

GLOSSARY

ʿ*Abd*: servant of God; worshiper

Abdal: lit. “substitutes”; members of the highest rank of the Sufi spiritual hierarchy; they were called so for their ability to maintain their presence in several different places at the same time

ʿ*Abid*, pl., ʿ*ubbad*: [a devout] worshiper of God

Adab: good manners [in the presence of God or one’s fellow human beings]

[*al-*] *Akhira*: the Hereafter as opposed to this life ([*al-*] *dunya*)

Akhlaq: a person’s character traits, especially his or her manners and morals

ʿ*Alaqa* (*t*): attachment(s) to this world and mundane things

ʿ*Arif* [*bi-ʾAllah*], lit. “he who knows God”; gnostic; the highest category of Sufi masters; see also *maʿrifa*

Asbab, sing., *sabab*: means of existence and sustenance that may distract the Sufi from worshiping God as befits Him

Amba: a variant of *tamba*; “return to God after repenting before Him”; the ultimate stage of repentance (*tamba*)

Awliyaʿ, sing., *mali*: “friends of God” or “God’s protégés”; advanced Sufi masters, who in Western literature are sometimes identified as the Muslim equivalent of Christian saints

ʿ*Ayn al-yaqin*: the essence of certainty; a state of absolute certainty experienced by the mystic; see also *yaqin* and *haqq al-yaqin*

ʿ*Ayyar*: bandit of honor; a member of urban militia, who adhered to a special code of honor; see also *futuwwa*

Balaʿ: affliction or trial to which God may subject His servant

Baqaʿ: the mystic’s subsistence/survival in God following *fanaʿ*

Basira: inward vision; insight

Bast: expansion; a state of ease, confidence and joy experienced by the Sufi; see also *qabd*

Batin: see *zahir*

Bawadih/Hujum: “attacks” or “onslaughts” of mystical states upon the Sufi

Buʿd: distance from God as opposed to *qurb*

Bukaʿ: weeping, crying; a Sufi practice

Dhawq: “[direct] tasting” of the true realities behind the appearances of the empirical world

Dhikr: remembrance/recollection of God and his names

[*al-*]Dunya: see [*al-*]Akhira

Duʿaʿ: supplicatory prayer, as opposed to the canonical one; see also *sala(t)*

[*al-*]Dunya: this world and its “deceptive” trappings

Fanaʿ: the mystic’s self-annihilation in God; see also *baqaʿ*

Faqr: poverty; a station of the mystical path

Farq: separation; the state of detachment from God; see also *jamʿ*

Fata/fityan: see *futumma*

Fikr, fikra: contemplation; self-scrutiny

Firasa: clairvoyance; supernatural perspicacity

Futumma: spiritual “chivalry” – a code of honor to be observed by the genuine Sufi, which enjoins him to be generous, to give preference to others over his own self, and to help the poor and needy

Ghafla: temporary forgetfulness of God and His commands

Ghafr: concealment, veil; the state of being barred from God

Ghayb: the unseen; the realm of divine mysteries that is closed to everyone but the most advanced Sufi gnostics

Ghayba: “absence from God” (both mental and devotional), as opposed to “being present with Him” (*hudur*)

Ghayra: “jealousy” of God toward His servants, namely His insistence that they turn to and seek help of no one but Him

Ghiba: backbiting; one of the sins to be avoided by the Sufis

Hadith: report about an action or saying of the Prophet

Hajis, pl., *hawajis*: the promptings of the lower soul; see also *khawatir* and *waswas*

Hal: spiritual state which the mystic experiences on his way to God; see also *maqam*

Haqiqah: True Reality; ultimate truth; the genuine state of affairs

[*al-*] *Haqq*: the Real; the True Reality; God

Haqq al-yaqin: truth of certainty; a state of certainty experienced by the mystic

Hasad: envy, in particular, being envious of somebody's more advanced spiritual state; a sin to be avoided by the Sufis

