**Zekr (religious mentioning of holy names) on the street**

Rabiolaval (the third month of Anno Hegirae), a holy month when Mohammad the prophet of Islam son of Abdollah was born, is one of the important Islamic feasts.

Each year in this month spiritual rituals are held to honor him in Islamic countries. As a matter of fact this ceremony is for the guidance of people to Islam and for publicizing it as well.

In Iran and in Sanandaj (center city of Kurdistan located in the west of Iran) as well such street Zekrs are held in the presence of a large number of Dervishes (Sufis) in downtown. Dervishes are the largest religious minority in Iran who mostly follow Sunnite religion.

Sufism is a part of Islamic mysticism which includes such rituals as cloak wearing, staying at Sufi monastery, Cheleh (fasting for forty days), Sama (the Sufi ritual of chanting and dancing), Dervish and Sheikh relationship, etc. A Dervish has a simple but different appearance.

Street Zekr in Sanandaj is started by eulogy for Mohammad the prophet by music band and Daf (a big tambourine) players.

Dervish Sama is a kind of Sufi dance which includes the rotating and spinning of head and body and causes the Dervish to go into a kind of spiritual trance. They believe a Dervish sees his God through Zekr and Sama.

People also follow Dervishes to the Jame’ (congregational) mosque while mentioning the name of Allah.

Finally, the praying and eulogy ritual comes to an end at the mosque.