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Sufi Essays University Professor of Islam Studies
Seyyed Hossein Nasr, PH.D. 1996-12-01

Reflections of Tasawwuf Charles Upton 2008
Sufism is the practice of remaining aware of the

real presence of God in every circumstance, until
Certainty is reached. The dizzying complexity of
Sufi metaphysics, the passionate beauty of Sufi
poetry, and the profound Sufi science of spiritual
psychology, are all based on this. The Sufi Path

is the process of spiritual transformation, ultimately resulting (God willing) in self-transcendence, produced by the Certainty of God's presence. In traditional Muslim society, many different moral, intellectual and spiritual functions were performed by those 'estates' responsible for maintaining them. Parents, imams and 'grammar school' teachers transmitted the fundamental ritual and moral principles of Islamic society. The madrasas took care of such traditional sciences as Qur'anic exegesis and the study of prophetic ahadith. The schools of fiqh maintained and applied the shari'ah. The mutakallimiin developed and taught kalam, Islamic 'scholastic theology'. The falasifa or philosophers carried on an intellectual tradition largely inherited from the Greeks. The ishraqiyyun developed a mystical theosophy based on direct spiritual insight. Physicians employed systems of healing derived in part from metaphysics. Poets often transmitted sophisticated spiritual lore; many other

traditional craftsmen did the same. The mathematicians, astronomers and other scientists sought to uncover the Signs of God in numbers, in geometrical shapes, and in the heavens. And the alchemists worked on the reconstitution of the original human form (al-fitra) in psycho-physical terms. So when a seeker applied for admittance to a Sufi tariqa, he likely knew his Goal. The lower rungs of the ladder of moral, intellectual and spiritual aspiration were clearly defined and largely taken care of; consequently the aspirant to Sufi initiation could be more certain than he was seeking God Alone. In modern 'semi-Muslim' societies, however, things are not so clear. And as for those Sufi tariqas that have emigrated to the West, and the individuals who seek admittance to them, the situation is even more ambiguous. The traditional supports for a collective worldview that places God first and sees His hand in everything are no longer readily available, and no one whose worldview is basically secular can

follow the Sufi path as the great Sufis of the past once did. In the secular West especially, Sufi tariqas lack the exoteric religious culture in relation to which they could be truly esoteric; without the Zahir, one might say, there can be no Batin. Therefore This book is not so much a text on Sufism itself as an attempt - woefully inadequate-to indicate certain elements of the original context that allowed Sufism to be what it is.

Sufi Aesthetics Cyrus Ali Zargar 2013-05-22
Sufi Aesthetics argues that the interpretive keys to erotic Sufi poems and their medieval commentaries lie in understanding a unique perceptual experience. Using careful analysis of primary texts, Cyrus Ali Zargar explores the theoretical and poetic pronouncements of two major Muslim mystics, Muhyi al-Din ibn al-'Arabi (d. 1240) and Fakhr al-Din 'Iraqi (d. 1289), under the premise that behind any literary tradition exist organic aesthetic values. The complex assertions of these Sufis appear not as abstract

theory, but as a way of seeing all things, including the sensory world. In this study Zargar responds to a long-standing debate in the study of Sufi poetics over the use of erotic language to describe the divine. He argues that such language results from an altered perception of Muslim mystics in which divine beauty and human beauty are seen as one reality. The Sufi masters, Zargar asserts, shared an aesthetic vision quite different from those who have often studied them. Sufism's foremost theoretician, Ibn 'Arabi, is presented from a neglected perspective as a poet, aesthete, and lover of the human form. Ibn 'Arabi in fact proclaimed a view of human beauty markedly similar to that of many mystics from a Persian contemplative school of thought, the "School of Passionate Love," which would later find its epitome in 'Iraqi, one of Persian literature's most celebrated poet-saints. Many in this school advocated the controversial practice of gazing at beautiful human faces, a topic Zargar also discusses. The

examination of central Sufi texts in Persian and Arabic establishes that the profundity attributed to mystical encounters with the sensory and supersensory has far-reaching extensions in evaluations of that which is seen, that which is deemed beautiful, and that which is expressed as a result. Through this aesthetic approach, this comparative study overturns assumptions made not only about Sufism and classical Arabic and Persian poetry, but also other uses of erotic imagery in Muslim approaches to sexuality, the human body, and the paradise of the afterlife described in the Qur'an.

Performing Post-Tariqa Sufism Esra Çizmeçi
2023-11-10 This ethnographic research project examines the generation of post-tariqa Tasavvuf (Sufism: a spiritual practice and philosophy recognised as the inner dimension of Islam) in a variety of private, semi-public, public, secular and sacred urban spaces in present-day Turkey. Through extensive field research in minority Sufi communities, this book investigates how

devotees of specific orders maintain, adapt, mobilise, and empower their beliefs and values through embodied acts of their Sufi followers. Using an ethnographic methodology and theories derived from performance studies, Esra Çizmeçi examines the multiple ways in which the post-tariqa Mevlevi and Rifai practice is formed in present-day Turkey, such as through the authority of the spiritual teacher; the individual and collective performance of Sufi rituals; nefis (self) training; and, most importantly, the practice of Sufi doctrines in everyday life through the production of sacred spaces. Drawing on the theories of performance, she examines how the Sufi way of living and spaces are created anew in the process of each devotee's embodied action. This book is informed by theories in performance studies, anthropology, religious studies, and cultural studies and places current Sufi practices in a historical perspective.

[The Heritage of Sufism](#) Leonard Lewisohn

2018-04-30 This collection - the second of a three-volume study - examines the roots of the artistic, literary and cultural renaissance of Sufism from the 12th to the 15th centuries. It includes essays on Rumi's poetry and imagery; Sufi music and the idea of ecstasy; sainthood and Neoplatonism; comparative metaphysics and literature; and unity of religion theory in Sufi philosophy.

All I Feel Is Rivers Robert Vivian 2020-03-01
All I Feel is Rivers is a collection of a new hybrid writing that, though spiritually akin to prose poems, retains an essayistic form. After several life-changing trips to Turkey, Robert Vivian took up a deep study of Rumi, the thirteenth-century Sufi mystic, poet, and founder of the religious order that performs the now-famous dervish dance. Vivian's fascination seeped into his writing, and his newly conceived dervish essays reflect the dynamic movement and ancient symbolism of the ritual dance with wild lyricism, sometimes breathless cadences, and

mesmerizing unspooling. Utterly fearless in their passionate avowals of life's many manifestations, these essays showcase the surprising connectivity between the sacred and profane, uncovered by associative drifting. Vivian's essays take on grief and loss, the natural world and climate, spirituality and ecstasy, all while pushing the boundaries of what prose can do.

Light upon Light: Essays in Islamic Thought and History in Honor of Gerhard Bowering

Jamal J. Elias 2019-10-01 Light upon Light: Essays in Islamic Thought and History in Honor of Gerhard Bowering brings together studies that explore the richness of Islamic intellectual life in the pre-modern period.

The Sufi Doctrine of Rumi William C. Chittick 2005 There are almost no authoritative books readily available for the general reader that provide, in clear and accessible language, an introduction to the spiritual perspective illuminating Rumi's magical poetry. In this beautifully illustrated work, William C. Chittick,

a leading scholar of Sufism and Rumi, opens doors that give us access to the inner sanctum of Rummi's thought.

What the Seeker Needs Ibn al-'Arabī 1992

Rumi Essays Rasoul Shams 2016-09-17

Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi, a 13th-century Persian Sufi poet, is one of the most widely-read poets today. This volume offers a comprehensive package of information and reflections on Rumi's life, poetry, and vision draws on original works in Persian including Rumi's own poetry and historical texts.

Essays on Islamic Piety and Mysticism Meier

2021-11-15 Fritz Meier (1912-1998) is one of the most outstanding Orientalists of this century.

His publications combine masterful philological method and precision, profound and penetrating textual interpretation, and a wide-ranging familiarity with primary sources which may truly be characterized as phenomenal. Among the numerous fields in which he has undertaken original research, Persian poetry and Islamic

mysticism (Sufism) in the widest sense stand out in particular. His work on Sufism covers the whole of the Islamic world and Islamic history from its beginnings up to the 20th century. The present provides for the first time a translation of 15 of Fritz Meier's seminal articles. The selected articles deal with the history of Sufism; Sufi morals and practices such as dhikr and samā'; the historical development of the master-disciple relationship; Ibn Taymiyya's attitude toward Sufism; pious devotional practices such as making use of the tasliya; essential sources for the history of Sufism in the Maghreb and the Almoravids. Extensive indices facilitate the use of this epoch-making work.

Sufi Wisdom Mari'tta Tigranovna Stepani?ant?s 1994-01-01 This book is the first work in English to present a view from Russia of Islamic mysticism. Ibn Arabi and Rumi are the main characters of the book. Their views reflect Sufi understanding of the Absolute being, of man, of the place and role of humans in the universe, of

the way of knowledge, and of the fundamentals of morality.

Introduction to Sufism Eric Geoffroy 2010 From Rumi's whirling dervishes in Turkey over 700 years ago, to circles of silent mystics in the West today, this book reveals the history and practices of Sufism, the ancient but still active system of Islamic mysticism which has long been the spiritual current in Islam that counterbalances fundamentalism. Eric Geoffroy is an authority on Sufism, and he shows us this increasingly popular contemplative dimension of Islam, which is little understood in the West.

The Inner Life Inayat Khan 1997-02-11 "Three classic essays on the spiritual life by the beloved teacher who brought Sufism to the West"--Cover.

Sufi essays H̄usain Naṣr 1977

Sufism Jean-Louis Michon 2006 For hundreds of years, the inner spiritual core of Islam has been the focus of Sufi thinkers. These essays allow the reader to understand the wisdom and history of Sufism.

Sacred Drift Peter Lamborn Wilson 2021-10-15
Peter Lamborn Wilson proposes a set of heresies, a culture of resistance, that dispels the false image of Islam as monolithic, puritan, and two-dimensional. Here is the story of the African-American noble Drew Ali, the founder of "Black Islam" in this country, and of the violent end of his struggle for "love, truth, peace, freedom, and justice." Another essay deals with Satan and "Satanism" in Esoteric Islam; and another offers a scathing critique of "Authority" and sexual misery in modern Puritanist Islam. "The Anti-caliph" evokes a hot mix of Ibn Arabi's tantric mysticism and the revolutionary teachings of the "Assassins." The title essay, "Sacred Drift," roves through the history and poetics of Sufi travel, from Ibn Khaldun to Rimbaud in Abyssinia to the Situationists. A "Romantic" view of Islam is taken to radical extremes; the exotic may not be "True," but it's certainly a relief from academic propaganda and the obscene banality of simulation. "This is my

brand of Islam: insurrectionary, elegant, dangerous, suffused with light - a search for poetic facts, a donation from and to the tradition of spiritual anarchy." —Hakim Bey "Peter Lamborn Wilson, in his book *Sacred Drift: Essays on the Margins of Islam*, offers an interesting window into the early evolution of Islamic ideas among African Americans." —Abbas Milani, *New Republic* Peter Lamborn Wilson lives in New York and works for *Semiotext(e)* magazine, *Pacifica Radio*, and the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics. A long decade in the Orient (1968-1981) inspires his writing, including *The Drunken Universe: An Anthology of Persian Sufi Poetry and Scandal: Essays in Islamic Heresy*. He also investigates Celtic psychoactive plants in his book *Ploughing the Clouds* which is also published by City Lights Publishers.

It's Not Just Academic! Carl W. Ernst
2017-11-30 This collection of articles by Carl W Ernst summarizes over 30 years of research,

recovering and illuminating remarkable examples of Islamic culture that have been largely overlooked, if not forgotten. It opens with reflections on teaching Islam, focusing on major themes such as Sufism, the Qur'an, the Prophet Muhammad, and Arabic literature. The importance of public scholarship and the questionable opposition between Islam and the West are also addressed. The articles that follow explore multiple facets of Sufism, the ethical and spiritual tradition that has flourished in Muslim societies for over a thousand years. The cumulative effect is to move away from static Orientalist depictions of Sufism and Islam through a series of vivid and creative case studies.

A Pearl in Wine Zia Inayat Khan 2001 Twelve contributors portray Inayat Khan's family life, musical career and profound spiritual message. *Essays on Islamic Piety and Mysticism* Fritz Meier 1999 Fritz Meier (1912-1998) is one of the most outstanding Orientalists of this century.

His publications combine masterful philological method and precision, profound and penetrating textual interpretation, and a wide-ranging familiarity with primary sources which may truly be characterized as phenomenal. Among the numerous fields in which he has undertaken original research, Persian poetry and Islamic mysticism (Sufism) in the widest sense stand out in particular. His work on Sufism covers the whole of the Islamic world and Islamic history from its beginnings up to the 20th century. The present provides for the first time a translation of 15 of Fritz Meier's seminal articles. The selected articles deal with the history of Sufism; Sufi morals and practices such as dhikr and samā'; the historical development of the master-disciple relationship; Ibn Taymiyya's attitude toward Sufism; pious devotional practices such as making use of the tasliya; essential sources for the history of Sufism in the Maghreb and the Almoravids. Extensive indices facilitate the use of this epoch-making work.

Rumi and the Sufi Tradition John A. Moyné 1998
Seething Cauldron Payam Nabarz 2010 The Sufi ritual meal ceremony of 'Deeg-Jush' translates as the 'Seething Cauldron' or 'Boiling Cauldron', and, like its Celtic equivalent: the Cauldron of Cerridwen, it symbolizes the transformation and change of the initiate as he/she becomes cooked in the cauldron. In this collection of essays covering Persian Magi, Zoroastrianism, Sufism, Freemasonry, Wicca, Druidry, Neo-Paganism, Mithraism, and Thelema; Payam Nabarz takes a down-to-earth look at contemporary spirituality. Contents: The Persian Fool and Trickster: Haji Firouz Anahita: Lady Of Persia Zoroastrian Angels and Demons Mithras and the Right Handed Handshake Of The Gods Influences Of Freemasonry and Sufism On Wicca and Neo-Paganism Sacred Plants (Drugs In Religion) The Right Hand Path Or Left Hand Path; Star Wars, Excalibur and Lord Of The Rings To Genes, Memes, Gods and Beyond (Sex, Chocolate and Religion) Spirit Of Peace

In the Tavern of Ruin Javād Nūrbakhsh 1978 IN THE TAVERN OF RUIN is a thorough introduction to the basic doctrines and disciplines practiced by the Sufis.

A Sufi Message of Spiritual Liberty Hazrat Inayat Khan 2011-01-01 The Sufi Message of Hazrat Inayat Khan is a Sufi text, a sub-sector of Islamic teaching. It is one of a series of short essays on spirituality from Sufi teacher Hazrat Inayat Khan, who journeyed from India to spread his message of love and spiritual liberty to the West. The essay describes the Sufi ideas of God, nature, truth, and love, among others, as well as a beginners guide to Sufism. This work is ideal for anyone interested in world religions, learning about Sufi beliefs, or studying the spread of Sufism in the 20th century. HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN (1882-1927) was a Sufi teacher and writer who founded the "Sufi Order in the West" in London in 1914. Born into a Muslim-Indian noble family, he was initiated into several Sufi orders before leaving India in 1910 as a

traveling musician at the encouragement of his sheik. Once arriving in the West, Khan turned from music to spreading Sufi thought and practice throughout three continents. He returned to India in 1926 to choose a site for his burial. Today, he is remembered for his call to man to awake to "Truth of Divine Guidance and Love," which is resonant in his many works on Universal Sufism.

The Sufi Influence and Other Essays Zia Ahmed 1982

In Search of the Lost Heart William C. Chittick 2012-02-15 Renowned scholar William C. Chittick explores the worldview of Islam in a series of essays written over thirty-six years. In In Search of the Lost Heart brings together twenty-six essays by William C. Chittick, renowned scholar of Sufism and Islamic philosophy. Written between 1975 and 2011, most of these essays are not readily available in Chittick's own books. Although this is a collection, its editors have crafted it to be a book "sufficient unto

itself, which, when taken as a whole, can be said to explore the underlying worldview of Islam.” Chittick draws upon the writings of towering figures such as Ibn al-‘Arabī, Rūmī, and Mullā Ṣadrā, as well as other important, but lesser-known thinkers, as he engages with a wide variety of topics, such as the nature of being and knowledge, the relationship between love and scriptural hermeneutics, the practical and theoretical dimensions of Islamic mysticism, the phenomenon of religious diversity, and the ecological crisis. William C. Chittick is Professor of Religious Studies at Stony Brook University, State University of New York. He is the author and translator of numerous books and articles on Islamic thought, Sufism, Shi‘ism, and Persian literature. His books include *The Self-Disclosure of God: Principles of Ibn al-‘Arabī’s Cosmology*; *Imaginal Worlds: Ibn al-‘Arabī and the Problem of Religious Diversity*; *Faith and Practice of Islam: Three Thirteenth-Century Sufi Texts*; *The Sufi Path of Knowledge: Ibn al-‘Arabī’s*

Metaphysics of Imagination; *The Sufi Path of Love: The Spiritual Teachings of Rūmī*; and *A Shi‘ite Anthology*, all published by SUNY Press. Mohammed Rustom is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Carleton University. Atif Khalil is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Lethbridge. Kazuyo Murata is a doctoral candidate in Islamic Studies at Yale University.

Sufi Essays Seyyed Hossein Nasr 1972-01-01
This book combines scholarly research into certain aspect of Sufi doctrines and history with a penetrating account of the spiritual and metaphysical message and significance of Sufism as a living spiritual tradition. In an original discussion, unlike anything that has appeared before in studies of Sufism, the author places special accent on the pertinence of Sufi teachings to the most acute contemporary problems. The book addresses itself to both the ever-increasing Western public interested in Sufism and to the Western-educated Muslim

interested in his own spiritual heritage. Dr. Nasr draws on his intimate knowledge of the Sufi literature in Arabic and Persian as well as his first-hand knowledge of Sufi tradition itself to produce this further volume in his numerous studies on the different facets of Islam.

Attar and the Persian Sufi Tradition L.

Lewisohn 2006-11-22 Farid al-Din Attar (d. 1221) was the principal Muslim religious poet of the second half of the twelfth century. Best known for his masterpiece "Mantiq al-tayr", or "The Conference of Birds", his verse is still considered to be the finest example of Sufi love poetry in the Persian language after that of Rumi. Distinguished by their provocative and radical theology of love, many lines of Attar's epics and lyrics are cited independently of their poems as maxims in their own right. These pithy, paradoxical statements are still known by heart and sung by minstrels throughout Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and wherever Persian is spoken or understood, such as in the lands of the

Indo-Pakistani Subcontinent. Designed to take its place alongside "The Ocean of the Soul", the classic study of Attar by Hellmut Ritter, this volume offers the most comprehensive survey of Attar's literary works to date, and situates his poetry and prose within the wider context of the Persian Sufi tradition. The essays in the volume are grouped in three sections, and feature contributions by sixteen scholars from North America, Europe and Iran, which illustrate, from a variety of critical perspectives, the full range of Attar's monumental achievement. They show how and why Attar's poetical work, as well as his mystical doctrines, came to wield such tremendous and formative influence over the whole of Persian Sufism.

The Shi'i World Farhad Daftary 2015-09-25 I.B.Tauris in association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies The world's 200 million Shi'i Muslims express their faith in a multiplicity of ways, united by reverence for the ahl al-bayt, the family of the Prophet. In embracing a pluralistic

ethic, fourteen centuries of Shi'i Islam have given rise to diverse traditions and practices across varied geographic and cultural landscapes. The Shi'i World is a comprehensive work authored by leading scholars from assorted disciplines, to provide a better understanding of how Shi'i communities view themselves and articulate their teachings. The topics range from Shi'i Islam's historical and conceptual foundations, formative figures and intellectual, legal and moral traditions, to its devotional practices, art and architecture, literature, music and cinema, as well as expressions and experiences of modernity. The book thus provides a panoramic perspective of the richly textured narratives that have shaped the social and moral universe of Shi'i Muslims around the globe. This fourth volume in the Muslim Heritage Series will appeal to specialists and general readers alike, as a timely resource on the prevailing complexities not only of the 'Muslim world', but also of the dynamic Shi'i diasporas of

Europe and North America.

Love in Sufi Literature Omneya Ayad 2023-09-27
 Focused on Aḥmad Ibn 'Ajība - an eighteenth-century Moroccan Sufi scholar renowned for his contribution to Sufi Qur'ānic exegesis - this book engages critically with his theory of divine love to elucidate his impact on the wider field of Qur'ānic scholarship. The principal source of analysis is Ibn 'Ajība's Oceanic Exegesis of the Qur'ān which connected theoretical works on the concept of divine love to their practical application, a breakthrough in Sufi literature. Close analysis of this text is supplemented by a comparative approach focusing on several other eminent Sufi commentaries, including those of Abū al-Qāsim al-Qushayrī and Rūzbihān Baqlī Shīrāzī. This comparative approach situates Ibn 'Ajība's thought in theological and historical perspective, engaging with his mystical approach which integrates his theory of divine love with other Sufi doctrines in an accessible manner. This approach, it is argued, left an

indelible impact on future generations of Qur'ānic exegetes within North Africa and across the Islamic world. The book will prove an important resource for academic researchers who wish to explore the vast intellectual heritage that Ibn 'Ajība left, as well as to those interested in Sufi literature and Islamic theology in general.

Knowledge and the Sacred Seyyed Hossein Nasr 1988-01-01

Sufi Heirs of the Prophet Arthur F. Buehler 2022-10-18 An examination of the sources and evolution of personal authority in one Islamic society *Sufi Heirs of the Prophet* explores the multifaceted development of personal authority in Islamic societies by tracing the transformation of one mystical sufi lineage in colonial India, the Naqshbandiyya. Arthur F. Buehler isolates four sources of personal authority evident in the practices of the Naqshbandiyya—lineage, spiritual traveling, status as a Prophetic exemplar, and the transmission of religious

knowledge—to demonstrate how Muslim religious leaders have exercised charismatic leadership through their association with the most compelling of personal Islamic symbols, the Prophet Muhammad. Buehler clarifies the institutional structure of sufism, analyzes overlapping configurations of personal sufi authority, and details how and why revivalist Indian Naqshbandis abandoned spiritual practices that had sustained their predecessors for more than five centuries. He looks specifically at the role of Jama'at 'Ali Shah (d. 1951) to explain current Naqshbandi practices. *Under the Sufi's Cloak* Mohammad Ali Jamnia 1995

Sufi Institutions Alexandre Papas 2020-11-30 This handbook describes the social and economic underpinnings of Islamic mysticism across centuries and geographical regions, paying special attention to the institutional dimensions of Sufism and complex relations between Sufis and the societies in which they

played a wide variety of important roles.

Sufi Essays Seyyed Hossein Nasr 1991-01-01
 This book combines scholarly research into certain aspect of Sufi doctrines and history with a penetrating account of the spiritual and metaphysical message and significance of Sufism as a living spiritual tradition. In an original discussion, unlike anything that has appeared before in studies of Sufism, the author places special accent on the pertinence of Sufi teachings to the most acute contemporary problems. The book addresses itself to both the ever-increasing Western public interested in Sufism and to the Western-educated Muslim interested in his own spiritual heritage. Dr. Nasr draws on his intimate knowledge of the Sufi literature in Arabic and Persian as well as his first-hand knowledge of Sufi tradition itself to produce this further volume in his numerous studies on the different facets of Islam.

Living Sufism in North America William Rory Dickson 2015-09-11 Offers an overview of

Sufism in North America. In this book, William Rory Dickson explores Sufism as a developing tradition in North America, one that exists in diverse and beguiling forms. Sufism's broad-minded traditions of philosophy, poetry, and spiritual practice infused Islamic civilization for centuries and drew the attention of interested Westerners. By the early twentieth century, Sufism was being practiced in North America. Today's North American Sufism can appear either explicitly Islamic or seemingly devoid of Islamic religiosity. Dickson provides indispensable background on Sufism's relation to Islamic orthodoxy and to Western esoteric traditions, and its historical development in North America. The book goes on to chart the directions that North American Sufism is currently taking, directions largely chosen by Sufi leaders. The views of ten North American Sufi leaders are explored in depth and their perspectives on Islam, authority, gender, and tradition are put in conversation with one

another. A more detailed picture of North American Sufism emerges, challenging previous scholarly classifications of Sufi groups, and highlighting Sufism's fluidity, diversity, and dynamism. William Rory Dickson is Assistant Professor of Islamic Religion and Culture at the University of Winnipeg.

Cultural Fusion of Sufi Islam Sarwar Alam
2019-08-19 It has been argued that the mystical Sufi form of Islam is the most sensitive to other cultures, being accommodative to other traditions and generally tolerant to peoples of other faiths. It readily becomes integrated into local cultures and they are similarly often infused into Sufism. Examples of this reciprocity are commonly reflected in Sufi poetry, music, hagiographic genres, memoirs, and in the ritualistic practices of Sufi traditions. This volume shows how this often-side-lined tradition functions in the societies in which it is found, and demonstrates how it relates to mainstream Islam. The focus of this book ranges from

reflecting Sufi themes in the Qur'anic calligraphy to movies, from ideals to everyday practices, from legends to actual history, from gender segregation to gender transgression, and from legalism to spiritualism. Consequently, the international panel of contributors to this volume are trained in a range of disciplines that include religious studies, history, comparative literature, anthropology, and ethnography. Covering Southeast Asia to West Africa as well as South Asia and the West, they address both historical and contemporary issues, shedding light on Sufism's adaptability. This book sets aside conventional methods of understanding Islam, such as theological, juridical, and philosophical, in favour of analysing its cultural impact. As such, it will be of great interest to all scholars of Islamic Studies, the Sociology of Religion, Religion and Media, as well as Religious Studies and Area Studies more generally.

The Philosophy of Ecstasy Leonard Lewisohn

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2014 Jalal al-Din Rumi (1207-73), founder of the Mevlevi Sufi order of “Whirling Dervishes,” is the best-selling poet in America today. The wide-ranging appeal of his work is such that UNESCO declared 2007 to be “International Rumi Year.” However, his writings represent much more than love poetry. Rumi was one of the preeminent thinkers of Sufism, the esoteric form of Islam. In this groundbreaking collection of 13 essays on Rumi, many of the world’s leading authorities in the field of Islamic Studies and Persian Literature discuss the major religious themes in his poetry and teachings. In addition to discussing the ideas of love, ecstasy, and music in Rumi’s Sufi poetry, the essays offer new historical and theological perspectives on his work. The immortality of the soul, freewill, the nature of punishment and reward, and the relationship of Islam to Christianity are all covered, in order to bring Rumi’s poetry properly into the context of the Sufi tradition to which he belonged.

Sufi Essays Seyyed Hossein Nasr 1991
South Asian Sufis Clinton Bennett 2012-03-01
 Often described as the soul of Islam, Sufism is one of the most interesting yet least known facet of this global religion. Sufism is the softer more inclusive and mystical form of Islam. Although militant Islamists dominate the headlines, the Sufi ideal has captured the imagination of many. Nowhere in the world is the handprint of Sufism more observable than South Asia, which has the largest Muslim population of the world, but also the greatest concentration of Sufis. This book examines active Sufi communities in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh that shed light on the devotion, and deviation, and destiny of Sufism in South Asia. Drawn from extensive work by indigenous and international scholars, this ethnographical study explores the impact of Iran on the development of Sufi thought and practice further east, and also discusses Sufism in diaspora in such contexts as the UK and North America and Iran's influence on South Asian

Sufism.

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