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A Beginner's Guide

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Ibn al-'Arabi and the Sufis

Ibn 'Arabi in the Later Islamic Tradition

The Inner Journey

In Search of the Lost Heart

MERCER JACK

A Beginner's Guide SUNY Press

Renowned scholar William C. Chittick explores the worldview of Islam in a series of essays written over thirty-six years. *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. "Written in the style of scholarship for which William C. Chittick is well known, this text relates seemingly disparate concepts and presents complex metaphysical ideas in simple, accessible language. The diversity amongst the sources translated in this text, and the manner in which Chittick puts them into conversation with major philosophical debates will prove interesting to readers with a variety of intellectual interests. Needless to say, *In Search of the Lost Heart: Explorations in Islamic Thought* is a significant contribution to the scholarship on Islamic thought." — Iranian Studies "Through its diverse treatments of Islamic thought, this book should aid in verbalizing the spirit of the Islamic tradition which has provided common grounding for Islamic thinkers throughout the ages." —Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies
Iran Bilquees Press
The very heart of the Islamic tradition is love; no other word adequately captures the quest for transformation that lies at

this tradition's center. So argues esteemed professor of medieval Islam William C. Chittick in this survey of the extensive Arabic and Persian literature on topics ranging from the Qur'an up through the twelfth century. Bringing to light extensive foundational Persian sources never before presented, Chittick draws on more than a thousand pages of newly translated material to depict the rich prose literature at the center of Islamic thought. *The Sufi Doctrine of Rumi* Pir Press Inc
An Ocean Without Shore is a study of Ibn Arabi, known in Islam as al-Shaykh al-Akbar, the Greatest Spiritual Master. In the introduction, Chodkiewicz provides a good deal of documentation for the often heard claim that Ibn Arabi has been the most influential thinker in Islam over the past seven hundred years. He shows that this has been true, not only among the intellectual elite, but also among the common believers. He explains why a few Muslims have considered Ibn al-Arabi the greatest heretic of Islam, while for many others he is Islam's greatest spiritual teacher.

In the main body of the book, Chodkiewicz demonstrates that Ibn Arabi's writings are firmly grounded in the Koran. In doing this he also shows that Ibn Arabi's Koranic roots run far deeper than has heretofore been imagined. He explains that principles of Ibn Arabi's Koranic hermeneutics with unprecedented clarity, and in bringing out the primary importance of the Shaykh's magnum opus, *The Futuhat Makkiyya*, he solves a good number of riddles about the text that have puzzled modern readers. Chodkiewicz's work shows how, for Ibn Arabi, the initiatory voyage is a voyage in the divine word itself.

An Introduction to the Sufi Path Anqa Publishing

This volume, the ninth in the Classics of Western Spirituality series, brings to light a highly significant but little known area of Islamic spirituality. Editor John Renard has assembled here a volume of texts, most translated here for the first time, culled from the great Sufi manuals of spirituality, on the theme of the complex and multifaceted role of knowledge in relation to the spiritual life. He presents excerpts

on knowledge from the works of nine major Muslim teachers, most translated from Arabic, but also including important texts from Persian originals. The Introduction offers a survey of the development of Sufi modes of knowing through the thirteenth century in their broader context, and then focuses on the manuals or compendia of Sufi spirituality treated here. Historical notes provide brief identifications of many of the individual sources and personalities mentioned throughout the treatises. E48 +

Sufism SUNY Press
Renowned expert William Chittick covers the life and works of the legendary Spanish-born Sufi writer Ibn Arabi in this new biography.

Discussing not only Ibn Arabi's work on the subject of mysticism, Chittick also examines Ibn Arabi's love poetry.

The Concept of the Limit and the Relationship between God and the World SUNY Press

The Sufi Path of Knowledge Ibn al-Arabi's Metaphysics of Imagination SUNY Press
Faith and Practice of Islam SUNY Press

This book traces the

evolution of Sufism from the formative period to the present.

Divine Love Harper Collins
By the Grace of God, my spiritual guide knew far, far more than what I have heard him say on any given occasion.

Unfortunately, I have forgotten far, far more than what I remember of what has been related to me by him. Moreover, I have written far less than what I remember of what he taught me. The result of this funneling process is the present book – An Introduction to the Sufi Path. Everything that is good and correct in this book comes, by the Grace of God, through my shaykh or spiritual teacher who was willing to accept me as a reclamation project.

