



## Keynote Address of Mawlana Shaykh Hisham Kabbani

*As-salaamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullahi ta'ala wa barakaatuh.* Your Royal Highness, thank you very much for coming. It is a day for us that we are going to discuss it for hundreds of years; we will tell our grandchildren about it. It is such a magnificent day that our tongues are frozen to say anything, but I will defrost it a little bit in order to deliver a small message.



First of all, I am sending greetings from my shaykh, who is in this picture, Shaykh Nazim Adil, may Allah give him long life, and on behalf of all *shuyookh* and on behalf of everyone here, to say something to keep in ourselves that happy event. It is my honor to introduce this distinguished and diverse audience from different faiths to your esteemed personage, Your Royal Highness, Prince of Wales, without counting the faiths, not only the Sufi faith but many faiths are present here, composed of people from different walks of life and from as many nations and origins.

This gathering is like a magnificent garden of flowers abounding with an array of indescribable colors, above which shines the gleaming rainbow of Your Royal Highness, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales. Such gatherings that you have attended, Your Highness, are the hope of humanity, because you are of royal blood and everyone likes to look at royal blood. The Royal Family always throughout history is in the hearts of people. And you are in our hearts, you and your mother, the Queen, and your family. They are a source of light, they are the beacons of every seeker, they are oasis in every desert, they are waves in the sea, they are the spring of every river we drink from, they are the crystal of every gem that we wear as necklaces around our necks, they are the heavenly dew in every leaf, they are the life-blood of animated beings, they are the stars, suns and moons in every firmament, they are the super-powers that swim in the universe of knowledge, beliefs, philosophy and traditions. You are that and your kingdom is that, and we hope that your kingdom will live forever, and that God gives life for generations after generations, enjoying this country!

Rumi said in his poetry, "We have a way from this visible world to the Unseen, there is a way. This is the way of the Sufis, the way of the knowledgeable people, the wise man and the wise woman who do their best through their hearts. They work with good intentions, for we are the companions of religions' messengers: Jesus, Moses, Muhammad, Noah, Abraham, and those who came before. They gave us the message of all beliefs, even to secularists. They are human beings. We love them and they love us. We accept everyone." As Rumi said and Imaam Chishti just mentioned that poem, "We have a way from the house to the garden. We are the neighbours of cypress and jasmine."



Everyday we come to the garden, and we are coming to your garden, Your Royal Highness, to see a hundred blossoms; your presence gives blossoms to everyone's hearts. These people came from everywhere to see you and see that royalty that is within you, in order to scatter these blossoms among the lovers. We fill our robes; my robe is full of them, your robe is full of them, and every robe is full of them, overflowing. "Behold our words," Rumi said. "They are the fragrance of those roses. We are the rose bush of certainty's rose garden."

O our esteemed royal guest, God said in the Holy Qur'an and in the Bible and the Torah:

*'Innaa khalaqnaakum min dhakarim wa 'untha wa ja 'alnaakum shu 'oobaan wa qabaa'ila lita 'aarafoo 'Inna 'akramakum 'inda Allahi 'Atqaakum.*

*We have created you from male and female, and We have made you into nations and tribes in order that you can know each other. And the best among you are the most pious, (the most spiritual). (49:13)*

And this gathering, like many gatherings around England and around the world, are gatherings of wisdom and happiness. May God bless you with happiness. May God bless you with His love. May God bless you in every possible way. I am an ant; in respect to you, I'm nothing. I'm a normal person coming in your presence to address you. That is a great pleasure for me and everyone in this audience to thank you very much for coming. May God bless us, bless everyone here, and bless you. Thank you very much. I will end with a prayer; I hope I'm on time!

*Bismillahi 'r-Rahmaani 'r-Raheem. Alhamdulillah Rabbi 'l-'Alameen, was-salaat was-salaam 'ala ashraf al-mursaleen, Sayyidina wa Nabiyyina Muhammadin wa 'ala 'aalihi was-sahbihi ajma'een. Allahumma aj'al awwal liqa-ina hadtha salahan, wa awsatahu falahan wa akhirahu najahan. Allahumma aj'al awwalihu rahmatan wa awsatahu ni'matan wa akhirahu takrimatan wa maghfirah. Alhamdulillah alathi tawada'u kull shay-in li 'Adhamatih, wa dalla kull shay-in li 'Izzati, wa khad'a kull shay-in li Mulkihi, wastaslama kull shay-in li Quدراتih, wal-hamdulillah alathi sakana kull shay-in le Haybati wa adh-hara kull shay-in bi Hikmati wa tasaghara kull shay-in li Kibriyaae. Allahumma aqithna fee ahab as-sa'at ilayka yaa Wadud. Rabbana taqabbal minna w'afu 'anna waghfir lana warhamna wahdina ila al-Haqq wa ila tareeq al-mustaqeem. Subhaanaka Rabbi 'l-'Izzati 'amma yusifoon wa salaamoon 'ala al-mursaleen wal-hamdulillah Rabbi 'l-'Alameen. Fatihah.*

At the end I would like to say that I whispered in the ear of His Royal Highness that we are looking forward to the second event, so we will see! Thank you very much.

