

# abwoon

...toward peace through the wisdom of the middle eastern traditions

## Dear Friends,

One famous Zen quotation is: "Before enlightenment: chopping wood, carrying water. After enlightenment: chopping wood, carrying water." The same could be said for endarkenment, the negative experiences in life.

Another story I heard during the Cold War went like this. A Zen master was asked what he would do if he heard that nuclear war had broken out and that he had only a day to live. He replied, "The same thing I'm doing right now. Saying my sutras and feeding people."

The other evening, I was privileged to hear a reading by four Arabic poets who were touring the UK and were here in Edinburgh. One of them, Mourid Barghouti (author of *I Saw Ramallah*) was asked how he saw his relationship to Arabic poetry and classical literature of the past. Barghouti said that for the past century, many Arabic poets have attempted to subvert the romantic, bombastic, idealistic language of past eras and to develop a fresh language, one of resistance to the status quo. He noted that he and most of his contemporaries in the Middle East had been in opposition to or exile from all of their respective governments for the past several generations. Poetry was, for him, about developing a language of resistance, the resistance of beauty and clarity to any sort of political, ideological, commercial or religious manipulation of language.

A similar thought appears in Morris Berman's most recent book *The Twilight of American Culture*. Here Berman notes that throughout history, large cultural shifts have taken many generations to accomplish and that for some people a worthy goal was not some new utopian ideal, but rather keeping beauty and spirituality alive in small circles, which would pass on, person to person, the wisdom they discover and keep it alive until the time was right for the big shift to happen.

It was, I suppose, with a similar non-utopian, non-bombastic, non-New Age impetus that I chose to give my work the modest, almost marginal title of Abwoon Study Circle, rather than the International Movement for the Establishment of Universal Wisdom or something similar.

For me, life at present means doing what I must, getting on with what I can, and leaving the rest for those who come along after me on the Caravan of Creation. What's coming up for the new year includes the following:

☛ The release of *The Sufi Book of Life: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish* by Penguin Putnam. This was the book that I never actually intended to publish, except for my own Sufi mureeds. Yet due to an unusual convergence of events, I was asked to produce a version for the general public. Doubled in size and expanded with stories, poems and quotations from classical and modern Sufis, the translation of the 99 Names of

Unity has been a work I have spent longer on than any other, beginning it in 1990 and finally finishing it this year. I will be touring with the book in the US through April and May. For details see the enclosed schedule, which will be updated at [www.abwoon.com](http://www.abwoon.com) or the new book's website at [sufibookoflife.com](http://sufibookoflife.com), which also features an **online oracle** for finding your own way into the pathways of the heart.



- ☛ Special events at **Wiston Lodge in Scotland** for next year include: 1) a long weekend on Feb. 24-27 (Thurs.–Sun.) with **Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman on Jewish and Sufi Spirituality** as part of the 2nd Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace; 2) a long weekend on Oct. 13-16 (Thurs.–Sun.) with **Murshida Mariam Baker** on Sufi Movement and Soulwork, the approach to spiritual practice we both received from my teacher Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Mariam will also be on hand for part of our annual **Wiston Summer Institute** (July 12-22), which will focus on Soulwork, Beatitudes, *The Sufi Book of Life*, Genesis and more. One can now **register online** and pay for all Wiston events, which saves bank fees for those living outside the UK.
- ☛ Spring 2005 will also see the release of a musical project that I have been working on for the past year and a half with Abraham and Halima Sussman and their talented friends in the Boston area: a "mantric oratorio" version of the music for the Genesis Now! dances. The CD is tentatively entitled: *Beginnings: A World Music Oratorio Inspired by the Shared Creation Stories of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. Instruments (piano, violin, flute, accordian, saxophone, guitar, bass and drum) and voices interweave to tell a story of our shared beginnings. I hope you enjoy it. We all enjoyed making it very much. We expect copies to be ready by April, so check the Abwoon website around then for details.
- ☛ Next year will also see the release of a **web-based course** based on my Aramaic translation work so far, which was lovingly written and edited by the Rev. Elizabeth Reed of Columbus, Ohio. For details of this, go to: [www.SelfHealingExpressions.com](http://www.SelfHealingExpressions.com)
- ☛ Coming up in the future is a collaborative project by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Sr. Joan Chittister and myself focusing on the shared stories of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac in Torah, Midrash, Qur'an, Hadith and Christian traditions. More language of resistance, you can be sure!

Love and blessings,  
Neil Douglas-Klotz (11/2004)

# Edinburgh Institute at Wiston Lodge in 2005

## February 24-27, July 12-22 and October 13-16

### with Neil Douglas-Klotz, Kamae Amrapali Miller and Guests

**February 24-27** *Seasons of Renewal: A Retreat in Jewish and Sufi Spirituality* with Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Rabbi Phyllis Berman and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti. A weekend retreat from Thursday evening to Sunday lunch using ritual, chant, meditation and sacred movement, including Dances of Universal Peace, to explore the resources shared by Jewish and Sufi spirituality for renewing our lives in harmony with the seasons of nature.

**July 12-22** *Turning, Returning: The Joy of Living Creation*. The annual 10-day Summer Retreat and Institute, which is sponsored by the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, with Neil Douglas-Klotz, Kamae Amrapali Miller, Mariam Baker, Matin Mize. Guided retreat including Sufi meditation and movement; group Soulwork; the Aramaic Beatitudes of Jesus; meditations, stories and practices from Neil's new book *The Sufi Book of Life* (Penguin, 2005); creation dances, chants and body prayers in Aramaic, Hebrew, Arabic and Greek that accompany *The Genesis Meditations: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims* (second half). Leadership training for those working with Abwoon Study Circles, Dances and Walking Meditations of Murshid Samuel L. Lewis, Murshid Moineddin Jablonski, Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller including the Elemental Peace ritual and Group Soulwork. There is a possibility to join the retreat halfway through for those with previous experience, although participants are encouraged to come for the entire ten days.

