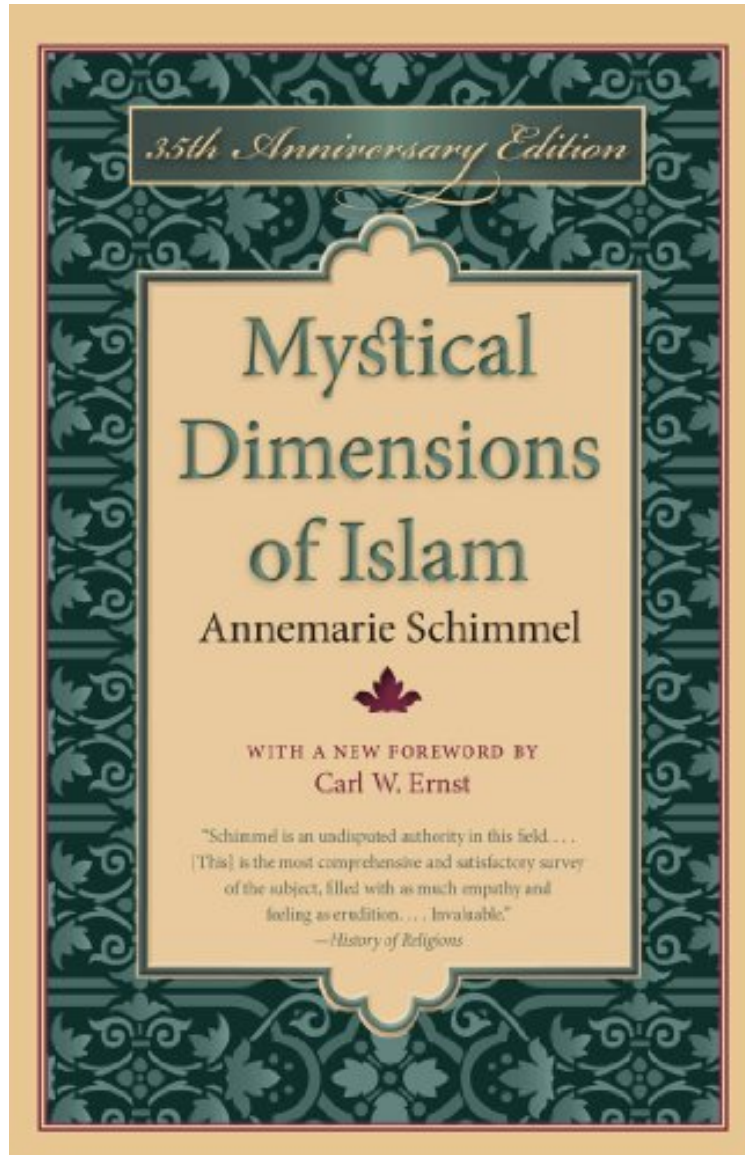


[Ebook free] Mystical Dimensions of Islam

Mystical Dimensions of Islam

Von Annemarie Schimmel

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Von Annemarie Schimmel : Mystical Dimensions of Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mystical Dimensions of Islam:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Most Comprehensive Study To DateVon C. King KhidrThe German author, (a former professor at Harvard), is somewhat of a linguistic prodigy, gifted with a talent that makes her highly valued in her country's philologically centered orientalist tradition. Not only is she fluent in the major European languages, but she knows most -- if not

