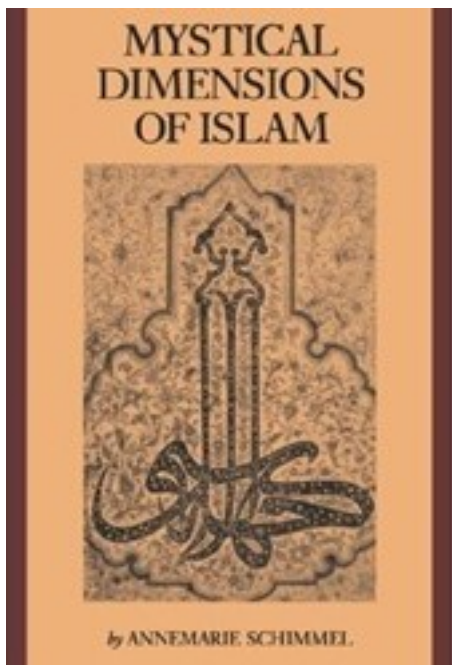

Annemarie Schimmel

Mystical Dimensions of Islam



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Description

Mystical Dimensions of Islam presents, for the first time, a balanced historical treatment of the transnational phenomenon of Sufism—Islamic mysticism—from its beginnings through the nineteenth century. Through her sensitivity and deep understanding of the subject, Annemarie Schimmel, an eminent scholar of Eastern religions, draws the reader into the mood, the vision, the way of the Sufi in a manner that adds an essential ingredient to her analysis of the history of Sufism.

After exploring the origins of the mystical movement in the meditations of orthodox Muslims on the Koran and the prophetic tradition, the author then discusses the development of its different stages, including classical voluntarism and postclassical theosophical mystical trends. Particular emphasis is placed on spiritual education, the different ways of leading the mystic toward the existential realization of the profound mystery of the profession of faith that “there is no deity but God.” Sufi psychology and Sufi orders and fraternities are comprehensively explored.

Through an examination of mystical anthropology, which culminates in the veneration of the prophet and the saints, the questions of free will and predestination, of good and evil, are implied. The main burden of the text, however, is Sufism as reflected in Islamic poetry, and Professor Schimmel examines the various aspects of mystical poetry in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Sindhi, Panjabi, and Pashto. The author skillfully demonstrates how Sufi ideals permeated the whole fabric of Muslim life, providing the average Muslim—villager or intellectual—with the virtues of perfect trust in God and the loving surrender to God’s will.

Professor Schimmel’s long acquaintance with Turkey, Iran, and the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent provides a unique emphasis to the study, and the author’s personal knowledge of Sufi practice in these regions lends a contemporary relevance to her work.

Insightful reviews

Matt Friedman: Absolutely essential for anyone who wants a genuine idea about Sufi history and practice. This is the book I would put into someone's hands if they were to ask me, "What's the one book I should read to get my head wrapped around Sufism."

Fuad Fuad: I like this book...it is the few books that I recommend to know all aspect about sufisme. Very comprehensive and clear. I interest about sufisme after read this book.

Ruhat alp: “Death is for animals, lovers don’t die.” Yunus Emre.

If a voice saying "I am God!" can emanate from a tree, then why cannot such a voice come from man, the most honorable of the creatures and one who carries the Divine Entrustment? Rumi says, "God called out from a tree: 'I am God!' Everybody heeded and was pleased by this call. If a man says the same thing, do not say that this word cannot be uttered due to your spiritual

blindness. Bayazid Bistami, in a state of ecstasy, said: "I disassociate myself from all imperfect attributes. Great is my Glory!" And he saw the divine manifestation in himself. Junayd of Baghdad said: "There is none but God in my robe. " Mansur al-Hallaj who pleases the hearts of the lovers of God with his spiritual states and who was hung for the love of God, said, "I am the Truth (God)" and was taken to the gallows.

Maureen: Writing in regards to the mystical realm isn't any effortless undertaking. Schimmel's ebook has the sensitivity and intensity that come purely from an internal own trip in addition to profound educational training. For years, she used to be the Chair of the Indo-Muslim studies division at Harvard. and her wonderful scholarship, mixed together with her direct adventure of Sufism in Turkey, produced the only of best, so much complete reviews of Sufism in English.

Reza Hashemi: I registered a e-book at [BookCrossing.com!http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12104000](http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12104000)

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