shown great inspiration and who have given to the world precious words of wisdom, they were the farmers who plowed furrows in the soil of the heart.*

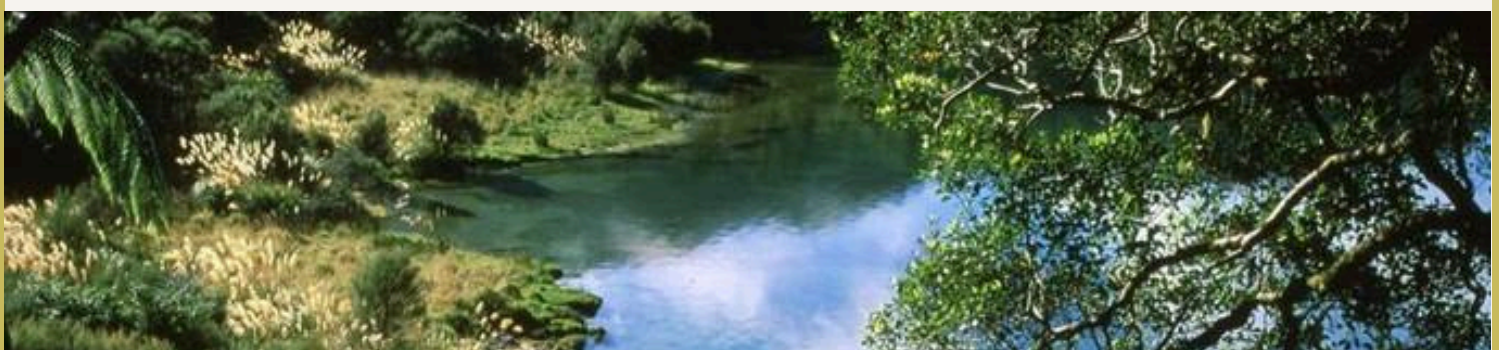
**Social Gatheka Number 21 - Poetry - 1**

*The wise man submits to conditions when he is helpless, bowing to the will of God, but the evil that is avoidable he roots out without sparing one single moment or effort.*

**Bowl of Saki – Dec 4**

*‘Anyone who has some knowledge of mysticism and of the lives of the mystics knows that what always attracts the mystic most is nature. Nature is their bread and wine. Nature is their soul's nourishment. Nature inspires them, uplifts them and gives them the solitude for which their soul continually longs.’ - HIK*

**Quote and photo from Hadia (Jane Penton - NZ)**





## COMMUNITY CORNER

### June Solstices

Matiriki - Pleiades

#### From Jamia Haqq:

We have just celebrated the **Rise of Matariki** here in Aotearoa, New Zealand, otherwise known as the Pleiades. It is known to be, our New Year, and is celebrated throughout our country, and has been a National holiday, in the last 3 years. This time is for Reflection of family and community, and certainly a celebration of Ziraat, Honouring Nature, in every form.

- One of the Stars, Pohutakawa is to Remember, those who have passed in the last year.
- The Last of the Stars, we get to Make a Wish, for the coming year.

For me, It would be, World Peace.

#### From Wali:

I was at 65 degrees latitude on the Solstice in the Yukon Territory of Canada. No night at all. I could see colors for all 24 hours, though the light dimmed for a couple of hours. It was a bit disconcerting for someone who generally goes to bed with the sun and rises with it on the Summer Solstice.

#### From Nehmat:

I'm also feeling a little topsy-turvy with the seasons and solstice attunement at the moment, as I'm travelling in Europe. I'm used to the June solstice in winter and as Jamia Haqq described - it's usually a jemali time of quiet reflection and introspection - akin to garnering in the **Cycle of Work on the Farm** and looking to what lies ahead and perhaps setting new intentions and goals. In contrast for those in North America and Europe - it's the summer solstice and life is in full swing, it's mid-way through the cycle of work on the farm. Gardens are flourishing, fields prepared, crops sown and growing well. Harvest time is approaching, if not already begun and this is a jelali time - full of energy and productivity.

I've been trying to find a word that describes a universally shared experience at this time of year when we are seeing and experiencing the light of the sun from opposite perspectives. I've settled with **Ishq**, that mysterious aspect of love - that exists both in presence and absence, the nostalgic remembering and longing for the light and love that both enlivens and unites us all - no matter where we live.

### Symbology of the Plough ([Link](#))

In this Ziraat paper Murshid writes:

**"The plough is symbolic of prana, breath"** and  
**"The plough itself represents the human being"**

Murshid also writes about *Jelali* and *Jemali* aspects of breath and the need for them both to be working together to achieve harmony and balance of life.



This photo illustrates the type of plough Murshid describes - with large and small wheels in different positions to compliment each other and symbolising Jelali and Jemali activity working together. Photo from Wali Via.

## ZIRAAT GROUPS AND LODGES

In alignment with Pir Zia's vision of a more inter-connected global Inayatiyya, we are fostering international friendships and networks within the Ziraat Activity. For the Rewilding program earlier this year 17% of people who registered were from Europe/East Asia and 14% from Oceania and individuals from Japan, Greece, Portugal, Turkey.

