

## The Sufis Idries Shah

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### Caravan of Dreams

As our world continues to shrink, we are being brought headlong into often explosive contact with other cultures and religions. Islam continues to be for many a mysterious and misunderstood force, alien to our own cultural values. Yet, in more ways than expected, Christianity and Islam share common ground. For centuries, Sufi thinkers have been linked to both religions in certain important ideas. But, like the elephant in the dark in Jalaludin Rumi's classic fable, these ideas are not grasped in full by seizing parts of the whole and arguing for or against their supposed Christian or Islamic derivation. From a series of lectures given by Idries Shah at Geneva University, *The Elephant in the Dark* shifts focus to more fruitful ground, tracing documented episodes of cooperation and understanding between Christians and Moslems over the past 1,400 years.

### The Sufis (Large Print Edition)

Originally published in 1950. Thinkers such as Ghazali and Ibn `Arabi, poets such as Ibn al-Farid, Rumi, Hafiz and Jami were greatly inspired by the lives and sayings of the early Sufis. This book was the first short history of Sufism to be published in any language, illustrating the development of its doctrines with numerous quotations from literature.

### The Elephant in the Dark

*Learning How to Learn* contains the authentic material from the Sufi stand-point, written in response to more than 70,000 questions received from government leaders, housewives, philosophy professors, and factory workers around the world. The lively question-answer format provides readers a direct experience of a Sufi learning situation. Shah draws from diverse sources, ranging from 8th-century Sufi narratives to today's newspapers, giving us insight into how Sufis learn, what they learn, and how spiritual understanding can be developed.

### Destination Mecca

100 Conversations with Idries Shah Condensed from over three million words, these conversations involve housewives and cabinet ministers, professors and assembly-line workers, on the subject of how traditional psychology can illuminate current human, social and spiritual problems. More than a hundred tales and extracts from Sufi lore, ranging from the eighth century Hasan of Basra, to the modern Afghan poet Khalilullah Khalili, are woven into Shah's narratives of how and why the Sufis learn, what they learn: and how spiritual understanding develops and deteriorates in all societies.

### **Sufism**

Here, the subtleties of the inimitable Mulla Nasrudin's anecdotes are paralleled with the workings of the mind and designed to amuse the tea-house audience. At the same time they are intended to reach other levels.

### **The Sufis**

### **Special Illumination**

Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Pages: 34. Chapters: Inayat Khan, Vilayat Inayat Khan, Ghazali, Idries Shah, International Association of Sufism, Avempace, Lataif-e-sitta, Octagon Press, A. H. Almaas, Javad Nurbakhsh, Eleven Naqshbandi principles, Robert E. Ornstein, Nafs, Arthur J. Deikman, Muhammad Ajmal, Fazal Inayat-Khan, Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee, The Commanding Self, Learning How to Learn: Psychology and Spirituality in the Sufi Way, Wisdom of the Idiots, Robert Frager, Knowing How to Know. Excerpt: Idries Shah (16 June, 1924 - 23 November, 1996) (Persian: ), also known as Idris Shah, ne Sayed Idries el-Hashimi (Arabic: ), was an author and teacher in the Sufi tradition who wrote over three dozen critically acclaimed books on topics ranging from psychology and spirituality to travelogues and culture studies. Born in India, the descendant of a family of Afghan nobles, Shah grew up mainly in England. His early writings centred on magic and witchcraft. In 1960 he established a publishing house, Octagon Press, producing translations of Sufi classics as well as titles of his own. His most seminal work was *The Sufis*, which appeared in 1964 and was well received internationally. In 1965, Shah founded the Institute for Cultural Research, a London-based educational charity devoted to the study of human behaviour and culture. A similar organisation, the Institute for the Study of Human Knowledge (ISHK), exists in the United States, under the directorship of Stanford University psychology professor Robert Ornstein, whom Shah appointed as his deputy in the U.S. In his writings, Shah presented Sufism as a universal form of wisdom that predated Islam. Emphasizing that Sufism was not static but always adapted itself to the current time, place and people, he framed his teaching in Western psychological terms. Shah made extensive use of traditional

