

Dear Friends,

I have posted my research into and feelings about the Arabic side of this question to the "Files" section of the listserv. (That file appears on the articles/papers page of the DUP International website in this section.)

I was just in South Africa at a Sufi conference that was attended by practitioners from Iraq, Iran, India, Pakistan, Egypt and South Africa. None of the participants or teachers except for myself and Natalia were from the Inayati stream. The variety of pronunciation of the same sacred phrase between different lineages is remarkable.

Most Muslims and Sufis in the world today are not native Arabic speakers, and have not been for more than a thousand years. So diversity has arisen in abundance. Diversity is a good thing, so is respect. Transmission and baraka do not necessarily adhere to the rules of grammarians or theologians.

BTW, as my article indicates, the use of "El" in the zikr is from Hazrat Inayat Khan, but it is also used in a number of other Sufi lineages.

Love and blessings,
Saadi
Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz