

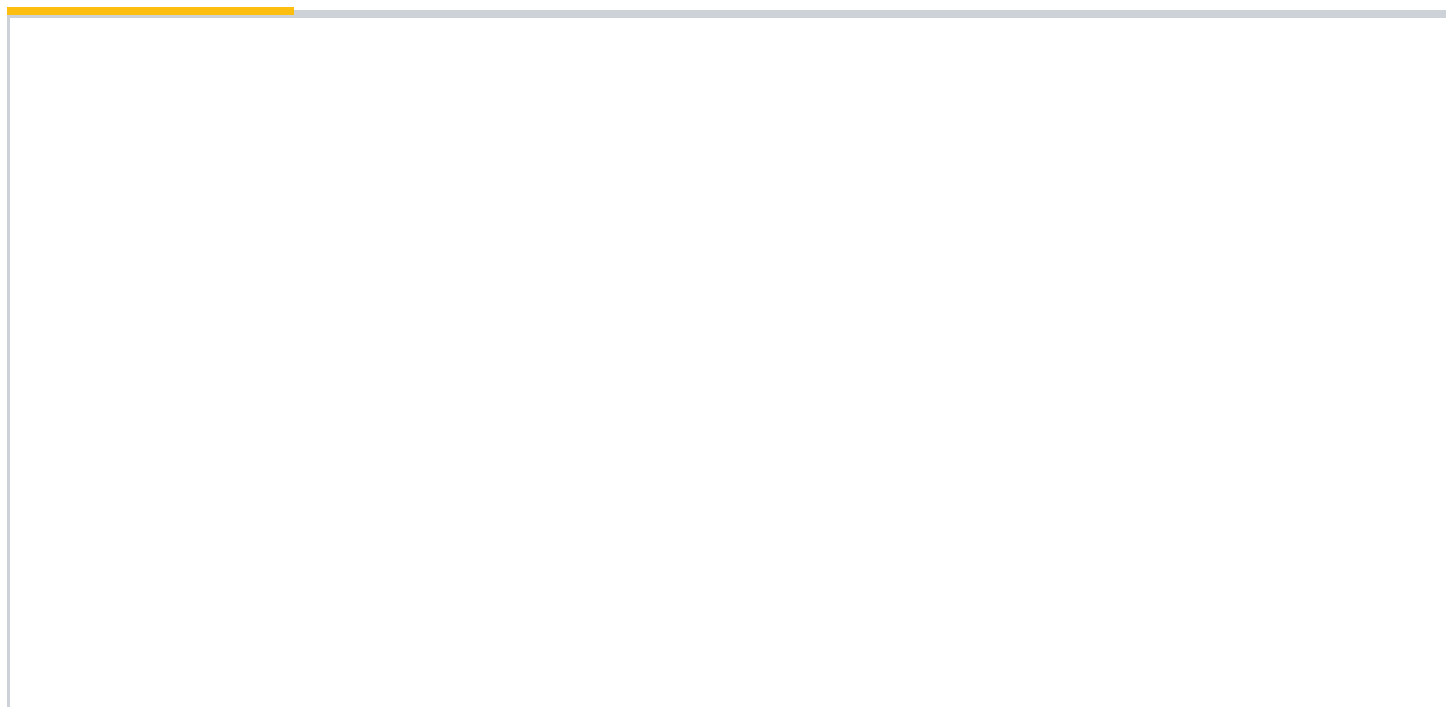


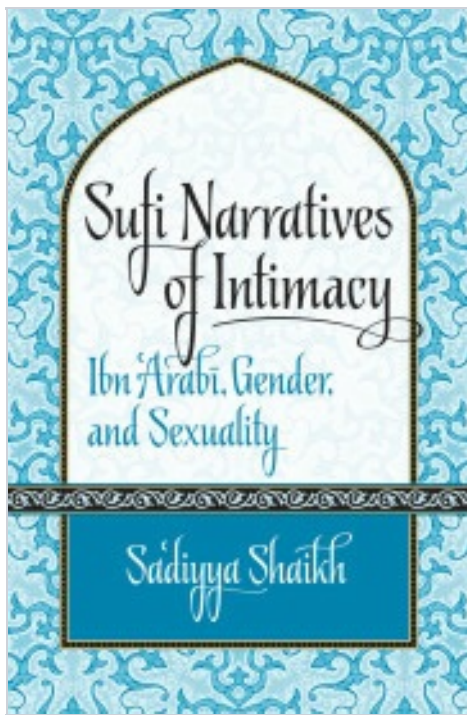
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Sufi Narratives of Intimacy: Ibn 'Arabī, Gender, and Sexuality

In this Book





Sufi Narratives of Intimacy: Ibn 'Arabi, Gender, and Sexuality

Sa'diyya Shaikh

2012

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SUMMARY

Current gender debates in Muslim societies, including questions of women's rights in marriage and divorce, the politics of hijab, and women's leadership of ritual prayer, are underpinned by specific, paradigmatic assumptions regarding human nature, gender, and the mandates of Islam. In this feminist analysis, Sa'diyya Shaikh undercuts these paradigms by arguing that Sufi discourses offer contemporary Muslims rich, multi-textured, and largely untapped resources with which to engage ongoing challenges of gender equality. As Shaikh demonstrates, in particular through the illustrative example of the writings of thirteenth-century Muslim poet, mystic, and legal scholar, Muhy? al-D?n Ibn al-'Arab?, Sufi thought ultimately asserts that men and women are equally capable of attaining divinely ordained spiritual completeness. Indeed, in Ibn al-'Arab?'s writings, though in many ways reflective of the normative



Table of Contents

Cover

p. 1

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

Title Page, Copyright Page

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

Contents

p. vii

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

Acknowledgments

pp. ix-xi

 [Download](#) | [Save](#)

Introduction: Tales of Contention: Muslim Gender Imaginaries

pp. 1-33

 Download | Save

Chapter 1. Craving Completion: Sufism, Subjectivity, and Gender before Ibn ʿArabī

pp. 35-60

 Download | Save

Chapter 2. Charting Ibn ʿArabī's Religious Anthropology

pp. 61-94

 Download | Save

Chapter 3. Mysticism and Gender: A Hermeneutic of Experience

pp. 95-112

 Download | Save

Chapter 4. Reading Gender and Metaphor in Ibn ʿArabī's Cosmos

pp. 113-139

 Download | Save

Chapter 5. The Poetics and Politics of Adam and Eve

pp. 141-172

 Download | Save

Chapter 6. Witnessing God in Women: A Different Story of Creation

pp. 173-202

 Download | Save

Chapter 7. Ibn ʿArabī and Islamic Feminism

pp. 203-228

 Download | Save

Appendix: Selected Poems from the Dīwān Ibn ʿArabī

pp. 229-231

 Download | Save

Notes

pp. 233-254

 Download | Save

Bibliography

pp. 255-265

 Download | Save

Index of Qurʾānic Verses

p. 267

 Download | Save

Index of Traditions (Aadath)

pp. 269-270

 Download | Save

General Index

pp. 271-285

 Download | Save

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In translation, isotope, as follows from the above, naturally means suggestive counterpoint of contrasting textures.

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