

# THE INNER LIFE OF THE UNIVERSE

PIR VILAYAT INAYAT KHAN

A COMPILATION AND COMMENTARY BY  
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*To spark transformation in all the chords of one's being, one needs to be overwhelmed by something beyond yet overarching one's personal dimension, so stupendous that one finds oneself carried beyond one's commonplace self-image in the far reaches of the splendor of the universe.*

**Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan**

Imagine a loud knock at your door in the middle of the night and a gruff voice crying, "Awake!" Dazed, you open the door, and the person standing there shatters you with a fiery glance and jolts you awake. Yes, an encounter with a dervish can be an overwhelming and intimidating event.

In later years, Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan was a grand-fatherly mystic, rather like Gandalf the Wizard in *The Lord of the Rings*, beckoning one to follow him into unimagined realms of one's soul. He was bursting with meaningful insights and discoveries that he was eager to share. His sheer enthusiasm and the fire of his glance, which inspired rather than burned, kindled his listeners. As people listened to him, they realized that he had traveled far, scanning the vast horizons of the cosmos and rending the veils covering the higher frequencies of conscious experience.

Pir Vilayat traveled again and again to sacred sites in the East and practiced what he was learning about meditation from the world's sacred spiritual traditions while visiting rishis in the Himalayas and taking 40-day retreats at the Mount of Olives and in Ajmer, India (resting place of Khwaja Mu'in al-Din Chishti, a great saint of the Chishti lineage to which he belonged). But Pir Vilayat was not only a mystic; he was also a trained scientist, one who had studied at the Sorbonne and at Oxford University; and as both a mystic and a scientist, Pir Vilayat felt a need to communicate the discoveries he was making, to update the language of the classical spiritual and religious traditions so that it reflected advances in thinking brought about in part by a scientific explosion of knowledge:

