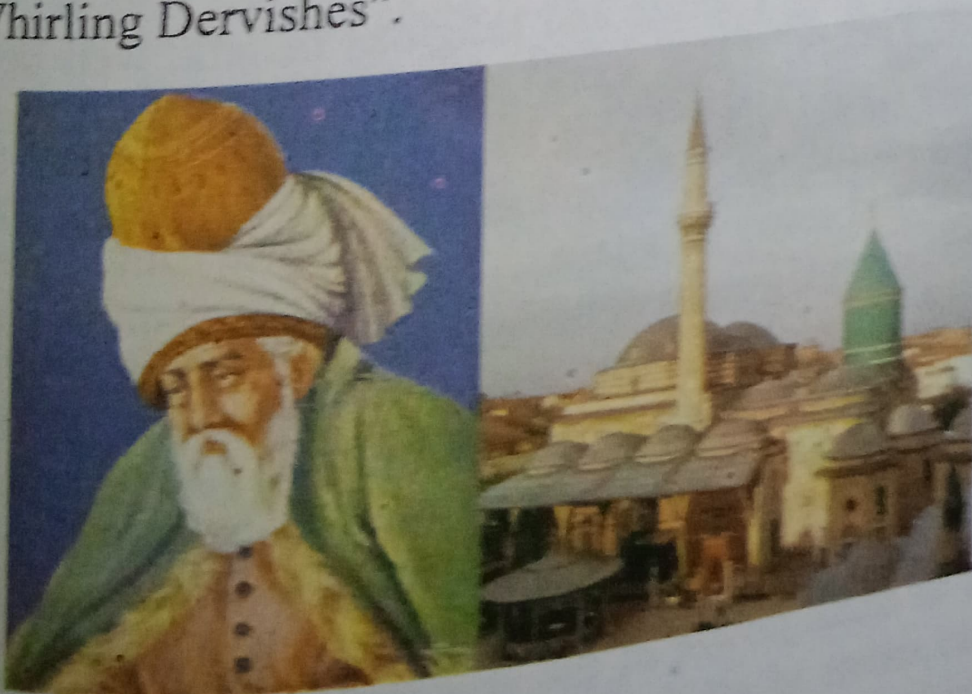


MAULANA JALAL-UD-DIN BALKHI RUMI
(POET AND PHILOSOPHER)
{ 1207-1273 A.H. }

“Eminent philosopher and mystical Islamic poet, Rumi Advocated tolerance, reason and access to knowledge through love. His mystical relationship with Islam produced masterpieces that have marked Islamic culture and religious beliefs, well beyond the borders of Turkey. His work and thought remain universally relevant today”.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated 2007 “Year of Rumi” of mark the 800th birth of Afghanistan’s philosopher and mystical poet Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Balkh Known as Rumi. Maulana was born in Afghanistan’s Balkh province on September 30, 1207 to a family of learned theologians. He is one of the greatest spiritual and literary figures of all times. As the most celebrated poet of the Farsi Language, Maulana is renowned for his message of love, humanity and peace, and for his founding of the Mawlawia order, better known as the “Whirling Dervishes”.



While fleeing his homeland during the Mongol invasion of Central Asia with his father, Maulana met and received the blessing of Farid al-Din Attar, the preeminent Sufi poet of the day, whom he was to succeed in the annals of Persian Sufi poetry. Maulana's family traveled through the Middle East and made the pilgrimage to Mecca before settling in Konya, Turkey, where he would compose his poetry over the next 40 years.

Maulana was not a poet who happened to practice Sufism, but great Sufi master expressing his deep spirituality through the language of poetry. He founded the Mathnawi order, which influenced Ottoman society, poetry and musical arts for decades. Maulana composed his Mathnawi and Divan-i-Shams, the monumental works devoted to gnosis and divine ecstasy and became a celebrated artist in both the Persian and Turkish speaking worlds. The Mawlamwia dervishes continue to celebrate Maulana's death, on the December 17, 1273 as a festival.

Throughout 2007, special ceremonies and programs will be held all over the world to commemorate Maulana, including a two days seminar in Kabul and a tour to his birth place in Blakh province in northern Afghanistan.