**October 13-16** *Sufi Meditation, Movement and Soulwork*. A weekend retreat from Thursday evening to Sunday lunch with Murshida Mariam Baker, Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti, Murshida Amrapali Miller. Walking Meditation, Sufi zikr (remembrance practice), Dances of Universal Peace, contemplation and movement focused on the Soulwork spiritual practice of Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Open to all.

Please contact Narada Ian Ramsey at +44-(0)1290 661 082 or [narada@abwoon.com](mailto:narada@abwoon.com) for information. To register for any of these retreats, send a cheque with the deposit payable to *Abwoon Study Circle* to Narada Ian Ramsey at 'Wee Darnhunch', Glenbuck, Ayrshire, UK, KA18 3SD.

**You can also register online at [www.abwoon.com/workshops](http://www.abwoon.com/workshops) with a credit card to avoid extra bank charges.**

**Location:** Wiston Lodge is a 130-year-old listed country house, set on a hill in the beautiful Upper Clyde Valley, which is evolving into an ecological center focused on working with the next generation. It includes: 55 acres of wood and parklands, plus access to superb local hill walks, and an organic farm. It is easily accessible from the south by both coach and car (Junction 13, M74); or from the north via Edinburgh (about 45 minutes south by bus or shared taxi). For visitors from the U.S., please check flights into Edinburgh or Glasgow. Detailed transport information will be provided at registration. In addition, the Edinburgh Festival begins just following the institute, so participants may plan to stay on longer.

**Costs:** All costs include tuition and full board and are in UK pounds sterling.

For the weekend retreats (Thursday evening meal until Sunday lunch): Shared rooms £185. Shared rooms for members of the INDUP (International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace): £170. Camping: £155 (no INDUP discount applies). To register, send a deposit cheque for £65 by January 15th (for the February retreat) or September 1st (for the October retreat). **Register and pay for both weekend retreats (February 22-24 and October 13-16) before January 1, 2005 and pay £310 for both, inclusive** (shared room, no other discounts apply). If paying after the early registration deadline, add 10% to the above charges.

For the 10-day Summer Institute, if you register before May 10, 2005: Shared rooms £610. Shared rooms for members of the INDUP (International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace): £540. Camping: £468 (no INDUP discount applies). To register, send a deposit cheque for £150. If paying after May 10, 2005, please add 10% to the above charges. All cancellations incur £75 cost before June 13, £125 between June 13 and July 13.

**Note:** If you are unable to send payment in UK pounds sterling or unable to register online, please add the equivalent of £10 to cover currency conversion costs. No refunds after a retreat begins.

## Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

The Desert Flowers e-mail study group is an occasional discussion group that provides members a focus with the body prayers and spiritual practices from *Prayers of the Cosmos*, *Desert Wisdom*, *The Hidden Gospel* and *The Genesis Meditations*. Neil Douglas-Klotz directs the practices.

To join, all you need is the ability to send and receive e-mail.

For information, contact Richard McMurtry  
[rmcmurtry@igc.org](mailto:rmcmurtry@igc.org)

or visit

[www.abwoon.com/listserve.html](http://www.abwoon.com/listserve.html)

for more information.



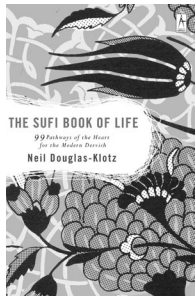
## Web-based Meditation Course

In early December a web-based meditation course on the Aramaic Prayer will be available online at [SelfHealingExpressions.com](http://SelfHealingExpressions.com).

Based on the books and tapes of Neil Douglas-Klotz, this 20-session individual meditation course was edited and supplemented by Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed. Available for approximately \$16, you can choose to receive the e-mail lessons either twice a week, once a week or every other week.

For information and to register go to  
[www.SelfHealingExpressions.com](http://www.SelfHealingExpressions.com)

# Catalogue of Resources



## THE SUFI BOOK OF LIFE: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Taking the centuries-old form of a “dervish handbook,” this is a guide to life and love updated for the twenty-first century. This book offers a fresh interpretation of the fundamental spiritual practice found in all ancient and modern Sufi schools—the meditations on the 99 Qualities of Unity. This accessible guide is a handbook that explains how to apply Sufi principles to modern life with inspirational commentary that connects each quality with contemporary concerns such as love, work, and success, as well as timeless wisdom from Sufi masters, both ancient and modern, such as Rumi, Hafiz, Shabistari, Rabia, Inayat Khan, Indries Shah, Irina Tweedie and Bawa Muhaiyadden.

Paperback, \$14.00. Penguin Compass Original. Visit [www.sufibookoflife.com](http://www.sufibookoflife.com) for more information.

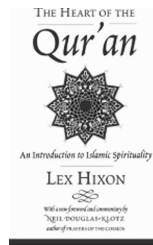
**Available  
March 1, 2005**

## HEART OF THE QUR'AN

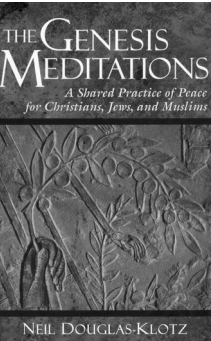
by Lex Hixon

edited with commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz

900 key passages of the Qur'an rendered into English with a focus on their spiritual experience and meaning, revealing the Quran's teachings as one of the great wisdom traditions of humanity. In this edition, Neil Douglas-Klotz has rearranged the passages thematically and provided commentary for each major theme. The result makes the teachings even more accessible, allowing the reader easily to find relevant readings for guidance on everyday issues such as love, relationships, work, justice, gratitude, self-knowledge, and prayer. Quest Books, paperback, 246 pages \$18.95, £13.



