

Discorsi Sufi Laltro Cuore Dellislam

This book contains spiritual techniques taken from letters of Shaykh ad-Darqawi. Almost all these letters are concerned with the method and the operative aspects of the Way and are considered among the most direct instructions given on Sufic method to be found in all Sufi literature.

The Infuriating Tale Of A Young Palestinian Punished For Exercising His Freedom Of Speech. Like many of his generation, Waleed Al-Husseini began a blog in his twenties. However, unlike many, Waleed also had the misfortune of having been a blogger in Palestine; worse yet, he often criticized Islam and its adherents—and declared himself an apostate—in his writings. The Palestinian Authority did not take well to this and eventually put Waleed in jail without a trial or even a wisp of legal justification. As if this was not bad enough, they placed Waleed in solitary confinement. This state of affairs continued for 11 months. Over the course of this time, Waleed was tortured and suffered innumerable indignities and deprivations simply for having the audacity to speak his mind. Eventually his unjust imprisonment began to draw international attention from foreign governments and human rights organizations, which pressured the Palestinian Authority and finally forced it to provide him a trial and parole. After being paroled, Waleed fled Palestine, first to Jordan and then to France, where he has become an outspoken advocate for freedom of speech and a critic of the state of contemporary Islam. The Blasphemer is a sobering, impassioned recounting of this Kafkaesque experience as well as a searing polemic against the corruption and hypocrisy that define contemporary Palestine.

In this book Franco Cardini examines the ideas, prejudices, disinformation and anti-information that have formed and coloured Europe's attitude towards Islam over 1500 years.

Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani, Sheikh Soufi la Confraternita islamica Naqchbandi, ha scritto un trattato sulla geografia dell'anima, che inizia con diciassette carattere distruttivo di cuore per terminare con sei meravigliosa latenti poteri del cuore. Questo libro si rivolge a un vasto pubblico, soprattutto quelli che non hanno familiarità con la terminologia Sufi, fornisce un prezioso apertura su entrambi i discorsi vecchi e la tempestività del mistico dell'Islam, in cui interpretazioni gnostico Versetti coranici, Hadiths e tradizionali come le scienze della numerologia sono tutti inclusi in un catalogo di potenziali membri, livelli e pericoli di anima durante il suo ritorno a Dio. Ha presentato la sua analisi come una scienza spirituale di realizzazione di se, ripristinando il significato originario della scienza come conoscenza - con la conoscenza di se stesso come il più potente e più complesso campo della comprensione "i fondamenti della scienza moderna sono basato sulla comprensione del rapporto tra l'anima e il mondo ." Anche Newton-figura emblematica della scienza moderna - ha concentrato i suoi studi su alchimia, la scienza che collega la tradizionale microcosmo del macrocosmo l'anima del cosmo. A proposito, Kabbani ha affermato che la scienza contemporanea tecnologia dei telefoni cellulari, Internet, viaggi aerei e sulla memoria digitale sono imitazioni dei tradizionali poteri di maestri spirituali. Si tratta di un affascinante e persuasiva dichiarazione, quella che richiede più attenzione, perché egli parla della finalità originaria della scienza: che è quello di rendere manifesto il latenti poteri di per se l'anima nella sua continua ricerca di una contatto con le conoscenze attraverso il tempo e lo spazio. L'altro aspetto dell 'importanza di questo libro e la sua raccomandazione di rivedere il personale (mouhasabah). Parlando alla coscienza dei lettori, Kabbani specifica come suicida abitudini come ad esempio la rabbia, depressione e avidità persistono se sono ignorati. Liberando tali caratteristiche distruttive richiede la nostra apprensione, in primo luogo, alternative. La pratica della devozione richiede disciplina e inizia con un abile auto-esame e una simultanea contemplazione. Kabbani descrive attentamente il comportamento e le qualità specifiche di essere conosciuti. Qui, egli offre una comprensione psicologica del percorso a partire tratti come dolo, allegato (diverse da quelle di Dio), sconsideratezza, attraverso esercizi di meditazione e di emigrazione, stand per la verità, ascoltare con attenzione, concentrandosi sui sei poteri che si manifestano e dare vita a cuore. Bonde preziosi consigli e linee guida, questo libro invita coloro che sono o che non hanno familiarità con le tradizioni Soufies, ad intensificare la loro esercizio spirituale attraverso il sacro e la saggezza lezioni contenute nella "scienza della sufi realizzazione di se ." Certo, svela Kabbani, il tempo è vicino. Garrett Graddy MA, Harvard Divinita. Docente di Filosofia presso l'Universita di Stato Morehead

