

6, The Orchard,
Shute Road,
Totnes. S.Devon.
U.K. TQ9 5DP.

October 1st 2008.

Dear Virginia and Ajata,

This morning I received your beautiful card, and the Tesbi, which almost floated out of the envelope! There is so much of His Light and Blessings in it. I shall take it with me on this Sunday where I will be leading an International seminar about ¾ hour from here, in the middle of the countryside of Devonshire. I am deeply grateful, and thank you from my heart. Of course I also thank you for your contribution to Chalice. They have recently re-printed my book BREATHING ALIVE, with a beautiful contribution from my friend Coleman Barks.

I believe today is the last day of Ramadan, and I am celebrating by doing my best to get some papers together for the seminar. In fact this is intended to be my last "public" event. For the past 22 years I have been mainly based in Europe, "sowing seeds", and four years ago, after some illness, I decided to return to my own country. Since then I have been living alone, almost as a recluse, and, praise be to Allah, have survived through the years, the last four of which have not been easy with my health issues. I have had one stroke, and four heart "collapses" in the past months, and have recently been fitted with a pacemaker which should help. Luckily I retain my English sense of humor, despite everything. Indeed the life that we are lent, and for such a short time, (I am nearly 75 now) is really one daily burst of humor after another! For example, a few days ago, forgetting my glasses, I thought I was applying some homeopathic cream to the recently made wound after the insertion of the pacemaker. For some reason this cream hurt – a lot. I then found my glasses and discovered I had put on peppermint toothpaste by mistake! I laughed so much I nearly cried....

I, too, have spent time in Delhi at the Dhargas you mentioned, as well as many times in Konya. For some reason I have never visited the Seat of Ibn'Arabi. Some people even said that my teacher (whose real name was not "Hamid" as in the book, but Bulent Rauf who is buried at Beshara in Scotland – see web-site!) "wore the hat of Ibn'Arabi" during his lifetime. Certainly Ibn'Arabi's works, particularly the Fucus, have been part of the study side of my life. However I remain without any label! I believe it was Ibn'Arabi who said "the wise man follows no set form or belief, for he is wise unto himself". There is also that wonderful paper of his, titled "Whoso Knoweth Himself Knoweth His Lord."

Again my grateful thanks.

In His Light,

Rahim

P.S. The web-site on this card is way out of date,
and, God willing, there will soon be a new one!