



**Religious Gatheka – Hazrat Inayat Khan**  
**7. Religion**

**This Month's Concentration:**

Read and contemplate daily for the next several weeks  
Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan's lecture: Religion

**Reflect Daily on the Following Points in Gatheka 7**

1. *Perhaps a person belongs to the best religion there is in the world, he does not live it, but he belongs to it.*
2. *God is not the Father of one sect, God is the father of the whole world and all are entitled to be called his children, whether worthy or unworthy. And in fact it is man's attitude toward God and truth which can bring him closer to God, which is the ideal of every soul. And if this attitude is not developed, then whatever a man's religion may be he has failed to live it.*
3. *Sometimes appearances are merely illusions, behind them there may be the deepest religious devotion, the highest ideal, hidden, of which we know very little. For the Sufi, therefore the best thing to do is to respect man, his belief, whatever it may be, his ideal, whatever is maybe, his way of looking at life, even if it be quite different from our own way of looking at it. It is in this spirit of tolerance that, when developed, will bring about the brotherhood which is the essence of religion and want of the day.*
4. *The message, whenever, at whatever period it came to the world, did not come to a certain section of humanity; it did not come to raise only some few people who perhaps accepted the faith, the Message, or a particular church. No, all these things came afterwards. The rain does not fall in a certain land only, the sun does not shine upon a certain country only. All that is from God is for all souls. If they are worthy they deserve it, it is their reward; if they are unworthy they are the more entitled to it. Verily, blessing is for every soul, for every soul whatever be his faith or belief belongs to God.*

Let us consider, and share our thoughts with each other over this month's lesson....

1. What ways are we challenged in living our Path? Do we just belong to our Sufi community or do we practice and live the Message?
2. Do we live and experience the unity of God among all people and religions?
3. Do we get caught in appearances? Do we practice and live the spirit of tolerance?
4. Do we practice equanimity loving all without discrimination? How about those who are difficult and challenging in our life. Do we love them equally as we do those who bring us comfort and love? What is Hazrat Inayat Khan instructing us to do?

With loving regards,

Nuria

Nuria Sabato, Moderator, Kansas City, Missouri, USA