

## The Divine Names in Sufi Theory

The names of God lie at the heart of Islamic theory and practice. The basic understanding of Muslim scholars was that God alerts human beings to the nature of reality by revealing His names, and human beings bring themselves into alignment with God by remembering His names. Books on the divine names are an important genre in Islamic thought, though theologians tended to keep their discussions abstract and detached from practical concerns. Sufi teachers combined theory with the rationale for putting the theory into practice. We will look at two specific texts: *Rawh al-arwâh* by Ahmad Sam`ânî (d. 1140) and *Inshâ' al-dawâ'ir* by Ibn `Arabî.

### Reading:

Selections from Chittick, *The Repose of the Spirits: A Sufi Commentary on the Divine Names* (SUNY Press, forthcoming).

Selections from Ibn `Arabî, *Configuring the Circles*, tr. Chittick.

### Tentative Schedule

Assigned readings are selections from *The Repose of the Spirits: A Sufi Commentary on the Divine Names* (SUNY Press, forthcoming).

July 21, Introduction, Keys to the Unseen with Table of Divine Names, and Huwa, Allah, Alladhi La ilahe illa hu p. 1-12, 56-77, and p. 78-85

July 23, al-Quddus, al-Mutakabbir, al-Bari p. 92-96, 136-142, 150-156

July 25, al-Musawwir, al-Ghaffar, al-Qabid, and al-Basit p. 157-164, 165-170, 223-240,

July 27, al-Hakim, al-Wadud, al-Badi p. 502-512, 513-520, 720-728.