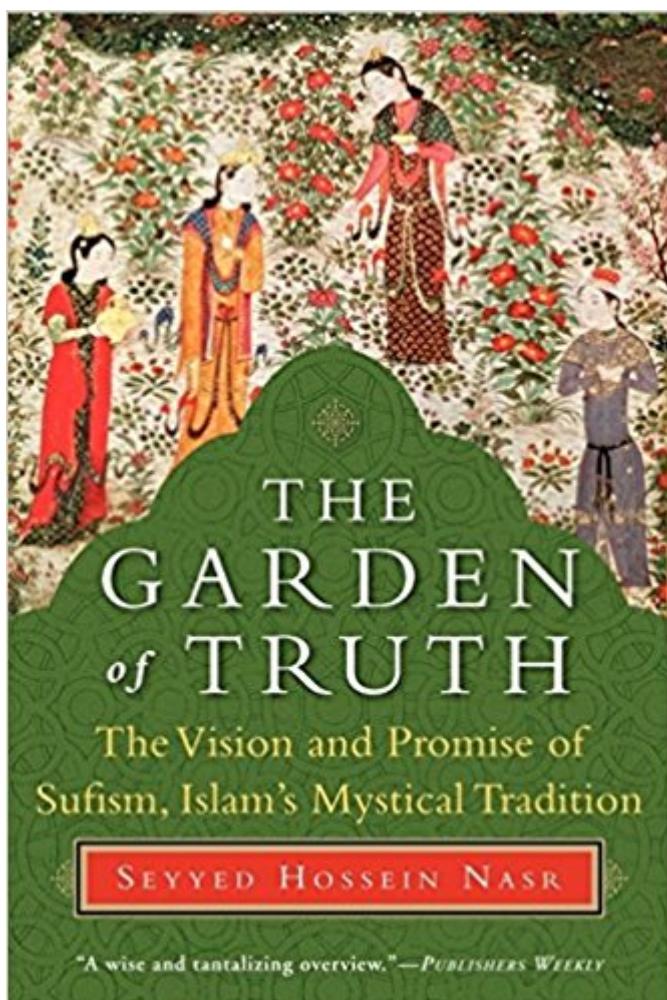


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The Garden Of Truth: The Vision And Promise Of Sufism, Islam's Mystical Tradition



Synopsis

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.

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Customer Reviews

Despite the popularity of Sufism, few books provide an overview of this mystical branch of Islam. Nasr, professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University, fills

nicely, albeit briefly, with this concise primer. Sufism teaches that all aspects of life—from nature to other people—are signs of God, and yet the grandeur of God is beyond human comprehension. The goal of each Sufi is to take an inner journey to transcend the human state, to illuminate the dark corners of our soul and reconnect with the inner divinity implanted by God at creation. Nasr's book is not a how-to introduction on removing the veils erected by imperfection, which manifest as evil and block our divine roots, but a wise and tantalizing overview. He also includes a detailed and rare history of the Sufi movement and a brief catalogue of the various Sufi orders. Although readers with no prior background in Sufism may struggle with this rather dense intellectual study of the movement, it provides valuable information about the often overlooked philosophical underpinnings of Sufism along with obscure details that will be fascinating to more advanced practitioners. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Despite the popularity of Sufism, few books provide an overview of this mystical branch of Islam—a void Nasr fills nicely with this concise primer. . . . a wise and tantalizing overview.” (Publishers Weekly) The Sufi mystical heart of Islam is one of the few antidotes to fundamentalism in the Muslim world, and here Nasr looks at the human spiritual quest for the paradisiacal divine garden from a Sufi perspective . . . Eloquent, elegant, and lucid. (Library Journal)

Seyyed Hossein Nasr has written a compassionate and grace filled instruction of the ladder into the Sufi-Heart, the People of the Heart & the "Heart of Islam" I am particularly grateful that this manual of the Sufi-life, the Sufi-way, the Sufi-Path is written not as a western manual of the topic but written in the thought forms and patterns of the original Sufi tomes on "the path" Seyyed Hossein Nasr is as in all his many, many books a man of keen, sharp mind that is a light of knowledge and a heart that is the light of peace. He is the gracious & humble servant of Truth. Some western readers might find his unflinching servitude to Sufi as only an Islamic rite as eye opening. He has given a great insight(as he always strives) into the true nature of Islamic philosophy. And the Islamic thought and heart processes different then those of the Western world but respectable as not only a compassionate way of life but respectable as a deep and complex philosophy. We in the western world have just begun to dip our toes into the vast seas of Islamic philosophies and reawaken to what it means to be a human being. If you are interested in the peaceful and compassionate philosophy of Islam I can not think of a better book to recommend. Peace be with you-

Illuminating! Poetically written with erudition and love of subject.

There are various books on Sufism, but I liked this one the best so far. I tried Martin Lings , Gai Eaton, Abdul Qadir Gilani and some works of Imam Ghazali but found that, although they are good, make a gray subject grayer.. Sufism is esoteric for sure (it can be confusing and perhaps misleading if you don't have a proper background) but this book is a great lucid introduction to it. I really liked for e.g. how Nasr talks about the topic of Love. For that alone the book is worth reading.

I have wanted to learn more about Sufi Islam, as I lived and worked in Morocco for 5 years and worked several months in Bangladesh, both countries where Sufi is prevalent. Dr. Nasr makes a superb overview of this hopeful branch of Islam. I learned so very much about Sufi connections to Christianity, Buddhism, Shi'ism, and Sunni faiths. I came away with much more optimism about long-term prospects for rapprochement among faiths. Excellent writing and organization of material.

This book really made a difference in my life.

good service. product met my expectations...

Beautiful book. Graphics on the cover are a bit off, but the content is wonderful.

This is a must read for every scholar who really wants to understand Islamic spirituality and Gnosticism in its fullness, written by one of the greatest living philosophers in the world. I would certainly recommend you to read this invaluable book.

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