



The Idries Shah  
Foundation

PRACTICAL WISDOM & PSYCHOLOGY

# A Veiled Gazelle

SEEING HOW TO SEE BY IDRIES SHAH



## Another Way of Doing Things

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here was once a king who was a terrible tyrant, and at last a deputation of his people went to a Sufi master, asking him to help them get rid of him.

'Very well,' said the Sufi, 'but I can do nothing direct: I must take advantage of what is there already. Understanding the patterns of life and thought is the work of Sufis.'

Presently he presented himself before the King. 'Great Monarch,' he said, 'I insist that I be killed, three paces in front of your throne, two hours from now.'

The people who were present said to one another: 'What a great man is our Sufi! Undoubtedly he seeks to become a martyr, so that, when the King kills him, the people will rise in fury and dethrone the monster...'

But the King, for whom things were not so obvious, was nevertheless highly suspicious. 'Take the man to the dungeons and put him on the rack until he admits why he really wants to be killed,' he commanded.

Half an hour later the Chief Torturer appeared with his captive before the King and reported: 'He says that it has been foretold that whoever dies on that spot at the time indicated will become the supreme human being of the age.'

The King himself stepped forward: 'Slay me here, immediately!' he commanded – and nobody, of course, dared to disobey his order.

