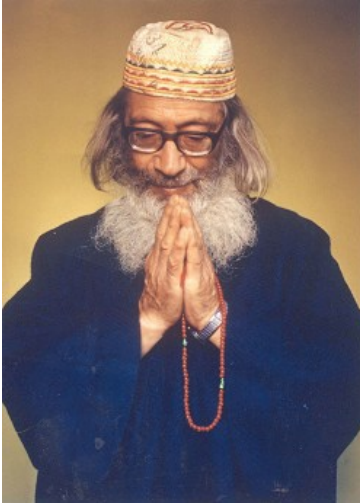


Murshid Samuel Lewis



Samuel L. Lewis (1896-1971) was probably the world's first Guru-Roshi-Murshid. He was recognized as a Sufi murshid by the Sufis of eight orders in Pakistan, India, and the Middle East. He was also a Zen roshi, recognized by both the Soto and Rinzai Zen lineages in Japan and Korea. He also spent a long time in an Indian ashram to study Hinduism, until his Hindu guru of the bhakti yoga tradition, Swami Papa Ramdas, confirmed Lewis' ability to enter Samadhi. Many Christians respected him as a teacher of the message of the Bible.

Lewis was ahead of his time as a proponent of universal religion and the idea that mystics of all paths share a similar vision. As a soil scientist and horticulturalist concerned with feeding the world's hungry, he endeavored to improve the quality and quantity of food production planet-wide by promoting organic gardening, seed exchange, sea water desalinization and desert reclamation.

Murshid Sam was born on October 18th in San Francisco and began reading the Bible at the age of three, but he dismayed his parents by

showing religious interests outside of Judaism. His later studies included world religions, non-Euclidean geometry and mathematical philosophy.

At twenty-three, Lewis began living and working in a California Sufi community, embracing the teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan; a year later his studies of Zen Buddhism began. At twenty-seven, Lewis received spiritual initiation from Inayat Khan, who also appointed Murshid Sam “Protector Of The Message” three years later.

When Murshid Sam was thirty-four he received Dharma Transmission from the Zen teacher Sokei-An Sasaki. In 1945, at the age of forty-nine, Samuel Lewis was awarded a Certificate Of Service by Army Intelligence (G2) for top-secret clairvoyant work. Eleven years later he carried out a seed exchange during a voyage to Japan, India and Pakistan. On this trip he was appointed “Fudo, Protector Of The Dharma” in Japan and, in India and Pakistan, was initiated into various Sufi orders, including Chisti and Nakshibandi.

In 1960, during his second trip abroad, Lewis was initiated into the Rafai and Shadhili orders in Egypt and in Pakistan was publicly recognized as a Murshid. In 1966 the Korean Grand Master Kyung Bo Seo ordained him “Zen-shi”.

Murshid Sam founded the Dances Of Universal Peace while living in San Francisco in the late 1960’s. With the peace dances he managed to bring drug-addicted people off their drugs, because they felt "high" after dancing with him. The Dances were inspired by Ruth St. Denis, famous contemporary avant-garde dancer, who amazed spectators by

embodying goddesses, and Hazrat Pir-0-Murshid Inayat Khan, who brought Sufism to the west.

During his last year on earth Murshid Samuel Lewis founded the society and initiatic order now known as Sufi Ruhaniat International to represent and oversee the spread of his work in the world.

