

Al Ghazali S Path To Sufism His Deliverance From Error

Al Ghazali S Path To Sufism His Deliverance From Error al ghazali s path to sufism his deliverance from error Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali, often regarded as one of the most influential Islamic scholars and mystics, embarked on a transformative spiritual journey that led him from intellectual skepticism to profound Sufism. His path to Sufism is not only a testament to his personal quest for divine truth but also a pivotal moment in Islamic spiritual history. This article explores Al-Ghazali's journey, highlighting his struggles, revelations, and ultimate deliverance from intellectual and spiritual errors, which culminated in his deep understanding and practice of Sufism.

Introduction to Al-Ghazali's Early Life and Intellectual Foundations Born in 1058 CE in Tus, Persia, Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali was a prodigious scholar who mastered various Islamic sciences, including jurisprudence, theology, philosophy, and logic. His early education laid a solid foundation, and he quickly gained recognition for his intellect and mastery over religious sciences. Despite his scholarly achievements, Al-Ghazali faced profound internal conflicts. His extensive study of philosophy and rational sciences introduced him to ideas that sometimes conflicted with orthodox Islamic teachings. This internal tension eventually led to a crisis that would shape his spiritual trajectory.

The Crisis of Doubt and Intellectual Uncertainty The Encounter with Philosophy and Its Challenges Al-Ghazali was deeply immersed in philosophical inquiry, engaging with the works of Aristotle, Plato, and Neoplatonists. While these studies enriched his intellectual pursuits, they also exposed him to ideas that questioned the divine origin of knowledge and the certainty of religious truths. He became increasingly skeptical of the ability of rational philosophy alone to attain ultimate truth. This skepticism caused a profound crisis of faith, leading him to question the very foundations of his beliefs.

The Turning Point: The Crisis of Faith In 1095 CE, Al-Ghazali experienced a spiritual crisis that he describes as a moment of profound uncertainty and despair. Disillusioned with purely intellectual approaches, he felt the need

to seek a deeper, experiential understanding of God. This crisis prompted him to abandon his prestigious academic position and retreat into solitude to seek divine guidance. Al-Ghazali's Journey Towards Sufism Retreat and Spiritual Exploration During his retreat, Al-Ghazali traveled to Baghdad and other centers of Islamic spirituality. He sought out Sufi masters and ascetics, immersing himself in their teachings and practices. His interactions with Sufis such as Hallaj and others deeply influenced his spiritual outlook. He began to appreciate that true knowledge of God transcends rational intellect and requires direct experiential realization through love, humility, and sincere devotion. Embracing Sufism as a Path to Deliverance Al-Ghazali realized that Sufism offers a practical and experiential approach to understanding divine truths. It emphasizes the purification of the heart, inner spiritual development, and a direct personal connection with God—elements that rational philosophy could not adequately provide. He integrated Sufi practices such as meditation, remembrance (dhikr), and ethical purification into his spiritual discipline, leading to profound personal transformation. Key Aspects of Al-Ghazali's Deliverance from Error The Role of Inner Spirituality and Purification Al-Ghazali emphasized that true knowledge of God is rooted in the purification of the heart. He believed that the intellect alone cannot attain divine truth without cleansing the soul from arrogance, greed, and other spiritual impurities. He outlined a systematic approach to self-purification, including: Repentance (Tawbah) Remembrance of God (Dhikr) Humility and surrender to God's will Continuous self-awareness and ethical conduct The Importance of Love and Devotion in Sufism A central theme in Al-Ghazali's spiritual journey is the transformative power of divine love. He believed that love for God is the ultimate path to spiritual enlightenment and that it surpasses mere intellectual knowledge. He advocated for a heartfelt devotion that aligns the individual's inner state with divine attributes, leading to authentic spiritual realization. 3 Integration of Philosophy and Sufism Despite his embrace of Sufism, Al-Ghazali did not reject philosophy entirely. Instead, he sought to harmonize rational knowledge with mystical experience, arguing that philosophy has its place but must be complemented by spiritual practice. His famous work, *Ihya' Ulum al-Din* (The Revival of Religious Sciences), synthesizes Islamic law, ethics, and mysticism, demonstrating the unity of knowledge and spirituality. Major Works Reflecting His Spiritual Transformation The Deliverance from Error (Al-Munqidh min al-Dalal) In this autobiographical work, Al-Ghazali narrates his

spiritual crisis, doubts, and eventual enlightenment. It reflects his recognition of the limitations of rational sciences and his discovery of Sufism as the true path to divine knowledge. The book serves as a guide for seekers, emphasizing sincerity, humility, and love as essential components of spiritual success.