Prophets, saints, martyrs, sages, and seers—one of the richest repositories of lore about such exemplary religious figures belongs to the world's approximately 1.3 billion Muslims. Illuminating some of the most delightful tales in world religious literature, this engaging book is the first truly global overview of Islamic hagiography. John Renard tells of the characters beyond the Qur'an and Hadith, whose stories of piety and service to God and humanity have captured hearts and minds for nearly fourteen hundred years. Renard's thematic approach to the major characters, narratives, social and cultural contexts, and theoretical concepts of this remarkable treasury of tales, based on material ranging from the eighth to the twentieth centuries and from countries ranging from Morocco to Malaysia, provides insight into the ways in which these stories have functioned in the lives of Muslims from diverse cultural, social, economic, and political backgrounds. The book also serves as a useful and evocative tool for approaching the vast geographical and chronological sweep of Islamic civilization.

"This masterpiece by Titus Burkhardt examines the essence of Islamic mysticism, or Sufism, presenting its central doctrines and methods to a Western audience in a highly intelligible form. This edition contains a new foreword by William C. Chittick and an extensive glossary/index."--BOOK JACKET.

Made up of a number of seminal articles that are translated for the first time in English, this prestigious book from Gregor Schoeler gives a reasoned, informed and comprehensive overflow of how the written and the spoken interacted, diverged and received cultural articulation among the Muslim societies of the first two centuries of the Hijra.

This long-awaited translation of Johannes Pedersen's Danish work *Den Arabiske Bog* (1946) describes in vivid detail the production of books in medieval Islam, and outlines the role of literature and scholarship in Islamic society. Originally published in 1984. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

The first detailed study of Islamic theodicy, the book points out distinctively Islamic formulations and solutions of the problem of the best of all possible worlds" and shows where they coincide with Western versions, such as that of Leibniz. Originally published in 1984. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

Combining anthropological observation with textual and genealogical analysis, Fabio Vicini's *Reading Islam* offers a journey within the intimate relations, reading practices, and forms of intellectual engagement that regulate Muslim life in two enclosed religious communities in contemporary Istanbul.

In the last two decades of the 20th century, theorising on modernity has entered a new stage. The former dichotomy between an active West exporting its successful model of

modernity on a global scale and passive non-Westerners gratefully implementing this model in their own societies has been challenged by critical anthropology and postcolonial studies, and further elaborated upon within social theory. This volume focuses on Europe and the Islamic world as two historically constructed geo-civilisational domains, and shows that modernity was not achieved in splendid isolation in Europe, but in the tensions and conflicts within the «transcultural space» between Europe and Islam. The impact of Islam as a complex civilising tradition on the making of Europe, and vice versa, impinged on the building of political, religious and scientific institutions and discourses. These sustained a continuous process of drawing, adjusting and transgressing symbolic and geo-political boundaries between the two civilisational realms, from medieval rivalries to present-day migration-related conflicts. This volume assembles seven contributions by historians and sociologists covering the whole of the modern era and focusing on the notion of a transcultural space and the discussion of revised concepts concerning the genesis and shape of modernity. In so doing, they try to escape both the apories of cultural relativism and the militancy of the «clash of civilizations».

The Moroccan-born author of *Racism Explained to My Daughter* applies his method to the subject of Islam, attempting to synthesize this complicated religious subject for his daughter while discussing such topics as the meaning of jihad, fatwa, and terrorism. Reprint.