### **The Hundred Tales of Wisdom (Pocket Edition)**

A mysterious chest is buried unopened. A wondrous caravan brings fortune to a

simple cobbler. An outcast princess creates a new life in the wilderness. Some of the 78 tales in this remarkable book first appeared in print over a thousand years ago; others are medieval classics. Yet each has a special relevance for us at the dawn of the 21st century. All are told with Idries Shah's distinctive wit and grace and the author's own commentary notes. These are teaching stories in the Sufi tradition. Those who probe beyond the surface will find multiple meanings to challenge assumptions and foster new ways of thinking and perceiving. Tales of the Dervishes is essential reading for anyone interested in Sufi thought, the significance and history of tales, or simply superb entertainment.

### **The Sufis**

#### **The Way of the Sufi**

'Perhaps the best introduction to the body of Shah's work, the most comprehensively informative. And one is immediately forced to use one's mind in a new way.' - The New York Times When it first appeared in 1964, *The Sufis* was welcomed as the decisive work on the subject: rich in scope, clearly explaining the traditions and philosophy of the Sufis to a Western audience for the first time. In the five decades since its release, the book has been translated into dozens of languages, and has found a wide readership in both East and West. It is used as a text in scores of leading universities around the world, and the material contained within it has been applied by psychologists and physicists, by school teachers, lawyers, social workers, and by ordinary members of the public. Ted Hughes wrote of it: 'An astonishing book. The Sufis must be the biggest society of sensible men on earth'; and Nobel laureate Doris Lessing said of it: 'I had waited my entire life to read this book.'

#### **Idries Shah's Sufi Paradigm**

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#### **Reflections**

Stories of Mulla Nasrudin appear in oral traditions and literature from the Middle East to Greece, Russia to China. Many nations claim Nasrudin as a native son, but nobody really knows who he was or where he came from. Whether the stories are studied for their humour or hidden wisdom, they help us understand our world and ourselves.

#### **Listening to Idries Shah**

*Oriental Magic* is recognized as a brilliant study of how, what and why people think, in territories extending from North Africa to Japan. Profusely illustrated, the book is the product of years of research and field-work in a dozen different cultural regions.

## **World Tales**

Using the powerful approach of classical teachers, Shah has crafted a contemporary teaching tool that blends a fastpaced look at today's world with the timeless teachings of the Sufis. The book brings into sharp focus the conditioned behavior and self-deception that are common in Western minds. Far more than a literary tool for breaking loose old mental habits, it is a blueprint for a process of self-development that precludes self-deceit. Truly a book among books, *A Perfumed Scorpion* is treasured the world over for its clarity of wisdom and forcefulness of insight.

## **The Way of the Sufi**

Here, Nasrudin's anecdotes are seen to be parallel to the mind's working, designed to amuse the tea-house, but also intended for use on other levels.

## **The Dermis Probe**

First published in 1957, *Destination Mecca* was both an ambitious travel book and a work of ethnographic and cultural research. Shah documents a wide range of fascinating journeys, from his quest for the Gold Mines of King Solomon on Sudan's Red Sea Coast, to encounters in desert caravanserais and sojourns with Mediterranean contraband smugglers, to his time as a personal guest of the elderly King Ibn Saud. As readable now as it was more than fifty years ago, *Destination Mecca* acts as a beacon for young adventurers and for more sedate armchair travellers.