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## THE GENESIS MEDITATIONS: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

This book focuses on an ancient form of meditation that unites the three religions of the Middle East: the creation of the universe and the archetype of the first human being. In experiencing the creation story as our own, personal story, we recreate and renew ourselves. Through practicing this original meditation, we can access this power for self-renewal and deeper connection with the divine in our everyday lives. Hardback, \$24.95, £17. Quest Books.

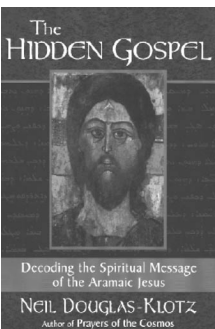
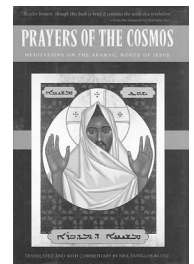
“This is truly a book for our times, revealing the common root of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and making it available in a wise and practical way.” —Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

“By the time we finish his book, we are ready and able to join body, heart, mind and spirit into a healing wholeness—indeed, the wholeness of Creation.” —Rabbi Arthur Waskow

## PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

A pioneering book in the movement to recover the wisdom of Jesus as a Native Middle Eastern person. The Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes in new, multi-layered interpretive translations, from the native language of Jesus. Paperback edition, \$13.00, £8.99. Harper SanFrancisco (English), Knauer (German), East-West (Dutch), Triom Publishers (Brasil).



## THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

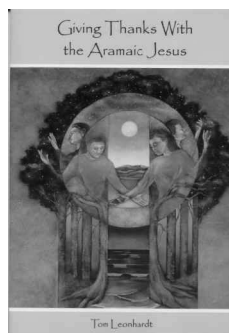
The Hidden Gospel of Jesus is... not buried in the sands, not locked in a secret library, not being channeled by a new messiah. The Hidden Gospel is in plain sight. We find it in Jesus' familiar sayings newly translated from Aramaic, the Middle Eastern language he actually spoke. What emerges is a hopeful, nurturing, and very contemporary spiritual message. Each chapter includes meditative exercises and body prayers for

directly experiencing the life-changing spiritual practice of Jesus' original mystical tradition. Paperback, \$14.95, £10.99. Quest Books (English), Koesel (German), Ankh-Hermes (Dutch).

## GIVING THANKS WITH THE ARAMAIC JESUS

by Tom Leonhardt

This book includes fifteen complete worship services based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The material is usable in a number of ways — from personal prayer to communal worship. Each service concentrates on a line of the Lord's Prayer or one of seven Beatitudes and suggests Dances of Universal Peace that are appropriate to the given theme. Paperback, \$17. WovenWord Press.



## DESERT WISDOM: Sacred Middle Eastern Writings from the Goddess to the Sufis

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

From ancient Egypt through mystical Judaism and the Aramaic Jesus to classical Sufism, *Desert Wisdom* weaves a rich, colorful tapestry that allows these ancient voices to speak to us today. Use *Desert Wisdom* as a handbook of daily inspiration, oracle or sourcebook. Through writings, chants, meditations and body prayers, you will experience

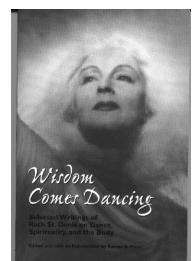
in your bones this sacred Earth tradition. Hardback. \$20.00, £12.50. Harper SanFrancisco (US & Canada), Thorsons (UK), Santiago Verlag (Germany), Altamira (Netherlands), Record (Brasil).

## WISDOM COMES DANCING:

### Selected Writings of Ruth St. Denis on Dance, Spirituality and the Body

edited and with notes by Kamae A Miller

Delight in life, beauty and movement fill the pages of *Wisdom Comes Dancing*, a collection of previously unpublished writings by the mother of American modern dance. St. Denis, the teacher of Martha Graham and other American dance pioneers, was the most photographed woman of her era. Her essays, talks and poetry show a fiery passion and cool intelligence as she addresses topics such as her vision of the arts as a force for social justice and the role of women in peace-making. The book includes many striking photographs of St. Denis in dances inspired by great women prophets, humanitarians and goddesses of various traditions. Paperback, \$15.95, £10.99. (PeaceWorks). German edition available from Santiago Verlag ([www.santiagoverlag.de](http://www.santiagoverlag.de)).





# A U D I O

## The Genesis Meditations (CD)

Companion CD to the book. You can learn to say and chant the words to 14 chants in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Arabic related to our shared cosmic creation stories. Each phrase or word is repeated several times, with space for you to repeat it for easy memorization or to use with the meditations in the book. 68 minutes, **\$15, £10** (or **\$13** online). **SPECIAL order the book and CD online for \$36.**

## Desert Wisdom Body Prayers and Chants (Tape)

A companion tape to the book with readings, guided meditations and a selection of the chants used in the body prayers. **\$13, £8.**

## Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer (Tape)

Live recording at Lama Foundation in New Mexico in 1989. Powerful, 100-voice rendition of the entire prayer cycle. **\$13, £8. Companion Booklet** with fully notated music, movements and background. **\$8, £5.**

