

Beloved Sufi Brothers and Sisters,

From the depth of our hearts, we all welcome each other on this special day.

Have we ever realized for one moment, the privilege that we have, when hearing the recorded “Call”, which was given at the Radio by our Master of us all, so many years ago? Many years have passed ever since, but the attunement to that call, still becomes like a searchlight, illuminating the path, when humbly following the traces of the footsteps of the bringer of the Message in our time.

The followers have, in their way, kept the light burning. Some have been active, and are still so, and others are not active; but just for the fact of having responded to the “Call”, as Brother and Sister of the Sufi Message, is in itself, a precious experience of Spiritual Liberty, which has helped thousands to get along harmoniously with their fellowmen.

Freedom of thought and word is gradually developing in cultural and scientific activities in this confused world. We do not all see it, but it is gradually unfolding at all levels of society. It is obvious that we are therefore expected to keep the standards high, following the keynote of the Sufi Movement, which is “Love, Harmony and Beauty”.

Anything done with beauty is harmonious;

Anything done with love is beautiful;

Anything done with love, harmony and beauty, is a humble gift offered to humanity.

How can one spread the Sufi Message if one does not open ones heart, offering a smile to a friend; offering a smile to a person who one dislikes; offering a smile, even to oneself. Spirituality does not mean sadness, it means happiness. Hazrat Inayat Khan was constantly smiling, and said so often: “Never let anyone be in your presence without having a smile on both sides.”

We all know that the word Sufi means wisdom. But what is Wisdom? It is the purification of the mind from preconceived ideas. Wisdom is not a Religion! The Sufi Movement is not a Religion, nor is it a secret school of speculative interpretations of Truth.

Wisdom is an open door to the original inspiration felt in all religious beliefs. Wisdom cannot be limited by descriptive terminologies. Wisdom is the art of having understanding for the opinion of others, while freeing oneself from one's own preconceived ideas.

When one is conscious of the heart being the temple of God, which is one of the great mysteries in the esoteric school, one is inspired by the great privilege of becoming awakened to deep feelings of humility, which is the golden key to spirituality.

Among many stories of my childhood, one of them is so very appropriate to be told, when referring to the concept of humility.

One day, when my father was going out through the house gate, a workman with muddy clothes and dirty hands was digging a ditch in the street. My Father took off his *topi* (Indian hat), and offered his hand to the man, saying "Bonjour Monsieur". The man was absolutely flabbergasted. Some Sufis who were waiting in the street, had seen my Father greeting the workman. They said to my Father, "But Murshid, you can't shake hands with a workman!" "That is not done in the West!" On hearing that, my Father was very sad, and only replied: "Are we not all the children of God?"

Many years later, while walking up that same street, someone came running in back of me, while pointing to the house, saying, "O, Monsieur", please tell me, where is the king who was living in that house? I told him that he is no more there, but his love is always with us."

The man said to me that he could not read nor write, nor go to church, and he did not believe in God; but when he saw the light coming out of the eyes of that King, it was a great revelation for him, and it had guided him during his whole life. He remembered my Father coming out through the gate while he was digging a ditch in front of the house, and he retold the whole story. We both hugged each other and shed tears, with deepest emotion.