



## 10-Day Intensive Open Path Retreat

at Nada Hermitage, Crestone, Colorado  
with Pir Elias Amidon

May 10-21, 2018

### PROGRAM

In 2018 we will be holding a 10-day intensive retreat at Nada Hermitage. This program is limited to fourteen participants, and is intended for those who have either taken a nine-month Open Path training, or who are familiar with other nondual approaches to spiritual awakening, such as Advaita, Zen, Dzogchen, Sufi, or Christian mysticism.

The power of this Open Path retreat is supported by the awesome location of Nada Hermitage, nestled beneath the 14,000 foot Sangre de Cristo Mountains and looking out on the immense desert plateau of the San Luis Valley. It is also supported by the fact that each participant lives alone in his or her own comfortable hermitage in the dunes. This solo aspect of the retreat allows you to dive deeply into the essence of your being in a way that is not as possible in more communal living arrangements.

The retreats will focus on recognizing and sustaining recognition of the transparent presence of open awareness that is our natural state — as well as on the process of “unlearning” that is the prerequisite of this focus. We will also give attention to issues that arise as we seek to live a meaningful, loving and beneficial life. To aid us we will make use of direct pointing out, silence, guided meditation, heart-opening and breathing exercises, self-inquiry, musical meditation, slow-motion dance, and other methods from Sufi, Dzogchen, Advaita, Buddhist, and contemporary nondual teachings.

During the retreat you may also be encouraged to take on a series of practices based on Sufi approaches to purification and illumination: periods of solitude, silence, wakefulness, zikr, as well as practices derived from other traditions. These practices may be given individually or collectively. While you are under no obligation to do these practices, they are highly recommended.

If you have any questions about what is meant by the focus of the retreats, or about your readiness to attend, contact Elias at [openpath@sufiway.org](mailto:openpath@sufiway.org).

Most days we will meet together at West Light, the Sufi Way center that is within walking distance of Nada. Our meetings take place usually in the mornings — sometimes in the evenings — and they may include guided meditations, group practices, silence, deep conversation (*sohbet*), or musical meditation. There will also be opportunity for individual work with Elias.



## ACCOMMODATION

The hermitages at Nada are comfortable and isolated cabins set in the quiet dunes. Each hermitage contains a wood stove, small kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, writing area, tape/CD player, and linens. Food is provided (fresh vegetables, fruit, bread, cheese, canned goods, etc.) If you have special dietary needs you may want to bring additional items, or buy them in the nearby town of Crestone. Retreatants prepare their own meals.

## FEES

The tuition fee for the retreat is \$600. The accommodation fee at Nada (hermitage and food) for the 11 nights is \$715.

PLEASE NOTE: This year accommodations at Nada are limited to 7 hermitages. If they are full at the time you register, you may reserve a similar hermitage at a nearby retreat center. We recommend the Tibetan center Chamma Ling — see their website at <http://colorado.ligmincha.org/retreat-cabins.html> for how to reserve a cabin there. You may also reserve a retreat cabin at another nearby Tibetan retreat center, Yeshe Khorlo. These cabins are simpler than at Chamma Ling, but also less expensive. You can find information here: [https://yeshekhloro.org/retreatcrestone\\_intro/](https://yeshekhloro.org/retreatcrestone_intro/). When staying at these centers, you will have to provide your own food which can be purchased in the nearby town of Crestone.

We have a limited scholarship fund available for those who need help with these costs. To apply, send an email to: [info@sufiway.org](mailto:info@sufiway.org) describing your situation and what you are able to pay.

## REGISTRATION

A \$200 deposit is required at the time of registration; the balance is due two months prior to each retreat. If you cancel two months or more before the retreat, \$100 of your deposit will be refunded; cancellations after that date forfeit the deposit. You may register by clicking [here](#).

## LOGISTICS AND DIRECTIONS

Addresses: **Nada Hermitage:** 1 Carmelite Way, Crestone, CO 81131

**West Light:** 638 Panorama Way, Crestone, CO 81131

Plan to arrive at Nada by 5 PM, if possible, on Thursday, May 10.

### Flying

Most people fly into Denver International Airport (DEN), which is a four-hour drive from Crestone. The most convenient way to get from Denver Airport to Crestone is to rent a car. Since most retreatants will be arriving by air, retreatants can meet at the airport by noon on May 10 and share the rental car cost. We will send you email addresses of the other retreatants in advance of the retreat so you can organize this among yourselves. Plan your return flights to depart after 2 PM on May 21, so you have plenty of time to return to the airport.

You can also fly into Alamosa County Airport (ALA), which is a one-hour drive to Crestone. Taxis are available for this trip from Alamosa, or you can rent a car there. Denver flights tend to be less expensive, and involve fewer connections.

### Bus service

Black Hill Stage Lines (phone: 402-371-3850) runs a bus that travels daily from Denver to Moffat, the town closest to Crestone. It departs from the Denver Greyhound bus station at 2:00 PM and arrives in Moffat just after 6:00 PM. Tickets can be booked on Black Hills' website. There is no public transportation service between Moffat and Nada Retreat Center. If you do take this bus, let us know in advance and we will arrange for someone to pick you up for a \$25 fee.

If you are flying in to Denver International Airport and wish to take the bus, be sure to plan your flight to allow enough travel time to arrive at the bus station in Denver before 2:00 PM. We recommend choosing a flight arriving in Denver by 11 AM in order to get to the bus station before 2 PM. Denver public transportation (RTD) will take you to the bus station from the airport. The "AF" bus route can take you right from the airport to the Denver bus station, and it leaves about once an hour. For an RTD schedule, click on schedule information Denver RTD. No need to book a ticket for this bus in advance, you can just pay cash as you board the bus. For the return trip from Crestone back up to Denver, the bus leaves daily from Moffat at 6:45 AM and arrives in Denver at 11:15 AM. From the Denver bus station, you can then take an RTD bus to Denver International Airport (please see bus schedule link above), so plan your flight's departure time to allow enough travel time to the airport.

### Driving directions from Denver International Airport

- Take Pena Blvd South/West for about 10 miles, until it merges into I-70 West.
- Take I-70 West for about 25 miles.
- Merge onto CO-470 E via Exit 260 toward Colorado Springs, and go 5.7 miles.
- Merge onto US-285 South toward Fairplay.
- Take 285 South through Fairplay, then Johnson Village, continuing south on 285 through Villa Grove (about 150 miles).
- After passing through Villa Grove watch for a turnoff from 285 to RT 17 on your left. Take RT 17 to Moffat.
- As you are about to pass the southern end of Moffat look for a small sign for Crestone. You will turn Left on T Road heading east towards Crestone.
- After 11.8 miles on T Road, you'll come to a wide fork in the road. Go right at the fork onto Camino Baca Grande. (Note: bearing left at this fork takes you into downtown Crestone).
- After about 1.5 miles on Camino Baca Grande, turn right on Rendezvous Way (there is a small sign there for Nada Hermitage). At the bottom of the hill bear left, and proceed to the large building on your right. We will meet you there.