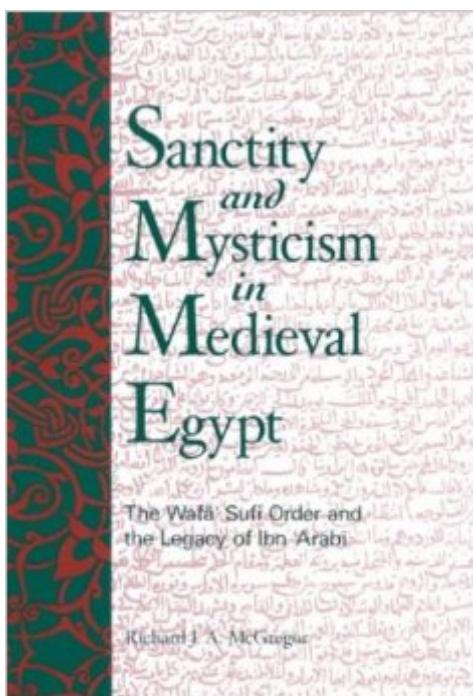


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Sanctity And Mysticism In Medieval Egypt: The Wafa Sufi Order And The Legacy Of Ibn 'Arabi (Suny Series In Islam) (Multilingual Edition)



Synopsis

Using the original writings of two Egyptian Sufis, Muhammad Wafa' and his son 'Ali, this book shows how the Islamic idea of sainthood developed in the medieval period. Although without a church to canonize its "saints," the Islamic tradition nevertheless debated and developed a variety of ideas concerning miracles, sanctity, saintly intermediaries, and pious role models. In the writings of the Wafa's, a complete mystical worldview unfolds, one with a distinct doctrine of sainthood and a novel understanding of the apocalypse. Using almost entirely unedited manuscript sources, author Richard J. A. McGregor shows in detail how Muhammad and 'Ali Wafa' drew on earlier philosophical and gnostic currents to construct their own mystical theories and notes their debt to the Sufi order of the Shadhiliyya, the mystic al-Tirmidhi, and the great Sufi thinker Ibn 'Arabi. Notably, although located firmly within the Sunni tradition, the Wafa's felt free to draw on Shi'ite ideas for the construction of their own theory of the final great saint.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a brilliant study of a rich and controversial aspect of Islam and Islamic mysticism. Every course on comparative mysticism, Islamic Studies, and Sufism in society should assign this as a textbook. Bravo, McGregor! I was lucky enough to read the book before it "hit the market" and I recommend it very highly indeed. Comments from a sincere seeker after truth in academia and the world.

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