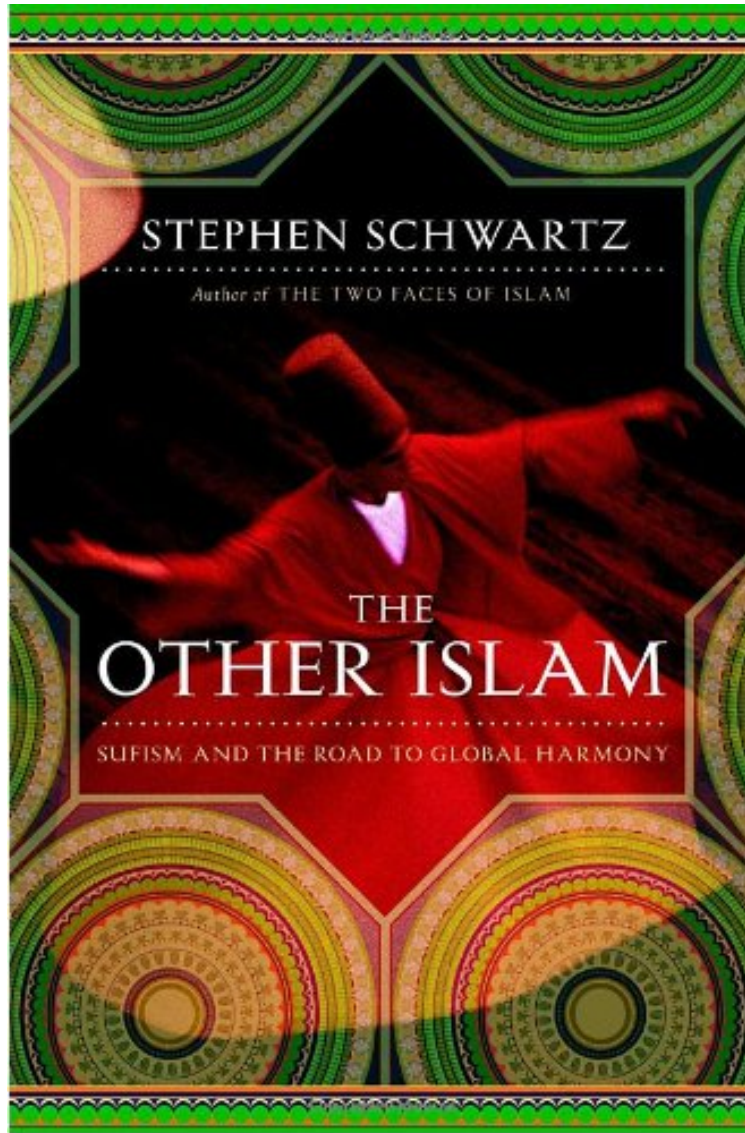


(Download free pdf) The Other Islam: Sufism and the Road to Global Harmony

## The Other Islam: Sufism and the Road to Global Harmony

*Stephen Schwartz*

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#1706003 in Books 2008-09-16 2008-09-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.35 x 1.03 x 6.421, 1.10  
#File Name: 0385518196288 pages | File size: 39.Mb

**Stephen Schwartz : The Other Islam: Sufism and the Road to Global Harmony** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Other Islam: Sufism and the Road to Global Harmony:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is more the author's personal experience through sufism with ...By Christopher Serrone This is more the author's personal experience through sufism with histories of some of the tariqa he had personally had contact with in the world as he seeks to preserve this jewel of Islamic science from the radical fundamental Saudis who seek to destroy it from the face of the earth. 2 of 2 people found the following review

helpful. Excellent InsightBy CustomerAs a long term member of several American Sufi Orders, one recognizes this text is an interesting compilation of history and facts stemming from an author who has first hand knowledge of the nuances of life in both the inner and outer circles of this mystical path. Enjoyable and well written.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent bookBy Rami Elias Cremestii did not know that Jewish Kabbalah borrowed from Islamic Sufism until i discovered this book... excellent reading. highly recommended.