Hatifi: invisible voice by which God communicates with His elect friends

Hawa, pl., *ahwa'*: urges and drives of one's lower soul (*nafs*)

Hayya: shame before God

Hayba: awe and trepidation before God

Hayra; *tahayyur*: perplexity, bewilderment of the mystic in the face of ever-changing divine self-manifestations

Hudur: "being present with God" (with one's entire self), as opposed to "absence from God" (*ghayba*)

Hujum: see *bawadih*

Hulm: a variety of dream that may occasionally carry a negative connotation as opposed to *ru'ya*

Huzn: sadness and despondency; a Sufi virtue

'Ibada/'ubudiyya: worship of God, especially fulfilling one's obligations toward Him

'Ibara: see *Ishara*

I'jab: complacency; self-conceit

Ikhlas: sincerity before God; a *sine qua non* of the Sufi path

Ikhtiyar: freedom of choice and the ability to choose among several options

Ilham: [divine] inspiration; revelation

'Ilm al-yaqin: a variant of *yaqin*

Iman: faith; the middle/intermediate member of the famous Sufi triad: *islam* (external submission) – *iman* (internalization of faith) – *ihsan* (serving God as if you see Him; that is, acting in full compliance with His will)

Inaba: turning to God in repentance; an advanced stage of repentance (*tamba*)

Irada: aspiration to God; the state of turning to God and entering on the path leading to Him; see also *murid*

Ishara: indirect allusion as opposed to clear and unequivocal statement (*‘ibara*)

‘Ishq: the mystic’s passionate longing [for God]

Istiqama: uprightness; moral rectitude

Jam‘: unification; the state of being in the presence of God

Jamal: [divine] beauty; the benign aspect of God as opposed to that of divine majesty (*jalah*)

Jihad: struggle against the drives and passions of one’s low soul; fighting against an “infidel” enemy

Jud: generosity (usually of God to human beings)

Karama: saintly miracle – that is, one that is performed by a friend of God and not a prophet, whose miracle is called *mu‘jiza*

Kashf: unveiling; the disclosure of true realities and secrets of being before the Sufi

Khadim: servant – and sometimes also disciple – of a Sufi master

Khalwa: retreat; isolation; a common Sufi practice

Khawatir, sing., *khatir*: secret thoughts – often blameworthy and distracting – that may visit or even assault the Sufi; they usually emanate from the Sufi’s own lower soul that is in league with the Devil; see also *waswas*

Khamf: fear of God’s wrath as opposed to *raja‘*

Khidhlan: abandonment by God of His servant to punish him for his transgressions

Khirqah: Sufi cloak or robe; a piece of patched garment worn by the Sufi as an outward sign of his affiliation with the ascetic and mystical movement in Islam

Khuluq: good moral qualities

Khumul: humility; resignation

Khushuʿ: humility before God; see also *tawaduʿ*

Kibr/takabbur: pride as opposed to *khushuʿ* and *tawaduʿ*

Ladhdha: pleasure [in the presence of God]

Lawaʿih: the mystical experience of the “glimmings” of divine presence; see also *lawamiʿ* and *tawaliʿ*

Lawamiʿ: the mystical experience of the “flashes” of divine presence; see also *lawaʿih* and *tawaliʿ*

Mahabba/hubb: mystical love of God and loving relationship between God and man; see also *shamq* and *ʿishq*

Mahq: the experience of being “ground down” and obliterated by divine presence

Mahm: the experience of being “erased” and “annihilated” by divine presence

Makasib: “earnings”; something that one acquires by means of sincere worship of God; see *mawahib*

Makr: divine ruse; a test set by God for the Sufi

Malakut: the realm/sphere of divine majesty

Maqam: spiritual station [on the Sufi path]

Maʿrifa [bi-llah]: [divine] gnosis; the supersensory, revelatory knowledge of God and the world granted to the accomplished Sufi master; see also *ʿarif*

