

*Support for the Dances of Universal Peace Network (1997)*

Fall Equinox, 1997

Ha'iku, Maui, Hawai'i

Dear Fellow Mureeds,

I am writing to you on behalf of the PeaceWorks International Network of the Dances of Universal Peace, to inform you of important developments both historic and current, and to encourage you to support the Dance Network by becoming contributing members (more on this later).

In 1981, ten years after Murshid Sam's death, the Dances of Universal Peace had become widespread as a result of efforts by Ruhaniat leaders in regional centers throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. There was no Dance Network then. All aspects of the Message work, including the Dances, were being managed by the Sufi Islamia Ruhaniat Society.

During that increasingly busy time, Moineddin had moved to Hawai'i to recuperate from a kidney transplant operation/nervous breakdown/depression, while Wali Ali was heading into a divorce and personal burnout situation at Khankah SAM. In other words, the two primary leaders of the Ruhaniat had their own demons to face, and were unable to provide vital leadership at that time.

It was against this backdrop that Murshid Saadi (then a Khalif) undertook a 21-day intensive retreat at Murshid's Maqbara at Lama Foundation. During the course of that retreat, Saadi experienced visitations by several Rassouls who gave him instructions for future community and world developments, including the Aramaic Lord's Prayer Zikar (Jesus), and the setting up of an autonomous Center for the Dances of Universal Peace (Mohammed). I'm probably embarrassing Saadi by saying this, but that's all right; we are an Order whose reality is based on direct spiritual experience and transmission. The spiritual government of the world has an ongoing program of love, joy, healing and peace which it imparts to humanity through dedicated and surrendered instruments -- and those instruments, my dear sisters and brothers, are you and me.

Clearly, the transmissions imparted to Saadi have taken root and borne fruit here and abroad, as Murshid foresaw. The Dances of Universal Peace have touched more than half a million people in North and South America, Europe, Eastern Europe, the nations of the former Soviet Union, Japan, India, Pakistan, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition to the 1996 Summer Olympics presentations, significant healing work was conducted via the Dances this past year in Croatia. As I write, the Dances are poised to spread to the Middle East and South Africa as well.

Further recent developments include the marvelous video production *Eat, Dance and Pray Together* by Anahata Iradah, and the beautiful book *Wisdom Comes Dancing: Selected Writings of Ruth St. Denis on Dance, Spirituality and the Body* by Kamae A Miller. Both of these efforts represent years of sacrifice and concentration on the part of Anahata and Kamae and their helper-friends. The baraka in each of these offerings will reach out to increasing numbers of people around the globe in coming years.

In another recent development, the Sufi Islamia Ruhaniat Society turned SIRS Publications and its inventory over to PeaceWorks for future publication, marketing and distribution. SIRS Pubs had been languishing due to a lack of personnel and funding, so its acquisition by PeaceWorks has been a positive move assuring greater availability of Murshid's writings to a world audience.

These are some of the many things happening in the overlapping spheres of PeaceWorks and the Sufi Islamia Ruhaniat Society. It is, moreover, important to remember that a majority of Ruhaniat mureeds have come to the path of initiation and discipleship through the door of the Dances of Universal Peace. So very many of you became mureeds by first being touched by the Dances.

In the spirit of this living connection between the Ruhaniat and PeaceWorks, I ask you to support the work of the International Network of the Dances of Universal Peace, through your prayers, and through your pocketbook, for its continued success.

"On, on with the Sacred Dance!" (Murshid Samuel L. Lewis)

Thank you, and love,

Moineddin