Ihya' Ulum al-Din This comprehensive work explores Islamic spirituality, ethics, and law. It underscores the importance of inner purification, remembrance, and love, aligning with his journey from error to spiritual clarity.

The Legacy of Al-Ghazali's Path to Sufism Al-Ghazali's spiritual journey has left a lasting impact on Islamic thought. His reconciliation of rational sciences with Sufism provided a balanced approach that appealed to both scholars and mystics. His teachings continue to inspire millions seeking spiritual authenticity, emphasizing that true deliverance from error involves inner transformation, sincere love for God, and a holistic understanding of faith.

Conclusion: Lessons from Al-Ghazali's Spiritual Journey Al-Ghazali's path to Sufism exemplifies the importance of humility, self-awareness, and the pursuit of inner truth. His recognition of the limitations of intellectual knowledge and subsequent embrace of mystical practice offers valuable lessons for spiritual seekers worldwide. His life demonstrates that deliverance from error is not solely an intellectual endeavor but involves heartfelt devotion, ethical conduct, and a sincere desire for divine proximity. As a bridge between Islamic scholarship and mysticism, Al-Ghazali's journey remains a guiding light for those seeking authentic spiritual fulfillment.

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QuestionAnswer What is the significance of Al-Ghazali's work 'The Deliverance from Error' in understanding his spiritual journey? 'The Deliverance from Error' is considered a profound autobiographical account where Al-Ghazali reflects on his intellectual and spiritual struggles, offering insights into his path to Sufism and the transformative experiences that led him to spiritual enlightenment. How did Al-Ghazali's pursuit of Sufism influence his approach to Islamic jurisprudence and theology? Al-Ghazali's embrace of Sufism deeply influenced his approach, integrating mystical insights with traditional Islamic sciences, which allowed him to harmonize reason, spirituality, and law in his teachings and writings. What role did Al-Ghazali attribute to divine inner experience in his spiritual path? Al-Ghazali emphasized the importance of

inner spiritual experience and direct communion with God as essential for true understanding and spiritual fulfillment, marking a shift from purely intellectual pursuits to experiential spirituality. In what ways does 'The Deliverance from Error' reflect Al-Ghazali's critique of religious scholars and philosophers of his time? In his autobiography, Al-Ghazali critiques the superficiality and rigidity of scholars and philosophers, advocating for a balanced approach that includes mystical insight and personal spiritual practice as vital components of religious knowledge. How is Al-Ghazali's 'Path to Sufism' relevant to contemporary spiritual seekers? His journey underscores the importance of inner purification, sincere devotion, and balancing knowledge with spiritual practice, offering timeless guidance for modern individuals seeking authentic spiritual growth. What lessons can modern readers learn from Al-Ghazali's 'Deliverance from Error' about overcoming intellectual and spiritual doubts? Readers can learn that sincere self-reflection, humility, and openness to spiritual experience are key in overcoming doubts, and that true understanding often requires transcending purely intellectual pursuits to embrace inner spiritual realities. Al-Ghazali's Path to Sufism: His Deliverance from Error The life and intellectual journey of Imam Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali (1058–1111 CE) represent a pivotal chapter in the history of Islamic thought and spirituality. Widely regarded as one of the most influential scholars and mystics in the Islamic tradition, Al-Ghazali's transformation from a learned theologian to a devout Sufi has fascinated scholars and spiritual seekers alike. His journey is marked by intense introspection, philosophical skepticism, and ultimately, spiritual enlightenment—an odyssey that has inspired countless within the Islamic world and beyond. This article aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of Al-Ghazali's path to Sufism and his renowned deliverance from error, analyzing the intellectual, spiritual, and personal dimensions of his life. --- Al Ghazali S Path To Sufism His Deliverance From Error 5 Contextual Background: The World of Al-Ghazali Understanding Al-Ghazali's spiritual evolution necessitates a grasp of the intellectual climate of 11th-century Islam. The period was characterized by vibrant theological debates, philosophical inquiry, and a burgeoning interest in mysticism. The Abbasid Caliphate, though politically waning, remained a hub of scholarly activity, where various schools of thought—rationalist philosophers, traditional theologians (Asharites), and mystics—interacted and often clashed. Al-Ghazali was born in Tus (present-day Iran), a

city at the crossroads of cultural exchange. From early on, he was immersed in Islamic sciences, excelling in jurisprudence, theology, and philosophy. His reputation grew rapidly, leading him to serve in prominent academic and judicial roles. Yet, beneath this outward success lay an inner disquiet—a yearning for spiritual certainty and authentic divine experience.