## **A Perfumed Scorpion**

Cuando apareció por primera vez en 1964, *Los Sufis* fue acogido como la obra decisiva sobre la materia. Rico en su alcance, explica por primera vez a un público occidental las tradiciones y la filosofía de los Sufis de un modo claro y didáctico. Durante las cinco décadas posteriores a su lanzamiento, el libro fue traducido a una docena de idiomas y ha encontrado una amplia variedad de lectores tanto en Oriente como Occidente. Es utilizado como libro de referencia en muchísimas universidades de todo el mundo, y el material que contiene ha venido siendo aplicado por psicólogos, científicos, maestros de escuela, abogados, trabajadores sociales e integrantes de la sociedad en general. Acaso la mejor introducción al corpus de Shah, y sin dudas la más exhaustivamente informativa. Al instante uno se ve forzado a usar la propia mente de un modo novedoso. - *The New York Times*

## **The Commanding Self**

This pocket-size collection of sayings and stories from real life, and from the author's observations of our mental processes, is a perfect gift book. It's contemporary, fun to read-like a splash of icewater for the mind.

## **Knowing How to Know**

The mystery of the Sufis, in the ancient usage of the word, is the experience of self-realization taught by traditional schools of "mysticism." In English, too, the word "mystery" also stands for an art or craft, a skill; and this sense is also preserved in the Sufic usage of the word "Work," or science of the Sufi: "Knowledge without action is like wax without honey." The Sufi Mystery brings together writings by Ameer Ali, the Islamic historian; Professor E. G. Browne, the Orientalist; Sir Richard Burton; Robert Graves; Idries Shah; and many others. It deals with authentic and mutated schools and orders and their literature over a very wide area of geography and belief. Sufi theories and practices are examined, visits to Sufi centers are described, the relationships of master and disciple investigated, and links with other systems noted.

### **Wisdom of the Idiots**

### **The World of Nasrudin**

### **The Sufi Mystery**

### **Oriental Magic**

'Perhaps the best introduction to the body of Shah's work, the most comprehensively informative. And one is immediately forced to use one's mind in a new way.' - The New York Times When it first appeared in 1964, The Sufis was welcomed as the decisive work on the subject: rich in scope, clearly explaining the traditions and philosophy of the Sufis to a Western audience for the first time. In the five decades since its release, the book has been translated into dozens of languages, and has found a wide readership in both East and West. It is used as a text in scores of leading universities around the world, and the material contained within it has been applied by psychologists and physicists, by school teachers, lawyers, social workers, and by ordinary members of the public. Ted Hughes wrote of it: 'An astonishing book. The Sufis must be the biggest society of sensible men on earth'; and Nobel laureate Doris Lessing said of it: 'I had waited my entire life to read this book.'

### **Learning how to Learn**

A mixture of primitive and conditioned responses, common to everyone, which inhibits and distorts human progress and understanding.

### **Learning How to Learn**

### **Tales of the Dervishes**

### **Seeker After Truth**

Contemporary esoteric systems almost always play on the desire of mankind to seek or acquire knowledge. All but universally neglected in such systems are the - often unrecognized - barriers which prevent knowledge and understanding. Before learning can take place, certain conditions and basic factors must be in place; in the individual or the group. Building on the foundations laid in Learning How to Learn and The Commanding Self, Idries Shah in Knowing How to Know illuminates those factors. Like an ultra-violet light shone onto the petals of flowers, it reveals concealed patterns, normally invisible to our customary modes of thought.

### **Los Sufis**

This work offers coverage of the spiritual and psychological tradition of Sufism. It shows that Sufism is not the preserve of ecstatic religionists, but has a contribution to make to human culture and philosophy.

### **The Sufis**

No ordinary collection of tales, this anthology was the result of extensive research that led Shah to conclude that there is a certain basic fund of human fictions which recur again and again throughout the world and never seem to lose their compelling attraction. This special paperback version of World Tales concentrates on the essentials, the text of the stories, and omits the illustrations which were part of a previous edition.

### **The Pleasantries of the Incredible Mulla Nasrudin**

These lines by the great teacher and mystic Jalaludin Rumi indicate the many-faceted role of humor in Sufi teaching. Shah writes: "As a shock-applier and tension-releaser and an indicator of false situations, humour, certainly to the Sufi in traditional usage, is one of the most effective instruments and diagnostic aids." Not only are the 60 jokes contained in this volume representative of the type of material used in Sufi development, but their selection, arrangement, and presentation comprise an actual learning experience for the modern reader. Shah weaves contemporary jokes, humorous anecdotes, and stories with skillful commentary. The result is an a entertaining journey which mixes laughter, introspection, and surprise.

