

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Note: The Arabic article *al-* has been deleted except where it is grammatically necessary.

'abd: *servant, slave, bondsman*

adab: *correct comportment, courtesy, literary culture, appropriate manner*

Aḥad: *the One (a Name of God)*

al-aḥādīth al-quḍsiyyah: *sacred sayings, traditions of the Prophet of Islam in which God speaks in the first person but these sayings are not parts of the Quran*

ahl al-ṣuffah: *people of the bench, in reference to a bench that was placed in front of the mosque of the Prophet in Medina and the most revered members of the early Islamic community would often sit on it*

ahl-i dil: *people of the heart, one of the names used for Sufis*

a'lā: *most exalted, most elevated*

Allāh: *the Supreme Name of God in Arabic*

'ālam al-ghayb: *the absent world, the invisible world*

'ālam al-shahādah: *the manifested world, the visible world*

'ālim: *scholar, the person who has knowledge (usually understood as knowledge of religion)*

'Alīm: *the Knower (a Name of God)*

‘amal: *action, practice*

‘amalī: *practical, operative*

amīr: *prince, ruler*

‘aql: *intellect, reason*

‘ārīf: *gnostic, possessor of unifying knowledge*

‘ārīf^u bi’Llāh: *the person who knows God by God*

asfār (*sing. safar*): *journeys interpreted in Sufism as the various stages of the journey of the soul to God, in God and in creation with God*

asmā’ (*sing. ism*): *names (usually in reference to the Names of God)*

asrār (*sing. sirr*): *secrets, mysteries (usually understood as Divine Mysteries)*

Ātman: *the Supreme Self (according to Hindu doctrines)*

avātāric: *related to the avātar, a divine incarnation or descent*

awrād (*sing. wird*): *litanies (used by Sufis)*

āyah: *symbol, sign, portent, verse of the Quran*

‘ayn al-yaqīn: *the eye of certainty*

‘ayn thābit (*pl. al-‘yān al-thābitah*): *immutable archetype*

bābā: *father, title of masters in the Baktāshī Sufi order*

baqā’⁷: *subsistence*

barakah: *grace*

basmalah: *abbreviation of “In the Name of God, the All-Good, the Infinitely Merciful”*

bast: *expansion*

bāṭin: *inward, esoteric*

Bāṭin: *the Inward (a Name of God)*

bhakti marga: *the path of love and devotion (in Hinduism)*

Bismi’Llāh al-Rahmān al-Rahīm: *“In the Name of God, the Infinitely-Good, the All-Merciful,” the formula with which all chapters of the Quran except one begin and with which Muslims begin various activities in their lives*

darwīsh: *a follower of Sufism*

dhākir: *invoker, the person who remembers God*

Dhāt: *the Essence (of God)*

dhawq: *taste*

dhikr: *invocation, remembrance, mention*
 fanā': *annihilation*
 al-faqr al-muḥammadī: *Muḥammadan poverty, one of the names used for Sufism*
 faqīr: *poor, in Sufism the spiritually poor, a follower of Sufism*
 faqr: *poverty, spiritual poverty*
 farsh: *the carpet, allusion to the lowest level of existence*
 Fātiḥah: *the Opening, the first chapter of the Quran*
 al-fayḍ al-aqdas: *the most sacred effusion or emanation*
 al-fayḍ al-muqaddas: *sacred effusion or emanation*
 fikr: *meditation, thought*
 firdaws: *garden, Paradise, the Garden*
 fitrah: *primordial nature, original nature*
 futuwwah: *spiritual chivalry*
 ghayb: *hidden, nonmanifest, invisible, absent*
 gharībah: *hidden, occult, unfamiliar*
 ghazal: *a form of poetry found in many Islamic languages similar in form to the sonnet*
 ḥabīb: *friend, intimate*
 Hādī: *the Guide (a Name of God)*
 ḥadīth: *a saying or tradition of the Prophet; in Shi'ism the sayings of the Imams are also included as a special category of ḥadīth*
 Ḥadīth: *the collection of the sayings of the Prophet*
 ḥads: *intellectual intuition*
 hāhūt: *Divine Presence at the level of the Essence*
 ḥajj: *pilgrimage to Mecca*
 ḥakīm: *sage, wise person, philosopher, physician*
 ḥāl: *spiritual state*
 ḥalqah: *circle (in reference to Sufi gatherings where male disciples usually sit or stand in a circle)*
 ḥamd: *praise*
 al-ḥamd^u li'Llāh: *praise be to God (a common Islamic utterance)*
 ḥaqq: *truth, verity*
 Ḥaqq: *the Truth (a Name of God)*
 ḥaqqah: *truth, verity*

