

PRINCIPLES OF THE ISLAMIC THEORETICAL MYSTICISM

Saeed Rahimi

Translated by:

Hazel Asadi Amjad

Mahdi Dasht Bozorgi



**Al-mustafa International
Translation and Publication Center**

- حسان، سعد، ١٣٢٤ -

Rahimian, Saeed

مبانی عرفان نظری، انگلیسی

سوان قرارداددی:

Principles of the Islamic theoretical mysticism/ by Saeed Rahimian; translated by

Fazel Asadi Amjad, Mahdi Das, Bozorgi

Qum: Al-Mustafa International Translation and Publication Center, 2017= 1306

مشخصات ظاهری: ۳۱۳، جدول ۱: ۲۱/۵ × ۱۴/۵، س.م.

شماره: ۹۷۸-۶۰۴۲۹-۱۲۲۲

وضعیت فوری است و به سرعت

مادداشت: انجمن

مادداشت: کتابخانه:

موضوع: عرفان

Mysticism موضوع:

دشت بزرگی، مهدی

شناسه افزوده: Dasht Bozorgi, Mehdi

شناسه افزوده: اسدی امجد، فاضل، مترجم

شناسه افزوده: Asadi Amjad, Fazel

دشت بزرگ، مهدی، مترجم

شناسه افزوده: Dasht Bozorgi, Mehdi

شأنه افزوده: **جامعة المصطفى ﷺ**

Almustafa International University, Almustafa International Translation and Publi-شناسه افزوده:

cation center

BP282/3م 204952 1395 رده بندی کنگره:

۲۹۷/۸۳

شماره کتابشناسی : ۴۵۰۷۲۶۳

CONCLUSIONS

PRINCIPLES OF THE ISLAMIC THEORETICAL MYSTICISM

Author: Saeed Rahimian

Translated by: Fazel Asadi Amjad , Mahdi Dasht Bozorgi

Year of publication: 1395 Sh / 2017

Publisher: Qum: Al-Mustafa International Publication and
Translation Center

Printing: Narenjestan - Tehran

Print-run: 300

ISBN: 978-600-429-122-4

میانی عرفانی نظری

ناشر: مرکز بین المللی ترجمه و نشر المصطفی ﷺ
تیراژ: ۳۰۰
قیمت: ۱۶۰۰۰۰ ریال

مؤلف: سید رحیمیان
مترجمان: فاضل اسدی امجد، مهدی دشت بزرگی
چاپ اول: ۱۳۹۵ ش / ۲۰۱۷ م
چاپ: نارنجستان


© Al-Mustafa International Publication and Translation Center


● IRAN, Qom; Muallim avenue western , (Hujjatia)


Tel: +98 378 36 134

Tel-Fax: +98 25- 783 105

● IRAN, Qom; Boulevard Muhammad Amini, Track Salariyah. Tel: +98 25-32133106

 <http://buy-pub.miu.ac.ir/>

 <http://pub.miu.ac.ir>

 https://telegram.me/pub_almostafa

 miup@pub.miu.ac.ir

We wish to acknowledge the assistance of all for finalization of this book

Publisher's Forword

To begin and execute a research is like walking in the path of development and evolvement. When the seeds of the "questions" are planted, in the soil of the mind of the researcher, this phase initiates, and its end is culminated when the result and the outcome of knowledge and wisdom is gained.

Evidently, this end is a new chapter in itself, for growth, and announces beforehand this good news to humans. For the result of all those mental efforts will not only bring the blooming and flowering of talent and all kinds of Blessings to humans, but it also makes the mind of the researcher to ponder and shape new, more questions.

This will produce a great collection of growing plants and flowers for the seeking mind... Those "questions" are in fact, the seeds, which according to the necessities of Time and the strength of the researcher will grow and bloom by themselves. They will make Culture and Civilization to move forward.

In like manner, the increasing rate of transferring oneself from one place to another place and the decrease of the distances will make those seeds travel miles and miles, to faraway places, in order to install them inside the curious mind of other seekers. This will bring an amazing diversity and a novelty for another civilization...

It is true then, that the presence of knowledge and a good, capable management will help this project to develop itself and one has to admit indeed, that it has always played an important role...

Al-Mustafa International Publication and Translation Center, because of its global mission and its special position among the Religious Schools and the colorful human diversity that it has developed inside itself, sees it as a moral duty to procure all the appropriate conditions for any research works, and takes its role in this matter, most seriously. To procure all kinds of necessary grounds, with an excellent management of all the existing possibilities and talents, and to care and protect all its researchers in religious fields; these are the most crucial responsibilities of the Department of Research in this International center.

We dearly hope that by being attentive to all these autonomous scientific movements, and by fortifying all the existing motives, we shall be able to witness the blooming of the Religious Culture in every part of this wide world!