Srebrenica represents a dark and painful chapter in late twentieth-century European history. Here, a still unknown number of Bosnian Muslim citizens were tortured and killed in July 1995. About 8.500 deaths have so far been confirmed, but survivors say 10.701 people died as a result of the blind and racist violence of the Bosnian Serb army led by Ratko Mladic' and mainly Serb paramilitary forces, as the Dutch UN Peacekeepers and, with them, the entire international community, stood by and did nothing. Srebrenica has been defined 'genocide' by various international rulings, the first of which was handed down in April 2004. However, today some people continue to deny what happened, even in the knowledge that they are lying. "Srebrenica. The Days of Shame" is the first book ever published in Italy about this genocide, the first in Europe since the Holocaust. This is the fourth edition of the book, updated following the capture of Mladic' (May 2011) and his consignment to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). "There are no mitigating circumstances for Mladic?'s full responsibility in the Srebrenica genocide, but the trial of the former general can shed light on the truth and clarify any co-responsibilities for what is and will always remain one of the most dramatic pages in the history of crime in modern and democratic Europe. About the full responsibility of Mladic' in the genocide of Srebrenica there aren't mitigating, but the process against the ex-general could shed light on the truth and clarify any co-responsibility in a fact that is and will always remain, one of the most dramatic pages of criminal acts in the modern and democratic Europe." (Carla Del Ponte, ex Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia) "When my friend and great human rights activist Luca Leone wrote the first edition of this book commemorating the Srebrenica genocide he, I and many others hoped that the days of shame would be just that – a matter of 'days'. That truth and justice would be served quickly. From one edition to the next the 'days' have become 'years' of shame: those up to now, to which the three years prior to 1995 should be added." (Riccardo Noury, Spokesman for Amnesty International Italy).

First published in 1923, this classic volume contains timeless teachings on the nature of vibration and harmony as the basis of all creation. Transcending the barriers of religious traditions, *The Mysticism of Sound* explores profound and universal truths in a personable manner that will appeal to any seeker on the path of illumination.

Islamist movements in the Arab and Muslim countries are demanding for the total implementation of Islamic law as a component of their faith. Muslim minorities in the West also have increasing demands aiming at adapting the laws of the host countries to their religious demands. However, this leads to many problems, particularly due to Muslim norms which are contrary to human rights. In order to understand these claims and the problems they bring about, one must comprehend the Principles (al-usul). Without such knowledge, any dialogue between the Muslims and the non-Muslims would end up in an impasse and in incomprehension. This work is principally based on the courses taught in different faculties of law and Islamic law in Arab countries. We complemented them with the writings of Muslims outside the institutional framework. The work concludes with an analytical juridical table of the Koran. The author Sami A. Aldeeb Abu-Sahlieh. Christian of Palestinian origin. Swiss citizen. Doctor in law. Habilitated to direct researches. Professor of universities (CNU-France). In charge of Arab and Islamic Law at the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law (1980-2009). Visiting professor in different French, Italian and Swiss universities. Director of the Centre of Arab and Islamic Law. Author of many books, including translations of the Koran into French, English and Italian.

" . . . will be of interest not only to those concerned with Pakistan and the new Muslim presence in Europe, but also to those interested in an anthropological study of religion."

—Barbara Metcalf, University of California, Davis
Prina Werbner traces the development of a Sufi Naqshbandi order founded by a living saint, Zindapir, whose cult originated in Pakistan and has extended globally to Britain, Europe, the Middle East, and southern Africa. Drawing on 12 years of fieldwork in Pakistan and Great Britain, she elucidates the complex organization of Sufi orders as regional and transnational cults, and examines how such cults are manifested through ritual action and embodied in sacred mythology and global diasporas. A focus of the study is the key event in the order's annual ritual cycle, a celebration in which tens of thousands of people gather at the saint's lodge in Pakistan and in the streets of Britain. Werbner challenges accepted anthropological and sociological truths about Islam and modernity, and reflects on her own role as ethnographic observer. *Pilgrims of Love* is a major contribution to our understanding of diasporic Islamic practices, highlighting the vitality of Sufi orders in the postcolonial world.

