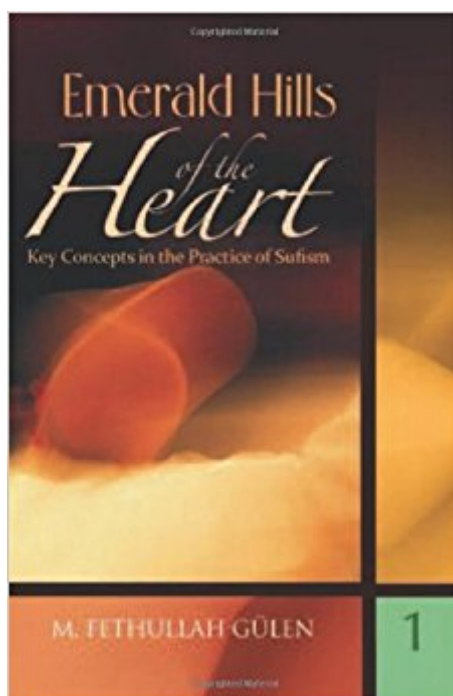


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Emerald Hills Of The Heart: Key Concepts In The Practice Of Sufism 1 (Vol.1)



Synopsis

This comprehensive study explores sufism as a form of self-purification, offering a deeper understanding of the sacred acts and a greater knowledge and love of the divine. The first volume of the series presents such sufi concepts as repentance, reflection, self-criticism, asceticism, piety, abstinence, self-supervision, and sincerity.

Book Information

Series: EMERALD HILLS OF THE HEART (Book 1)

Paperback: 186 pages

Publisher: The Light, Inc. (February 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1932099239

ISBN-13: 978-1932099232

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #826,735 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #166 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Rituals & Practice](#) #281 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Sufism](#)

Customer Reviews

Known by his simple and austere lifestyle, Fethullah GÃfÂ len, affectionately called Hodjaefendi, is a scholar of extraordinary proportions. This man for all seasons was born in Erzurum, eastern Turkey, in 1941. Upon graduation from a private divinity school in Erzurum, he obtained his license and began to preach and teach about the importance of understanding and tolerance. His social reform efforts have made him one of Turkey's most well-known and respected public figures during the 1960s. Though simple in outward appearance, he is original in thought and action. He embraces all humanity, and is deeply averse to unbelief, injustice, and deviation. His belief and feelings are profound, and his ideas and approach to problems are both wise and rational. A living model of love, ardor, and feeling, he is extraordinarily balanced in his thoughts, acts, and treatment of matters. Turkish intellectuals and scholars acknowledge, either tacitly or explicitly, that he is one of the most serious and important thinkers and writers, and among the wisest activists of twentieth-century Turkey or even of the Muslim world. But such accolades of his leadership of a new Islamic intellectual, social, and spiritual revival—a revival with the potential to embrace great areas of

the world—do not deter him from striving to be no more than a humble servant of God and a friend to all. Desire for fame is the same as show and ostentation, a "poisonous honey" that extinguishes the heart's spiritual liveliness, is one of the golden rules he follows. GÃfÂ len has spent his adult life voicing the cries and laments, as well as the beliefs and aspirations, of Muslims in particular and of humanity in general. He bears his own sorrows, but those of others crush him. He feels each blow delivered at humanity to be delivered first at his own heart. He feels himself so deeply and inwardly connected to creation that once he said: "Whenever I see a leaf fall from its branch in autumn, I feel as much pain as if my arm had been amputated."

Have read almost all of it, but Bought it for a brother of mine, a great book indeed..

Sufism has become an overloaded term recently. The roots of Sufism go back to canonical sources of Islam: The Qur'an and prophetic tradition. However, through centuries many deviant paths have developed that call themselves sufi while failing to observe basic principles of Islam. This book does an excellent job of tracing the essential concepts and practices of Sufism to their original sources, defining them in a systematic fashion and putting every one in the context of a comprehensive system of soul training and spiritual improvement. The author's deep knowledge of the topic and his sincere belief in its significance shines through the pages. This is the ultimate reference for any serious student of the Sufi path.

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