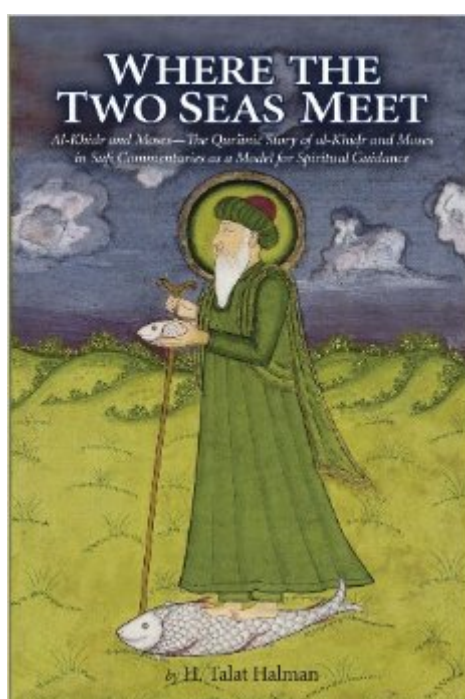


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Where The Two Seas Meet: Al-Khidr And Moses—The Qur’anic Story Of Al-Khidr And Moses In Sufi Commentaries As A Model For Spiritual Guidance



Synopsis

Examining how three medieval Sufi Qurân commentators explained the story of Moses' journey with al-Khidr, this volume conveys various teachings about the path of Sufism and the nature of spiritual authority. These commentaries, translated for the first time, discuss essential themes of Sufism as written by practicing Sufi masters. As the text reflects on both the social and psychological dimensions of the master-disciple relationship in Sufism and distinguishes between the instructing master (shaykh al-talim) and the mentoring master (shaykh al-suhba), a comparison is also made between the Sufi interpretation of death, immortality, compassion, and inner knowledge and Ernest Becker's theory of the denial of death and the aspiration for both physical and symbolic immortality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From the very heart of the Islamic mystical tradition, we are allowed access to one of the world's most treasured spiritual narratives. We think we know about Moses. . . but do we know of Khidr? . . . and of the meeting of these two and the journey they took together? The persona of Khidr (al-Khidr) is also present in the Alexander Romances . . . one of the most popular cycles of stories in the Mediterranean region. . . in the early centuries of the common area. . .and in which Alexander was not only a warrior, but a wise sage drawn to search for the water of life. Author Halman, also takes us on an exploration of the comparisons that have been made of Khidr and Elijah . . . both appearing as protectors of travelers. In Muslim folklore, Khidr often plays, Halman reminds us, the *deus ex machina* who appears out of nowhere to rescue people in crises, only to disappear as mysteriously as he appeared. This volume lets us explore Khidr in the contexts of: Quran and Hadith, Quran

Commentary, Muslim Saints and Masters, and The Alexander Romance. Shams of Tabriz (Rumi's teacher) said of Khidr, "Blessed is the one who finds such a servant and who holds the story of Moses and al-Khidr in his heart, and makes it his guide." Rumi's son, Sultan Veled was later to add: "His [Rumi's] al-Khidr was Shams of Tabriz." Here then, is a head and heart journey you will want to take.

Halman has brought out a legendary figure that runs through so many traditions, it is like finding a key to a door between the seen and unseen.

Very very good book, some details which I consider a bit unrelated to the topic Or may be not so beneficial to the reader. Some Arabic or Quotes from the Qur'an should have been included with multiple translations as translations of the Holy Book can easily be not so accurate. I have too much to write about this book but do not have time, nor do I feel it is mandatory to write or include such personal detail :-). I thank the compiler of the book for the great effort.

Would definitely recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about Khidr (as). Also, the discussion on Sufi scholars' tafsirs on Surah Kahf is awesome. 5 stars.

Love trying to understand a new view point

Book has around 300 pages, not 540 like in the description.

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