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# Sufism

The meaning of **the word Sufism**:

Its meaning is taken from the word Sophia of the ancient Greek and Indian languages, meaning wisdom and lover of wisdom

The Hindus used it to call the Brahman monks and wise men who wandered naked in the forests, searching for wisdom, with the aim of union and merger with God.

In Islam, this term appeared in the second century AH and was used to refer to those who deviate and separate themselves from people in by dwelling in forests and valleys, this group have been described as heretics, who have nothing to do with Islam.

In the 5th century AH, a jurist and theologian called Abu Hamid Al-Ghazali appeared and his name quickly spread, thus impacting in the spread of Sufism by painting it with an Islamic character.

## Reasons for the spread of Sufism :

- 1-** Its emergence was paved by the Islamic nation's exhaustion with Batini mystical revolutions and the control of the Rafidi governments, at whose hands Sunni scholars suffered badly.
- 2-** Sufism exploited the absence of scholars and overwhelming ignorance and poverty to spread among people.
- 3-** The spread of Sufism was also a response to the emergence of Rhetoric and rationalist Philosophy with its abstract research and arbitration of reason and opinion over the texts of Qur'an and Sunnah.

## Is Sufism specific to Muslims?

Sufism (mysticism) is a universal philosophy found in all religions and countries, and it is closest to the Hindu religion in its aims and means, its many orders, and its contradictory beliefs.

## Sections of Islamic Sufism:

**First: Extremist Sufism:** Extremist Sufis, whose extremism took them out of Islam completely (among them were those who did not enter Islam at all, but pretended to be in it so that they could destroy it or be spared from punishment).

This section has two main trends.

**1- Philosophical Sufism:** It is based on Greek and Indian philosophy:

- They are the closest thing to mystic sects with their most interest in delving into the divine and cosmic studies through philosophical methods. This appears through their philosophical terms such as (the universal mind – the universal soul – the cores – the image and Hyle).
- They believe in unity (the union of the Creator with the creation) and Pantheism.

**2- Monastic Sufism:** It is related to monasticism and it is called Buddhist Sufism:

- ⇒ They are very close to Buddhism in their interest in delving into hypochondria and meditations, and withdrawing from people in forests and valleys.
- ⇒ They abound in poems, stories, and remembrance of Allah by dancing and swaying.
- ⇒ They use magic and Jinns to reach alleged supernatural miracles.

## Their beliefs :

- Embodiment and union.
  - Pantheism.
  - Delegation (Meaning that God delegates the management of the world to the poles and the guardians).
- ⇒ **Most Sufi orders belong to this section, although they are mixed with some of what is in the first section (Extremist Sufism).** □
- ⇒ **Sufism is not a specific idea, but rather a broad trend of multiple contradictory methods.** □
- ⇒ **Sufis believe in contradictions at the same time.** □

**Secondly: Innovative Sufism:** The adherence of Muslims to Sufism, both past and present, is out of good faith, assuming that it is the way of the Prophet, peace and blessings of God be upon him, and the Companions in asceticism in this world and desire for the Hereafter, self-control and accountability.

## The relationship of Sufism to sects:

The sect most related to Sufism is Shi'ism. The relationship between Sufism and Shi'ism is very deep, and there are few Sufi sheikhs who do not claim affiliation with Ahl al-Bayt.

Also, Sufis, as the Shiites claim knowledge of the inner and disposition of the universe. They worship their imams also, just as it is with the Shiites.

**The truth that researchers from the East and West, ancient and modern, have declared is that: Extremist Shiism, Sufism, and Mysticism are three aspects and three manifestations of one thing that has one common goal: Demolition of Islam from within.**

## The Sufist order and its pillars :

The order symbolizes the path that the worshiper follows to reach his God.

## Sufis have three descriptions of his path:

- 1- **Disciple**: He is the novice who still receives from the Sheikh .
- 2- **The Passer** : He is the one who is secluded from people in valleys and forests, wandering in them until he reaches his goal.
- 3- **Reacher**: He who reaches the aim ( The goal is annihilation in the deity worshiped or union with him).