This book examines the specific circumstances that nurture fundamentalist beliefs and practices. It studies contemporary fundamentalist developments in several continents, involving groups associated with five major religions. The authors answer important questions regarding the 'rationality' of fundamentalism, its complex link with modernism, the nature of its relationship to a sacred text, and its perspectives on history and knowledge. No fixed set of qualities defines fundamentalism. Since it implies a view of the universe

and a discourse about the nature of truth, it encompasses and transcends the religious domain. For that reason, every movement or cause is potentially fundamentalist. Explores the belief in Muslim countries that the end of the world is at hand, uncovers the role of apocalypse in Islam, and examines the widespread fear of Christian Zionist domination as an impetus to jihad.

Throughout my childhood, my grandmother Yasmina, who was illiterate and grew up in a harem, repeated that to travel is the best way to learn and to empower yourself. "When a woman decides to use her wings, she takes big risks," she would tell me, but she was convinced that if you didn't use them, it hurt.... So recalls Fatema Mernissi at the outset of her mesmerizing new book. Of all the lessons she learned from her grandmother -- whose home was, after all, a type of prison -- the most central was that the opportunity to cross boundaries was a sacred privilege. Indeed, in journeys both physical and mental, Mernissi has spent virtually all of her life traveling -- determined to "use her wings" and to renounce her gender's alleged legacy of powerlessness. Bursting with the vitality of Mernissi's personality and of her rich heritage, *Scheherazade Goes West* reveals the author's unique experiences as a liberated, independent Moroccan woman faced with the peculiarities and unexpected encroachments of Western culture. Her often surprising discoveries about the conditions of and attitudes toward women around the world -- and the exquisitely embroidered amalgam of clear-eyed autobiography and dazzling meta-fiction by which she relates those assorted discoveries -- add up to a deliciously wry, engagingly cosmopolitan, and deeply penetrating narrative. In her previous bestselling works, Mernissi -- widely recognized as the world's greatest living Koranic scholar and Islamic sociologist -- has shed unprecedented light on the lives of women in the Middle East. Now, as a writer and scholarly veteran of the high-wire act of straddling disparate societies, she trains her eyes on the female culture of the West. For her book's inspired central metaphor, Mernissi turns to the ancient Islamic tradition of oral storytelling, illuminating her grandmother's feminized, subversive, and highly erotic take on Scheherazade's wife-preserving tales from *The Arabian Nights* -- and then ingeniously applying them to her own lyrically embellished personal narrative. Interwoven with vivid ruminations on her childhood, her education, and her various international travels are the author's piquant musings on a range of deeply embedded societal conditions that add up, Mernissi argues, to a veritable "Western harem." A provocative and lively challenge to the common assumption that women have it so much better in the West than anywhere else in the world, Mernissi's book is an entrancing and timely look at the way we live here and now. By inspiring us to reconsider even the most commonplace aspects of our culture with fresh eyes and a healthy dose of suspicion, *Scheherazade Goes West* offers an invigorating, candid, and entertaining new perspective on the themes and ideas to which Betty Friedan first turned us on nearly forty years ago.

The American bombing of terrorist bases in Afghanistan under the protection of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban movement has brought the Taliban into sharp focus as the most radical and extreme Islamic movement in the world today. Little is known about the Taliban because of the deep secrecy that surrounds their political movement, their leaders and their aims. The geo-strategic implications of the Taliban are already creating severe instability in Russia, Iran and the five Central Asian republics where the Taliban have become a major player in the new Great Game, as Western countries and companies compete to build oil and gas pipelines from Central Asia to Western and Asian markets. The Taliban's implementation of their extreme interpretation of Islam poses new challenges to the Muslim world and the West's understanding of radical Islam in the post-Cold War era. 'Taliban: Islam, Oil and the New Great Game' was runner-up in the prestigious annual British-Kuwait Friendship Society Prize, administered by the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies.

Islam in Africa is deeply connected with Sufism, and the history of Islam is in a significant way a history of Sufism. Yet even within this continent, the practice and role of Sufism varies across the regions. This interdisciplinary volume brings together histories and experiences of Sufism in various parts of Africa, offering case studies on several countries that include Morocco, Algeria, Senegal, Egypt, Sudan, Mali, and Nigeria. It uses a variety of methodologies ranging from the hermeneutical, through historiographic to ethnographic, in a comprehensive examination of the politics and performance of Sufism in Africa. While the politics of Sufism pertains largely to historical and textual analysis to highlight paradigms of sanctity in different geographical areas in Africa, the aspect of performance adopts a decidedly ethnographic approach, combining history, history of art and discourse analysis. Together, analysis of these two aspects reveals the many faces of Sufism that have remained hitherto hidden. Furthering understanding of the African Islamic religious scene, as well as contributing to the study of Sufism worldwide, this volume is of key interest to students and scholars of Middle Eastern, African and Islamic studies.

