

Inner Call Podcast #176 The Fulfilment of Wishes August 19 2022

With the turning of the seasons, we are approaching another milestone in the life of the Sufi Message. Last year, in spite of the difficulties of the pandemic, we celebrated a hundred years since Hazrat Inayat Khan received the inspiration of the Universal Worship. In the Spring of 1921, he proclaimed that this service was the wish of all the Masters, Saints and Prophets – that the time had come at last when their followers could worship side by side. This year, in September, we will also see the centenary of the designation of the place in the Netherlands known as Murad Hassil – the ‘fulfilment of wishes.’

It is worth remembering that when the First World War ended, and the Master was able to again visit the continent, his work began to accelerate. The war years had been dark and difficult for him and his family, with very little resources even to put food on the table, and frequent opposition from various directions. Returning to Europe, he received a growing number of invitations to speak, more followers, and more support. In 1922, the first Summer School was held at Fazal Manzil, the new family home in Suresnes, outside of Paris. Quite understandably, two Dutch mureeds, Sirdar and Saida van Tuyll, wished to bring some of this spiritual energy closer to home, and they invited Hazrat Inayat to hold a Dutch Summer School in Katwijk-an-zee.

During the first two weeks of September, 1922, therefore, Hazrat Inayat Khan met with a group of students in their villa beside the North Sea. In the evenings, he lectured on themes of the Inner Life. These meditative sessions were preceded by a half hour of silence, and, unusually, no questions were allowed. It is clear that he wanted these teachings to penetrate deeply into the spirit of the students. To balance this esoteric offering, in the afternoons he also gave lectures on the problem of the day, practical considerations of the ways in which spirituality might ease the present difficulties of life in the world.

It was during this Dutch Summer School that one day he went for a walk with a few students. They proceeded down the boulevard to the end of the village and then went into the dunes. At a certain point, the Murshid asked his friends to wait, and then went on alone into a small valley, where he remained out of sight for a while. When he returned, hair and robe streaming in the wind, he seemed transformed by some inner experience. In the evening, at dinner, he asked them if they could find again the place where he had sat, saying that it would be known as ‘Murad Hassil,’ meaning roughly ‘wish fulfilled.’

Since then several generations of students have been faithful to this inspiration; with admirable persistence and dedication a temple has been built, and many pilgrims have come seeking an answer to their prayers.

A wish or desire can have two different orientations. We may feel a need for something material, which we could call a horizontal wish; or our wish may be for something higher, an aspiration that we could think of as a vertical wish. Horizontal wishes are natural – one may wish for a cup of water or a piece of bread, for example – but like our steps across the face of the earth, they only move the horizon; they do not remove the limits of our sight or the need to wish. Sooner or later more water and more bread will be needed, and so the horizontal wishes are never finished.

A vertical wish, on the other hand, is one that, when fulfilled, puts an end to wishing. These deep yearnings may even seem beyond the power of expression, until perhaps one day we look back and discover that they have been fulfilled. When we think of 'murad hassil,' we might remember this verse about a wish fulfilled from Vadan Ragas :

*I looked and looked, to find someone to whom I might give my trust;
but I found no one,
until I saw Thee at last in my heart,
holding in Thy hand the record of my life's secret.*

Remembering the kindness and generosity of Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan, and his steadfast devotion to raising humanity to a better condition, may we also find our way to the fulfillment of our wishes – especially the wishes that reach upward.