

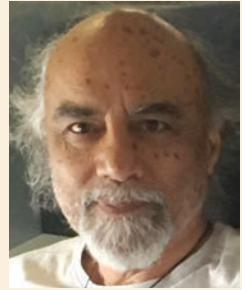


# A Taste of Sufism

with Murshid Kiran Rana

April 2017 – July 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 exploring different strands of Sufi thought and practice from pre-Islamic times to the present day. There will be eleven monthly presentations covering the origins and history of Sufism, its many schools, teachings, personalities, traditions and changes.

Two weeks after each presentation there will be a follow-up discussion and Q&A session. The style will be personal and interactive, 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 generally take place on the third Sunday of the month; discussion and Q&A sessions will be two Sundays later except for Sessions 9 and 10.

**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 the presentations and the discussions will run about 60 minutes each. A full list of dates and topics is on page 2.

**NOTE:** The first talk is on a second Sunday, **April 9**, because the third Sunday is Easter, and the follow-up conversation will be on **April 30**. There will be no session in July.

## Registration & Costs

### *New Lower prices*

**The full seminar costs \$125 (if you register by May 15); 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. Registration after May 15 is \$175.

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

1 – Buy all 10 sessions for \$125.

2 – Buy 4 sessions — May, June, August and September — for \$50.00.

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. March 25, 2018 – Sufi Radiance**

*(1/2 hr. discussion immediately following the session)*

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

### **10. May 13, 2018 – Spiritual Liberty**

*(1/2 hr. discussion immediately following the session)*

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

### **11. June 10, 2018 – Sufism Today & Tomorrow**

*(discussion and seminar wrap on July 1)*

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

*Please note new dates for these three programs*

**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. You can access the presentations by phone or Skype. 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. You will receive reminders from Maestro 24 hours and 2 hours before each session, again with the number to call and your personal PIN. More details for connecting through Skype will be in the registration confirmation.

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, Pir-o-Murshid Fazal Inayat-Khan, and joined his Khankah (residential Sufi community). 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 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 the practice and teaching 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.