

Whirling Dervishes

Written by Administrator

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IDC brought whirling dervishes to New Jersey for a live performance.

Mevlana who is also known as Rumi, was a philosopher and mystic of Islam, but not a Muslim of the orthodox type. His doctrine advocates unlimited tolerance, positive reasoning, goodness, charity and awareness through love.

The "dance" of the Whirling Dervishes is called Sema. Sema is a part of the inspiration of Mevlana. Sema represents a mystical journey of man's spiritual ascent through mind and love to "Perfect." Turning towards the truth, his growth through love, desert his ego, find the truth and arrive to the "Perfect," then he return from this spiritual journey as a man who reached maturity and a greater perfection, so as to love and to be of service to the whole of creation, to all creatures without discrimination of believes, races, classes and nations.

As IDC's aim is to promote love and tolerance among all faithful, we organized this event invited Turkey's best Sema group, Konya Whirling Dervishes Group.

Formed in 1995 by a group of businessmen, Konya Whirling Dervishes Group first put on a performance at the Sakarya University in Turkey. Due to the wide and favorable reception they received from spectators, a number of different TV stations showed the performance throughout Turkey and Europe. After several performances in cities throughout Turkey, the Konya Whirling Dervishes were invited to perform in Bern and Zurich, Switzerland. Since then, the group has performed in many countries including a recent performance in Boston, Pittsburg (PA), etc. in the United States.

Almost 1800 people attended this performance.

Date: September 24, 2004

Place: New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)