## Prayers of the Cosmos (Tape/CD)

A companion to the book, gives clear pronunciations of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes. Also, all melodies to both cycles sung clearly by Neil Douglas-Klotz. **\$13/\$15 (CD \$13 online), £8/£10.**

## Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Beatitude Way (Tape/CD)

Live recording at the site of the "Upper Room" at St. Mark's Convent in Jerusalem during 1993. Moving, devotional recording, wonderful for chanting and meditation. **\$13/\$15 (CD \$13 online), £8/£10. (CD is currently being updated.)**

## A Native Middle Eastern Cycle (Tape/CD)

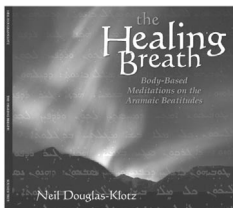
Seasonal chants and Dances of Universal Peace drawn from the ancient Middle Eastern Goddess traditions. Includes Belit Mati, Shaddai, Hokmah Allatu, Innana Damuzi, Eyeh Asher Eyeh, and others. Beautiful voices and instruments. **\$13/\$15 (CD \$13 online), £8/£10.**



**Available  
Spring  
2005**

## Beginnings: A World Music Oratorio Inspired by the Shared Creation Stories of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

A "mantric oratorio" version of the music for the Genesis Now! Dances on CD. Instruments and voices interweave to tell a story of our shared beginnings. Check the Abwoon website in April for details.



## THE HEALING BREATH: Body-based Meditations on the Aramaic Beatitudes

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Using Jesus' native Aramaic language as a lens, this tape series leads us through one of the great healer's best-loved talks — the Beatitudes (or "Blessed are..." sayings) and shows how this seemingly simple set of sentences reveals a profound approach to healing and wholeness. Each saying takes you deeper and deeper into this divine source of healing. This set gives you ways to access it in your everyday life, using body prayer and spiritual practice drawn from Jesus' own teachings with 12 in-depth sessions, which include 24 meditations involving body awareness, sound, breath and gentle movement.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source.

Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet for **\$59.95, £40** or 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £48.**

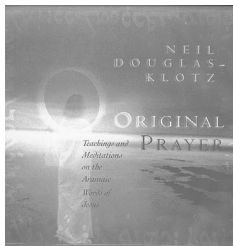
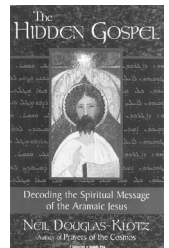
## THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his own native tongue, what would we learn? These Sounds True tapes are not a reading of the *Hidden Gospel* book, but a live recording of a workshop with Neil that touches on the main themes of the book. These tapes were re-edited so that one can listen to them in 20-minute segments. They are very high quality and perfect for Abwoon Study Circles. These tapes do not repeat the material in the *Original Prayer* series.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source.

Length: 2 cassettes, 180 minutes, with accompanying study booklet. **\$18.95, £12.99.**



## ORIGINAL PRAYER: Teachings and Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

*Original Prayer* begins by exploring the many rich layers of meaning enfolded within New Testament scriptures written in Aramaic, the language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke. Through specific insights revealed within the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, listeners learn over a dozen unique "body prayers," an ancient Middle Eastern form of meditation that engages the entire body in the contemplation of scripture. This is the same devotional practice used by the early Christians to delve into the Gospels — not as a scholarly exercise, but as a living, breathing experience of God.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local bookstore or Internet source.

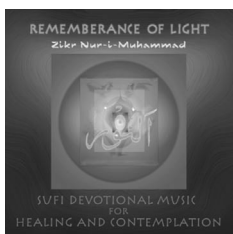
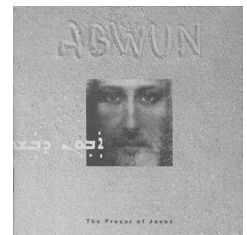
Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet. **\$69.95, £40.**

## ABWUN

A mantric oratorio by the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf from the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

The original melodies for the various lines of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer were composed through Neil Douglas-Klotz in 1982–83, as part of his meditative research of the prayer. These melodies are used in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace, which allows the sounds and feelings of the various lines to be prayed with the whole body. The beautiful arrangements of Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir enrich the multi-textual feeling of the prayer. In this new aural soundscape, the various threads of the prayer weave dynamically and allow the hearer to be bathed in an atmosphere of sacredness.

CD: 72 minutes. **\$18.99, £12.99.**



## REMEMBRANCE OF LIGHT: Zikr Nur-i-Muhammad

Sufi Devotional Music for Healing and Contemplation by Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chisti)

Bathe in the light of Unity with this CD, which celebrates the One in a six-part cycle of music and sacred words. A celebration of the unity of light and the diversity of sound from the Sufi tradition. The six parts include: 1) Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim: We begin in the Name, Sound and Vibration of the Sun and the Moon of Love. 2) Basir Allah, Sami Allah: Celebration of seeing and hearing the One all around us. 3) La illaha illa 'llah hu: There is no reality but the One. 4) Hu Hu Hu Allah: From the center of sound there is only Unity. 5) Allah Huma Salle Allah Nuri Mohammed: Blessings of Unity on the light of the perfection of humanity. 6) Peace and Blessings on all Prophets and Lovers of the One and Il Allah Hu Canon – Only Unity Exists. CD: 63 minutes. **\$16, £10.**



### **SIMPLE PRESENCE: Dancing "I Am" with the Aramaic Jesus**

Native Middle Eastern Chant & Devotional Music

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The "I Am" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John, as viewed from Jesus' native Aramaic language, point to a state of "simple presence"—a connection to the "I Am that I Am." Each feeling or experience mentioned is a doorway to this connection. This recording gives chants and music to a sequence of Dances of Universal Peace that use seven of these "I Am" statements in Aramaic. Listening to, chanting with and contemplating these chants can take the listener into the **shem** of Jesus—his vibration or atmosphere—and fulfill his advice to pray **b'sheme** ("with my light-sound-atmosphere"). CD 65 minutes. **\$16.99, £10.**

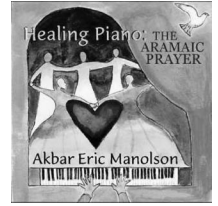
### **HEALING PIANO: The Aramaic Prayer**

Themes and variations composed and performed by Akbar Eric Manolson

Inspired by the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

In 1997, Neil Douglas-Klotz invited Akbar Manolson to create a keyboard arrangement of the Aramaic prayer for healing, to reach a wide audience. The result is this recording. The purpose of this music is both to relax and to energize. This is a CD of **solo piano music**, subtle and dynamic, without vocal singing or additional accompaniment. It offers you a new way to experience the inspiration and beauty of this ancient invocation.

CD 61 minutes. **\$18, £11.30.**



### **THE OPENING:**

#### **Sura Fateha—A Prayer for Peace**

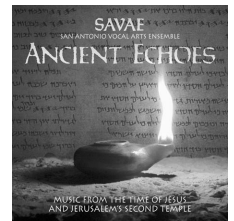
This CD has the first sura of the Quran, with its emphasis on love, unity and surrender to the One Being, in musical form for chanting. An expanded translation of the Sura appears in the book *Desert Wisdom*. "These melodies came through while on a personal retreat during the passing of my own Sufi guide, Moineddin Jablonski, in February 2001 and are dedicated to him. The melodies contain much of his feeling and emphasis on embracing both the shadow and light in one's own being, with joy and acceptance. I encourage it to be used as a chanted prayer for peace."—Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chisti)

CD **\$15, £10.** Recorded in Gemany.

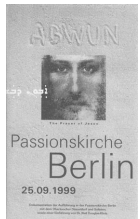
### **ANCIENT ECHOES**

by San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble

In August 2000, Christopher and Covita Moroney set out on a 1,700 mile road trip to attend a retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz after reading *Prayers of the Cosmos*. This inspired them to turn their creative attention to the music of the Middle East during the time of Jesus. Their exploration has resulted in the *Ancient Echoes* CD by SAVAE with ancient Aramaic and Hebrew chants based on Neil's writings and teachings. See [www.savae.org](http://www.savae.org) for information about SAVAE and more about the *Ancient Echoes* CD. **\$17.**



## **V I D E O**



### **ABWUN: The Video with Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf**

This video features parts of a live performance of the *ABWUN* mantric oratorio composed by Christian Bollman from the original melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The performance in Berlin, Germany organized in October 1999 by the local Dances of Universal Peace group, drew more than 600 people. Most of the first twenty minutes of the oratorio is included in the video along with selected excerpts of the remainder. Excerpts of a short address by Neil Douglas-Klotz (in German) precede the performance. Perfect for Abwoon Study Groups.

35 minutes, **\$18, £11.30.**

## **Ordering Information for Abwoon Study Circle Resources**

*Main office:* Abwoon Study Circle, P.O. Box 361655, Milpitas, CA 95036-1655 USA. tel. 1-408-945-9854, e-mail: [selim@abwoon.com](mailto:selim@abwoon.com)

The Abwoon website [www.abwoon.com](http://www.abwoon.com) offers secure, online ordering internationally for all of the listed publications and recordings.

Retail US shipping and handling through USPS is \$3.95 for the first item and \$.95 for each additional item. Wholesale and international orders are charged actual shipping costs. Contact the office for faster delivery and wholesale schedule.

*In United Kingdom & Europe,* Abwoon books (in English), tapes and CDs may be ordered from: Abwoon Study Circle UK, Helen Evans, 5 Barley Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, L9N 5SS, tel. +44-(0)1507 524673, e-mail: [malika@abwoon.com](mailto:malika@abwoon.com)

Retail UK shipping and handling is £2.50 for the first book (or £1 for the first tape or CD if no books are ordered) and 70p for each additional item. Make checks or money orders payable to Abwoon Study Circle UK.

*In Germany,* please contact Nurah-Majid Ruth Jaeger, NdL Secretariat, Bülowstr. 90, 10783 Berlin, Germany. tel./fax +49-(030)863-99-436, e-mail: [NdLNetz@yahoo.de](mailto:NdLNetz@yahoo.de) for German translations of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (*Das Vaterunser*, Knauer Verlag), *Desert Wisdom* (*Weisheit der Wueste*, Santiago Verlag) including the Body Prayers recorded in German, *Hidden*

*Gospel* (*Prophet aus der Wueste*, Koesel Verlag), the instruction booklet for the Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus (Lord's Prayer) tape and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about German-language seminars in this work by Gita Onnen and Neil Douglas-Klotz.

*In Belgium,* please contact: Wim and Arienne van der Zwan, Les Vennes 44, B-5377 Heure (Somme-Leuze), Belgium. tel. +32-(0)86-38-78-82, e-mail: [a&w@peaceinmotion.info](mailto:a&w@peaceinmotion.info) for Dutch language editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (East-West Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Alta Mira), *Hidden Gospel* (Ankh-Hermes), the *Desert Wisdom* Body Prayer recording in Dutch and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about Dutch-language seminars in this work by Wim van der Zwan.