--- The Crisis of Certainty: The Seeds of Doubt Despite his scholarly achievements, Al-Ghazali's intellectual pursuits led him into profound doubt. His engagement with rationalist philosophy, especially the works of Avicenna (Ibn Sina) and al-Farabi, introduced him to ideas that challenged traditional Islamic dogma. These philosophical doctrines, while intellectually stimulating, also planted seeds of skepticism.

The Encounter with Philosophy and Its Limitations Al-Ghazali's immersion in philosophy and logic revealed the limits of reason in grasping the divine and ultimate truth. He grappled with questions such as: - Can human reason alone attain certainty about metaphysical realities? - Are philosophical proofs sufficient to establish the existence and nature of God? - Does reliance on rationality diminish the importance of spiritual experience? His reflections on these issues culminated in a crisis of faith, wherein he questioned the validity of purely rational approaches to understanding spiritual realities.

The 'Standard of Certainty' and the 'Deliverance from Error' In this period of doubt, Al-Ghazali authored his famous autobiographical work, *Deliverance from Error* (Al-Munqidh min al-Dalal). Written toward the end of his life, it serves as both a confession and a philosophical testament. Here, he narrates his spiritual struggles, emphasizing the importance of direct, experiential knowledge of God over mere intellectual comprehension.

--- Al Ghazali S Path To Sufism His Deliverance From Error 6 Turning Point: The Quest for Authentic Spiritual Knowledge Realizing that intellectual pursuits alone were insufficient, Al-Ghazali embarked on an inward journey. His pursuit of authentic spiritual knowledge led him to seek out the mystics and Sufis of his time, whose emphasis on experiential piety and divine love contrasted sharply with the scholastic rigor of formal theology.

The Disenchantment with Formal Theology Al-Ghazali's dissatisfaction with the limitations of Asharite theology—particularly its reliance on dialectics and rational proofs—prompted him to explore other avenues of knowledge. He believed that true understanding of God and the spiritual realm required direct, personal experience rather than solely intellectual reasoning.

The Influence of Sufism and Mystical Practice He

encountered Sufi teachings emphasizing sincerity (ikhlas), purification of the soul (tazkiyah), and love (mahabbah) as pathways to divine knowledge. The Sufi emphasis on dhikr (remembrance of God), spiritual states (al-hal), and the inner purification practices resonated deeply with his inner needs. --- Al-Ghazali's Embrace of Sufism The decision to embrace Sufism was transformative for Al-Ghazali. He entered into a period of intense spiritual practice, often practicing asceticism and meditation, and adopting the Sufi ethic of love and humility. His Retreat and Spiritual Exercises Al-Ghazali withdrew from the academic world and secluded himself to focus on spiritual purification. During this retreat, he engaged in: - Intensive prayer and meditation - Self-examination and repentance - Practicing silence and solitude - Learning from authentic Sufi masters This period marked a definitive turn from the purely rational to the experiential dimension of faith. The Integration of Sufism and Orthodoxy Despite his embrace of mysticism, Al-Ghazali sought a harmonious integration of Sufism with Islamic orthodoxy. His writings reflect this synthesis, emphasizing that true knowledge of God combines intellectual understanding with heartfelt love and inner purification. --- Al Ghazali S Path To Sufism His Deliverance From Error 7 Major Works and Their Significance Al-Ghazali's spiritual journey is reflected in his prolific writings, which continue to influence both Islamic and Western thought. The Revival of the Religious Sciences (Ihya' Ulum al-Din) This magnum opus is a comprehensive guide to spiritual and ethical development. It synthesizes Islamic law, theology, and mysticism, emphasizing the importance of inner virtue and divine love. The Deliverance from Error (Al-Munqidh min al-Dalal) In this autobiographical work, Al-Ghazali narrates his spiritual crisis and subsequent salvation. It underscores the importance of experiential knowledge and the limitations of rationality in understanding divine realities. The Alchemy of Happiness (Kimiya-yi Sa'adat) A more accessible work aimed at the general reader, emphasizing the importance of inner purification, love for God, and the pursuit of happiness through spiritual discipline. --- The Legacy of Al-Ghazali's Sufism Al-Ghazali's integration of Sufism into mainstream Islamic thought had lasting effects. He is credited with: - Popularizing Sufism within orthodox Islam, making it accessible and respectable. - Bridging the gap between rational theology and mysticism. - Influencing later Islamic scholars such as Jalal al-Din Rumi, Ibn Arabi, and many others. - Contributing to the development of Islamic psychology, emphasizing self-awareness,