Everything that is incorrect in An Introduction to the Sufi Path comes from my own shortcomings and ignorance. The material contained within An Introduction to the Sufi Path is intended to stimulate reflection concerning a variety of themes that are important to spiritual life in the midst of everyday life. God willing, the content given expression through the different chapters constitutes -- both

individually as well as collectively -- a Sufi perspective. However, one does not have to be on the Sufi path or inclined to that path in order to engage the material in this book. Anyone with an interest in spirituality and mysticism will find, God willing, an abundance of themes within the boundaries of this work that are able to form the seeds of contemplative reflection for any faith background. *The Knowing Heart* SUNY Press

The Quran says, "Wherever you turn, there is the face of God," and, it tells us, "He is with you wherever you are." Muhammad remarked that spiritual virtue is to be found in serving God as if you see him, for, even if you do not see him, he sees you. The understanding that God is always present has animated the personal piety of Muslims from earliest times. These essays by well-known scholars and Sufi teachers as well as excerpts from classical Islamic literature suggest the great variety of routes that Muslims have followed to reach the vision of the Divine in all that exists. Book jacket.

Poems Simon and

Schuster

The great 13th century Muslim philosopher explores the mysteries of divine love and wisdom, using the symbolic examples of Biblical figures, prophets and holy men, from Adam to Muhammad.

The Sufi Path of Love SUNY Press

Provides in clear and accessible language, an introduction to the spiritual perspective illuminating Rumi's magical poetry. In this book, the author opens doors that give us access to the inner sanctum of Rumi's thought.

Ibn Al' Arabi Simon and Schuster

Ibn al-'Arabi is still known as "the Great Sheik" among the surviving Sufi orders. Born in Muslim Spain, he has become famous in the West as the greatest mystical thinker of Islamic civilization. He was a great philosopher, theologian, and poet. William Chittick takes a major step toward exposing the breadth and depth of Ibn al-'Arabi's vision. The book offers his view of spiritual perfection and explains his theology, ontology, epistemology, hermeneutics, and soteriology. The clear language, unencumbered by methodological jargon,

makes it accessible to those familiar with other spiritual traditions, while its scholarly precision will appeal to specialists. Beginning with a survey of Ibn al-'Arabi's major teachings, the book gradually introduces the most important facets of his thought, devoting attention to definitions of his basic terminology. His teachings are illustrated with many translated passages introducing readers to fascinating byways of spiritual life that would not ordinarily be encountered in an account of a thinker's ideas. Ibn al-'Arabi is allowed to describe in detail the visionary world from which his knowledge derives and to express his teachings in his own words. More than 600 passages from his major work, *al-Futuhat al-Makkivva*, are translated here, practically for the first time. These alone provide twice the text of the *Fusus al-hikam*. The exhaustive indexes make the work an invaluable reference tool for research in Sufism and Islamic thought in general.

Views from the Islamic Tradition SUNY Press

The material in *The Nature of the Sufi Path* consists of 70

commentaries on a book entitled *Sufism: A Short Introduction* by Professor William C. Chittick. Many, if not most, of the paragraphs that comprise the 163 pages (preface plus text) of Professor Chittick's book contain problems, errors, misleading statements, and/or incorrect understandings concerning Islam, in general, and the Sufi path, in particular. This is both surprising and disturbing since the author is someone who, apparently, enjoys a considerable reputation in North America -- and, perhaps, elsewhere in the world -- as an expert on, and scholar of, the Sufi mystical tradition. I do not claim that what I say in this book is a definitive, exhaustive, 'incapable-of-being-improved-upon' treatment of the Sufi path. Rather, my hope is that the present book might move a person closer to the truth concerning the nature of that path than Professor Chittick's aforementioned introduction to *Sufism* does and, as such, would represent an improvement over his work.

Ibn 'Arabi and Modern Thought SUNY Press
An exploration of the

profound Sufi practice of *Itlak Yolu* • Examines the three main facets of this practice: *zikr* or breathing exercises, fasting, and mental suffering • Shares new Sufi parables, the sayings of Sufi master Hasan Lutfi Shushud, and Rumi's philosophy on annihilation of the Self • Reveals how once the Self is annihilated higher levels of perception are reached In this exploration of the profound spiritual practice of *Itlak Yolu*, the Sufi path of annihilation, Nevit Ergin examines the three main facets of this path: *zikr* or breathing exercises, fasting, and mental suffering. Sharing experiences and discussions with Hasan Lutfi Shushud, renowned Sufi saint and final guide of Gurdjieff's disciple J. G. Bennett, the author illustrates how suffering-- "the searing fire of contrition"--is the most effective instrument of spiritual progress, for it is suffering that burns the Self. He explains how faithful practice of *zikr* and fasting will bring on this kind of suffering when the student is ready and will make the suffering tolerable. He shows how once the Self is annihilated higher levels of perception take hold

and one finds oneself on the path to sainthood and immortality. Interwoven throughout with sayings by Shushud, Sufi parables, and poems by Rumi, Ergin shares the unique *Itlak* perspective on the major questions of every seeker: the true nature of love and religion, life and death, and other major spiritual questions. The book also includes an essay on annihilation and absence in Rumi's philosophy and biographical portraits of Hasan Lufti Shushud by other aspirants who met with him.