*In Brasil,* please contact: Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger, Caixa Postal 96947, 28.601-970 Nova Friburgo, RJ Brasil. tel. +55-(0)22-2542-1337; fax: +55-(0)22-2542-2052, e-mail: [sabira@uol.com.br](mailto:sabira@uol.com.br) for Portuguese language editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (Triom Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Record) and some recordings. Please also enquire here about Brazilian Portuguese-language seminars in this work by Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger.

*In Australia,* please contact Hannah & Vajra, RMB 2592, Bucketty 2250, Australia. tel. +61-(02)43761195, fax: +61-(02)43761150, e-mail: [inana@ozemail.com.au](mailto:inana@ozemail.com.au)



# Events in 2005

## In Europe

**February 24–27: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland.** *Seasons of Renewal: A Retreat in Jewish and Sufi Spirituality* with Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Rabbi Phyllis Berman and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz). See details on second page. Contact Narada Ian Ramsey at +44-(0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com

**March 3–6: Edinburgh, Scotland.** *Conference on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace* sponsored by the Edinburgh Interfaith Center for World Spiritual Traditions and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning. Talks and workshops by members of various spiritual traditions, including Neil Douglas-Klotz. For details visit [www.eial.org](http://www.eial.org) or contact: Neill Walker at njwalk810@hotmail.com

**March 11–13: Flüeli Rauff, Switzerland.** *Aus derselben Quelle leben wir: Wege zum Frieden zwischen Christen, Juden und Muslimen*, the annual residential retreat in the Aramaic spirituality of Jesus with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller. German/English. Singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus and the Hebrew creation stories. Delving into deep knowledge of Creation and Holy Wisdom. Contact Barbara Küng at +41-(0)41 921 20 41 or Regina Gerber at regina.gerber@blueemail.ch

**March 18–20: Salisbury, England.** *Genesis Now! The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus* focuses on a spirituality that unites the three main religions of the Middle East and demonstrates how early mystics, including Jesus, may have meditated. Sponsored by the Institute for Christian Spirituality at Sarum College. Contact Peter Tyler at +44-(0)1722 424801 or pmt Tyler@sarum.ac.uk

**March 25–29: Finkenwerde, nr Berlin, Germany.** *All Wisdom's Children: Easter with the Aramaic Jesus*, the annual Native Middle Eastern retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz, Gita Onnen and Kamae Amrapali Miller. Singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus, meditating and chanting with the creation stories in Hebrew and Arabic, sharing Sufi practices such as zikr, wasifa, walks and the Elemental Peace Ritual. German/English. Contact Gita Onnen at +49-(0)30-791-5211 or Anapurna von Kugelgen at +49-(0)30-313-9163 or brita.v.k@gmx.net

**May 21: London, England.** *Jesus in His Own Language*, a day-long workshop led by Neil Douglas-Klotz at the 9th Annual Conference of Christians Awakening to a New Awareness (CANA). Contact Jane Ozanne at janeozanne@hotmail.com

**May 27–29: De Weyst, S. Holland.** *The Sufi Book of Life: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish*, a weekend retreat led by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Contact Wali and Arienne van der Zwan at +32 86 38 78 82, +31-(0)30 255 0546 or samark@peaceinmotion.info

**May 31–June 5: St. Petersburg, Russia.** *Second Annual Russian Camp of the Sufi Ruhaniat International* with Saadi Shakur Chisti, Wali and Arienne van der Zwan. Sufi meditation and spiritual practice, group Soulwork, walking meditation and Dances of Universal Peace. Contact Gillian at vol\_gill@mail.ru

**June 25–July 2: nr Hamburg, Germany.** *The Gifts of Life*, 2005 Summer School of the Sufi Ruhaniat International. Classes in Sufi practice, breathwork, healing, advanced Dances of Universal Peace, walking meditations, sound and music, and spiritual ministry. Based on the teachings from Hazrat Murshid Samuel L. Lewis and Hazrat Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Special guest teachers: Pir Shabda Khan, Sheikha Asha Lela and Murshida Mariam Baker plus European Ruhaniat teachers. Camp director: Murshid Saadi Shakur Chisti. For information contact Wali van der Zwan at +31-(0)30/225-0546 or samark@peaceinmotion.info. For registration contact Ayat Sabine Brandt at 49-(0)30-47036782 or ayatsabine@web.de

**July 12–22: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland.** Annual 10-day retreat and institute. See details on the second page. Contact Narada Ian Ramsey at +44-(0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com

**August 9–14: Wales, UK.** The UK Network Dances of Universal Peace Retreat. Director: Tansen O'Donohoe, teachers include Neil Douglas-Klotz. Contact Mary Rabia Dowson at m.dowson@tiscali.co.uk

**September 2–4: King Alfred's University College, Winchester, England.** Weekend conference based on the book, *Ways of Knowing: Science and Mysticism Today* edited by Chris Clarke (Imprint Publishers 2005). With contributions by Neil Douglas-Klotz and other authors. Contact Chris Clarke at <http://www.scspirit.com/form.asp>

**September 7–11: Haus St Benedikt, Würzburg, Germany.** *Aus derselben Quelle leben wir: Wege zum Frieden zwischen Christen, Juden und Muslimen*. Interfaith spiritual retreat. Contact Haus St Benedikt at +49-(0)931 305 0410 or info@haus-benedikt.net or go to [www.haus-benedikt.net](http://www.haus-benedikt.net)

**October 2–7: nr Fulda, Germany.** *2005 Advanced Retreat in the Dances of Universal Peace and Walking Meditation* with Murshida Miram Baker, Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti and Murshida Kamae Amrapali Miller. Special focus on Sufi movement, meditation and the Soulwork of Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. German/English. This is followed by a retreat for initiated SRI mureeds (October 7–9). For both events, contact Michael and Alima Stoeckel at +49-(0)6408-7929 or Klangholz-Stoeckel@gmx.de

**October 13–16: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland.** *Sufi Meditation, Movement and Soulwork*. See details on the second page. Open to all. Contact Narada Ian Ramsey at +44-(0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com

## In North America

**April–May: USA.** Book tour for *The Sufi Book of Life: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish* and events based on the book. See details on the next page about the book and the *All Wisdom's Children* events. The events listed here are those set up prior to November, 2004. Check [www.sufibookoflife.com](http://www.sufibookoflife.com) for the most current schedule of events.

