

# Sufism a Gentle Introduction

Mohammed Shahid\*

## Sufism

All true Sufi tariqas have a lineage that is traceable to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through his son-in-law Hazreti Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) or Hz. Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him).

The idea is that how to do zikr and becoming wali of allah according to hadith and some secret prayer or zikr methos that only knows to prophet and his family and his best friend and father in law Abu Bakr.

These methods were passed down through generations and are the foundation upon which the Sufi tariqas were later established.

The various Sufi tariqas (Sufi orders; literally, paths) were established by their founders in response to the needs of different kinds of people. If a person is drawn to a particular school of Sufism, such as the Qadiri Tariqa or Mevlevi Tariqa, it is because that school has a flavor or character that addresses the particular needs of that individual. This can be thought of in the same light as vocational schools. If a person has a deep desire to become a chef of Chinese cuisine, he does not go to a master of French cuisine for training. Likewise, each spiritual seeker has a particular character that can be well served by a tariqa suited to his or her personality.

While everyone is welcomed as a guest, it is understood that a true shaykh will recognize the people who belong to him or her and can only accept his or her own spiritual “children” as murids (students of Sufism; lit., committed ones).

Among the true tariqas there is general agreement about the essential tenets of Sufism. There is no competition among the tariqas. No tariqa claims that they have the one true way, or that it is higher than other orders.

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\*B.Tech Information Technology, shahid.xyz@yahoo.com