

Sufism: An Alternative Discourse in Islamic Tradition

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Sufism, transgressive and transnational, explains a theoretical defeat of religious theories that repress and replace a cultural amnesia. The doctrine being alternative to traditional religious boundaries puts forward an alternative condition that vocalizes a turning dimension to a codified religious practice. The first thesis this paper puts forward is the alternative condition of intellectual Islam that foregrounds religious subjectivity. Foregrounding this, the present paper explores a theoretical defeat of alternative religious traditions, from being universal to transparent and Universalist ethics to marginal lifestyles. Sufism and its relation to Islam are highly contested in the twenty-first century. This is because of the various theories that have tried to define the term ‘Sufism.’ Muslim mystics traditionally used the term to convey certain ethical and spiritual ideals; the multiple forms of activity actually practiced by Muslim mystics all had distinct names and terminology. Modern Sufi leaders who wish to legitimate their own perspective sometimes discredit other versions as “pseudo-Sufism,” particularly in cases of groups that de-emphasize Islamic practices and identity (Ernst, 2011). Fundamentalists often assert Sufism to be a perversion of Islam, while secular modernists reject Sufism as medieval superstition. Scholarly writings with a historical emphasis discuss Sufism as the mystical aspect of Islam. This paper aims at exploring Sufism and its deviation from Islamic tenets.....

Key words: Sufism, transgressive, transnational, theory, religion, discourse

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