



In the Name of the One Source, the Most Merciful, the Compassionate

A Framework for Service within The Threshold Society

Introduction:

Within the Threshold Society we have been working with the “Bashi” system of service. “Bashi” means “head” or “chief.” There is a “Chai Bashi” in charge of tea; a “Meydan Bashi” in charge of the sacred meeting space, etc. This work cultivates beauty of character and deepens our capacity for service. It is an essential aspect of a mature dervish. With this in mind we have created a framework where those participating in this work have a structure to reflect upon one’s own unfolding as it applies to their Bashi responsibility. The undertaking of Bashi responsibilities may be seen as a mirror that as Shams says “is like a touchstone or a balance-scale; it always inclines towards the Truth.” This reflection is undertaken with honesty, sincerity and compassion. Reflection is a process of viewing and considering with open attention and without self-recrimination. What is essential rises to the surface enabling us to realign with our highest values. This self-evaluation concludes with an invitation to recommit to the three intentions we each personally glean from this process.

Four Principles:

- Commit to our Highest Aim
- Find the Still Point
- Express Gratitude
- Radiate Blessing

Part I: Embracing the Tasks

Being Present

notes

Do I consciously begin my work in a state of presence?	
How well do I sustain presence during my work?	
How can I return to presence when I forget?	

Have I concluded my work in a state of presence?	
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Adab of Working

Is my inner state focused and directing my outer actions?	
Am I physically grounded, and aware of the needs of the space around me and of my own movement within it?	
Am I practicing <i>Gorushmek</i> (to ‘see with’ each other)?	
Is my speech conscientious?	

Reflecting Beauty

What are my feelings toward Beauty?	
Do I recognize Beauty in the world around me?	
Do I continually recognize and reflect beauty back to my world?	

Self Reliance and Connection

Do I understand the value of being self-directed?	
Am I willing to ask for help when I need it? Is it last minute?	
Is my work demonstrably interdependent with the group?	
Do I give this work my best effort as part of a shared experience?	

Part II: Working in Community

Cooperation

notes

Am I comfortable sharing and participating?	
What is the condition of my Heart—is it giving or withholding?	
Do I recognize my negative states and how this might affect others	
Do I understand our group dynamics from a spiritual perspective?	

Adab of Fellowship

Can I accept people as they are, even if they impede on the principles & standards upheld for the good of the community?	
Am I experiencing trust, respect and authenticity?	
Do I model the Mevlevi <i>Adab</i> in my interactions with others?	

Communication

Have I been present with others; have I truly listened?	
Have I spoken too much, or too little, to support exchange?	
Is there an assumption or expectation that should be recognized and expressed?	
Have I been clear and respectful in my speech?	
Have I considered inter-cultural factors that may apply?	

Direction and Leadership

Do I wish to learn and to receive instruction and guidance from others?	
Am I willing to address issues and blockages that are pointed out?	
How am I accountable in the spiritual work I have undertaken?	
How does my relationship with the tradition develop through selfless service?	
What is my relationship with surrender to the path & all the teachers?	

Upon reviewing the questions above, I intend to take the following steps in my Bashi work:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____