



## THE INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUFI MOVEMENT

Office of the Representative-General  
and the President of the International Publications Committee

*Truth is not just only experienced at a physical level,  
nor only at the level of thought or feeling,  
but it is also recognizable at a still higher level of consciousness,  
where there are neither limitations nor opposites,  
and where the seeker on the path of truth is no longer confused between reality and illusion.*



Date: 20-4-09

### -The "Pir-o-Murshid Council"-

Welcome, Beloved Brothers and Sisters.

It is fascinating to recall that The Sufi Movement was founded in 1923, that is to say over 80 years ago, and since that date the world has become a different world. There has been such a tremendous expansion at all levels of International communication facilities, and in particular, in connection with the Internet.

#### **The Five Activities in the Sufi Movement**

The organization activities in the Movement have become so much more complex, and consequently, it is practically impossible for one single Leader to lead in person the five activities, each being of a completely different nature, requiring therefore trained specialists to motivate individually each activity at the highest level of efficiency.

#### **The Ideal of Spiritual Liberty**

The methods of working vary in the different parts of the world, in accordance with historical cultures, which should be seen as sources of inspiration for us all. Let us therefore adapt our understanding to all types of expressions and to all circumstances, while at the same time, holding high the banner of Spiritual Liberty, which is the keynote of the Message that we are serving.

#### **The Succession Since 1927**

Coming to another subject, there have always been tragic events regarding the succession of the Leadership in the Sufi Movement, which we absolutely want to avoid in the future. The Movement has suffered too much, following those successions ever since 1927. Each time that a new Leader became the holder of the Pir-o-Murshid title, so many Mureeds left the Movement, and several separate organizations were created.

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### **The Seat of the Historical Pir-o-Murshid Title**

The project of a "Pir-o-Murshid Council"\* is to be understood as being a remedy to such regrettable events regarding the subject of the succession. The idea is for there to be a continuation of the Leadership, rather than an interruption following the succession.

This Council could be seen as the "Seat" of the title of the founder of the Sufi Movement. It is composed of appointed members who come together with the responsibility to be collectively attuned to the stream of the Message in our time. The members do not vote, but they hope to come to a consensus on matters regarding the work done in the various Activities, following which the final decisions are then entrusted to the Executive Committee, where they are handled on a voting basis.

There is however an amendment in the Articles of Incorporation, which makes it quite clear that if some day it would be preferable to have one single holder of the Pir-o-Murshid title, that possibility could eventually be discussed by the Executive Committee\*.

*\*(See Appendix A and B for a list of appointments and members.)*

### **The Function of the Representative General**

During this transition period, the seat of the Representative General is being temporarily reconfigured in order to facilitate the idea of "Continuation" rather than "Succession". The Function of the Representative General is now shared between two Co-Representatives General, myself on a lifetime basis, together with Murshid Karimbakhsh Witteveen.

### **The Inner School, or Esoteric Activity**

According to the bylaws of the Inner School, the Pir-o-Murshid is the Head of the Esoteric Activity, originally called Sufi Order prior to the creation of the International Sufi Movement in Geneva in 1923, following which, that Order was merged within the Movement as one of the five Activities, now called the Esoteric Activity, or the Inner School.

### **The Function of the Madar-ul-Maham**

In the "Pir-o-Murshid Council", the Leadership of the Esoteric Activity has now been entrusted to the Madar-ul-Maham, so that the original title (Pir-o-Murshid), formerly indicating that function, is henceforth collectively safeguarded within this special council for years to come, rather than that title being held by one single holder.

### **A Personal Note**

I have always had mixed feelings about being the single holder of that title, but I have done it because I felt that it was my responsibility. Ever since it was granted to me, I have continually tried to focus my mind and my heart in thought of my Father. I have always felt that the only way that I could be true to my Father would be for that sacred title to be preserved in such a way that it would never be discussable anymore in the future.

It is something which I treasure more than anything in the world, and it has been a great privilege trying as much as I could to maintain the Ideal of dignity.

### **The Idea of Hierarchy in the Sufi Movement**

One could define the idea of Spiritual Hierarchy in one word, 'dignity'. Hierarchy is not to be mistaken for authoritarianism! Let us forever remember the precious teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan emphasizing the keynote of dignity in the democracy of the ego and the aristocracy of the soul.

If one could picture Hazrat Inayat Khan in a few words, one could say that our Master was the symbol of dignity.

Hierarchy in our Movement is revealed in the ways that dignity prevails, and in the way that the Message is presented to the world. Dignity means respecting oneself so that one is able to respect others; therefore it is expected from the "Pir-o-Murshid Council" that the members shall feel the importance of being respectful in every way possible: in ways of behaving, and in ways of communicating with others as living examples of the great Ideals of Love, Harmony and Beauty.