### **Index to Idries Shah's The Sufis**

### **Sufi Psychology**

Sufism, the mystical aspect of Islam, has had a lasting effect on the literature of that religion. It's teachings aim at perfecting the human mind. This is an anthology of Sufi writings which form an introduction to this body of thought.

### **The Subtleties of the Inimitable Mulla Nasrudin**

A comprehensive collection of learned essays and papers on the subject of Sufi

thought.

## **The Book of the Book**

Anteriormente publicados solo como ensayos separados, Pensamiento y acción Sufi -- recopilado y prologado por Idries Shah -- cubre una extraordinaria diversidad de ideas y actividades Sufis en muchos países y culturas. En el volumen se incluyen documentos sobre principios y métodos de aprendizaje Sufis; ritual, iniciación y secretos en círculos Sufis; y conceptos clave en la comprensión Sufi. El libro se presenta como un manual claro y simple para abordar muchas facetas del estudio y pensamiento Sufi. La introducción de Shah dice: "El objetivo de la enseñanza espiritual Sufi puede ser expresado como: ayudar a refinar la conciencia del individuo, de modo que pueda alcanzar los Resplandores de la Verdad, de los cuales uno está separado por las actividades ordinarias del mundo".

## **Sufi Thought and Action**

In Idries Shah's 'Wisdom of the Idiots', the 'idiots' are Sufis, called this because their wisdom penetrates to a depth which renders it inaccessible to the merely intelligent or academically-knowledgeable. The exercise-stories of the Sufis are tools prepared for a specific purpose. On this level the movements of the characters in a story portray psychological processes, and the story becomes a working blueprint of those processes.

## **The World of the Sufi**

Thinkers of the East is a collection of anecdotes and 'parables in action' illustrating the eminently practical and lucid approach of Eastern Dervish teachers. Distilled from the teachings of more than one hundred sages in three continents, this material stresses the experimental rather than the theoretical - and it is that characteristic of Sufi study which provides its impact and vitality. The emphasis of Thinkers of the East contrasts sharply with the Western concept of the East as a place of theory without practice, or thought without action. The book's author, Idries Shah, says 'Without direct experience of such teaching, or at least a direct recording of it, I cannot see how Eastern thought can ever be understood'.

## **Pensamiento y acción Sufi**

Traditionally known as The Hundred Tales of Wisdom, this collection comprises excerpts from the life, teachings and miracles of the Sufi teacher Jalaluddin Rumi, together with certain important stories from his works. As well as being part of the bedrock of classical Persian literature, these tales, anecdotes and narratives are believed, by Sufis, to aid in the development of insights beyond ordinary perceptions. Here, they are translated and presented by Idries Shah.

## **Thinkers of the East (Pocket Edition)**

Algunas características de la literatura sufi - El autoengaño - Características de la atención y la observación - Como puede un método ser tan bueno como otro? -

Elementos sociales y psicológicos en los estudios sufis - Una empresa se mide por su intención, no por su apariencia - Estudios sufis - La generosidad real y relativa La imparcialidad como punto de vista - Los secretos y los sufis - Los sufis y sus imitadores - Tránsito de la humildad.

## **Sufis**

### **Aprender a aprender**

This book is an anthology of the extraordinary diversity of Sufi ideas and activities in many countries and cultures today. Nothing approaching this kind of survey has ever been assembled. In addition to first-hand accounts of Sufi learning methods, subjects covered include the Sufi meeting place, avoiding imitators, Sufi work enterprises, the idea of organic enterprises, entry into a Sufi group, the Sufi Adept and the projection of mind, extra-sensory perception, what the Sufis do not want us to know, and more.

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