

**Murshid S.A.M.'s Lines of Spiritual Transmission.
Discovering Murshid's *Makam* through his Writings.**

**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 Master
The Spirit of Guidance**

Most of us as mureeds and guides in the Ruhaniat did not have the opportunity to know Murshid Samuel Lewis when he was alive in the body. Fortunately for us it's clear that Murshid did establish his *makam* in the world through some of his disciples who have carried and shared this transmission for the past 50 years.

It's also apparent to me that Murshid S.A.M.'s transmission is, even now, directly accessible to us all: an indelible imprint of his *makam* is to be found especially in his esoteric papers, his esoteric commentaries of the work of Pir-O-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan, his poetry and even in his correspondence. Murshid seemed entirely conscious that he was creating and leaving this legacy for the benefit of those who were to follow.

We are blessed to have an extensive Archive of Murshid's writings available online. Perhaps it's easy to take this for granted. Initially as mureeds we only had access to photocopied copies of a selection of these works. For me these papers were hidden treasures that living in England were not so easy to access and yet were transformative in my own life. Being the first Ruhaniat mureed in the UK there were no Sufi classes I could attend. Before the days of internet I had maybe one or two letter exchanges each year with my guide, Saadi. These papers were without doubt a deep and fulfilling connection to our lineage teachings. My love and appreciation for these written lineage teachings has only continued to deepen and blossom over the years which may account for why I eventually found myself involved in the Archive Collection itself.

Because of the voluminous nature of Murshid's written work in the Archive it may not be so easy to navigate or to know where to begin what can be considered an essential journey into this realm of the unknown for Ruhaniat mureeds and guides.

Where do we start? How do we approach these writings? Which ones are essential reading? How can we get the most from our study? How can we cultivate and disseminate the essence of these teachings to our mureeds? How do we manifest this in our atmosphere?

All these and other questions will be answered in the forthcoming three sessions.

We will be looking at some of the essential writings from four main aspects of Murshid's work: the original papers, the commentaries, the poetry and the correspondence.

It's not a question of getting through as many papers as possible or even reading them only cursorily. They are not primarily understood at the intellectual level. The insights we gain are a result of increasing the capacity of the heart sphere.

Working with the papers is a certainly a spiritual practice in itself. It's not a substitute for whatever practices our spiritual guide may give to us but it is a wonderfully complimentary practice from which we can benefit greatly. What I want to emphasise is that it is our inner state, our own makam, that will determine how and what we are able to receive and assimilate from these works. The more we can create the inner state of spaciousness inner receptivity the greater will be the impressions the greater will be the effect on our makam. The more we engage with these works the more the veils lift and what once may have felt unintelligible or insignificant to us is suddenly crystal clear. In my experience it can lead to the state of Fana fi Pir, effacement in the being of Murshid S.A.M. as one who has passed from the physical plane.

Being a practical person by nature what draws me most are the actual spiritual practices and the states of being that immersing oneself in these writings can give us access to. In our sessions together what I want to share are many such practices as well as the ineffable essence, the spaciousness between and beyond that the words allow us to touch and especially the *makam* of our Murshid.

Much love and many blessings

Tansen