**April 7–10: Madison, WI.** *All Wisdom's Children: Meditations with the Great Mystics of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. See details on the next page. Contact: Ken Basir McCullough at 1-608-277-0340 or kmccullough101@cs.com

**April 14–17: Boise, ID.** Thursday evening public talk as part of the annual Kessler Keener Lecture series. Weekend workshop beginning Friday morning, *All Wisdom's Children: Meditations with the Great Mystics of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. See details on the next page. Contact: Azimat Lane Schulz at 1-208-387-0670 or azimat@earthlink.net

**April 22–24: San Francisco Bay area, CA.** *All Wisdom's Children: Meditations with the Great Mystics of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. See details on the next page. Contact Violetta Reiser at 1-415-821-0939 or violettareiser@hotmail.com

**April 29–30: San Francisco Bay area, CA.** International Association of Sufism Annual World Symposium. Contact [www.ias.org](http://www.ias.org)

**May 5–8: Columbus, OH.** *All Wisdom's Children: Meditations with the Great Mystics of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. See details on the next page. Contact Rev. Elizabeth Reed at 1-614-885-2411 Ext. 2131 or ereed2131@msn.com

**May 11–15: Boston, MA area.** *Genesis Now! Early Creation Mysticism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam* rural retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Contact Halima Sussman, 1-617-491-8694 or sussman@thecia.net

**August 22–28: Camp Wapiti nr Salt Lake City, UT.** *Ya Salam* wilderness retreat camp with Neil Douglas-Klotz (Spiritual Elder and Special Guest) and Darvesha MacDonald (Spiritual Director). Contact Diana Anthony at 1-406-587-5246 or diana@onenessproject.com or [www.onenessproject.com/Events/index.htm](http://www.onenessproject.com/Events/index.htm)

**September 19–23: University of Creation Spirituality, New York City area.** *The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus* (seminar) and *Sufi Meditation and Movement* (art-as-meditation class). Part of the UCS Doctor of Ministry program. Closed Classes. Potential participants must enroll for the entire week as "Introductory opportunity" students. Contact Grace Hogan, Director of Admissions, at 1-510-835-4827 Ext. 14 or gracehogan@csnet.org

**November 4–5: Kripalu Center nr Lenox, MA.** *Genesis Now! Early Creation Mysticism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. Will include chant, body prayer, meditation and Dances of Universal Peace based on the book, *Genesis Meditations*. Contact 1-800-741-7353 (from US outside of MA), 1-413-448-3152 (international and in MA), reserve@kripalu.org or [www.kripalu.org](http://www.kripalu.org)

**November 9–13: Luther Ridge Retreat Center nr Asheville, NC.** *All Wisdom's Children: Meditations with the Great Mystics of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. See details on the next page. Contact Lucy Oliver at 1-828-225-0515 or lucy.oliver@juno.com

## The Sufi Book of Life: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish

Part meditation book, part oracle, and part collection of Sufi lore, poetry, and stories, *The Sufi Book of Life: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish* offers a fresh interpretation of the fundamental spiritual practice found in all ancient and modern Sufi schools: meditations on the 99 Qualities of Unity. Unlike most books on Sufism, which are primarily collections of translated Sufi texts, this accessible guide is a handbook that explains how to apply Sufi principles to modern life. With inspirational commentary that connects each quality with contemporary concerns such as love, work, and success, as well as timeless wisdom from Sufi masters, both ancient and modern, *The Sufi Book of Life* is a dervish guide to life and love for the twenty-first century

*It is a real joy to read a contemporary Sufi book that is ALIVE. ... With warmth, wisdom, humor and common sense The Sufi Book of Life makes accessible the Sufi path of inner transformation. This valuable book brings alive an ancient tradition of mystical love that is much needed today. Here is practical guidance for any spiritual traveler, pathways to help us uncover the real wonder of our divine nature.*

**Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee**

author *Sufism, the Transformation of the Heart*

*A teacher once told me, 'You want to be wise too quickly. Take small sips.' This book reminds us of the small-sip practice of inner patience. Slow down. Open at random once a day. Read three pages. Wait for insight. Breathe.*

**Coleman Barks**

author of *The Essential Rumi*

*At the present time understanding Islam and familiarizing oneself with the treasure of the Qur'an are becoming important pursuit in the western societies. There are few books written by western writers and scholars seeking to familiarize the reader with the treasure of Islam as a way of life. This book is one of them.*

**Nahid Angha, Ph.D.**

Co-Director, International Association of Sufism

*This Olympian book illustrates fundamental historical and contemporary Sufi teachings, which can be traced through religious, mystical, psychological and poetical channels, offering the reader the exceptional privilege of experiencing human and spiritual values of all devotional cultures. Neil Douglas-Klotz, the highly inspired creator of this priceless documentation, has accomplished the great task of drawing esoteric wonders into our daily lives, so that honest seekers on the path of truth may discover the magic jewels which are spread before them.*

**Hidayat Inayat-Khan**

son of Hazrat Inayat Khan,

Pir and spiritual director of the Sufi Movement International



Saadi with Elijah McClean and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari at the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, 2004

## All Wisdom's Children: Meditations with the Great Mystics of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Jewish, Christian and Islamic mystics through the ages have shared the view that Holy Wisdom invites us all to the same feast, where there is enough for all. Jewish mystics honored Holy Wisdom both as the Hochmah of Proverbs and the Shekhinah of Shabbat. Christian mystics honored her as Sophia, and many early Aramaic-speaking Christians saw her embodied in the life and teachings of Jesus. Sufis and other Islamic mystics welcomed her as the divine Beloved as well as another face of the Only Being.

