

Sufi Concentrations
James Burgess

Ya Baha

Words and Music: Traditional

Ya Ba ha 'u' llahb 'ha Ya A li u 'llah la Ya Ba ha 'u' llahb 'ha

Ya A li u 'llah la

1. *Ya Baha'u'llah b'ha*
2. *Ya Ali u'llah la*
3. *Ya Baha'u'llah b'ha*
4. *Ya Ali u'llah la*

Define partners. There are four verses in this dance.

A. Face partners.

- 1 Move hands in an outward circular blessing motion from hip level up to sky, palms facing partner's palms but not touching.
- 2 Clasp partner's hands, half turn together clockwise.
- 3 Release hands, bring hands down in blessing circular motion.
- 4 Stand facing partner, bringing hands up to touch heart on "la".

B. Slowly spin right throughout this verse.

- 1 Hands on heart.
- 2 Hands raised to heaven.
- 3 Lower hands to rest on heart on "la".
- 4 Lower hands to bless earth.

C. Slowly spin left throughout this verse.

- 1 Hands blessing earth.
- 2 Raising hands to rest on heart on "la"
- 3 Raise hands to shoulder level in receptive gesture.
- 4 Bring hands back to heart on "la".

D. 1-4. Hold hands hold in circle, sidestepping to the right.

Here we are using the melody and mantra most practised within the Bahai Faith. This path has close connections with Sufism using Arabic mantras and certain precepts of Islam and yet going into a more heartcentred devotion to God through right relationship with others in an everyday sense.

Baha'ullah, the prophet of the Bahai Faith was born in 1817 and today has a significant following with both eastern and western adherents living a gentle life of joy and service.

The Baha'i Faith

Shi'ite branch of Islam, universal religion 7 million people 200 countries second only to Christianity as the most widespread religion. Origins: 1844, Persian 'The Bab', meaning the gate, was executed for his teachings; **Mirza Hussayn Ali** was one of those followers to be imprisoned and tortured, revelation that he was the prophet foretold by the Bab. Exiled to Baghdad he announced his mission in CE1863,. His Followers know him as **Baha'u'llah, the 'Glory of God'**.

The Message unity, breaking down barriers of race, class and creed. Partnership with other faiths against all forms of prejudice, persecution and conflict. The purpose of life is seen as coming to know and worship God, and the development of God-given capacities, both to enhance one's life and for the service of humanity.

1 God is a transcendent being 2 The unity of all religions 3 The unity in diversity of humankind

Worship includes prayers and readings from the scriptures of the Baha'I Faith and of other religions, open to all motifs include symbols from the various world faiths, no priesthood or set form, local community meets every nineteen days for the Nineteen-Day Feast, with it's three-part program of worship, community consultation, socialising.