



Religious Gatheka – Hazrat Inayat Khan
18. The Coming of the World Religion

This Month's Concentration:

Read and contemplate daily for the next several weeks
Hazrat Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan's lecture: The Sufi Message
Reflect Daily on the Following Points in Gatheka 18

1. *In this teaching Hazrat Inayat Khan says:*

“Religion can be seen from five different point of views:

1. **Laws of Teachings** [*dogmas*];
2. **The Church and the Form of Service** [*...depends upon the customs and beliefs of the people who have inherited that tendency from their ancestors.*];
3. **The Religious Idea** [*The religious ideal is the medium, the medium by which one rises towards perfection.*];
4. **The Idea of God** [*For man has to make his own God before he realizes the real God. But that God which man makes within himself becomes in the end, the door by which he enters that shrine of his innermost being, the real God, which is in the heart of man.*]
5. **Dharma** [*The Hindus have called it in the Sanskrit language ‘Dharma’, which in the ordinary meaning of the word is ‘duty’. But it is something much greater than we know in our every-day life as duty. I do not call it duty. I call it life itself. When a person is thoughtful, when a person is considerate, when a person feels obligations that he has towards his fellowman, towards his friend, towards his father or mother, or in whatever relation he stands to man; it is something living, it is something like water which gives the sense of the living soul; the soul is not dead. It is this living soul which really makes a person alive.*]

Contemplate: What understanding do I have of each of these five religious points of view?

2. *Hazrat Inayat Khan: “What is the Message of Sufism? Sufism is the message of digging out that water like life which has been buried by the impressions of the material life.”*

Contemplate: In what ways am I buried by the impressions of the material life?

3. *Hazrat Inayat Khan: “In whatever form this living water rises from the heart, it proves the heart to be a divine spring. And when once this spring is open and rising, all that man does as an action, as a word, as a feeling, it is all religion; that man becomes religious...true religion is in opening his heart, in widening the outlook and in living the religion which is one religion.”*

Contemplate: Is my heart a divine spring, wide in outlook, experiencing the one religion?

As always - love, only love....

Nuria

Nuria Stephanie Sabato | Hazrat Inayat Khan Study Circle Moderator | Kansas City Missouri | USA