



SUFIS

- Who Are They? -



Tasawwuf or *Sufism* is alive and flourishing in this modern age. It has been thriving continuously for many hundreds of years with many followers and adherents in this most beautiful way. History has shown that the majority of Muslim societies have trodden this noble path since the early times, and it has been followed without the breaking of the chain throughout the ages expanding and growing into nearly all societies and all corners of the world. They and it have been woven into the fabric of society and not just the Islamic society.

Those who follow this path have most importantly been the torch bearers for their communities in guiding people to Allah ﷻ and to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. This yearning and desire for Allah ﷻ has been transmitted in all times since the advent of Islam. It is they who upheld the spirit of Islam in every age by holding on to the Book of Allah ﷻ and on to the Prophetic Character. They have kept the spirit and the essence of early Islam fresh despite the passage of time from the best of times. They have not separated themselves from Islam but are the revivers and maintainers of the religion. The consequence of this has transformed communities and societies both for Muslims and Non-Muslims.

The followers of this path are set apart from other people due to their glowing faces, postures of humility and impeccable etiquette (*adab*). They are not interested in the lower desires and strive to rid themselves of bad characteristics. They are people who are concerned about conducting good action with no ulterior motive other than to serve Allah ﷻ. They are generally hidden from public view, going

about their business and works. They could be road sweepers, bus drivers, managers, businessmen, traders, and shopkeepers. They do not seek attention from anyone except Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ. They want to clean and purify their hearts for the sake of Allah ﷻ.

Often hearts are filled with joy and happiness when these people are seen and when others are in their presence. An atmosphere of peace and tranquillity surrounds them. A sense of awe and inspiration pierces unworthy hearts. People are drawn to them, and those people desire to stay within that comfort zone, be their companions and assist them in their duties.

When stories of these people are heard, about their works and good deeds, of how they showed exemplary love and devotion to Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ, of meeting of good and bad people, and encounters with the Jinn, of holding steadfast to Islam in the face of adversity, these stories fill us with warmth and delight, makes us feel secure knowing that these people are the preservers of Islam. They remind and cause people to turn to Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ.

Those who walk this path are called *Sufis*.

'I accompanied the Sufis and received from them but three words: their statement that time is a sword: if you do not cut it, it cuts you; their statement that if you do not keep your ego busy with truth, it will keep you busy with falsehood; their statement that deprivation is immunity.'

Imam Shafi`i (d. 204 AH)

'Three things in this world have been made lovely to me: avoiding affectation, treating people kindly, and following the way of tasawwuf.'

Imam Shafi`i (d. 204 AH)

'This school of ours is bound by the principles of the Book and the Sunnah.'

Imam al-Junayd al-Baghdadi (d. 297 AH)



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

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