al-ḥaqīqat al-muḥammadiyyah: *Muḥammadan Reality*
 ḥijāb: *veil*
 ḥikmat: *theosophy, philosophy (of later Islamic schools), wisdom*
 al-ḥikmat al-muta‘āliyah: *transcendental theosophy or philosophy*
 himmah: *ardor, spiritual aspiration*
 ḥubb: *love, devotion*
 hubūt: *fall (in general in reference to humanity’s fall from the Edenic state)*
 ḥudūr: *presence*
 ḥusn: *beauty*
 hylé: *prime matter (in Greek philosophy)*
 ‘ibādah: *worship*
 iḥsān: *virtue, beauty, goodness*
 ikhlās: *sincerity*
 ilāhīs: *Sufi songs as they are known especially in the Turkish world*
 ‘ilm: *knowledge, science*
 ‘ilm al-yaqīn: *the science of certainty*
 īmān: *faith*
 al-insān al-kāmil: *the Universal Man, the Perfect Man*
 irādah: *will, intention*
 ‘irfān-i nazārī: *theoretical gnosis, theoretical or doctrinal Sufism*
 ‘irfān-i shī‘ī: *Shi‘ite gnosis*
 inābah: *contrition, penitence*
 ‘irfān: *gnosis*
 ‘irfānī: *gnostic*
 ishrāq: *illumination*
 islām: *submission (to God)*
 ‘ishq: *love, ardent devotion, intense love*
 ‘ishq al-ḥaqīqī: *true love*
 al-‘ishq al-majāzī: *metaphorical love*
 jabarūt: *the archangelic world*
 jalāl: *majesty*
 jallabah: *long woolen dress still worn by Muslims especially in North Africa*
 jalwah: *splendor, effulgence, external radiance*
 jamāl: *beauty*
 jannat al-Dhāt: *the Paradise of the Divine Essence*

jawānmardī: *spiritual chivalry*
 jihād: *exertion*
 jinn: *a class of psychic beings mentioned in the Quran, a demon*
 jñāna: *illuminative knowledge in Hinduism*
 Karīm: *The Generous (a Name of God)*
 karāmah: *generosity*
 karma yoga: *the path of approaching God through action or karma according to Hinduism*
 kashf al-mahjūb: *the unveiling of the veiled*
 kashkūl: *begging bowl used by certain Sufis*
 khalīfah: *vicegerent, vice-regent, representative*
 khalwah: *spiritual retreat*
 khānqāh: *Sufi center*
 khayāl: *imagination*
 khidr-i rāh: *guide on the spiritual path*
 khalq: *creation, to create*
 lāhūt: *the Divine Presence at the level of the Divine Names and Qualities*
 layl: *night*
 līlā: *divine play associated with the creation of the world in Hinduism*
 liwā' al-ḥamd: *the flag of praise*
 maḥabbah: *love, devotion*
 madhkūr: *the invoked, the remembered*
 majdhūb: *attracted by God*
 majlis (pl. majālis): *gathering of Sufis*
 makhāfah: *fear, reverential fear of God*
 malakūt: *the spiritual world, the angelic world*
 malāmah: *blame*
 ma'nā: *meaning*
 manzil (pl. manāzil): *place of descent, station*
 maqām (pl. maqāmāt): *spiritual station*
 ma'rifah: *principial knowledge, gnosis*
 ma'shūq: *the beloved*
 mathnawīkhānī: *the special art of reciting the Mathnawī of Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī*
 mawqif (pl. mawāqif): *place of halting, spiritual staying*
 mawlā: *master*

māyā: *the creation power of Ātman, which also veils It and brings about the illusion of separate cosmic existence, according to the nondualistic school of the Vedānta*
 mi'rāj: *the Nocturnal Ascent of the Prophet from Mecca to Jerusalem and from there to the Divine Presence; spiritual ascent*
 muftī: *religious authority who can issue religious edicts*
 muḥaqqiq: *one who is immersed in the realization of the Truth, verifier*
 mulk: *the world that surrounds humanity here below on this earth*
 mullā: *a title given in Persian to a religious scholar*
 muqaddam: *a designate of a Sufi master who is able to initiate aspirants and guide them on the path under the direction of the master*
 murād: *the reality or the person who is sought, the Sufi master*
 murīd: *seeker, the person who wills to reach the truth, the disciple in Sufism*
 murshid: *spiritual master, guide*
 musiqā'l-andalus: *Andalusian music (of Morocco)*
 muslim: *a being who is surrendered to God, Muslim*
 nā'ib: *representative*
 nafas al-Raḥmān: *the breath of the Compassionate*
 nafs: *soul, ego, self, psyche*
 al-nafs al-ammārah bi'l-sū': *that part of the soul that incites to evil*
 nashīd: *Sufi song*
 nāsūt: *the human world*
 nubuwwah: *prophecy*
 Om (Aum): *sacred sound symbol in Hinduism, considered the primordial word through which everything came into existence*
 pardīs: *garden*
 pashmīnah-pūsh: *wearer of wool (in reference to Sufis)*
 pīr: *spiritual master*
 qabḍ: *contraction*
 qāḍī: *judge*
 qalandar: *wandering darwīsh*
 quṭb: *the Pole or spiritual Axis of the age*
 qawwālī: *special form of Sufi singing associated with the Indo-Pakistani Subcontinent*
 Rabb: *the Lord (a Name of God)*
 rāg: *a mode in Indian music*
 raḥmah: *compassion, mercy*