From the bottom of my heart may I kindly express my deepest gratitude for the precious attention granted to this project, inspired by a great Ideal; and may I also say that I would never have been able to take the decision in creating the "Pir-o-Murshid Council", had I not felt a deep connection with my own Father.

More, I cannot say .....

*Hidayat*

*Extracts from a talk given at the  
Executive Committee 20 April 2009*



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Date: 20-4-09

### **Report from the Executive Committee of the International Sufi Movement**

This is to inform the affiliates and members of the International Sufi Movement as well as members of other Sufi organizations within the “Federation of the Sufi Message” that a Council called the “Pir-o- Murshid Council” has been created within the Sufi Movement as of the 20th April 2009.

This Council is presided over, in a first stage, by the present General Representative in function for life, Hidayat Inayat-Khan, together with the co-General-Representative Murshid Karimbakhsh Witteveen, recently nominated in that function.

The “Pir-o-Murshid Council” is composed of the leaders of the five principal Activities in the Movement, together with appointed Murshids and Murshidas and other members, who have been collectively entrusted with the sacred task of safeguarding the historical title of the founder of the Sufi Movement.

The spiritual responsibility of the members of this Council is the perpetuation in their hearts of the mystical stream of the Message in our time, in constant attunement to the bringer of that Message.

This new vision on the subject of the Spiritual Succession of the Leadership is to be understood in connection with a great increase of memberships in the Movement, and a large expansion of the various activities all over the world, besides an extensive use of internet communication.

Kindly find herewith a list of appointed founding members of this Council. A second, preliminary list consists of some international consultants within the Sufi Movement, as well as contact persons from other Sufi organizations with whom we hope to intensify brotherhood and sisterhood relations.



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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Co-Presidents (Co-General Representatives):**

Murshid Hidayat Inayat-Khan, Murshid Karimbakhsh Witteveen

**Vice President (Executive Supervisor):** Murshid Nawab Pasnak

**General Secretary:** Murshid Ameen Carp

**General Treasurer:** Shaikh Siddharta Rosdorff

**Permanent Member:** Shaikh-ul-Mashaikh Mahmood Khan

**Activity Coordination:** Madar-ul-Maham(s), Moin-ul-Maham(s), Peshkar(s), Sahaba-e-Safa,  
Most Experienced Farmer

**Appointed Secretary of Headquarters:** Hamida Verlinden

**Guests and Consultants on invitation**

### **“PIR-O-MURSHID COUNCIL”**

This Council is presided over by the General Representative(s).

The members are the appointed Secretaries of the five Activities and the appointed Secretary of the Office of Headquarters, and may include appointed Murshids(as). Advisors may be welcomed on special invitation.

The mystical purpose of this Council is to collectively safeguard the Holy seat of the “Pir-o-Murshid” for many years to come.

Projects regarding the various aspects of the work in spreading the Message are discussed in this Council on a consensus basis prior to being presented to the Executive Committee where decisions are then taken on a voting basis.

This special spiritual Council meets at least once a year or at any time on invitation by the General Representative(s).

**FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE “PIR-O-MURSHID COUNCIL”**

**Co-Presidents - General Representatives**

Murshid Hidayat Inayat-Khan - Murshid Karimbakhsh Witteveen :

**Siraj-un-Munir:** Murshid Karimbakhsh Witteveen

**Member of Ex. Com. for life:** Shaikh-ul-Mashaikh Mahmood Khan

**Madar-ul-Maham:** Murshid Nawab Pasnak

**Moin-ul-Maham for Europe-Overseas:** Murshida Ulma Moerenburg

**Moin-ul-Maham for the USA:** Murshida Rabia Perez

**Peshkar for Europe-Overseas:** Murshida Maharani de Caluwe

**Peshkar for the USA:** Murshida Nuria Sabato

**Sahaba-e-Safa:** Khalifa Sattva van Dorssen

**Most Experienced Farmer:** Hon. Murshid Jelaluddin van Lohuizen

**Headquarters Secretary:** Shaikha Hamida Verlinden

**CONSULTANTS TO BE WELCOMED BY INVITATION**

**(This list is liable to alterations)**

**International Sufi Movement USA:** Shaikh Gayan Inayat-Khan  
(Special Consultant to the Executive Supervisor)

**International Sufi Movement USA:** Shaikha Rani McLaughlin  
(Special Consultant to the Federation Council)

**International Sufi Movement Canada:** Shaikh Jelaluddin Sill  
(Publisher of Sufi CD's)

**Sufi Movement Europe:** Puran Winter  
(Legal Advisor to the Executive Committee)

**Sufi Movement South Africa:** Shaikh Wazir Waldo van Essen (private link)

**PRIVATE LINKS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**THIS LIST IS LIABLE TO ALTERATIONS**

**Sufi Contact:** Kadir Troelstra (private link)

**Sufi Ruhaniat International:** Murshid Sauluddin Barodofsky (private link)

**Sufi Order International:** (awaiting confirmation)