

Invocation Bismillah

F#m (Em) E (D) A (G) E (D) D (C) A (G)

Al - lah Bis - mi - llah Bis - mil - llah Toward the One U -

Bm7 (Am7) E (D) Bm7 (Am7) E (D)

1.

ni - ted with All U - ni - ted with All

Bm7 (Am7) E (D) A (G) Bm7 (Am7) E (D) F#m (Em)

-ni - ted with All U - ni - ted with All

Words: traditional Quran and Hazrat Inayat Khan
 Music & Dance: Wali & Ariënne van der Zwan
 Chords between brackets are for standard guitar, capo II

This dance was inspired by studying the Invocation of Hazrat Inayat Khan and the understanding that his 'Toward the One' is his rendering of 'Bismillah', the opening word of the Quran and all consequent suras (chapters) but one.

Allah The Arabic word for 'God', the One Being or the all pervading Reality. As such, ALLAH is not referring to the 'Islamic God', which is a contradiction, since there is only One. Arabic speaking Christians also use the word Allah. Hazrat Inayat Khan started out using ALLAH, but changed to GOD when he realized this sounded too Islamic for his Western audiences.

Bismillah With or in the name of the One Being. Sufis often start an enterprise with this word, dedicating all they do in service to the One.

Toward the One The opening words of the Invocation of Hazrat Inayat Khan. His rendering of BISMILLAH is not literal, as he added direction to it. When we read this as 'Toward Unity', these words become a very practical spiritual tool and measure stick: every action and every step we take that furthers and promotes Unity is a step 'toward the One'. It is, in terms of Murshid Wali Ali, 'our mission statement in life'. See our booklet 'Toward the One' for more on this. In this Dance we use the American TOWARD (pronounced in one syllable) rather than the English TOWARDS (two syllables).

United with all Part of the Invocation. Murshid SAM used to give his students the practice TOWARD THE ONE (in breath to the dot in the heart) – UNITED WITH ALL (out breath into a wide circle from the heart), thus connecting TOWARD THE ONE with the dot, UNITED WITH ALL with the circle. Concentrating on the dot and the circle is one of the concentration practices of Hazrat Inayat Khan. In Gatha I: 7, he calls the dot the most important of all figures, the beginning and source of all. All emanated from the dot, so the dot is like God: the One that is the source of the many. The dot – *bindu* in Hindi – 'in man's figure is his eye, and in the eye the iris, and in the iris the pupil, which signifies the dot'.

Dance Description

Define partners.

The dance starts on BISMILLAH.

All form a circle, holding hands and facing anti clockwise.

In the write-up, ALLAH comes at the beginning. In the dance, it is unclear if ALLAH is at the beginning, at the end or in between: Allah is Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.

So the dance may start with the BISMILLAH or with the two opening chords, either in silence or while chanting ALLAH.

1. Bismillah, Bismillah, Toward the One
 2. United with all
 3. United with all
 4. Bismillah, Bismillah, Toward the One
 5. United with all
 6. United with all
 7. Allah
-
1. Walk anticlockwise in the rhythm BISMI (right) – LLAH (left) etc.
The TOWARD THE ONE walk is a walk of longing or being pulled, as if someone is calling you at the end of the Horizon, which indeed is the case!
It is also a walk of trust and confidence in the realization that we are carried and cared for. As the Prophet Muhammad explained to his followers, Allah loves us more than a mother loves her offspring.
Whatever happens, every step toward the One is worth taking: if you take one step toward the One, the One takes ten steps toward you.
 2. Turn to your partner, hold hands and stay in place, uniting with the eyes by trying to look at 'the face behind the face', so beyond the outer appearances. The eyes are the door to the heart and the soul.
 3. Exchange places by making a half turn, keeping the rhythm and pace as in 1.
 4. As 1.
 5. Walk in the same rhythm toward the center and back (four steps in and out).
 6. Raise hands and turn to the right, celebrating Unity.
 7. Come back into the circle, standing on place and holding hands symbolizing the Unity of the One while chanting ALLAH.