"Eminent philosopher and mystical Islamic poet, Rumi advocated tolerance, reason and access to knowledge through love. His mystical relationship with Islam produced masterpieces that have marked Islamic Culture and religious beliefs, well beyond the borders of Turkey. His work and thought remain universally relevant today", said UNESCO in its announcement.

Come, come, whoever you are

Come and come yet again.....

Come even if you have broken your vows a thousand times

Wanderer, idolater, worshipper of fire.....

Ours is not a caravan of despair,

This is the date of hope,

Come, come yet again, come.

Central topic of Mevianas teachings is the love, which he understood as main power of the universe. Because of God's love the universe exists at all, humans must learn to love God, so they will learn to love everything what is God's creation, thus as humans,

nature and all things.

"For the love of God is God along the source of sorrow and joy. It is the wages of their work and to be really rich". (From Mesnevi of Mevlana Jelaleddin rumi).

In the last year 1.5 million visitors and pilgrims flowed to the mausoleum of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, which is today one of Turkey's most visited museums. 200000 visitors came from foreign countries, especially from Iran, where Mevlana is very famous. From every part of the world humans visited the mystical poet, many of them speaking "Dua" (asking prayers) at his tomb.

After Mevlana's death on December 17 in the year 1273 the mausoleum was established over which today rises up the "Kubbe-i-Hadra" (the Green dome), it became the symbol of Konya.

Rumi was buried near his father in the rose garden of the Seljuk palace. Later altogether 55 family members and companion or high ranking Mevlevi-Dervishes like Selaheddin Zerkub and Husamedin Celebi found their last peace at the mausoleum, beside Mevlana his son Sultan Veled. The "Tekke" was built, a building for meetings and studies, the Sema hall for mystical dance and small cells for meditation practice like "Zikr" (Thinking of God).

Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi was born in the year 1207 in Balkh in the Persian region Horasan (today Afghanistan). His father was the respected scholar Bahaeddin Veled, who left the city with his family because of the forthcoming Mongol invasion.

After traveling through different areas and a longer stay in Karaman, finally they came 1228 to Konya, which was the capital of the Rum Seljuk under the powerful Sultan Alaaddin Keykubat. After the death of the father Rumi became also a respected theological scholar. But the meeting and special friendship with Shemseddin Tabrisi, a Derivish of the calendar order he met 1244 in Konya, brought him on the mystic way.

The Sufi Derwishorder of the Meavlevis, which was founded after Mevlanas death, got large influence during the time of the Turkish Seljuk and later in the Ottoman Empire. The order was closed, when the new Turkish Republic was established at the beginning of the 20th century. Today exists in many countires, even in Europe and America small private groups, which are following the

thoughts of Mevlana and partly continuing mystic practices.

The ritual of "Sema", the mystic dance of turning Mevlevi Dervishes found its origin in an inspiration of Mevlana Celaleddin rumi, but received its form after his death. Accompanied by the sounds of the flute "Ney" and other instruments, the whirling dervish is turning like in trance around his own axis, the right hand upward to be ready to receive God's beneficence and the left hand downward to the earth. It symbolizes the mankind with their connection between heaven and earth.

The day of death Mevlana Celaleddin rumi's on December 17 in the year 1273 is named as "Seb-i-Arus", what means literally translated "wedding night". For the inhabitants of Konya at that time Mevlana's death was a drastic event. Sheikh Sadreddin Konevi, another mystic master from Konya, who should speak the last prayer for Mevlana, fell in faint because of sadness. To Rumi's funeral came numerous representatives of all groups and religions, also Christians and Jews. Despite of the Muslim funeral they were reading from the Old and New Testament and described the character of Mevlana as equal with Moses and Jesus. Mevlana Celaddin Rumi had designated the death as typical for the Sufis as "wedding", a kind of still more intensive mental combination with God. In the Divan the following statement is contained: "When you see my funeral don't say: What for a separation. It is time for me to meet the lover...."

غلط نگرہے تری چشم نیم باز اب تک!
ترا وجود تری واسطے ہے راز اب تک!
ترا نیاز نہیں آشنائے ناز اب تک!
کہ ہے قیام سے خالی تری نماز اب تک!
گستہ تار ہے تری خودی کا ساز اب تک!
کہ تو ہے نغمہ رومی سے بے نیاز اب تک!
علامہ اقبال