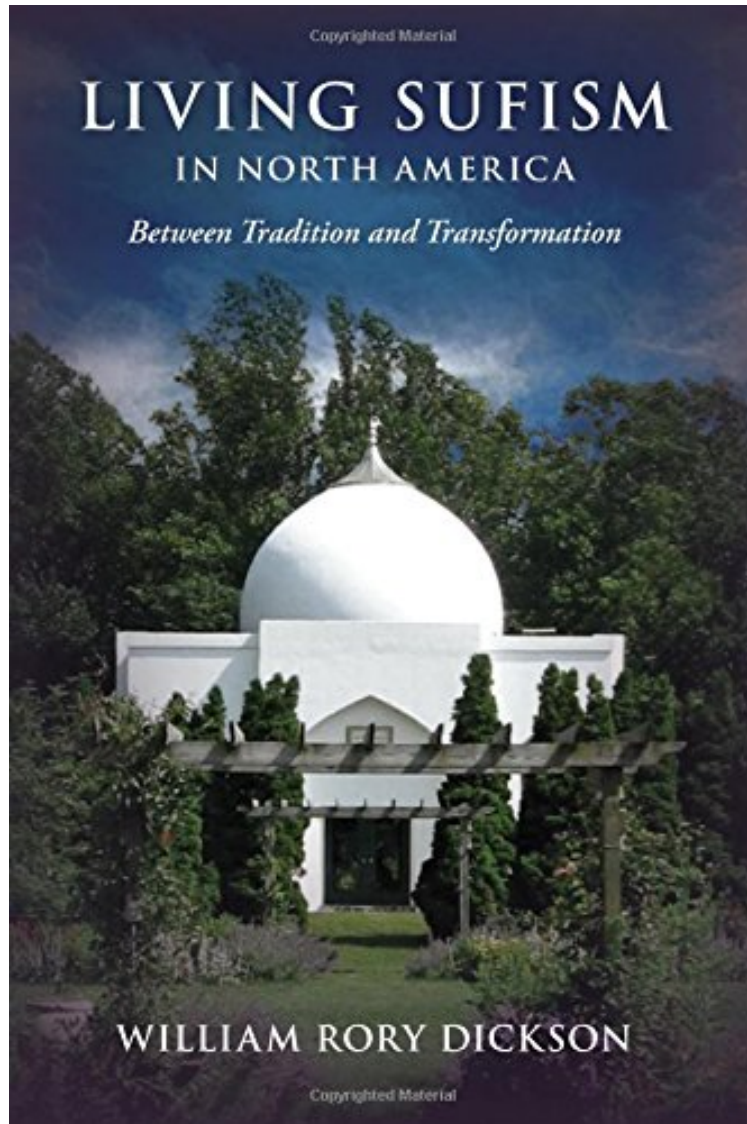


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Living Sufism in North America: Between Tradition and Transformation

William Rory Dickson

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William Rory Dickson : Living Sufism in North America: Between Tradition and Transformation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Sufism in North America: Between Tradition and Transformation:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thorough, accessible, and challenging!By tofu tortoiseExcellent book. For its purposes, it's more or less comprehensive and uses extensive footnotes to guide the curious reader

further. The prose is accessible and the ethnographic component complements the book well. Great job probing the relationship between Sufism and Islam. Imagining Sufism detached from Islam certainly proves odd and disingenuous to a certain mindset but no matter what conclusion readers draw in this regard, Dickson won't let them get away with a simplistic understanding of how Western Sufi movements approach the matter.

Offers an overview of Sufism in North America. In this book, William Rory Dickson explores Sufism as a developing tradition in North America, one that exists in diverse and beguiling forms. Sufism's broad-minded traditions of philosophy, poetry, and spiritual practice infused Islamic civilization for centuries and drew the attention of interested Westerners. By the early twentieth century, Sufism was being practiced in North America. Today's North American Sufism can appear either explicitly Islamic or seemingly devoid of Islamic religiosity. Dickson provides indispensable background on Sufism's relation to Islamic orthodoxy and to Western esoteric traditions, and its historical development in North America. The book goes on to chart the directions that North American Sufism is currently taking, directions largely chosen by Sufi leaders. The views of ten North American Sufi leaders are explored in depth and their perspectives on Islam, authority, gender, and tradition are put in conversation with one another. A more detailed picture of North American Sufism emerges, challenging previous scholarly classifications of Sufi groups, and highlighting Sufism's fluidity, diversity, and dynamism. Thoroughly informed and informative. Midwest Book Review Living Sufism in North America is the first book of its kind to bridge the gap between Sufi studies and the study of North American contemporary religious movements. As such, it is a comprehensive, pioneering work of potential interest to a wide array of scholars in the field of contemporary religion. Patrick Laude, author of Pathways to an Inner Islam: Massignon, Corbin, Guenon, and Schuon

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