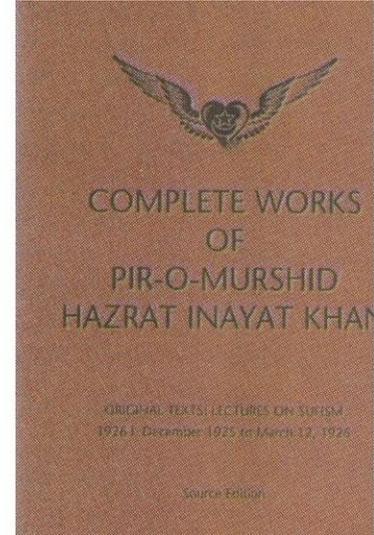


The Complete Works of Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan

From the Nektakht Foundation

Hazrat Inayat Khan came to the West as a representative of Indian classical music, and along with his musical presentations, he began giving ex tempore discourses on many topics, including Indian mysticism, which is subject closely related to music in Indian culture. Establishing himself as a teacher of Sufism, he gathered circles of students in Europe and America. From 1922 on, Hazrat Inayat Khan held an annual Summer School in Suresnes, a suburb of Paris. During these sessions he gave up to four lectures each day, all of which were meticulously taken down in shorthand, and thus preserved exactly as spoken. Many lectures given on tours were also recorded in the same way. In addition to these shorthand records, Inayat Khan compiled inspirational thoughts in notebooks, and some of his mureeds also kept records of personal remarks given to them in moments of private audience.



Murshid's recorded words cover a wide variety of topics, ranging from practical, everyday suggestions to the larger metaphysical questions in which he provides the overall framework and context for understanding the unique Sufi approach to human spiritual development. His discourses offer insight and details about the Sufi approach to the body, the mind, the heart, and the soul or spirit. In refreshingly plain language, he discusses all these topics with the authority of one speaking not only from a rich tradition, but also from his personal experience. Some of these teachings have been previously published, but aside from some Omega Publications titles (Creating the Person, Soul's Journey and Song of the Prophets) they have for the most part been highly edited versions,

Miss J.E.D. Furnée, whose Sufi name was Sakina and later Nektakht, was born at The Hague in the Netherlands in 1896. She was an accomplished pianist, a pupil of the well known Dutch musician and composer Willem Andriessen. In 1921 she became Inayat Khan's secretary and began to record his lectures in shorthand. Towards the end of 1924, she bought the house at 34 Rue de la Tuilerie, opposite Murshid's family home in Fazal Manzil in Suresnes. At Nektakht's house, Murshid created the Biographical Department and appointed Nektakht to be its keeper.

Nektakht continued to do this work for nearly fifty years, in a very unassuming way, living a solitary and retired life in her little house in Suresnes. She offered this service for the future generations who have and will be benefited by her patient and most valuable work. In 1950 she established the Nektakht Stichting foundation, which was intended to ensure the continuation of the work which Murshid had entrusted to her.

Munira van Voorst van Beest followed Nektakht, becoming the next resident in the house and continuing to organize the papers. She first assembled and published the "Biography" of Inayat Khan, which was mostly autobiographical; she then began work on an integral, chronologically presented scholarly edition which compared all available manuscripts of Hazrat Inayat Khan's words. During Munira's lifetime, four volumes in "The Complete Works of Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan" series appeared. After her passing in 1990, work on the series has been continued by Berthi van der Bent Hamel of Bangor, PA and Sharif Graham who currently lives in Suresnes.

Rev. Berthi van der Bent Hamel, a Netherlands born pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania, was invited by Munira van Voorst van Beest to assist with the work of the Biographical Department in Suresnes due to Berthi's background in work with sacred text and facility with various languages. Since 1993, Berthi's task at the Biographical Department of the Nekbakht Foundation is to retranscribe the shorthand of Hazrat Inayat Khan's discourses, word for word, as spoken in the 1920's. This shorthand, as taken down originally by Nekbakht Furnée, is an obsolete Dutch shorthand, the Pont system, in which she recorded the Indian-English text. Any and every type of editing in the shorthand appears in the footnotes of the series. However, if the speaker rephrased a train of thought, or repeated himself, these words are now left in the text, according to Hazrat Inayat Khan's explicit directive: "If you will preserve my words as I have spoken, it will be as saving my life." Berthi is assisted in this work by volunteers Margaret Lesley (typing and proofreading) and Anne King (proofreading).

Professor Donald A. Sharif Graham taught Literature and Comparative Religion at the University of Arizona and Pima College. He worked closely with Pir Vilayat on several of his books, and also edited books of Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan for Omega publications. In 1982 Sharif visited the archive of the Biographical Department in Suresnes, France, helping Munira during several of his summer vacations in Paris before she died. From that time he began working on The Complete Works of Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan every summer. In 1998 he moved to Suresnes to work full time on The Complete Works, the seventh volume of which was recently completed. Sharif Graham, assisted in Suresnes by Jasmine Damm and Kore Salvato, proofreads and compares all early documents, as well as creating the footnotes which record any variations in the text. Sharif also worlu on further preparing the volumes for publishing, including the expertly painstaking technical editorial work of creating the layout and index. The prepared volumes are then published and distributed by Omega Publications, library-bound to ensure both the quality and longevity of the volumes.

All the lectures from 1922, 1923, and 1924 have now been published, and two volumes of talks in America from the end of 1925 and the first half of 1926 are ready for publication in fall 2010, which will be the 9th and 10th volumes in the series. "The Complete Works" series makes available exactly what Inayat Khan is reported to have said, and will provide the solid basis for all scholarly research and future editions.

"The Complete Works of Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan" series are available in the United States from Omega Publications website www.omegapub.com, and also by phone or email from Omega's distribution service 800-345-6665 or 603-357-0236, email pbs@pathwaybook.com.

In Europe, the series may be ordered from De Soefi Beweging Den Haag, sufipublicatiom@hetnet.nl.
www.soefi.nl

The Complete Works may also be downloaded electronically at:
www.nekbakhtfoundation.org.