purification, and love. His emphasis on sincerity (ikhlas) and inner experience remains central to Sufi practice today. --- Conclusion: The Significance of Al-Ghazali's Deliverance from Error Al-Ghazali's journey from intellectual skepticism to spiritual enlightenment exemplifies the search for authentic divine knowledge. His deliverance from error was not merely a personal salvation but a paradigm shift that enriched Islamic spirituality, emphasizing that true understanding of God requires both the mind and the heart. His life underscores that spiritual awakening often involves overcoming intellectual arrogance and embracing humility, love, and inner purification. By integrating rational inquiry with mystical experience, Al-Ghazali established a balanced approach to faith—one that continues to inspire seekers of truth across cultures and generations. In studying his path, modern Al Ghazali S Path To Sufism His Deliverance From Error 8 readers and scholars recognize the enduring relevance of Al-Ghazali's insights: that true spiritual knowledge is a journey inward, guided by sincerity, love, and divine grace, leading ultimately to deliverance from error and union with the divine reality. Al Ghazali, Sufism, spiritual journey, Islamic mysticism, deliverance from error, Islamic philosophy, spiritual awakening, Islamic theology, mystic teachings, religious reform

Al-Ghaz I 's Path to Sufism and His Deliverance from ErrorThe Sufi Path of LoveSea Without ShoreIntroduction to SufismThe Sufi Path of KnowledgeSufismInsights into SufismGlory of Freedom (Sufis the People of the Path)Discourses on the Sufi PathThe Way of the SufiThe Requirements of the Sufi PathThe Heritage of SufismThe PathSufi EncountersSufismLiving Presence (Revised)Seasons of TransformationIslam, Christianity and the Mystic JourneyWay of the SufiDay and Night on the Sufi Path Ghazz I William C. Chittick Noah Ha Mim Keller Eric Geoffroy William C. Chittick Theo Lalvani Ruth J. Nicholls Osho Jav d N rbakhsh Idries Shah Ibn Leonard Lewisohn Javad Nurbakhsh Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri Stuart Litvak Kabir Edmund Helminski Ian Richard Netton Idries Shah Charles Upton

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Christianity and the Mystic Journey Way of the Sufi Day and Night on the Sufi Path

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this is the most accessible work in english on the greatest mystical poet of islam providing a survey of the basic sufi and islamic doctrines concerning god and the world the role of man in the cosmos the need for religion man s ultimate becoming the states and stations of the mystical ascent to god and the means whereby literature employs symbols to express unseen realities william chittick translates into english for the first time certain aspects of rumi s work he selects and rearranges rumi s poetry and prose in order to leave aside unnecessary complications characteristic of other english translations and to present rumi s ideas in an orderly fashion yet in his own words thorough nontechnical introductions to each chapter and selections that gradually present a greater variety of terms and images make this work easily accessible to those interested in the spirituality of any tradition

this book features

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

sufism is more than just a faith or religious belief adopting its teachings can change your life and make you reach a higher level of consciousness when you truly understand sufism and embrace it it can transform your life around the book begins by introducing the concept of sufism and explaining in detail what it means we will then take a trip back in time to discover its origin and history you will also learn about all the thinkers who contributed to spreading the teaching of sufism all over the world the book also covers the spiritual beliefs associated with sufism and the most influential figures in its history inside this book you will learn the spirituality behind sufism teachings of sufism pillars of sufism the wing of love and much more

sufism has long constituted one of the most powerful drawcards to people embracing islam this book considers a broad range of questions relating to sufism including its history manifestations in various countries and communities its expression in poetry women and sufism and expressions among popular spirituality in addition the volume challenges the long held view of sufism as being necessarily peaceful through a consideration in one paper of sufis engaging in violent jihad the book works at the interface between the scholarly and the practical using rigorous methodology to ensure that its findings are reliable while also giving attention to how sufi thinking impacts the daily lives of sufis this represents an original and important dimension of this study given the significant role played by sufis throughout islamic history in enriching discussion of intellectual and charismatic questions as well as informing popular practice among folk muslims

book summary of glory of freedom sufis the people of the path vol ii ch 18 in this compilation osho talks about the seven valleys there was a great sufi master one of the greatest in all ages he says on the path of human growth from man to god from man the potential to man the actual from possibility to reality there are seven valleys these seven valleys are of immense importance try to understand them because you will have to pass through those seven valleys everybody has to pass through those seven valleys the other

