

Sufism and Bhakti movement

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Sufism or ‘Tasawwuf’ is Islamic mysticism. Sufi mysticism derived to produce a personal experience of the divine through mystic and ascetic discipline. Sufism mystical Islamic belief and practice in which Muslims seek to find the truth of divine love and knowledge through direct personal experience of God. Sufis have elaborated the image of the prophet Muhammad (R.A) the founder of Islam and have thus largely influenced Muslim piety by their Muhammad-mysticism. The entire universe in all its activity has been created through the concentration of God. Perfection is reached by the regular practice of concentration passing through three grades of development – Fana-fi-Shaikh, annihilation in the astral plane, Fana-fi-Rasul, annihilation in the spiritual plane, and Fana-fi-Allah, annihilation in the abstract. After passing through these three grades, the highest state is attained of Baqi-bi-Allah, annihilation in the eternal consciousness, which is the destination of all who travel by this path.