



## Religious Gatheka – Hazrat Inayat Khan

### 15. The Message

#### **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 15**

- 1. There are seven grades recognized by the Sufi of those in the spiritual hierarchy - Pir, Buzurg, Wali, Ghous, Kutub, Nabi, Rassoul. The work of the Pir is helping individuals toward the unfoldment of their soul. The work of the Buzurg is to help by the power of his soul those who wish to advance spiritually. The Wali controls a community, keeping it on the right track. The Ghous helps its spiritual well-being. Kutub spiritually governs a country, a nation. Nabi elevates individuals and bears a divine message. Rassoul is the one who has fulfilled the message he has borne.*
- 2. It is beyond words to express what inner initiations means and in what form it is given. Those to whom the inner initiation is unknown may explain it as a dream or as a vision, but in reality it is something higher and greater than that. I can only explain it by saying that the definite changes which take place during one's journey through the spiritual path are initiations, and it is these initiations which include man in the spiritual hierarchy.*
- 3. All beauty is veiled in nature, and the higher the beauty the more it is covered. And that makes it easy for a wise person to find out the difference between a true Prophet and a false Prophet, for one beats his drums and the other tries to keep in the background, - if only his work in the world would let him keep back. It is his efforts in accomplishing something that bring him to the notice of the world. However, his longing is to be unknown, for the one who really deserves being known is God alone.*
- 4. ... the Sufi ideal has also the formless ideal of worship. The form is to help the one who can be helped by seeing the form, because all education is an education in names and forms. If there was no form and no name we would not have learned. The form is only suggestive of what is behind it, of the one and same truth, which is behind all religions.*

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

1. What is my experience of these seven grades of initiation? Do I recognize these initiations in members of my community and possibly even myself?

2. Am I able to recognize the challenges and triumphs, pains and joys in my life as initiations? In reflection do I have insight regarding the Path of Initiation in relationship to both inner and outer experiences?
3. Can I recognize the difference between rejoicing in the virtues and accomplishments of others and myself versus being either envious or egoist about such accomplishments?
4. Do I realize the Sufi ideal of the “formless ideal of worship”?

With loving regards,  
Nuria

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