This eye-opening, insightful exploration of Sufism, the spiritual tradition that has supported Islam for more than a thousand years, shows why it offers a promising foundation for reconciliation between the Western and Muslim worlds. Many Americans today identify Islam with maniacal hatred of the West. The Other Islam transforms this image and opens the way to finding common ground in our troubled times. Sufism, a blend of the mystical and rational tendencies within Islam, emerged soon after the revelation of Muhammad. A reforming movement against the increasing worldliness of Muslim society, it focuses on Islams spiritual dimension. Described as Islam of the Heart, Sufism has attracted adherents among both Sunni and Shia Muslims, as well as Jews, Christians, Hindus, and Buddhists.In The Other Islam, Stephen Schwartz traces the origins and history of Sufism, elucidates its teachings, and illustrates its links to the other religions. He comments on such celebrated Sufi poets and philosophers as Rumi and Al-Ghazali, and narrates their influence on the Kabbalah, on the descendants of the Jewish philosopher Maimonides, and on Christian mystics like Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of vila as well as the American transcendentalists. Furthermore, Schwartz presents a fresh survey of Sufism in todays Islamic world, anticipating an intellectual renaissance of the faith and alternatives to fundamentalism and tyranny in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Iran.

From Publishers WeeklySchwartz, a journalist and convert to Islam, offers Sufism, the mystical branch of Islam, as an aid to the United States' efforts to fight extremism. He provides an incomparable history of Sufism, covering in one short book all the major Sufi saints, schools, and the persecution of Sufis by Wahhabis. Deeply anti-Wahhabi, Schwartz encourages U.S. policymakers to ally with Sufis to undermine the Wahhabi influence. Schwartz believes the Wahhabi philosophy, which is literal and extreme in its interpretation of the Islamic faith, to be the motivation behind Muslim terrorism, with Wahhabi Saudis providing the financing. Wahhabis abhor Sufis for centuries-old traditions they label as idolatrous. Schwartz critiques the Western media for inaccurately dismissing Wahhabi attacks on Sufis, including the insurgency in Iraq, as Sunni-Shia disputes. In reality, Schwartz argues, they are part of the centuries-long Wahhabi campaign to destroy Sufism and moderate Islam. Schwartz's opinionthat Sufis are the natural allies of the U.S. in the ongoing war on terroris well presented and worth considering. (Sept. 16) ""Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved." Advance Praise for The Other IslamStephen Schwartz is internationally known as a serious student of Islam and its mysticism and as a special friend of the Bektashi Sufi order. The Other Islam is an important work that will, I sincerely hope, open the minds of non-Muslims as well as Muslims to the heritage and present reality of spiritual Islam. Let this book help spread the message and enlightenment of Hajji Bektash Veli throughout the world. H.E. Hajji Dede Baba Reshat Bardhi, World Supreme Head of the Bektashi communityThe Other Islam is more than an engaging introduction to Sufism in full. Stephen Schwartz has also sketched a suggestive roadmap for the kind of inter-religious dialogue that can move the world beyond the clash of civilizations to a mutually enriching encounter of noble religious traditions. Schwartzs Sufi-inspired conviction that it is, finally, Gods world, not one in which nihilism married to distorted monotheism will have the final word,can and should be embraced by serious Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. George S. Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center, and biographer of Pope John Paul IIThe Other Islam presents a different side of the Muslim world and Islam, at a time when Islam is identified in the West with militancy, violence, radicalism, and terrorism. Stephen Schwartz gives readers a good picture of how we should look at Islams full spectrum of doctrines and interpretations, and understand that Jihad can be interpreted and implemented by peaceful and spiritual ways. His contribution to the understanding of the other dimensions of this worldwide religion and culture, especially now, is very significant. We should all wish for a greater role for the various Sufi orders in the socio-political culture of the Muslim world. Reuven Paz, Director, Project for the Research of Islamist Movements (PRISM) of The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Israel Advance Praise for The Other IslamStephen Schwartz is internationally known as a serious student of Islam and its mysticism and as a special friend of the Bektashi Sufi order. The Other Islam is an important work that will, I sincerely hope, open the minds of non-Muslims as well as Muslims to the heritage and present reality of spiritual Islam. Let this book help spread the message and enlightenment of Hajji Bektash Veli throughout the world. H.E. Hajji Dede Baba Reshat Bardhi, World Supreme Head of the Bektashi communityThe Other Islam is more than an engaging introduction to Sufism in full. Stephen Schwartz has also sketched a suggestive roadmap for the kind of inter-religious dialogue that can move the world beyond the clash of civilizations to a mutually enriching encounter of noble religious traditions. Schwartzs Sufi-inspired conviction that it is, finally, Gods world, not one in which nihilism married to distorted monotheism will have the final word,can and should be embraced by serious Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. George S. Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center, and biographer of Pope John Paul IIThe Other Islam presents a different side of the

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