seven chapters of the book are 2 diamonds regained 3 here now this 4 earth and sky apart 5 layer upon layer 6 an eternal recurrence 7 full emptiness 8 a holiday from sanity

discourses on the sufi path is the complete collection of informal heartfelt talks delivered by dr javad nurbakhsh to a group of his disciples several years ago along with the collected aphorisms the meanings of numerous key sufi terms such as sincerity love chivalry attraction and social conduct pain and cure and master disciple are explained clearly and powerfully providing a source of guidance and inspiration for anyone on a spiritual path several years ago dr nurbakhsh for the first time began to deliver a series of discourses on sufism directly to a group of his disciples in london the purpose of these speeches was to present the basic practices and principles of sufism in such simple language and such a straightforward manner that all sufis no matter what their background would be able to follow and understand them discourses on the sufi path is a collection of 40 of those speeches

the way of the sufi presents an unparalleled cross section of material from sufi schools teachings and classical writings as a basic course of sufi study its author idries shah is regarded as the most influential modern exponent of sufi ideas his many books on the subject seek to make some of the eastern world s greatest teachings accessible to a western audience in this book shah begins with the outward aspects of the teaching most likely to puzzle the student coming fresh to the subject he considers various attitudes to sufi ideas and evidence of their absorption into medieval christianity hinduism jewish mysticism and modern philosophical teachings the greater part of the book illuminates aspects of sufi activity and practice relevant to the contemporary world

in the requirements of the sufi path the renowned north african historian and jurist ibn khaldun applies his analytical powers to sufism which he deems a bona fide form of islamic piety ibn khaldun is widely known for his groundbreaking work as a sociologist and historian in particular for the muqaddimah the introduction to his massive universal history in the requirements of the sufi path he writes from the perspective of an islamic jurist and legal scholar he characterizes sufism and the stages along the sufi path and takes up the the question of the need for a guide along that path in doing so he relies on the works of influential sufi scholars including al qushayri al ghazali and ibn al khatib even as ibn

khaldun warns of the extremes to which some sufis go including practicing magic his work is essentially a legal opinion a fatwa asserting the inherent validity of the sufi path the requirements of the sufi path incorporates the wisdom of three of sufism s greatest voices as well as ibn khaldun s own insights acquired through his intellectual encounters with sufism and his broad legal expertise all this he brings to bear on the debate over sufi practices in a remarkable work of synthesis and analysis

this comprehensive study is unique in its chronological breadth intellectual diversity and historical scope and which demonstrates the central role played by sufism in persianate culture in iran central asia and india

définit le soufisme et décrit les différentes étapes de la voie pour atteindre la perfection sufie et les rituels qui l'accompagnent

an unparalleled exploration of sufism as it is practised around the world describing meetings with today s enlightened teachers as well as including wonderfully inspiring translations of the great sufi masters of the past ultimately this book acts as a guide to the sufi path and offers wise insight into the meaning and purpose of life a compelling view of sufi history together with vivid personal remembrances of living mystics this is an inspiring and at the same time beautifully subtle book with light filled insights on every page saadi shakur chishti author of the sufi book of life the sufi path described in this book leads the seeker past ordinary states of consciousness towards a new experience of infinitude that is the source of the universe in this stage there is no duality or otherness but instead infinitude the original oneness from which all dualities and attributes emanate the book is at once an autobiography a didactic treatise and a literary opus full of wonderful translations of the words of earlier sufis as well as the author s own poetry it describes shaykh fadhlalla haeri s life quest to connect today s world with classical times especially through his meetings with enlightened sufis all over the globe shaykh fadhlalla haeri also addresses profound sufi teachings concerning the nature of humankind the cosmos and god using clear and simple language to address difficult doctrinal issues as only a master who has digested fully such knowledge could do the book also reveals much about the present day islamic world where despite the tragedies that are to be seen everywhere tradition and spirituality survive this is a metaphysical and spiritual guide to the sufi path

that ultimately offers insight into the meaning and purpose of life

sufism is a rich mystical tradition that promotes an experience of life through dealing with life and human relations a sufi is the personification of complete inner development and is in this sense invisible to non sufis his true attainment begins with the most profoundly mundane kind of self knowledge sufism will help readers to first monitor their inner impulses and seek outside information from appropriate sources the book affirms that a living form of sufism is extant moving with a current of culture and human destiny