all -- of the languages of the Muslim World, which include Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Sindhi and Punjabi. Schimmel's broad linguistic scope provides her access to the multifarious expressions of Sufism in cultures as diverse as India, North Africa, Turkey, Arabia, and Iran, which she then brings to light in her book. As a result, the work is set apart from most other studies that usually focus on no more than two or three regions. Apart from the geographical extent that Schimmel covers, she also manages to examine the *entire* fourteen hundred year history of Sufism, beginning with the death of the Prophet up to Muhammad Iqbal (d. 1938), India's Sufi orientated poet-philosopher (who Schimmel clearly has an admiration for, besides her other favourite, Rumi). Schimmel succeeds in revealing that despite barriers of language, time, and space, the sufis were united by an unwavering desire for Divine Proximity, whether this desire took on the form of a metaphysical sobriety as in the case of Sadruddin Qonawi, or an ecstatic and rapturous love as with Rabia. "Walayah", after all, the Arabic term for "sainthood", means "to be brought close" or "to be a friend". *Mystical Dimensions* begins with a highly illuminating exposition of the various approaches Western Orientalists have employed in their study of Sufism. "In the nineteenth century," Schimmel writes, "interpreters usually agreed that Sufism must be a foreign plant on the sandy desert of Islam, the religion that was so little known and even less appreciated and that could not possibly be related to any finer and hight spiritual movement" (p.8-9). One E.H. Palmer, Schimmel mentions, even suggested that Sufism was the "Primaeval Religion of the Aryan Race"! She contrasts these studies with the later more sympathetic ones by the likes of the famous Louis Massignon (who had much more than a simple academic interest in his field) and Helmut Ritter. The book ends with two very interesting appendixes, one on the symbolism of letters and the other on Sufism's feminine element. This book is clearly the most authoritative academic work on the subject. Despite the breadth of information the work contains, it is certainly not a difficult read. Any intelligent person with an interest in the area will find it worth his or her while. Even if you decide not to read the whole work, its extensive thirty-page index makes it an excellent resource-book.

Kurzbeschreibung Thirty-five years after its original publication, *Mystical Dimensions of Islam* still stands as the most valuable introduction to Sufism, the main form of Islamic mysticism. This edition brings to a new generation of readers Annemarie Schimmel's historical treatment of the transnational phenomenon of Sufism, from its beginnings through the nineteenth century. Schimmel's sensitivity and deep understanding of Sufism--its origins, development, and historical context--as well as her erudite examination of Sufism as reflected in Islamic poetry, draw readers into the mood, the vision, and the way of the Sufi. In the foreword, distinguished Islam scholar Carl W. Ernst comments on the continuing vitality of Schimmel's book and the advances in the study of Sufism that have occurred since the work first appeared. *Pressestimmen* ""Mystical Dimensions of Islam", from its first appearance in 1975, has become the standard English-language handbook on the subject of Sufism. . . . No scholar in the last half of the twentieth century had a greater impact on the study of Islamic mysticism than Annemarie Schimmel."--Carl W. Ernst, from the foreword "Schimmel is an undisputed authority in this field. . . . [This] is the most comprehensive and satisfactory survey of the subject, filled with as much empathy and feeling as erudition. . . . Invaluable."--"History of Religions"" A well-balanced and perceptive general introduction to Sufism. . . . It is more than an historical account of the development of Sufism; it also deals with the cultural manifestations of mysticism in Islam."--"Contemporary Sociology"" [Assists] the reader in gaining an appreciation of [Sufism's] multifaceted richness. . . . An excellent introduction to the study of the subject."--"The International Journal of African Historical Studies"" Students of Islam and of comparative religion--as well as those who respond to mysticism--are deeply in the author's debt for giving us what will surely be the standard treatment of Sufism for a long time to come."--"America"" One of the best general books on Sufism."--"The Jewish Quarterly"" Beautifully written. . . . The best and most comprehensive study on Islamic mysticism in the English language."--"Religious Studies"" Combines scholarly criticism with sympathetic appreciation. . . . Progresses historically from the rise of Islam to the modern day, with ample commentary and phenomenological discussion." --"Journal of the American Academy of Religion"" The approach is comprehensive and informal, the style anecdotal and entertaining, the author's erudition never obtrusive but always reassuringly present." --"Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies," University of London" A truly beautiful book. . . . Radiates an elegance of style. . . . Replete not only with the poetic insight of the author but with her unquestioned scholarly mastery over materials from the vast culture-sphere of Islam."--"International Journal for Phi" Comprehensive, detailed, and combines sophistication in religious studies with high-level competence in the original sources. . . . Provides far more detail, depth of analysis, breadth of geographical coverage, and sustained clear explication and interpr" A major addition to the literature on [Sufism], surpassing in scope and detail all general surveys of Sufism that have hitherto been attempted in western languages. It is destined to become not only a standard introductory textbook, but also a primary source of reference for those who concern themselves, in more specialized manner, with this dimension of Islam. . . . Rich, learned, comprehensive and attractive...a waymark in the western scholarly study of Sufism."--"Journal of the American Oriental Society"" A superb achievement. . . . The author has read all the mystics in the original, and all the important works by European scholars. Yet this solid scholarship (evidenced also by the