Discorsi sufi. L'altro cuore dell'Islam
Stampa Alternativa
La Scienza Sufi Della Realizzazione Spirituale

A penetrating analysis of the life and doctrines of the Spanish-born Arab theologian. Originally published in 1969. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

The series Religion and Society (RS) contributes to the exploration of religions as social systems-- both in Western and non-Western societies; in particular, it examines religions in their differentiation from, and intersection with, other cultural systems, such as art, economy, law and politics. Due attention is given to paradigmatic case or comparative studies that exhibit a clear theoretical orientation with the empirical and historical data of religion and such aspects of religion as ritual, the religious imagination, constructions of

tradition, iconography, or media. In addition, the formation of religious communities, their construction of identity, and their relation to society and the wider public are key issues of this series.

When first published in 1926 this book aroused much controversy. The theory expounded in the book was that Islamic sources in general, and the writings of Ibn al-`Arabi in particular, formed the basis of Dante's poem Divine Comedy, the poem which symbolised the whole culture of medieval Christianity. The book shows how fundamental Muslim legends of the nocturnal journey and of the ascension of the Prophet Muhammed appear in Dante's writings.

Il Lessico di Tomasello offre al lettore un serrato confronto fra l'Islam tradizionale e ciò che si è soliti chiamare "fondamentalismo". Più volte, nel corso del volume, il lettore vedrà smentite le tesi di quei musulmani moderni e di quegli occidentali che confondono l'ideologia politico-sociale di questo fondamentalismo con l'autentico messaggio del Corano. La tradizione islamica è tutt'altra cosa, e soprattutto essa è ancora viva nelle società islamiche, che in larga maggioranza rifiutano questo genere di devianze, così lontane dallo spirito della loro religione.

'Outstanding, illuminating, compelling ... a riveting read' Peter Frankopan, Sunday Times Islamic civilization was once the envy of the world. From a succession of glittering, cosmopolitan capitals, Islamic empires lorded it over the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and swathes of the Indian subcontinent. For centuries the caliphate was both ascendant on the battlefield and triumphant in the battle of ideas, its cities unrivalled powerhouses of artistic grandeur, commercial power, spiritual sanctity and forward-looking thinking. Islamic Empires is a history of this rich and diverse civilization told through its greatest cities over fifteen centuries, from the beginnings of Islam in Mecca in the seventh century to the astonishing rise of Doha in the twenty-first. It dwells on the most remarkable dynasties ever to lead the Muslim world - the Abbasids of Baghdad, the Umayyads of Damascus and Cordoba, the Merinids of Fez, the Ottomans of Istanbul, the Mughals of India and the Safavids of Isfahan - and some of the most charismatic leaders in Muslim history, from Saladin in Cairo and mighty Tamerlane of Samarkand to the poet-prince Babur in his mountain kingdom of Kabul and the irrepressible Maktoum dynasty of Dubai. It focuses on these fifteen cities at some of the defining moments in Islamic history: from the Prophet Mohammed receiving his divine revelations in Mecca and the First Crusade of 1099 to the conquest of Constantinople in 1453 and the phenomenal creation of the merchant republic of Beirut in the nineteenth century.

When ten-year-old Enaiatollah Akbari's small village in Afghanistan falls prey to Taliban rule in early 2000, his mother shepherds the boy across the border into Pakistan but has to leave him there all alone to fend for himself. Thus begins Enaiat's remarkable and often punishing five-year ordeal, which takes him through Iran, Turkey, and Greece before he seeks political asylum in Italy at the age of fifteen. Along the way, Enaiat endures the crippling physical and emotional agony of dangerous border crossings, trekking across bitterly cold mountain pathways for days on end or being stuffed into the false bottom of a truck. But not everyone is as resourceful, resilient, or lucky as Enaiat, and there are many heart-wrenching casualties along the way. Based on Enaiat's close collaboration with Italian novelist Fabio Geda and expertly rendered in English by an award-winning translator, this novel reconstructs the young boy's memories, perfectly preserving the childlike perspective and rhythms of an intimate oral history. Told with humor and humanity, *In the Sea There Are Crocodiles* brilliantly captures Enaiat's moving and engaging voice and lends urgency to an epic story of hope and survival.