a revised 25th anniversary edition of the classic work on sufism that jack kornfield called a heartfelt modern illumination of the sufi path filled with the fragrance of the ancients in sufism the mystical branch of islam presence is the quality that describes a heart filled state of mindfulness an experience of being conscious in the present moment it is only in this present moment sufi teachings reveal that we can connect with the divine and the divine can live through us kabir helminski is one of the world s most recognized teachers of sufism named one of the 500 most influential muslims in the world by georgetown university and the royal strategic studies center helminski and his teachings are touchstones for the growth in interest in sufism and his books have been translated around the world in living presence helminski lays out the basic principles of sufism and how these ideas can lead to the experience of presence in this inspiring work readers will learn how to cultivate presence in their lives through finding a balance between the outer stimuli of the world and our inner reactions to them harnessing faithfulness and gracefulness learning about the parallels between ancient spiritual wisdom and modern psychological knowledge meditation and contemplation to discover more meaning in daily life with unique clarity this book describes how presence can be developed to vastly improve our lives drawing on the work of the beloved sufi poet rumi as well as traditional material and personal experience this book integrates the ancient wisdom of sufism with the needs of contemporary life completely revised and updated for its 25th anniversary this edition of living presence offers a wisdom that is both universal and practical

this distinctive comparison of islamic and christian mysticism focuses on the mystic journey in the two faith traditions

in this wide ranging anthology of sufi writings idries shah who was one of sufism s leading exponents offers a broad selection of poetry contemplations letters lectures and teaching stories that together form an illuminating introduction to this unique body of thought sufism the mystical aspect of islam has had a dynamic and lasting effect on the literature of that religion its teachings often elusive and subtle aim at the perfecting and completing of the human mind in contrast to certain other beliefs and philosophies sufism is continually evolving and progressing and is consequently always relevant to the contemporary world

the first textbook of sufism is the qur an there is no principle of tasawwuf that cannot be traced back to the holy book the sufis read the qur an for its inner meaning but they do not claim this is the only meaning the clear legal rulings the moral exhortations and warnings of the book are not abrogated by the batini tafsir inner exegesis of the sufis but neither can the noble qur an be limited to its legal and moral dimensions if all the seas were ink for the tafsir of the qur an they would be exhausted twice over before all its meanings were unveiled inner and outer co exist within the book depend upon each other and inform each other in the words of the surah ha mim sajdah i will show them my signs on the horizons and in their own souls until they are satisfied that this is the truth is it not enough for you that i am witness over all things q 41 53 the sufi path insha allah has the power to place one in the near presence of allah a presence which whether or not we are always conscious of it alchemizes the heart the changes the heart undergoes by the power of this presence have been recorded by the sufis over many centuries and some of the operative laws behind these changes discerned and defined this book contains only one small drop from that vast ocean of knowledge it attempts to define a number of the spiritual states and transformations of the self often encountered over the course of the path but as the author s own shaykh reminds his followers in reality there is only one state allah this is simply the best and most profound book on sufism that i have encountered andrew harvey author of the hope a guide to sacred activism charles upton is a serious thinker from whom i have learned much his writing merits close attention huston smith author of the world s religions this challenging book demands all our attention and for those willing to make the effort there is much to be learned charles upton has pondered deeply the themes he examines he has engaged not just intellectually but with his heart in the alchemy that transforms the self you may well keep this book at hand to be tasted

from time to time comparing the steps of this spiritual traveler to your own kabir helminski mevlevi shaikh and sufi author charles upton is an oasis of spirituality in a parched desert of secularism in a world desiccated by materialism greed envy and egotism where virtues are viewed as vices and vices as virtues day and night on the sufi path provides desperately needed access to a soul saving spiritual source well versed in the inner and outer dimensions of islam upton exemplifies the balance between the esoteric and the exoteric his sufism while sublime is rooted in the realities of our time john andrew morrow author of the covenants of the prophet muhammad with the christians of the world in day and night on the sufi path charles upton provides us with a lucid glimpse of one of the spiritual paths to god in islam classical sufi teachings on the soul spiritual practice states and stations and potential dangers are discussed with eloquence and rigor in a manner that is true to the tradition and relevant to the time we are in this work is at once philosophical and poetic systematic and with flashes of original inspiration that can only come from someone conversant in both the theoretical and practical dimensions of tasawwuf it is a faithful reflection of the divine light that has captured the author s attention and may help to illuminate the path for others zachary markwith author of one god many prophets the universal wisdom of islam

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