Raḥmān: *the All-Good, the Compassionate (a Name of God)*
 Raḥīm: *the Infinitely Merciful (a Name of God)*
 rajul (pl. rijāl): *man, any human being male or female who has advanced on the path*
 riḍā: *contentment*
 Riḍwān: *the most exalted Paradise*
 rijāl al-ghayb: *absent or invisible persons (men)*
 Rūḥ: *the Spirit*
 ṣabr: *patience*
 ṣafā: *purity*
 ṣaḥw: *sobriety*
 saki: *from the Arabic word sāqī, meaning pourer of drink (allusion to the spiritual master in Sufism)*
 sakīnah: *Divine peace*
 salaf: *ancestors, those who have come before*
 salām: *peace*
 ṣalāh: *the canonical prayers that Muslims are obliged to perform five times a day*
 sālīk: *traveler upon the spiritual path*
 samā': *Sufi concert, audition*
 samsāra: *the world of change, corruption, and death, according to Buddhism*
 ṣifāt: *qualities (in particular Divine Qualities)*
 al-ṣīrāt al-mustaqīm: *the straight path, the path of ascent (in Sufism)*
 silsilah: *chain, the initiatic chain in Sufism*
 ṣūrah: *form*
 Ṣhekinah: *Hebrew equivalent to the Arabic sakīnah, meaning divine peace*
 Sharī'ah: *Divine Law*
 shaḥīyyāt (sing. shaḥ): *theophanic sayings, words of ecstasy*
 shukr: *gratitude, thankfulness*
 suḥbah: *discourse of the Sufis*
 sukr: *intoxication, drunkenness*
 ṣulḥ-i kull: *universal peace, total peace*
 sunnah: *traditions or wont of the Prophet*
 śunyata: *void, the void (in Buddhism)*
 sūrah: *name of the chapters in the Quran*
 tābi'ūn: *followers, the generation after the Prophet*

taḥaqquq: *realization*
 tajallī: *theophany*
 tāj-i faqr: *the crown of spiritual poverty*
 takhalluq bi-akhlāq¹Llāh: *becoming imbued with the Qualities of God*
 ṭalab: *yearning (more specifically for God and the spiritual life)*
 taqwā: *reverential fear (of God), asceticism, mindfulness*
 ta‘aqqul: *intellection*
 tark: *abandonment*
 tark-i tark: *abandonment of abandonment*
 ṭarīq: *path (in reference to Sufism)*
 ṭarīqah (pl. ṭuruq): *Sufi path, Sufi order*
 ṭarīqah ila ‘Llāh: *the path to God*
 taṣawwuf: *Sufism*
 al-taṣawwuf al-‘ilmī: *theoretical or doctrinal Sufism*
 taslīm: *submission*
 ta‘ayyun: *determination, entification*
 tay‘id: *affirmation, support*
 ta‘wīl: *spiritual hermeneutics*
 tawakkul: *reliance (upon God)*
 tawbah: *repentance*
 tawḥīd: *oneness, unity*
 waḥdat al-wujūd: *transcendent oneness of being, unity of being*
 walāyah/wilāyah: *initiatic power (in Sufism)*
 wara‘: *scrupulousness, chasteness (in religious matters)*
 wujūdiyyah: *the school of the primacy and unity of being*
 Wadūd: *the Loving (a Name of God)*
 Walī: *Guardian, Ruler, Friend (a Name of God); saint, friend of God*
 yaqīn: *certainty, certitude*
 Zāhir: *the Outward (a Name of God)*
 zāhir: *outward, external, exoteric*
 zāwiyah (pl. zawāyā): *Sufi center*
 zuhd: *asceticism*
 zuhhād: *ascetics*