

Bibliography

1. A thoughtful guide to Sufism. Shaykh Fadhlallah Haeri . O Books, New York, USA, obooks @aol.com

This the latest primary guide on Sufism by an acknowledge master of several Sufi orders and a prolific writer on Islam. He has established in South Africa the Academy of Self Knowledge (ASK) which be can accessed via the nuradeen website.

2. Living presence; a Sufi way to mindfulness & the essential self. Kabir Edmund Helmski. Penguin Putnam Inc. New York. www.putnam.com

Helmski is a translator and interpreter of Sufi literature, a Shaykh associated with several Sufi orders including the Mevlevi order founded by Rumi.

3. Essential Sufism. Edited by James Fadiman & Robert Frager. Castle Books and HarperCollins Publishers.

The introduction to the book provides a broad view of the origins and development of Sufism and then provides an overview of the many faces of Sufism with quotations from many of the more famous Sufis in history.

4. A New Earth, awakening to your life's purpose. Eckhart Tolle. Plume, Penguin publisher. 2006.

This #1 New York Times bestselling book is a Christian 'Sufi' handbook that is an invaluable guide to overcoming the perceptions of the self, and all its problems, and finding inner peace; necessary reading for the spiritual seeker.

5. What is Sufism? Martin Lings. University of California Press 1977

This too is a clear and reliable introduction to Sufism and is a thorough exposition by a practicing Sufi and skilled writer.

6. A Sufi Saint of the Twentieth Century: Shaykh Ahmad al-'Alawi his spiritual heritage and legacy. Martin Lings. University of California Press, 2nd edition.

The book begins with an outside view of al-'Alawi by his French doctor. Lings then continues with a biography of this revered, modern Sufi who died in Algeria in 1934.

7. Living Sufism. Seyyed Hossein Nasr. Mandala Books Unwin Paperbacks. Nasr is a well known Iranian scholar teaching at MIT and George Washington University. He draws on an intimate knowledge of Persian and Arabic and his own experience of the Sufi tradition.

8. The Sufi Path of Love: the Spiritual teachings of Rumi. William C. Chittick. Published by State University of New York. It is edited by Hossein Nasr.

The book is divided into three parts dealing with Theory and Practice (known better as Knowledge and Works in Arabic) and finally Attainment to God which is a detailed account of the heart of Sufi practice. Not a book for the faint hearted!

9. Sufi Women. Java Nebraska. Nimatullahi Sufi Order, 1983

There is brief history of Sufism followed by an account of the lives of women, some in great detail such as Rabe'ah who was greatly praised for her piety by many Sufi men.

10. Mystical dimensions of Islam. Annemarie Schimmel.. The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Press 1975.

This is a scholarly work on Sufism in 506 pages with two appendixes an extended Bibliography and indices of Qur'an quotations, ahadith (sayings of the Prophet), names and places and a subject index. It is considered by some as the last word on Islamic mysticism.

11. The Secret Garden; one of the great classics of Sufi thought. Mahmud Shabistari, E.P. Dutton & Co. Inc., 1974. Translation by Johnson Pasha.

The introduction deals with the great difficulty the Western world has had in coming to terms with Sufism. The text of Sabistari's work consists in a series of answers presented in the form of poetry to questions by the serious seeker.

12. The Conference of Birds. A translation of the Persian poem Mantiq ut-Tair. Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., London. Rendered into English from the French translation of Garcin de Tassy by C.S.Nott.

This is a delightful book composed in the 12th century by the Sufi Attar in the form of an allegorical poem based on the teachings of the Sufis.

The title is taken from the 27th chapter of the Qur'an, verse 16 in which Solomon is speaking of the many blessings conferred on himself and David by Allah among which is *mantiqat-tayri* **the** speech of birds.