



# Islamic Mysticism (Themes in Islamic Studies)

*Alexander Knysh*

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## **Islamic Mysticism (Themes in Islamic Studies)** Alexander Knysh

The book provides a general survey of the history of Islamic mysticism (Sufism) since its inception up to the present. It combines chronological and personality-based approaches to the subject with a thematic discussion of major Sufi notions and institutions. Sufism is examined from a variety of different perspectives: as a vibrant social institution, a specific form of artistic expression (mainly poetic), an ascetic and contemplative practice, and a distinct intellectual tradition that derived its vitality from a continual dialogue with other strands of Islamic thought. The book emphasizes the broad variety of Sufism's interactions with the society and its institutions from an ascetic withdrawal from the world to an active involvement in its affairs by individual Sufi masters and organizations. This second paperback edition contains a number of corrections and additions. Islamic Mysticism by Alexander Knysh is a comprehensive survey of the fascinating world of Islamic Mysticism that continues to play an important role in Muslim communities world-wide.



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