

# Clouds

words by Rumi (in BirdSong by Coleman Barks)  
music by Susan Sheely and Oraea Varis

capo 3

Em Am D Em  
This is how I would die into the love I have for you (repeat)

Em Am D Em  
As pieces of cloud dissolve in sunlight (repeat)

Em Am D Em  
la ilaha illa-llah la ilaha illa-llah (repeat)

Em Am D Em  
hu allah hu hu allah hu (repeat)

## Lyrics:

1. This is how I would die
2. into the love I have for you

Repeat 1 and 2

3. as pieces of cloud
4. dissolve in sunlight

Repeat 3 and 4 with second partner

5. la ilaha illa-llah, la ilaha illa-llah, la ilaha illa-llah , la ilaha illa-llah
6. Hu Allah Hu, Hu Allah Hu,
7. Hu Allah Hu, Hu Allah Hu

I'd like to share a little bit about the spread of the "Clouds" dance and the importance of our willingness to share our hearts...

not long after this dance was conceived and in the weeks after the experience of September 11th, with the state of affairs in the world and particularly the reluctance of Americans to speak up and be heard, I was questioning "how will my voice of peace ever be heard"

I received a letter from Sitara Zubeida in Australia telling me "this dance is sweeping the coast of Australia by storm" (Narayan brought the dance there on and after Sept 11)

This important message led me to realize that by sharing my usually timid voice, in no time at all my message was being shared heart to heart on 5 continents...I told this to a group of reluctant concerned citizens at a peace rally and thereby witnessed an opening / willingness for many others to step forward and be heard. Alhamdulillah!!!

Upon my arrival in NZ last year I was greeted by dancers who told me of life transformations after experiencing this dance....

Hannah from Australia, who is mentored by Sitara, showed me the "Sufi death walk" (step 1 now) that Sitara felt belonged with this dance

I tried it last week in the Prescott, AZ circle and my feeling is that she is right...so here is my latest version of the dance:

### **Movements:**

1. Hands crossed over heart in Sufi bow fashion, step (diagonal) toward center on the right foot, step to/close with left  
then left diagonal forward, step to/close with right on second half of first line
2. back out same way/right, then left  
repeat
3. and 4. taking hands with partner turn clockwise  
on repeat: reverse direction with same partner...turn as much or as little as you choose together...end up progressed (stress and practice this)
5. join hands in circle and all step toward center similar to step 1...but with more lilt and gaiety and back out on second half of "la ilaha"s
- 6 independent spin clockwise
7. independent spin counter clockwise (as in previous version)

leaders may choose to continue with the zikr phrase standing, swaying...quieting, speaking, etc..