**Extremist Sufis believe** that whoever reaches this stage is waived from commands, prohibitions and duties, because they claim that the purpose of prayer, almsgiving, fasting and other acts of worship is to reach Allah, so whoever of them has reached his goal has no need for these acts of worship.

### Order Pillars:

- 1- **Sheikh** :The Sufis claim that a person cannot reach it alone, so he must have a sheikh. According to Sufis, the sheikh is not just a teacher and a means of education, but rather a medium of faith and acceptance.
- 2- **Seclusion** : The true mystic must a seclusion, whether it is in an area, a desert, a forest, or a valley, and the least of it is to wrap his head and face in a thick garment in which he hides from people, separating his heart from everything, repeating the Dhikr. (With this solitude, he stops performing Friday and congregational prayers, and adheres to a specific fast and certain rituals until it is revealed and opened to him).
- 3- **Opening and revelation**: With continuous solitude and the specific dhikr, opening and revelation come, a satanic revelation that comes to the Sufi in his seclusion in the form of a sound or an image that he sees in front of him or a miraculous thing happening through him.
- 4- **Miracle**: A Sufi must have a miracle, just as the Prophet must have a miracle. Sufis claim the miracles of their Walis, some of which are lies and fabrications, effects of magic and the use of devils, or hidden tricks.

These paranormal miracles happened to the magicians of Pharaoh, Hindus do the same and greater than them.

Therefore it is necessary to know the true measure of being a Wali, which is adherence to the Book and the Sunnah and diligence in piety in order to differentiate between the true Wali and a magician or a sorcerer.

The most important beliefs of Sufism:

- 1- Embodiment, union, and annihilation like Hindus Buddhists.
- 2-The truth or knowledge is not taken from the Qur'an and the Sunnah, but rather it is obtained by opening or inner knowledge, inspiration, dreams and taste.
- 3- For them, revelation has a more general concept, and for this reason it is not specific to the prophets and messengers, but rather it is general for all Walis (saints).
- 4- Waiving of worship and religious obligations of the Reacher who has reached presumed certainty.
- 5-Pretending to have reached the whole love of Allah and that the Walis are preferred over Messengers.
- 6-Claiming miracles and challenging by them.
- 7-Their belief in the men of the unseen called the poles and stakes.
- 8-Their belief in the poles take part in the running of universe and the management of the world.
- 9-Worshiping based on innovation and deviation :
- 10- Exaggeration about the Messenger, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, just as the Shiites go to extremes about Ali, and Buddhists about Buddha.

From this hyperbole :

- They believe that he is the first of creation.
- Allah created him from light.
- He knows the unseen.
- He holds the reins of the heavens and the earth.

- Innovating certain prayers in which they are exaggerate in their prayer for Him.
- Seeking help and supplication for him besides God.
- All these attributes that they went to extremes over him, they put in the poles and other men of the unseen.

### The impact of Sufism on the Islamic Ummah :

**1- Corruption of the monotheism of worship** with polytheism and the worship of the dead which the Sufis and Shiites introduced to Islam from Buddhism.

**2- Corruption of the monotheism of creation and the the Names and Attributes** with the beliefs of embodiment, union and the representation of God by His creation. You can see that in their love for beautiful figures claiming that Allah was embodied in them, or when they say I am the truth, may I be exalted.

**3- The disintegration of the Islamic nation** by the multiplicity of the Sufi orders. Sufism is not one order, but rather several, including the Qadiriyyah, Shadhili, Rifa'i, Tijaniyyah, Naqshbandi, Mirghani and Ahmadiyya orders, and each of them has prayers, remembrances and ways of worship that differ from the other.

**4- Their contempt for science and distraction of people from it** by saying it is the knowledge of the seen, the science of paper and drawing. They do it also by their invented supplications and remembrances, the call to solitude, seclusion from people and wandering in valleys and forests.

**5- Sufism's interest in revelation, inspiration, dreams, and others,** led to weak thinking and ijtehad, and to a complete disruption of logic.

**6- The deterioration of Islamic civilization by their eagerness to abandon work and by engaging in false ways to reach goodness of prevent harm** like taking illusory means of making veils and incantations in which they believe to bring benefit and ward off harm.