By imagining us all sharing Wisdom's table, we can more easily accept and befriend the paradoxes of life as well as the prodigal sons and daughters we find within us. The shared wisdom of the three traditions also show us ways to bring energy and love back into our lives. We can then more easily recognize each other as one family, all of us Wisdom's children.

The *All Wisdom's Children* events will use material from the new book, *The Sufi Book of Life: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish*, by Neil Douglas-Klotz and share sitting meditation, body prayer, walking meditation and Dances of Universal Peace connecting the three traditions. Check [www.sufibookoflife.com](http://www.sufibookoflife.com) for current information about scheduled events for the 2005 book tour.

## Donate to the Abwoon Work

The past year saw a total of \$8080.50 in donations (as of November, 2004) to support Abwoon Study Circle and the work of Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller. Donors have designated their contributions in several ways:

- **General/Undesignated** (\$3181.00): These funds go where the needs are greatest for Abwoon Study Circle programs or projects.
- **Outreach** (\$2621.50): These funds support scholarships or training events for leaders from countries with non-hard currency or with great personal need.
- **Personal support** (\$2253.00): This money goes to personal support for research and writing (for example, underwriting the sabbatical in 2003–04 for Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz).
- **Administrative**: This year saw the first funds donated for administrative support, supplies and technical support.

You can contribute in a variety of ways:

- Checks made payable to Shalem Center (marked "for Abwoon" plus any other designation if you wish)
- Online contributions through a free personal account at [PayPal.com](http://PayPal.com) (send to [donations@abwoon.com](mailto:donations@abwoon.com))
- Donor-initiated automatic online check payment

We are currently researching suggestions for regular electronic funds transfers from bank accounts as well as credit card donations. If interested, please inquire. All contributions are tax deductible through the Shalem Center, an I.R.S. 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization. Please remember Abwoon Study Circle in your holiday and year-end giving plans and send your contributions to:

Abwoon  
Shalem Center  
885 High Street, Suite 106  
Worthington, OH 43085

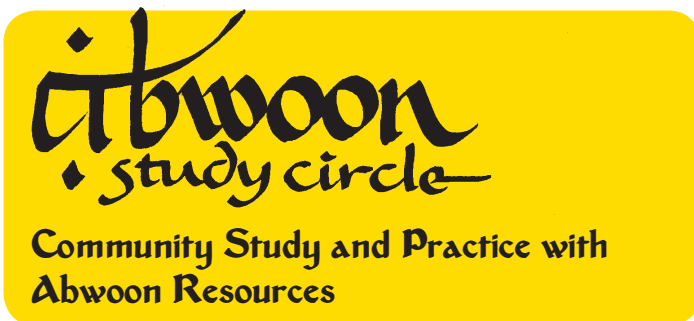
For specific questions contact Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed at Shalem Center 1-614-885-2411 Ext. 2131 or send her an e-mail message at [munira@abwoon.com](mailto:munira@abwoon.com).

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Many people inquire about how to begin working with the Aramaic translations and spiritual practices in the Abwoon Study Circle resources. There is no single response to this question. Each person who receives a heart opening through this work may respond to different content or a style of study and practice.

You are encouraged to begin small local study groups for community support in delving more deeply into the resources. We are currently compiling a list of volunteers who have made themselves available to be contacted to find out if there are any existing groups within their general geographic region. These people may be leading Abwoon Study Circle groups themselves. Some may simply be lovers of this work and have attended workshops or retreats or have studied individually with the materials. No one claims to be an “expert” in the content. All are experts in the heart. You will find these names and contact information listed on a page at the [abwoon.com](http://abwoon.com) website. If you are willing to be listed as a contact for support or referral, please contact Qahira Mary Richardson.

If you do not find any person or an existing group near you, consider starting your own local Abwoon Study Circle. You do not

### **For Support in Forming a Local Abwoon Study Circle Group**

#### **In North America contact:**

Qahira Mary Richardson phone: 1-717-600-1080  
60 Quail Run Rd. e-mail: [for-the-beauty@rocketmail.com](mailto:for-the-beauty@rocketmail.com)  
York, PA 17402

#### **In the UK contact:**

Rev. Wahab Leslie Foot phone: +44-(0)1458-832-247  
45 The Roman Way e-mail: [wahab.foot@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:wahab.foot@ukonline.co.uk)  
Glastonbury  
Somerset BA6 8AB  
England, UK

#### **In Australia/New Zealand contact:**

Hannah phone: +61-(02)43761195  
RMB 2592 fax: +61-(02)4376115  
Bucketty 2250 e-mail: [inana@ozemail.com.au](mailto:inana@ozemail.com.au)  
Australia

have to have any particular leadership skills, just the desire to connect with others in sharing experiences with this work.

For support, contact one of the people listed in the above box. These people are your touchstone for resources such as the free introductory pamphlet (available upon request). We are currently developing an educational manual with lesson plans for facilitating group practice and study using the Abwoon Study Circle resources (available for purchase late in 2005).