

dear Wahid

I'm sure you know about the "initiation of blessing", an informal secondary link or spiritual connection, ~~but~~ not the same as formal initiation, bestowed by some sufi orders as a kind of honorary degree on sympathetic "fellow travellers" of the Order. If you are in a position to bestow such blessing in the AZALI² Tradition, & are willing to do so, I feel certain that both Mark and I would be quite happy to accept it. I felt a strong spiritual attraction to Subh-i AZAL as soon

as I heard his story & saw his
picture - the brilliant teenage
prince communicating by letter with
the Bab - and the betrayed heir
of the Bab exiled in Cyprus, dying
in 1912 - almost the last year of
the traditional world before the disastrous
XXth century! A real Persian romantic
archetype. Browne's account in his
Year Amongst the Persians also helped
to "convert" me. I'd still like to
collaborate with you in publishing a
volume - or pamphlet? - of translations
of Subh-i Azal (& Qumrat al-Ayn) - if
God preserves us. If this "blessing"
is something you can't bestow we

will of course understand, & still
continue to take the keenest
interest in your work.

We hope you're safe in Australia —
from fire, plague, famine & war,
secret agents & other curses of this
wretched century. Be well!

PJW