Sufi Heirs of the Prophet explores the multifaceted development of personal authority in Islamic societies by tracing the transformation of one representative 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 sufis have exercised charismatic leadership through their connection to the most compelling of personal Islamic symbols, the Prophet Muhammad.

Routledge is now re-issuing this prestigious series of 204 volumes originally published between 1910 and 1965. The titles include works by key figures such as C.G. Jung, Sigmund Freud, Jean Piaget, Otto Rank, James Hillman, Erich Fromm, Karen Horney and Susan Isaacs. Each volume is available on its own, as part of a themed mini-set, or as part of a specially-priced 204-volume set. A brochure listing each title in the "International Library of Psychology" series is available upon request.

Sufi Experience of God by Faqir Dr. Ahmad Javid Sarwari Qaderi takes us through the journey within. Like long cherished wisdom from a dear and intimate friend, Ahmad Javid with uncanny insight, captures the many forms and stages of love towards God. His poetry like writing mimics the stages of the mystic's path towards God. Filled with personal recollections and experiences of other Sufis, Dr. Javid takes you on a journey in which pure love dissolves personal boundaries and human limitations. In this expedition to unearthing the noble truths, you are gradually exposed to the universal mysticism encoded in the Qur'an and in the classical Sufi traditions. In this stunning book, Dr. Ahmad Javid has brilliantly succeeded in capturing the essence of the Qur'an. He is turning out to be one of Islam's greatest poetic and spiritual voices in the West. Sufi Experience of God is a dervish guide to life and love in the modern world.

One of the world's most ancient religious traditions, Hinduism is the dominant faith of India and through its growing expatriate community, an increasingly familiar spiritual force in the West. This book provides a succinct, authoritative and accessible introduction to one of the world's great religious and cultural traditions.

Babayan explores different genealogies of sexuality and questions some of the theoretical emphases and epistemic assumptions affecting current histories of sexuality.

Explores the history, theology, and culture of the Coptic Orthodoxy, discussing key figures in the renewal of the church, and examining the role of women within church and society.

Despite its continuing appeal in the Muslim world, Sufism has faced fierce challenges in the last 250 years. This volume assesses the evolution of anti-Sufism since the middle of the eighteenth century and Sufi strategies for survival. It also considers the efforts of a few significant Muslim intellectuals to contemplate a future for a mystical approach to Islam without traditional Sufism. Many studies of Islam in the modern period have focused on the attempts of Muslim 'modernists' or 'fundamentalists' to come to terms with western modernity, and Sufis have often been marginalised in the process. Elizabeth Sirriyeh redresses this neglect by assigning to Sufism a central place in the broader history of Islam in the modern world and by examining how changing understandings of Sufism's role in modern conditions have affected Muslims of all shades of opinion.

This wise, funny, and compassionate book follows Gowins apprenticeship with Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, spiritual leader of the Sufi Order International. Until now, Pir Vilayat's order has not had

a strong, accessible introduction. This book not only provides that service but is more down-to-earth than most books on Sufism. It also has the advantage of being universalistic. "The Sufi Way is not a religion or a component of a religion but the heart of all religions and spiritualities," Gowins says. Because it is non-dogmatic and offers no catechisms or creeds, its teachers are essential. Gowins emerges as a superb teacher, offering a user-friendly guide to the Sufi Way that is at once valuable to any seeker entering any spiritual path. Gowins is quick to emphasize that Sufism is not the only path or even the right path for everyone. His approach is full of engaging stories and specific practices that could be helpful in many circumstances. Readers will benefit from his gentle Sufi teachings of love, tolerance, unity, and consciousness, no matter what their chosen path.

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