



# ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY - Basic Principles -



Compiled By

SHAYKH MUHAMMAD AL-YAQOUBI

One of The **500 Most Influential Muslims 2017**



### 1. Definition

Purification of the heart; true devotion to Allah in the ways He likes by the means He likes; acting upon knowledge; acquiring the good characters and getting rid of the bad.

### 2. Subject

Allah, as how He can be known; or hearts & souls, as how to purify them.

### 3. Fruit

The purification of the heart and knowing the Master of the Worlds and attaining the Station of *Ihsān*.

### 4. Merit

*Tasawwuf* is of high merit. Its nobility stems from its subject. *Ihsān* is one of the three levels of this deen and the highest.

### 5. In Relation To Other Disciplines

Its base is within the *Shariah*. Without it, the acts of worship become imperfect. It is the core of *Qur'ān* and *Sunnah* and the tissue of Muslims spiritual life.

### 6. Name

The word '*tasawwuf*' is derived from *suf* - wool. *Tasawwuf* has been known by this name since the second century of *hijra*, i.e. the time of the *salaf*. It has been frequently called '*Ilm as-Sulūk* (initiatic traveling & spiritual behaviour), '*Ilm al-Ihsān*, '*Ilm at-Tarbiyah* (cultivation) or '*Ilm at-Tazkiyah* (purification).

### 7. The Pioneer

The pioneer of this branch of knowledge is of course

the Prophet *p*. Many *hadiths* highlight the spiritual dimension of a Muslim's life. The earliest scholar who elaborated on it is al-Hasan al-Basri.

#### 8. Sources

*Tasawwuf* is derived from *Qur'ān* and *Sunnah*. The sayings of the great scholars represent a rich treasure for the seekers and the masters.

#### 9. Ruling

Acquiring *tasawwuf* is *fard* i.e. obligatory; since all human beings are susceptible to sins save for Prophets. Imam Abul Hasan ash-Shadili said, 'He who does not truly acquire this discipline will die persisting on major sins without being aware of it'.

#### 10. What It Tackles

*Tasawwuf* tackles some of the cardinal elements of the deen such as sincerity; truthfulness; religious cautioness (*wara*); conscious awareness (*khushū*) reliance; asceticism; love; and similarly their opposites, which are the diseases of the hearts such as insincerity; hypocrisy; arrogance; greed etc. It also tackles subtle subjects such as the passing of thoughts; the states of the heart; inspirations. One of its most important subjects is *dhikr*, the remembrance (i.e. in the invocation & recitation of the name) of Allah and its virtues; another is the shaykh and his qualifications, the disciple, *murīd*, and his *adab*.

# Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi

Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi (Syria) is one of the leading scholars in the world today and is credited with being one of the most influential Muslims in the world today. He is the 34th Grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon HIM).

Shaykh Muhammad descends from a noble scholarly family who have taught the sacred knowledge for many generations. He grew up in a strong and scholarly tradition in Damascus whilst receiving many certificates of authorisation - ijaza - in many Islamic Sciences. The Shaykh has some of the highest chains of transmission in those disciplines including the Prophetic Tradition - hadith.

Recently, Shaykh Muhammad has been involved in trying to make positive change in the government of Syria and has been very vocal in condemning oppression of the people. He has featured on a number of popular news broadcasters such as the BBC and CNN. He has written a bestselling book titled 'Refuting ISIS' which is now in its second edition.

To find out more please visit:  
[www.sacredknowledge.co.uk](http://www.sacredknowledge.co.uk)



Niche of Lights is seeking to promote traditional and practical *Tasawwuf* (*Sufism*) and its relevance in modern times.

Copyright © Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi 2018  
[www.nicheoflights.co.uk](http://www.nicheoflights.co.uk)