Here's some interesting information from Raqib and Tasnim, the European Co Vice-Presidents about recent Ziraat programs in their region and an international project you may like to join.

### Ziraat Activities in Europe

#### From Raqib - Gerhad Kittel

In 2024/25, many activities in Europe focussed on the history of the regions, the Celts, the annual festivals and humanism. Seminars, excursions and working groups took place. We welcome the new Ziraat members in Pakistan and Turkiye.



**One of Pir Zia's particular suggestions is that a Ziraát Lodge should be held at the source of the Danube (Europe's second longest river).** My idea is that Ziraát lodges, healing circles, music and church services are held on the same day in all countries at places of water (rivers, lakes, seas). (Actually, every tap connects us universally through this element).

- There would be no central event/transmission, just a list on which all participating places are noted - (except Pir Zia would come to the Danube).
- It would be a wave of water that would travel from place to place, from continent to continent, around the world on that day.
- Water, the element of balance, of justice, which is so much in need.
- A suitable date would be, for example, the equinox, 20/21 September 2025, one week before the feast of St Michael, who is also dedicated to Demeter and agriculture and thus to Ziraát, two weeks before the harvest thanksgiving festival.

#### From Tasnim - Lejla Stupac

I've just been on a retreat in the mountains. Nature here in the Alps is very challenged at the moment with the hot temperatures. The climate change is very noticeable here. The intense heat was followed by a lot of rain and the earth slid down and blocked the roads and tracks...

I pray that the elements will come into balance and harmony.



Here's a summary of some of the recent Ziraat offerings across different countries here in Europe:

- **in Austria**, Salima organized dances and peace prayers at the source of the Drau River in June, offering the prayers in the languages of the peoples living along the course of the river;
- **in Belgium and Netherlands**, the solstice was celebrated. MehrunNisa is organising gatherings (lodges). These are half-day-workshops and national friendship days, focusing on deepening the cultivation of the heart, using symbols from nature. In addition, she is giving seasonal Nature Meditations (at the beginning of winter, spring, summer, autumn), eventually with a ritual, preferably taking place outdoors.
- **in France**, the one-year meeting of Ziraat and chivalry took place on June 21 & Fazl Mai is regularly publishing her newsletter which is translated in English and German.
- **in Germany**, Safed since June has started an online class once a month to open the field for the archetype of Mary Magdalene and Raqib is working on his multi-national "Water Wave" project. There is a monthly new moon group with Beate.
- **in UK**, Amina is offering a monthly Ziraat Gathering.
- **in Switzerland**, KarimRafi is offering Ziraat-days 4 times a year. Together with MehrunNisa, we have leading an Emerald Contemplations group via zoom. It is an international group.

## Updating Ziraat information for North America:

We would like to establish a list of active Ziraat Groups in this region and the relevant contact person to ensure we can connect new people with existing groups. Please send an email with information about your group and other groups you know of and a short description of activities you have been doing or are planning. Email Nehmat: [Ziraat@inayatiyya.org](mailto:Ziraat@inayatiyya.org)

## Ziraat Activities in North America

### The Abode of the Message - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations - New Lebanon (NY)

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Ziraat/Nature ceremony will take place in the lower part of the Abode Herb Garden by the new fire pit (where the Oak plants will be planted). The Ziraat ceremony will be open with prayers to the elements and a short fire with prayer opening the lodge.

**Abode, New Lebanon, (NY) Ziraat Lodges are held monthly on the Full Moon**  
In person and on Zoom 3pm ET. Contact [Shakur](#)

**Baltimore, Maryland** - In person and on Zoom. Contact [Mumtaz](#)  
Every month on the first Thursday 7pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Austin, Texas** - Contact [Ata'Allah](#)  
Quarterly on cross-quarters - in person

**Ziraat Farming Nature Connection** - [Facebook Group](#) managed by Shakur

## Ziraat Activities in Oceania

**Oceania Ziraat Lodges** are held via Zoom once a month, with even months hosted by Australia and odd months hosted by Aotearoa, New Zealand.  
8pm NZ, 6pm Eastern Australia (10am CEST | 4am USA-ET)

**All are welcome to attend:**

Please send an email and ask to be added to our mailing list.

**Contact:** [Jamia Haqq](#) (New Zealand) [Nehmat](#) (Australia)

**Program:**

23<sup>rd</sup> July - Aotearoa

27<sup>th</sup> August - Australia: Grasping the Elusive Air

24<sup>th</sup> September - Aotearoa

**Retreats:** Please contact [Jamia Haqq](#)

## Ziraat Contacts

**Email:** [ziraat@inayatiyya.org](mailto:ziraat@inayatiyya.org)

Please send an email if you would like to be added to the Ziraat email contact list.

**Website:** [inayatiyyaziraat.org](http://inayatiyyaziraat.org)

Link to sign up for the Ziraat Discourse List: <https://groups.inayatiyya.org/invites/U3SivtALjc>

***"You are not a separate being. You belong to the living body of Earth.***

***You are the Earth, looking up at the stars.***

***You are the Earth, becoming conscious of itself."***

**- Joanna Macy**