Mawahib: divine gifts and graces that are granted to God’s servant “free of charge”

Muʿayana: direct contemplation [of God and divine realities] by the Sufi; see also *mushahada*

Muhaqqiq: one who has attained truth; truth-verifier; an accomplished mystic

Muhasaba: taking account of one’s actions and thoughts; self-scrutiny

Muhibb/habib: lover/beloved; usually in reference to the mystic and his divine Beloved

Mujahada: self-exertion on the path of God; Sufi practices aimed at minimizing detrimental drives and promptings of the lower soul through abstention from the delights of this world and strict self-discipline

Muʿjiza: see *karama*

Mukabada: spiritual struggle; self-exertion on the path to God; see also *mujahada*

Mukashafa: see *kashf*

Mukhalafat al-nafs: “opposing one’s soul”; resisting its self-centred drives and passions; see also *nafs*

Munazala: spiritual station; see also *maqam*

Muraqaba: awareness of God’s presence by the Sufi and the concomitant self-scrutiny of his actions and thoughts

Murid: lit. “one who aspires”; aspirant; Sufi novice/disciple

Muruʿa: manliness; a code of chivalry and nobility of spirit practiced by the Sufis

Mushahada: direct witnessing of God and/or the true realities of existence; see also *muʿayana*

Mutasawwif, pl., *mutasawwifa*: Sufi(s) and those who try to imitate them

Nadam, nadama: remorse; a Sufi virtue

Nafas: bringing one’s “breath” in compliance with the changing modes of divine existence – the utmost stage of the Sufi’s spiritual journey

Nafs: appetitive soul; self

Nawafil: supererogatory acts of piety and worship – e.g., night vigils and additional prayers practiced by Sufis

Qabd: contraction; a state of distress and agony that may assault a Sufi; the opposite of *bast*

Qadaʿ: divine decree; predestination

Qalb: heart as an instrument of cognition and an arena of the mystic’s encounter with God; it occupies the intermediate position in the triad *nafs–qalb–ruh*

Qanaʿa: contentment with God’s decree and one’s apportioned lot

Qurb: the state of proximity to God as opposed to *buʿd*

Qawm: [Sufi] folk; Sufis

Raghba: desire; aspiration

Rahba: horror before God

Rahbaniyya: monasticism

Rajaʿ: hope for God’s grace and mercy as opposed to *khamf*

Rida: contentment; satisfaction with divine decree

Riyaʿ: hypocrisy; complacency; self-conceit

Riyada: ascetic exercise; self-exertion

Rububiyya: divine lordship

Ruh: spirit; the divine “spark” cast in the human body

Ruḍya: visionary experience; vision of God [in the Hereafter]

Sabr: patience in the face of adversity; a Sufi virtue

Sadiq: sincere one

Safaʿ: purity

Safar: journey or travel undertaken by Sufis in search of masters or to fulfill the duty of *hajj*

Sahw: sobriety as opposed to “intoxication” (*sukr*) with a mystical state

Sakhaʿ: generosity (usually of human beings as opposed to *jud*)

Sakina: divine presence; Shekina

Sala(t): canonical prayer (there are five of them), as opposed to the supplicatory one; see also *duʿaʿ*

Samaʿ: listening to music; spiritual concert

Samt: silence; a Sufi virtue

Satr: concealment of/from God as opposed to His [self-]disclosure/revelation (*tajalli*)

Shahada: direct witnessing of God by the mystic; see also *mushahada*

Sháhid: lit. “witness”; a sign of divine grace or presence that appears to the Sufi; also a youth, whose beauty was viewed by some Sufis as a reflection of divine perfection; the practice of gazing at “beardless young men” to gain a glimpse of divine beauty was condemned by many Sufi masters

Shahwa: desire; passion (usually base)

Shakur: the grateful one

Shariʿa: the Divine Law

Shawq: loving passion; longing

Shaykh: lit. "elder"; a Sufi master

Shubha: lit. "that which is suspicious"; a thing the status of which is dubious from the viewpoint of the Divine Law

