

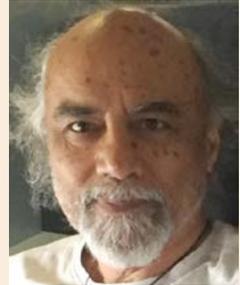


A Taste of Sufism

with Murshid Kiran Rana

April 2017 – March 2018

offered by the Sufi Way



*Sufism is an ages-old mystical path, the Way of the Heart.
It has always been with us and yet is eternally fresh,
ever-renewing the human spirit.*

A Taste of Sufism is an online seminar about different strands of Sufi thought and practice from pre-Islamic times to the present day. There will be eleven monthly presentations covering origins and history, schools, teachings, personalities, evolution, traditions, your questions ... more.

Two weeks after each presentation there will be a follow-up discussion/Q&A session. The style will be personal and informal, a wide-ranging journey through a varied landscape. All sessions may be accessed by telephone or Skype.

If you miss a session for any reason you can ask for a recording.

Who the program is for

- ◆ people who are involved with a Sufi fellowship, school or online group
- ◆ people who resonate with Sufism as a message of love and kindness
- ◆ people who are inspired by Sufi poetry, music and dance
- ◆ people who want to reach a personal deepening of prayer, worship and inquiry

Schedule

Presentations will take place on the third Sunday of the month. Discussion/Q&A sessions will be two Sundays later and we may invite other speakers to take part in the discussions.

The first session - on April 9 - is free but you must sign up for it in advance. (See below.)

Talks will be at 9:00 am U.S. Pacific Time (that is 5:00 pm GMT), with adjustments for Daylight Savings. Both presentations and discussions will run about 60 minutes each.

Note: The first talk is on **April 9**, because April 16 is Easter, and the follow-up conversation will be on **April 30**. There will be no session in July. (A full list of dates and topics is on page 2.)

Registration & Costs

New lower prices and discounts!

The full seminar costs \$175, individual sessions are \$20 each. **The first session (April 9) is free but you must sign up for it in advance.** You can add the rest of the course or individual sessions when you first register or later.

To make the program widely accessible, we are offering two special discounts if you register by June 15:

1 – buy 4 sessions — May, June, August, and September — for \$50

2 – buy all 10 additional sessions for \$125

You can also pay for the full program or multiple sessions in 2 or 3 installments. Discussion sessions are included in the cost of the talks.

To register, click [HERE](#).

Dates & Topics

1. April 9, 2017 – Sufi Origins

(discussion: April 30*)

Cultural and spiritual origins; early mystical schools and traditions; the influence of Prophet Mohammed

2. May 21, 2017 – Sufi Forms

(discussion: June 4)

The blossoming within Islam; the appearance of the name “Sufi”; the rise of teachers, schools, fellowships, monasteries, lineages, orders, superorders

3. June 18, 2017 – Sufi Content

(discussion: July 2)

Concepts, philosophy, psychology, vocabulary, activity; God as Ruler, God as Love — the influence of Rabia al-Adawwiya

(No Session in July)

4. Aug. 20, 2017 – Sufi Practices

(discussion: Sept. 3)

Prayer, concentration and repose; music and movement, theater and story; experientials, tasks and chilla; itinerancy and pilgrimage, self-inquiry and experiment

5. Sept. 17, 2017 – Sufi “Poles” & Polarities

(discussion: Oct. 1)

The Great Teachers; disparities and dichotomies; the unity of existence

6. Oct. 15, 2017 – Sufi Memes

(discussion: Oct. 29)

The Path of Love, the Way of the Heart, the Divine as The Beloved, the Guide/Teacher as the Friend

7. Nov. 19, 2017 – Sufi Values

(discussion: Dec. 3)

Wisdom (Sophia), character, the art of personality, doing the beautiful, attunement; the role of women

8. Dec. 17, 2017 – Sufi Disruptors

(discussion on Jan. 7, 2018*)

The shamanic heritage; the Malamati and Qalandari; extremists and assassins; Mulla Nasruddin

9. Jan. 21, 2018 – Sufi Radiance

(discussion on Feb. 4)

Poetry, art, music, dance, storytelling, love epics; creative imagination, the Imaginal

10. Feb. 18, 2018 – Spiritual Liberty

(discussion on March 4)

Inayat Khan and secular Sufism, Universal Sufism, nondual Sufism, intersectional spirituality

11. Mar. 18, 2018 – Sufism Today & Tomorrow

(discussion on April 8*)

Spirit, nature and ecology; the mystic activist; our nature as love, our nature as change

* these are the *third* following Sunday

Recordings will be available to those who have signed-up and paid for the course or that session.

The webinar will be held online at MaestroConference. After you register you will receive a confirmation email with a phone number to call and a PIN that will give you access to the session on Maestro. To use Skype to join the webinar, send a Skype contact request to Maestro4294 (it can take 72 hours to get a confirmation). Place a non-video call to Maestro through Skype and use the Dial Pad to enter your PIN. More details on Skype-connecting will be in your registration confirmation. You will receive reminders from Maestro 24 hours and 2 hours before each session with the number to call and your personal PIN.

Further information, including a pdf of the complete schedule, is available on the Sufi Way website at this [LINK](#).

Murshid Kiran Rana was born and raised in India. In 1973 he traveled to the West, where he met the Sufi mystic, Fazal Inayat-Khan, and joined his Khankah (residential Sufi community). He spent the first seven years of his Sufi training living and working in close proximity to his teacher.

In 1981, Kiran moved to California, where for 35 years he was a publisher of books on physical and emotional health. He also led workshops on Sufi poetry and music, teaching especially through the Sufi musical form called *qawwali*. During that time he also became a Murshid (guide) in the Sufi Way, the progressive Sufi order started by Fazal Inayat-Khan.

In 2014, Kiran gave up publishing and devoted himself full-time to being a student and teacher of Sufism. He lives in the San Francisco Bay area with his wife, Jeanne, who is a poet and long-term member of the Sufi Way and the Unitarian church. At the Bay Dervish center in Alameda they hold monthly Sufi conversations and gatherings for zikr, qawwali and worship and share approaches to the inner life, creativity and awakening.