

Fall 2019 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
 Seeking the Divine: The Lesser-Known Religious Traditions of Asia
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

Sufism, Beauty, Love: Ecstasy and Rapture of Islam in Asia

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December 6, 2019

Key Vocabulary

Concepts

<i>'aḥwāl</i>	states	<i>laḥīf</i>	kind; [name of God]
<i>'ākhira</i>	afterlife	<i>maqāmat</i>	stations (spiritual development)
<i>'ashq</i>	love	<i>ma'rifa</i>	gnosis
<i>baraka</i>	blessing	<i>nafs</i>	self; lower soul/lower self
<i>dhāt</i>	essence	<i>nazar</i>	glance or gaze; amulet
<i>dunyā</i>	world (this world)	<i>qalb</i>	heart (organ of apprehension)
<i>fanā'</i>	annihilation [of self]	<i>rūḥ</i>	spirit
<i>ḥaqīqa</i>	truth/reality	<i>silsila</i>	chain of transmission
<i>huwīyya</i>	divine ipseity	<i>ṭarīqa</i>	spiritual path
<i>insān al-kāmil</i>	perfect being/universal man	<i>taṣawwūf</i>	Sufism; Islamic mysticism
<i>'irfān</i>	gnosis	<i>tawakkul</i>	trust in God
<i>kashf</i>	unveiling	<i>tawḥīd</i>	divine oneness/unity of God

Practices

<i>dhikr/zikr</i>	remembrance [of God]
<i>khalwah</i>	spiritual retreat; solitude
<i>murāqābah</i>	mystic contemplation/meditation
<i>pās-i anfās</i>	regulating the breath
<i>qawwālī</i>	devotional music
<i>samā'</i>	mystical performance (music/dance)
<i>suḥbat</i>	conversation with master/disciple
<i>ṭaṣawwuf</i>	practice of Sufism
<i>urs</i>	birthday celebration for a Sufi saint
<i>zuhud</i>	renunciation [of the material world]

Buildings

<i>dargāh</i>	dervish convent/shrine/grave
<i>khānaqāh</i>	Sufi lodge ('place of abode')
<i>marabout</i>	tomb of holy man or shrine
<i>maqām</i>	station/memorial place
<i>mevlevihane</i>	dervish lodge
<i>ribāṭ</i>	building for Sufi gathering
<i>tekke</i>	Sufi convent
<i>ziyārah</i>	place of visitation/pilgrimage site
<i>zāwiya</i>	dwelling place of a Sufi ("corner")

Masters/Leaders/Disciples

<i>akhī</i>	brother (of a group/brethren)	<i>muḥibb</i>	lover or friend
<i>'ālim</i>	knower (of knowledge)	<i>murīd</i>	disciple/novice/adept
<i>'arif</i>	knower (of esoteric knowledge)	<i>murshid</i>	spiritual guide
<i>ata</i>	Turkic equivalent of <i>shaykh</i>	<i>pir</i>	elder/spiritual guide
<i>baba</i>	Turkic equivalent of <i>shaykh</i>	<i>qalandar</i>	wandering Sufi
<i>dervish/darwīsh</i>	dervish ("poor")	<i>quṭb</i>	pole, axis [spiritual leader]
<i>faqīr/fakir</i>	renunciate ("poor")	<i>sayyid</i>	descendant of the Prophet
<i>huwa</i>	Ar. He/God	<i>shahīd</i>	martyr
<i>khwāja</i>	leader, elder, teacher	<i>shāhid</i>	witness
<i>marabout</i>	holy man; Muslim saint	<i>shaykh/Sheikh</i>	spiritual leader; old man; elder
<i>maulānā</i>	Rumi ("our leader")	<i>ṣūfī</i>	practitioner of Sufism
<i>mevlevi</i>	follower of Rumi	<i>walī</i> (pl. <i>aulīya'</i>)	friend of God; saint

Major Sufi Figures

Rābi'a	(d. 801, Basra)	Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī	(d. 1273, Konya)
Hallaj	(d. 922, Baghdad)	Niẓām Uddīn	(d. 1325, Delhi)
Chistī	(d. 940/1, Chist)	Amīr Khusrau	(d. 1325, Delhi)
Yasavī	(d. 1166, Turkistan City)	Naqshbandī	(d. 1389, Bukhara)
Suhrawardī	(d. 1191, Aleppo)	Said Nursi	(d. 1960, Urfa)
Rūzbihān Baqlī	(d. 1209, Shiraz)	Martin Lings	(d. 2005, Westerham, Kent)
Ibn 'Arabī	(d. 1240, Damascus)	S. H. Nasr	(born 1933, Teheran)

Suggested Readings

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