



## Religious Gatheka – Hazrat Inayat Khan

### 21. Buddha

Buddha was the title of Gautama. He was called Buddha because his spirit expressed the meaning of the word *Buddhi*. The word *Buddhi* in Sanskrit means reason. In the Buddhist terminology The ‘Spirit of Guidance’ is named *Bodhisattva*, which means the essence of reason. Reason in its essence is of a liquid form, it is the cream of intelligence. When it is crystallized it becomes rigid. Very often ‘intellectuality’ explains a knowledge formed by reasons, most of them of rigid character. The fine reason is subtle, the finer the reason the less it can be explained in words. It is therefore that people with fine reason cannot very well put their reason into words. Reason in its essence is the depth of intelligence. The intelligence ‘knows’, not because it has learned, it knows because it ‘knows’. In this higher reason the ‘Spirit of Guidance’ is conceived and from that fountain of reason all the great Prophets have drunk.

In the teaching of true Buddhism Buddha has never been considered an exclusive personality. Buddha has been known to the Buddhists who have understood his Message rightly as a man who attained realization of that essence of reason in which is the fulfillment of life’s purpose.

Worshipping Buddha does not mean that the Buddhists worship the personality of his spiritual master. He only means by this that, if there is any object that deserves worship most, it is a human being. It is the person from whose heart the essence of reason: *Buddhi* has risen as a spring. By this knowledge, he recognizes the possibility for every soul whatever be his grade of evolution of attaining that bliss, whatever be his grade of evolution, trusting in that the innermost being of every soul is divine.

The honey of life is hope. If the knowledge of God does not give hope to attain the divine bliss which is attained in life, that knowledge is of no use. Man may believe in God for years and yet may not be benefited by the spiritual bliss, for the spiritual bliss is not only believing but it is in knowing God.

*Buddhi*, which is subtle reasoning is the path which leads to the goal. The absence of that keeps a person in obscurity. As the sun is the source of light which shows outwardly things in life, so *Buddhi* is the inner source of light which enables the person to see life clearly, inwardly and outwardly. The true aim of the disciples of Buddha has been not to adhere Buddha, his name or his ideal, but by taking Buddha as an example before them; their idea is the secret of Sufism.