very full bibliography) is completely hidden by a charming and eminently readable style, and by a sureness and lightness of touch which retain the interest of the reader and carry him effortless along."--"Journal of Semitic Studies" One of the best general books on Sufism.--"The Jewish Quarterly " Schimmel is an undisputed authority in this field. . . . [This] is the most comprehensive and satisfactory survey of the subject, filled with as much empathy and feeling as erudition. . . . Invaluable.--History of Religions Comprehensive, detailed, and combines sophistication in religious studies with high-level competence in the original sources. . . . Provides far more detail, depth of analysis, breadth of geographical coverage, and sustained clear explication and interpretation of individual topics than can be found in any other survey [of Sufism] in English.--Journal of Near Eastern Studies A major addition to the literature on [Sufism], surpassing in scope and detail all general surveys of Sufism that have hitherto been attempted in western languages. It is destined to become not only a standard introductory textbook, but also a primary source of reference for those who concern themselves, in more specialized manner, with this dimension of Islam. . . . Rich, learned, comprehensive and attractive...a waymark in the western scholarly study of Sufism.--Journal of the American Oriental Society Beautifully written. . . . The best and most comprehensive study on Islamic mysticism in the English language.--Religious Studies Students of Islam and of comparative religion--as well as those who respond to mysticism--are deeply in the author's debt for giving us what will surely be the standard treatment of Sufism for a long time to come.--America Combines scholarly criticism with sympathetic appreciation. . . . Progresses historically from the rise of Islam to the modern day, with ample commentary and phenomenological discussion." --Journal of the American Academy of Religion One of the best general books on Sufism.--The Jewish Quarterly A superb achievement. . . . The author has read all the mystics in the original, and all the important works by European scholars. Yet this solid scholarship (evidenced also by the very full bibliography) is completely hidden by a charming and eminently readable style, and by a sureness and lightness of touch which retain the interest of the reader and carry him effortless along.--Journal of Semitic Studies The approach is comprehensive and informal, the style anecdotal and entertaining, the author's erudition never obtrusive but always reassuringly present." --Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London A truly beautiful book. . . . Radiates an elegance of style. . . . Replete not only with the poetic insight of the author but with her unquestioned scholarly mastery over materials from the vast culture-sphere of Islam.--International Journal for Philosophy of Religion [Assists] the reader in gaining an appreciation of [Sufism's] multifaceted richness. . . . An excellent introduction to the study of the subject.--The International Journal of African Historical Studies A well-balanced and perceptive general introduction to Sufism. . . . It is more than an historical account of the development of Sufism; it also deals with the cultural manifestations of mysticism in Islam.--Contemporary Sociology Kurzbeschreibung Thirty-five years after its original publication, *Mystical Dimensions of Islam* still stands as the most valuable introduction to Sufism, the main form of Islamic mysticism. This edition brings to a new generation of readers Annemarie Schimmel's historical treatment of the transnational phenomenon of Sufism, from its beginnings through the nineteenth century. Schimmel's sensitivity and deep understanding of Sufism--its origins, development, and historical context--as well as her erudite examination of Sufism as reflected in Islamic poetry, draw readers into the mood, the vision, and the way of the Sufi. In the foreword, distinguished Islam scholar Carl W. Ernst comments on the continuing vitality of Schimmel's book and the advances in the study of Sufism that have occurred since the work first appeared.