



A Sufi Message

The Deeper Side of Life, Humanity in Character

Selected Teachings by Hazrat Inayat Khan

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There is one thing: to be a man or a woman; and there is another thing: to be a person by completing the individuality in which is hidden the purpose of one's coming on earth. Angels were made to sing the praise of the Lord, jinns to imagine, to dream, to meditate; but human beings are created to show humanity in character. It is this which makes one a person.

There are many difficult things in life, but the most difficult of all is to learn and to know and to practice the art of personality. Nature, people say, is created by God and art by man; but in reality, in the making of personality it is God who completes Divine Art.

It is not what Christ has taught that makes his devotees love him; they dispute over those things in vain; it is what he himself was. It is that which is loved and admired by his devotees. When Jesus Christ said to the fishermen, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men", what did it mean? It meant, "I will teach you the art of personality, which will become as a net in this life's sea." For every heart, whatever be its grade of evolution, will be attracted by the beauty of the art of personality.

PRACTICE: Ya Jami' (yaa JAA-mi')

Note: Highlight Relationship to groups prior practice: Ya Qabid / Ya Basit

Al-Jami' is the gatherer. It means to come back together, to bring all the parts into a whole. Al-Jami' is to return home, to return to the real self. It is a constant process of becoming reconnected with wholeness. It is sometimes called the grand synthesis, the joining of all joinings. The Gatherer, The Uniter, The Collector. The One who reconciles and unites. The One who gathers together that which had been dispersed.

What does humankind seek in another person, what does a person expect in a friend? We may want a friend who is rich, of a high position, of a great power, of wonderful qualifications, of wide influence; but beyond and above all we expect from a friend the humane qualities which are the art of personality. If one's friend lacks the art of personality, all the above things are of but little use and value.

There is a question: how are we to learn it? We learn it by our love of art, by our love of beauty in all its less various aspects. The artist learns art by admiration of beauty. When a person gets an insight into beauty, then the art of arts is learned, which is the art of personality. A person may have a thousand qualifications, or rank, or position; a person may possess all the goods of the earth, but if a

person lacks the art of personality they are poor indeed. It is by this art that one shows that nobleness which belongs to the kingdom of God.

The art of personality is not a qualification. It is the purpose for which we were created, and it leads us to that purpose in the fulfillment of which is our entire satisfaction. By this art we not only satisfy our self, but we please God.

PRACTICE: Ya Ra'uf (yaa ra-'OOF) Ya Rahim (yaa ra-HEEM)

Ar-Ra'uf is a quiet, gentle, indwelling love that actively penetrates to the deepest and most profound place. This kind of love goes right to the essence of what it truly means to be human. Ar-Ra'uf helps heal the crucial problem of the ego-personality's self-identification with deficiency and inability, which is caused by its wounded condition. It works to heal the effects of not being seen and accepted by humanity. It manifests a peaceful calm, a resting in God that especially arises in the midst of difficulties and trials. Ar-Ra'uf's inner quality is awakened in a similar manner to the way steel is tempered in the process of making a sword. It is not a passive calm. It faces hostility, slander, and corruption with serenity, while at the same time it has a soothing effect that reaches the very core of the apparent enemy. Ya Ra'uf is close in its meaning to Ya Rahim (2), and they are quite beneficial when chanted together. Realization of these two qualities in your heart and in your life brings what is most necessary to become wholeheartedly human.

Ar-Rahim is the embodiment of loving mercy, and it brings the gentle touch of divine mercy. Nothing other than ar-Rahim possesses the mercy that pours forth freely and fully reaches all beings and all things, without exception. Rahim is absolute tenderness, gentleness, and kindness.

- Dedication of Merit
- **Prayer** Khatum
- Giving

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