

VARIATIONS ON A THEME:

Volume II

MANIFESTATION IS THE SELF OF GOD

Excerpts from the Sufi Tradition

Introduction

In Sufi thought, “manifestation” can have multiple meanings. It can refer to the physical universe or to the divine self-disclosure (*tajalliyat*) or simply to that which appears on any plane this side of the Absolute. Whatever can be perceived or sensed, be it subtle or gross, abstract or concrete, whatever can be conjured in the imagination, and whatever is found on earth or in heaven, is manifestation. With regards to meditation practice, manifestation can be viewed as the content of consciousness. No matter how the term is used, it implies an intimate relationship to the Source from which it has unfurled, like the relationship of a great tree to its seed or a bubble to the sea.

Habibullah Rogers
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Whatever one senses of universal principles or sensory things should be understood as witnessing the Absolute Being which manifests in a particular form at the moment.

~ Shaykh Kalimullah

Every wave of thought and feeling, every motion and action is from God. Every thought that comes to our mind is God's thought, even if it appears to be a thought of everyday life in the world.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

Realize that your thinking—or what you thought was your thinking—is in fact the thinking of the Universe.

~ Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan

All that is arising in our moment to moment experience: sensations, thoughts and feelings, are as inseparable from consciousness as waves are from the ocean.

~ Taj Inayat

In this moment, whatever is, is God.

~ Anonymous Sufi

All things that exist in the world—be they good or bad, subtle or gross, sensory or spiritual—are reflections of the all-comprehensive spiritual reality of the self.

~ Shaykh Kalimullah

Find God in the usual things that you are experiencing by your five senses.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

We found it all in the body.

~ Yunus Emre

It is a fulfillment of God's nostalgia, *ishq*, that God should become a being in the physical world.

~ Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan

You should realize that "All is He." Then ask, who are you? You will be forced to admit that your very self is indeed the divine essence and can be nothing else.

~ Dara Shikoh

Consider the universe as a single composite Being whose components straddle different levels or spheres simultaneously...*Samadhi* arises out of awakening from the personal perspective into the virgin consciousness overcrowning existence, whereas this outlook arises out of a collective awakening into a consciousness permeating existence while overcoming the limitations of fragmentation into individual consciousness.

~ Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan

The Creator is hidden in the creation.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

Every thing we see and feel, including the intimate and ever-changing feelings of our body and the thoughts we think, is inseparable from the Source of existence...Existence and its source are immediate; they are happening all at once, and this happening is alive.

~Pir Elias Amidon

The Infinite God is the Self of God and all that has manifested in name and form is the outward aspect of God.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

That One has become all This.

~ Anonymous Sufi

We are the convergence of the whole Universe.

~ Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan

In Your becoming, You are This;
In Your essence, You are That.

~ Anonymous Sufi

The experience we are having right now, this breathing, sensing, feeling, thinking, is life, is existence. This very life in which we are unconsciously embedded, through our witnessing presence can wake up to its self, its own Being, and realize “I am”. This dawning is the illumination of the One.

~ Taj Inayat

You became the personal consciousness within my inmost self.

~ Mansur al-Hallaj

In every part, I see the Whole.

~ Anonymous Sufi

A further step in meditation is practicing opening to the view of the inseparability of the content of our experience (sensations, thoughts, and feelings) and our ever present awareness by which this content is known. To allow the non-dual view of inseparability of form and formlessness to open, we must with supreme and fierce awareness make not one hair of inner movement towards or away from what is arising. Arising from within the vantage point of resting in aware non-movement, Being (which the orthodox call God) becomes apparent. Then it's a practice matter of resting in Being/Awareness/God while simultaneously witnessing the ever changing dance of appearances, the ever moving appearing and disappearing of sensations, thoughts and feelings. We come to know ourselves as both ocean and waves, of being the mirror and the face in the mirror. Our experience is "I am", both being and becoming, time and timelessness. From this awakened awareness (Christ consciousness, Buddha Mind or fani-fi-Allah), we realize our oneness with the One.

~Taj Inayat

All of this, that is, the physical universe and also the heavenly spheres, is all the being of God. It is all one Being. Your body is like a cell of that one Being. So you experience that this body, which you thought was your body, is the fabric of the planet, the fabric of the universe. The whole universe has contributed towards the formation of this wonderful body. It has emerged from the total fabric of the universe, just like a wave emerges out of the sea and yet it still is part of the sea; and so this body has emerged in a particular way while it is still a part of the totality. The same applies to the mind: it is the divine thinking that has emerged in this form in me, and in that form in that person. And it is the same with your personality and your consciousness. Imagine: what I thought was my consciousness is the consciousness of the totality that has become polarized and focalized and therefore emerged in a particular way. And so there is the thought: I am like a wave at all levels, not just the physical body that has arisen out of the ocean of existence. What a miracle it is, my life! The meaning of it! Isn't that extraordinary that there is such a thing as me in this total thing? So I see that the me that has emerged is related with the totality, but then all of a sudden I realize: it isn't me that has emerged; it is the total ocean that has emerged in me. It is God who has emerged. In fact, it is the total ocean that emerges in each wave. I am the divine Being that has emerged. This is the most baffling realization: that I am the very Being that I was glorifying; and what is more, it isn't true that I am just a fraction of that Being. It is that Being who has emerged in what I thought was me. It is beyond our logic and our understanding, but there is that moment when you see it and overcome all the preconceived idea of the otherness of God.

~ Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan

Manifestation is the Self of God.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

It was necessary, so to speak, that God should walk on the earth in a physical body.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

The thing is that the whole puzzle is solved by solving the question, who is *I*? *I* is God, God's own self.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan

Every form I see is Thine own form.
Every sound I hear is Thine own voice.

~ Hazrat Inayat Khan