

CULTIVATING ZIRAAT

Cultivating Ziraat Schedule 2024: <https://inayatiyyaziraat.org/event-announcements/>

Ziraat website: <https://inayatiyyaziraat.org/>

Note: There will be different zoom links each week.

Please register by email with Ata to receive weekly notes & recordings: ata@towardtheone.com.

Session 2 – The Ziraat Lodge

1 June 2024 – presenter Mumtaz Kammerer

LINK for [Recording 2](#) Passcode: =y2s1ot?

In the first session we heard about Ziraat being a spiritual path that uses symbols of farming, emphasizing two things: mental purification and our connection to the whole of creation.

The farm's field is the mind and through ploughing, sowing and reaping - the mind is purified of all that's foreign to it. One becomes one's own authentic self. It's a continual process and just like farming, mental purification has its seasons and cycles.

- **The Ziraat Lessons** - help us understand what mental purification is and how we may achieve it.
- **Attunement to the Elements** is also central to Ziraat. All of creation is made up of the elements and human beings are connected to the all of creation through the elements and through the soul's journey. This connectedness yields an awareness of our part in the planet's ecology and environment.

These two aspects mental purification and our connection to the whole of creation come through the Ziraat Lodge Ceremony.

For Ziraat, the Lodge is where we gather for special ritual:

- to create sacred
- to align with the Divine and the Great Farmer (Hazrat Inayat Khan)
- to connect with the elements
- to engage with the Dialogue, to better understand Ziraat
- to hear the Address of the Great Farmer and other Ziraat Lessons
- to commit ourselves to the work, to pray and sometimes conduct initiations.

Ziraat Lodges (~6:15)

Leaders have different approaches to the Lodge so you can expect some variations when you attend.

- Everyone is welcome to attend the Ziraat Lodge.
- The Lodge can be held indoors or outdoors.
- The leader is someone with experience in Ziraat – usually Farmer, or Experienced Farmer, or Pir Zia.
- A Ziraat Altar is prepared – the base (wood or stone if possible), is covered by a gold cloth (symbolizing the Sun) – items representing the elements are placed on the cloth, traditionally, the following:

Earth - a bowl of soil or flowers

Water - a container of water

Fire - a lit candle

Air – a feather or fan

Ether – incense ... (this may be left unlit)



Formal Ziraat Lodge – ([Link to 4-page pdf of Ceremony](#))

- The Lodge begins with the Sufi Invocation

Toward the One, the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty, the Only Being, united with all the Illuminated Souls, who form the embodiment of the Messenger, the Spirit of Guidance.

Invoking ... is a calling forth or connecting with. Mumtaz suggests that before speaking these words you could think ... I am moving, I am going, or I am becoming. e.g. "I am moving toward the One". The Altar and the Invocation create a sacred space – where we are open to connect with the Divine.

- **Ziraat Invocation**

*We invoke the Presence of the Sovereign of the Farm.
We offer our wholehearted devotion to the Great Farmer.*

The Sovereign of the Farm is God, the One, (your name), for the Divine Presence ... which we want to experience. We also offer devotion to the Great Farmer, Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat. (Contact [Mumtaz](#) for resources to learn about Murshid and his message of Unity, and Spiritual Liberty.)

- **Ziraat Greetings**

- **Salutations to the Elements** – (~10:40)

- What does it mean to OFFER homage? ... giving, respect, honor, recognition
- Adjectives give insight to different aspects of the elements:

All-productive Earth, All-purifying water, All-consuming Fire, all-pervading Air, Ether essence of All

- Adverbs describe on how we offer homage – these are lessons on attitude and approach to life
humbly ... willingly ... whole-heartedly ... gladly ... passively

- **Ziraat Dialogue** – (~16:47)

- Farming – the purpose for our gathering
- Aspirations and ideals of the Farmer
- The Farmer's work - goals, attitudes, principles, kinds of work
- Aspects of cultivation and cycles of Farming

- **The Address of the Great Farmer** – (~22:00)

- Filled with insights & images to deep esotericism – reveals more and more each time we read and hear it.
- Journey of the soul through all of creation, working out it's perfection to express itself in humanity.

- **Lessons / Initiations** – ([Link to Ziraat Teachings](#))

- **Closing Salutations (in silence) and Closing Statement**

"Let us depart, knowing ourselves, the willing workers of the Sovereign of the Farm, in whose service is perfect freedom"

- **Closing Prayer** – Khatum

Informal Lodge (~27:16) ([Link to 2-page pdf of Ceremony](#))

Opens with the Invocations, Greetings, Salutations to the Elements. The Leader may include a wide range of activities (teachings, songs, poetry, group sharing, meditations), ending with silent Salutations and Closing.

Initiation Ceremonies and Vows ([Link to 5-page pdf Reception of Laborer](#))

Ziraat is an initiatic path, open to anyone whether or not they are on the Sufi path, who

- feels an attraction to what is offered
- makes a decision to commit deeply to the studies and practices
- requests to be initiated - exhibiting a readiness and willingness to do the work
- is prepared to affirm the vows and connects with an authorized initiator.

General Discussion (~32:00)

The Formal and Informal Lodge and different forms of the Initiation Ceremonies allow for creativity and the opportunity to bring forward what is alive in our lives and have honest conversation about that and to share practices with each other.

Further Reading:

Review the last 3 items under the ABOUT menu on **Ziraat website**: <https://inayatiyyaziraat.org/>

- [Ziraat Lodge Ceremony](#) ... Read about the Lodge and download the **Ziraat Lodge and Teachings booklet**
Printed booklet can be purchased from Wali Via for \$15 USD
- [Ziraat Teachings](#) ... Read the Five Ziraat Lessons, Symbology of Farming, Cycle of Work of the Farm
- [Ziraat Initiation](#) ... Read more about Initiations and the Reception of Laborer Ceremonies

If you have any questions from today's presentation, please contact Mumtaz (mumtaz.kammerer@yahoo.com) or Wali (walivia@wintergreenfarm.com or Ziraat@inayatiyya.org).

Ziraat Email: Ziraat@inayatiyya.org ... (Currently goes to Wali, in July this will transfer to Nehmat.)

Monthly Ziraat Lodges: All are welcome - contact the Leader by email for details and zoom link.
Email Wali to inquire about Lodges that may be held in your area or Country.

USA

- **Mumtaz** – 1st Thursday of the month 7pm Eastern – (Ziraat Lodge, Ziraat Class and Healing Class)
Email: mumtaz.kammerer@yahoo.com
- **Shakur** – monthly New Moon Lodge (held in person at The Abode, NY)
Email: djohnson12125@gmail.com

Oceania

- **Australia** -2nd Monday of the month 7pm Australian ET
Email: bevkyan@yahoo.com.au
... USA April – Sept: Monday 5am Eastern Time
After daylight saving changes Nov – Mar: Monday 3am Eastern
- **Aotearoa (New Zealand)** – 4th Wednesday of the month 7:30pm NZT
Email: eilapaul@hotmail.co.nz
... USA April – Sept: Wednesday 3:30am Eastern Time
After daylight saving changes Nov – Mar: Wednesday 1:30am Eastern (Tuesday 10:30pm Pacific)