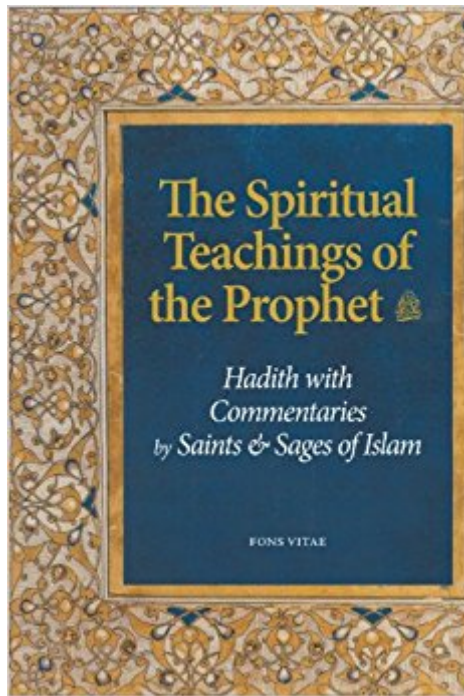


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The Spiritual Teachings Of The Prophet: Hadith With Commentaries By Saints And Sages Of Islam



Synopsis

The traditions of the Prophet of Islam are, after the Qu'ran, the most important source for every aspect of Islamic life and thought. Ranging in topic from prayer to economic activity, hygiene to politics, ethics to aesthetics, and law to metaphysics, this work is the first in a European language to collect more than 200 of the purely spiritual traditions drawn from canonical collections of the Hadith as well as from other traditional resources. It contains illuminating commentaries drawn from the writings of eminent Sufis, such as Hasan al-Basri, Ibn Arabi, al-Ghazali, al-Janayd, Shaykh al-Iskandari and his spiritual progeny. This unique book also reveals an important dimension of the Prophet's being, one that is often neglected in modern studies not only by non-Muslim Westerners, but also by many Muslim biographers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The very title of the book under review may present something of a contradiction, as, at first glance, the Prophet of Islam may seem ill-fitted to the role of spiritual guide. Yet a figure such as Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī could affirm that, "I am dust on the path of Muḥammad, the Chosen One," a sentiment that has been variously reasserted by countless spiritual figures. For Islamic spirituality, the reality, role and teachings of Muḥammad are inescapably central. The image of Muḥammad as a man of action – as statesman, lawgiver or general – has been presented often enough, but prior to this and more profoundly he was a spiritual contemplative – a man of prayer, nightly vigils and fasting who utterly changed the spiritual and moral tenor of the decadent society into which he was born. Of those works in English that address this vital Prophetic reality – including those by

Camille Helminski, "The Book of Character", Charles Upton, "The Virtues of the Prophet", Javad Nurbakhsh, "Traditions of the Prophet, Vols.1&2", Hamza Yusuf (tr.), "The Content of Character", Tosun Bayrak (tr.), "The Path of Muhammad" and Leon Zolondek (tr.), Book XX of Al-Ghazali's "Ihya' 'Ulum al-Din" – the present book may be judged perhaps the most significant, collecting more than two hundred authoritative Prophetic sayings (ahadith), categorized into spiritual topics ranging from such immediacies as virtue, prayer and the heart to such ultimacies as the prophets, the Divine attributes and the end of time.

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