Shukr: gratitude or gratefulness, especially toward God

Siddiq: "one who is truthful and trustworthy" – an advanced Sufi master; also, an epithet of the first caliph Abu Bakr [al-Siddiq]

Sidq: truthfulness and sincerity before God; see also *ikhlas*

Sirr: the "heart of hearts" of the Sufi; the arena of his loving relation with God; see also *nafs* and *ruh*

Suʿ al-khuluq/suʿ al-adab: improper behavior before God and other people

Suhba: companionship among the Sufis, which usually involved the training of a younger Sufi (*murid*) or Sufis by a more advanced one known as *shaykh*

Sukr: "intoxication" with a mystical state; see *sahw*

Sunna: the [exemplary] custom of the Prophet

Taʿa: act of worship, piety and obedience to God

Tadbir: divine predestination of events; the ability to exercise one's free choice

Tafakkur/fikr/fikra: pious meditation; a spiritual practice current among the Sufis

Tafriqa: a vision or perception of the plurality of the empirical world; the opposite of *jamʿ*

Tahayyur: the state of bewilderment and perplexion

Tajalli: self-revelation/manifestation of God; see also *satr*

Talwin: "inconstancy" of one's spiritual states, when one is quickly succeeded by another; the opposite of stability or "fixity" (*tamkin*) of one's state

Tamkin: "stability" or "fixity"; the stabilization of one's spiritual state (*hal*); the opposite of *talwin*

Taqwa: fear of God and pious behavior springing from it; piety; righteousness

Tasarruf (tasrif): the ability to exercise freedom of choice and perform certain actions

Tasammuf: putting on a woolen garment; Sufism

Tasdiq: confirmation

Taslim: surrender to God's will

Tasrif: see *Tasarruf*

Tawadu': modesty and humbleness before God; see also *khushu'*

Tawajud: ecstatic behavior that was often associated with listening to music (*sama'*); see also *wajd* and *wujud*

Tawakkul: trust in God; a total reliance on God by the Sufi

Tawali': the mystical experience of the "dawnings" of divine presence; see also *lawa'ih* and *lawami'*

Tamba/amba: lit. "return to God"; repentance; see also *inaba* and *amba*

Tawfiq: divine assistance

Tawhid: the doctrine that declares God to be one and only

'Ubuda: see also *'ibada* and *'ubudiyya*

'Ubudiyya: the state of servanthood before God; worship of God

'Ujb: complacency; self-conceit; smugness

Uns: intimacy with God, as opposed to awe before Him (*hayba*)

'Uzla: solitude; isolation: a Sufi exercise

Wajd: ecstatic rapture engendered by the mystic's encounter with the Divine Reality; see also *wujud*

Wahda: unicity/oneness of God

Wali/Wali: see *awliya'*

Waqi'a: spiritual event/state

Wagt: mystical moment in time; the eternal "here-and-now" of the Sufi

Wara': scrupulousness in discerning between the licit and the forbidden under the Divine Law

Warid: occurrence; divine visitation

Wasiyya, pl., *wasaya*: spiritual advice; admonition

Waswas, pl., *wasawis*: devilish whisperings; secret thoughts that may distract the Sufi on his path to God; see also *khawatir*

Wilaya: the state of being a friend of God; see *awliya'*

Wird, pl., *amrad*: prayer; supplication

Wujud: the act of “finding” of God by the mystic, which may throw him into ecstasy or induce a trance

Yaqin: certain, unshakeable knowledge of God and trust in Him; see also *ʿayn al-yaqin* and *haqq al-yaqin*

Zahid: pl., *zuhhad*: world-renouncer; ascetic

Zahir: the outward, external aspect of a certain thing or phenomenon as opposed to its inward, secret aspect (*batin*)

Zuhd: renunciation; abstention from the delights and allure of this world; asceticism