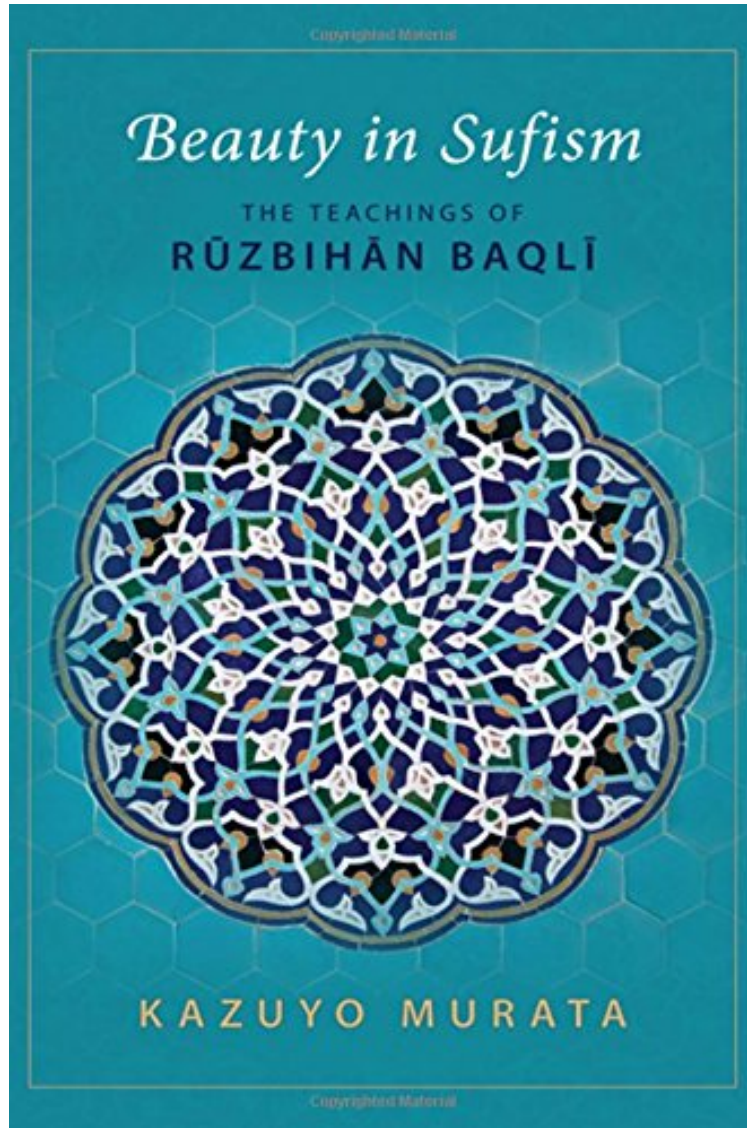


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Beauty in Sufism: The Teachings of Ruzbihan Baqli

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Kazuyo Murata (Le : Beauty in Sufism: The Teachings of Ruzbihan Baqli before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beauty in Sufism: The Teachings of Ruzbihan Baqli:

According to Muhammad, "God is beautiful and He loves beauty." Yet, Islam is rarely associated with beauty, and today, a politicized Islam dominates many perceptions. This work tells a forgotten story of beauty in Islam through the writings of celebrated but little-studied Sufi scholar and saint Rzbihn Baql (1128-1209). Rzbihn argued that the pursuit

of beauty in the world and in oneself was the goal of Muslim life. One should become beautiful in imitation of God and reclaim the innate human nature created in God's beautiful image. Rzbihn's theory of beauty is little known, largely because of his convoluted style and eccentric terminology in both Persian and Arabic. In this book, Kazuyo Murata revives Rzbihn's ideas for modern readers. She provides an overview of Muslim discourse on beauty before Rzbihn's time; an analysis of key terms related to beauty in the Qur'n, adth, and in Rzbihn's writings; a reconstruction of Rzbihn's understanding of divine, cosmic, and human beauty; and a discussion of what he regards as the pinnacle of beauty in creation, the prophets, especially Adam, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Muhammad.

Murata opens up a vista on Islam that nobody talks about anymore: the Sufi vision of Islam as a religion of love and adoration of beauty. This is a fascinating book and an impressive achievement. I predict that it will remain the central work on the metaphysics of beauty in Sufism for decades to come. Leonard Lewisohn, Senior Lecturer in Persian, University of Exeter""Murata opens up a vista on Islam that nobody talks about anymore: the Sufi vision of Islam as a religion of love and adoration of beauty. This is a fascinating book and an impressive achievement. I predict that it will remain the central work on the metaphysics of beauty in Sufism for decades to come." -- Leonard Lewisohn, Senior Lecturer in Persian, University of ExeterAbout the AuthorKazuyo Murata is Lecturer in Islamic Studies at King's College London and coeditor (with Mohammed Rustom and Atif Khalil) of *In Search of the Lost Heart: Explorations in Islamic Thought* by William C. Chittick, also published by SUNY Press.