**Al-Mustafa International
Publication and Translation Center**

Content

<i>Transliteration</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	1
Introduction.....	3
The Common Principles of Mystical Orders.....	4
Practical and Theoretical Mysticism.....	6
The Root and Origin of Theoretical Mysticism in Islam.....	13
The Relationship between Religion and Mysticism.....	17
Chapter One: Epistemology of Theoretical Mysticism	21
Epistemological Principles of Mysticism.....	21
The Intellect, the Heart and Revelation.....	22
The Explanation of Ibn 'Arabi.....	29
The Knowledge of the Mystical Experience.....	32
Revelation and the Mystical Experience.....	40
The Cognitive Aspect of the Mystical Experience.....	42
The Nature of the Mystical Experience.....	43
A Few Points.....	50
Two Objections to Mystical Experiences.....	51
The Kinds of Mystical Experience.....	52
1. The Object of the Experience.....	54
2. According to Awareness and its Intensity and Weakness.....	58
3. According to the Effects and States attending the Experience.....	61
4. According to the Origin of the Experience.....	62
Validity and Authority of the Mystical Experience.....	64
The Ground of the Validity and Authority of the Mystical Experience.....	64
The Criterion of Truth in Mystical Experience.....	67

CONTENT

Objections to the Argument	69
The Causes and Impediment of the Mystical Experience	71
The Language of Mysticism	73
The Reasons the Mystics Keep Secrets.....	73
The Ineffability of the Mystical Experience.....	78
The Reasons the Mystics Speak.....	88
The Linguistic Forms of the Mystics.....	92
Interpretation	104
The Importance of Interpretation for the Mystics.....	109
Questions.....	113
Chapter Two: Ontology in the Mystical Viewpoint.....	115
Primacy of Existence	115
The Two Meanings of Existence in Mysticism.....	116
The Considerations of Existence and Absolute Existence	117
The Properties and Precepts of Existence in the School of Ibn 'Arabī.....	119
Oneness of Existence	120
The Meaning of Oneness of Existence.....	121
The Personal Unity of Existence	123
Symbols of Oneness of Existence	125
Establishing the Theory of Oneness of Existence	129
Manifestation	133
The Meaning of Manifestation.....	135
Demonstrating Manifestation.....	136
Two Objections to the Oneness of Existence and Manifestation..	139
Questions.....	142
Chapter Three: Theology in Theoretical Mysticism	145
The Principles of Mystical Theology.....	148
1. The Impossibility of Knowing the Essence in Depth.....	148
2. The Levels of the Scholars in Their Knowledge of God.....	149
3. The Ways of Theology.....	149
a. Horizontal, Spiritual and the Way of the Truthful.....	149
b. Observing the Soul and the Real	151
c. The Two Spiritual Ways of Knowing Allah.....	152
4. The Characteristics of the Way and Destination in the Way of Self-Knowledge	152

5. The Relation of the Soul and God.....	154
6. Different Explanations of the Relationship between Self-Knowledge and Theology.....	154
The God of the Mystics: A Person or an Object?.....	159
Transcendence and Immanence.....	161
The Characteristics of Mystical Theology	165
Divine Names.....	171
Divine Names and Ontology.....	172
The Identity and the Large Number of the Names and Attributes with the Essence	174
The Unity of the Name and the Named or Their Difference.....	175
The Divine Names and the World.....	177
The Relations among the Names	178
Particular Names.....	180
The Division of the Divine Names in Mysticism.....	181
The Divine Names in Respect of Meaning.....	186
The Fixed Names	188
The Relation of Man and the Divine Names.....	188
The Greatest Divine Names.....	190
1. Allah and the Lord	190
2. The Merciful.....	191
3. The Knowing: Divine Knowledge and the Permanent Entities.....	195
The Middle Nature of the Entities.....	198
The Particular Mode.....	203
The First Manifestation (Emanation): the Extended Existence....	205
Questions.....	208
Chapter Four: Cosmology in Practical Criticism.....	209
The Identity of the World.....	209
a. Imagination and Dream.....	211
b. Mirror	213
c. Shadow	213
d. Light.....	214
The Genesis of the World (Creation).....	215
a. Divine Love and Intention.....	216
b. Mutual Dependence.....	217

CONTENT

1. The Triad.....	219
2. Renewal of Creation or Constant Creation.....	221
The Features of the World in the Mystical Cosmology.....	226
The Order of the World and the Levels of Manifestation	230
The Planes and Levels	230
Resurrection and the Return of the World.....	235
The Divisions of the Day of Judgment	239
Questions.....	240
Chapter Five: Man in Theoretical Mysticism	243
The Constitutional (Existential) Domain of Man	243
The Features of Man	248
The Personal (Evidential) Level of Man	256
The Existential Domains of Man	256
a. The Four Domains.....	256
b. The Seven Subtle Substances	258
Sainthood.....	259
The Kinds of Sainthood.....	261
Sainthood, Prophethood, and Messengership.....	262
The Absolute and Limited Sainthood.....	266
The Seal of Sainthood.....	267
Questions.....	270
Appendixes	271
Appendix One: Authority of the Mystical Beliefs	273
I. William Payne Alston (1921-2009)	273
II. Charlie Dunbar Broad (1887 -1971)	276
Appendix Two	281
The Considerations of Existence and the Essence of the Real	281
Existence and Light.....	285
Bibliography.....	287
Index	295

Preface

Considering necessity of preparing appropriate Islamic texts in English for the modern world and aiming at satisfying that need, Al-Mustafa International Research Institute (M.I.R.I.) was established in 2009. This centre has accomplished that duty in the best way by producing, translating, and reprinting text of such appropriate texts. The present book entitled *Principles of the Islamic Theoretical Mysticism*, which is published in Urdu by The Organization for Researching and Composing University Textbooks in the Humanities (SAMT), is among works translated by the Institute.

This book is a textbook for Islamic Mysticism at postgraduate level; nevertheless others who are interested in the subject may gain useful information from the book. We hope that this book should form a link showing the way for those who seek advancement.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to "Islam and West Research Centre Ltd" for publishing this book and hope that the latter should form a link showing the way for those who seek advancement.

Al-Mustafa International Research Institute (M.I.R.I.)