Sufi Wisdom SUNY Press
The headlines are filled with the politics of Islam, but there is another side to the world's fastest-growing religion. Sufism is the poetry and mysticism of Islam. This mystical movement from the early ninth century rejects worship motivated by the desire for heavenly reward or the fear of punishment, insisting rather on the love of God as the only valid form of adoration. Sufism has made significant contributions to Islamic civilization in music and philosophy, dance and literature. The Sufi poet Rumi is the bestselling poet in America. But in recent centuries Sufism

has been a target for some extremist Islamic movements as well as many modernists. The Garden of Truth presents the beliefs and vision of the mystical heart of Islam, along with a history of Sufi saints and schools of thought. In a world threatened by religious wars, depleting natural resources, a crumbling ecosystem, and alienation and isolation, what has happened to our humanity? Who are we and what are we doing here? The Sufi path offers a journey toward truth, to a knowledge that transcends our mundane concerns, selfish desires, and fears. In Sufism we find a wisdom that brings peace and a relationship with God that nurtures the best in us and in others. Noted scholar Seyyed Hossein Nasr helps you learn the secret wisdom tradition of Islam and enter what the ancient mystics call the "garden of truth." Here, liberate your mind, experience peace, discover your purpose, fall in love with the Divine, and find your true, best self.

Ibn Arabi, the Book, and the Law Cambridge University Press
Examines the fierce controversy over the legacy of Ibn 'Arabi, the

great Islamic mystic. The Golden Sufi Center This book constitutes a comprehensive investigation of the life and teachings of one of the most famous Sufis of the Iranian world. Simnani spent his early life as a courtier at the Ilkhanid Mongol court and was a cherished companion of the emperor Arghun. After a mystical experience on the battlefield, he turned his back on a life of luxury and became a Sufi. He advanced rapidly in his spiritual quest and soon became one of the most influential Sufi masters in Iran. Working primarily from the most reliable Arabic and Persian manuscripts of Simnani's writings, the author has analyzed Simnani's thinking to show the overall coherence of his world-view and to demonstrate the importance of his ideas to the development of Islamic mysticism. Along with this analysis, the author provides a detailed account of Simnani's life and times, as well as a systematic description of Simnani's instructions for Sufi practitioners of all levels.

Three Thirteenth-Century Sufi Texts
SUNY Press
These penetrating

metaphysical and spiritual teachings cross the divides of culture and time, providing unexpectedly modern insight.

Ibn al-Arabi's Metaphysics of Imagination The Golden Sufi Center

The journey of the mystic is to retrace the circle of love within the heart and so experience the oneness that is hidden within us.

A Shi'ite Anthology
Penguin

Explicates the cosmology of Ibn al-Arabi, the greatest mystical thinker of Islamic civilization. The Self-Disclosure of God offers the most detailed presentation to date in any Western language of the basic teachings of Islam's greatest mystical philosopher and theologian. It represents a major step forward in making available to the Western reading public the enormous riches of Islamic teachings in the fields of cosmology, mystical philosophy, theology, and spirituality. □ this book will serve as the basis for future study on Ibn al-Arabi The translation is so faithful to the original Arabic that it almost corresponds with the original word for word. □ □ Wiener

Zeitschrift Fur die Kunde des Morgenlandes
 □Chittick has refined his way of translating Ibn al-Arabi□s terminology to a high degree of perfection.□ □ Gerhard Böwering, Yale University
 The Self-Disclosure of God continues the author□s investigations of the world view of Ibn al-Arabi, the greatest theoretician of Sufism and the □seal of the Muhammadan saints.□
 The book is divided into three parts, dealing with the relation between God and the cosmos, the structure of the cosmos, and the nature of the human soul. A long introduction orients the

reader and discusses a few of the difficulties faced by Ibn al-Arabi□s interpreters. Like Chittick□s earlier work, The Sufi Path of Knowledge, this book is based primarily on Ibn al-Arabi□s monumental work, al-Futuhāt al-makkiyya □The Meccan Openings.□ More than one hundred complete chapters and subsections are translated, not to mention shorter passages that help put the longer discussions in context. There are detailed indices of sources, Koranic verses and hadiths. The book□s index of technical

terminology will be an indispensable reference for all those wishing to delve more deeply into the use of language in Islamic thought in general and Sufism in particular. □This is the type of work that many will refer to as a tour de force. Among its other accomplishments, it represents a painstaking reading, translation, and analysis of a major Muslim Arab thinker of notoriously intimidating erudition and subtlety. Best of all, it is clear and comprehensible, without sacrificing sophistication and precision.□ □ R. Kevin Lacey, State University of New York, Binghamton

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