

Dancing with Murshid S.A.M. (Sufi Ahmed Murad Chisti)
by Wali Ali Meyer, Murshid's esoteric Secretary, San Francisco,
California. Reprinted from "We Circle Around," Spring 1996

The original Dances of Murshid Samuel L. Lewis occupy first placement in this section. Those who have danced with Murshid will say the experience of even one Dance holding his hand or receiving his glance left a lifetime effect. Working with any of Murshid's Dances brings those who had not known him in the body closer in spirit. Following are five personal memoirs written by those who knew and danced with him. In addition, for each Dance there is a commentary written by way of the practice of 'tasawwuri' to Murshid Samuel L. Lewis by Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz). 'Tasawwuri' is an advanced practice of attuning to a spiritual teacher in which one walks in the footsteps and speaks through the spirit of the teacher. More than 25 years have passed since I was privileged to see the birth of the Dance activity and I have to say that memories have mostly faded into the infinite horizon of life. So it is perhaps all the more interesting for me to see what has remained, to see what are still living impressions in my heart and mind.

I vividly remember the first time Murshid asked me to lead the Dances at public meetings in his absence from San Francisco to go on an extended trip to New York in 1970. In those days only Murshid led the Dances. International networks of Dance leaders were barely a dream in the mind of God, so to speak. He told me that if I needed any help in leading the Dances to call to mind before the meeting my experience of him doing the practice, to just merge with that impression, and then to go forward with all confidence and assurance. That practice served me well then and continues to serve me well 25 years later. Those who have never met Murshid, but who have danced with others of his spiritual descendants, can do the same practice when they need support.

A leader should lead. By that I don't mean that he or she should necessarily say something profound, I mean that the leader should be in a positive state of heart magnetism and transmit this power without a lot of self-consciousness and in a voice that is sun-like. Reflecting back on it now, I see that Murshid's transmission is in the Dance. He has such a tremendous life force, such vivacity and joy and confidence in the presence of God/Allah/Ram and in the message of Unity. The Dances naturally accommodate that. I have seen many people who never met Murshid S.A.M. in the flesh receive his essential transmission by participating whole-heartedly in the Dances of Universal Peace. This is another ordinary ongoing miracle. One other thing Murshid said to me at that time about leading the meetings was that if I couldn't think what to say, to do more Dances. Over the years I have seen a number of Dance leaders make the mistake of trying to talk too much from the center of the circle and I always think of what Murshid said and did. When he wanted to give a talk on themes related to the Dances, he had people sit down and listen and he didn't talk from the center of the circle. When he was in the center of the circle, he was the Sun giving magnetism. He was focused on making the experience of those in the circle one of actual joy and not talking about the subject.