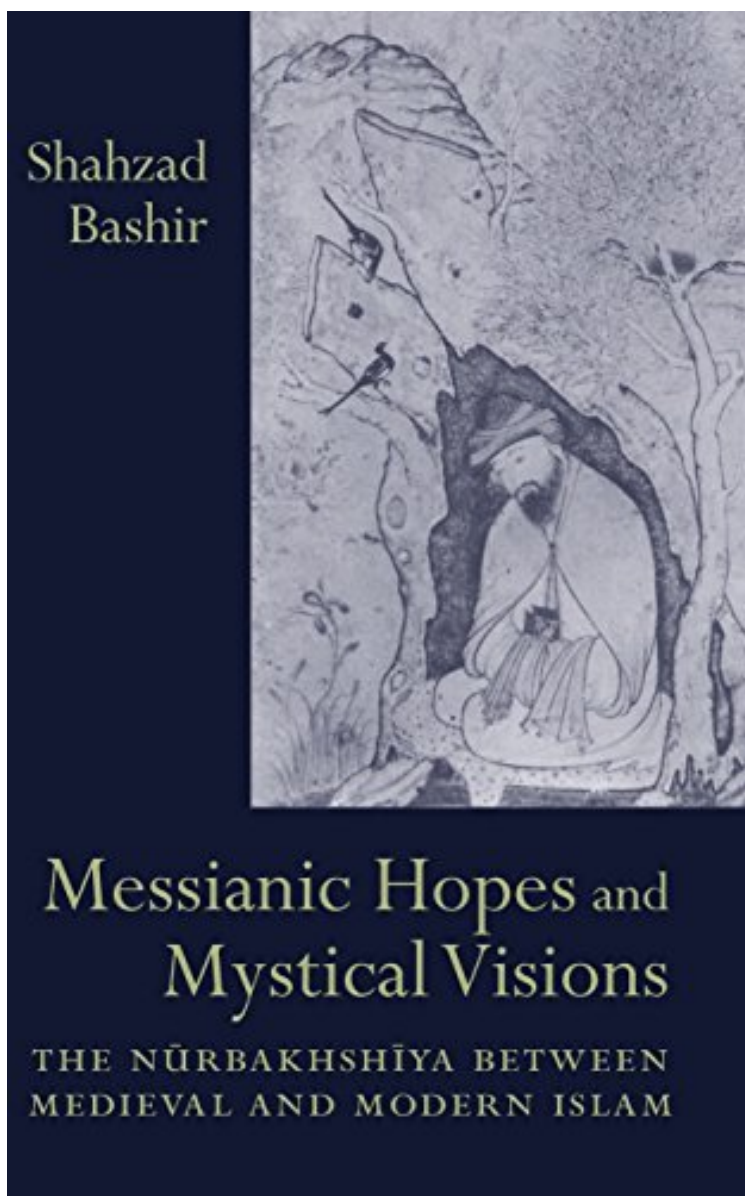


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Shahzad Bashir

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Shahzad Bashir : Messianic Hopes and Mystical Visions: The Nurbakhshiya Between Medieval and Modern Islam (Studies in Comparative Religion (Hardcover))

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Messianic Hopes and Mystical Visions: The Nurbakhshiya Between Medieval and Modern Islam* (Studies in Comparative Religion (Hardcover)):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Impressive Indeed! By Ishraqi This book provides a fascinating look into the life and teaching of Muhammad Nurbakhsh an adept of the Kubravi order (an order famous for it's focus on the visionary experience of various colored lights along the stations of the Sufi path) , Shi'ite , and claimant to the title of Mahdi. Shahzad Bashir provides a good introduction to the concept of Mahdi in general (looking both into the Sunni and the various Shi'ite teachings regarding the subject) as well. It also discusses some of the other claimants to the title such as Fazlallah Astrabadi the founder of the Hurufi movement. If you have an interest in the more "unorthodox" streams of Shi'ite thought, Messianism, and Sufism then buying this book is a no brainer. Get it! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An impressively in-depth study of the Nurbakhshiya sect By Midwest Book Review *Messianic Hopes And Mystical Visions: The Nurbakhshiya Between Medieval And Modern Islam* by Shahzad Bashir (Assistant Professor of Religion, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota) is an impressively in-depth study of the Nurbakhshiya sect of Islam, which originated in fifteenth-century Iran and survives to the modern day in Pakistan and India. From a detailed biography of founder Muhammad Nurbakhsh (d. 1464); to the world view of this Islamic sect; to its eventual transplantation into Kashmir, *Messianic Hopes And Mystical Visions* is a meticulous and scholarly account which is a very highly recommended contribution for Islamic studies reference shelves and reading lists.

Messianic Hopes and Mystical Visions tells the story of the Nurbakhshiya, an Islamic messianic movement that originated in fifteenth-century central Asia and Iran and survives to the present in Pakistan and India. In the first full-length study of the sect, Shahzad Bashir illumines the significance of messianism as an Islamic religious paradigm and illustrates its centrality to any discussion of Islamic sectarianism. By tracing Nurbakhsh activity in the Middle East and central and southern Asia through more than five centuries, Bashir brings to view the continuities and disruptions within Islamic civilization across regions and over time. Bashir effectively captures the way Nurbakhshis have understood and debated the meaning of their tradition in various geographical and temporal contexts. Bashir provides a detailed biography of the movement's founder, Muhammad Nurbakhsh (d. 1464). Born to a Twelver Shi'i family, Nurbakhsh declared himself the mahdi, or the Muslim messiah, as an adept of the Kubravi Sufi order under the influence of the teachings of the great Sufi master Ibn al-'Arabi (d. 1240). Nurbakhsh's religious worldview, which Bashir treats in depth in this volume, offers a

From the Inside Flap From the Preface: "As with the history of other messianic movements, that of the Nurbakhshya encapsulates the generation, unfolding, and preservation of hope in a resplendent future stemming from faith in a person seen as the bearer of an extraordinary universal mission. In the Islamic context, the eventual root of such a faith is the idea that the divine being designates living persons to call humanity to his true will. The Muslim messiah demands to be accepted as the spokesman of Gods wishes in the manner of earlier divinely appointed prophets. Nurbakhsh clearly saw himself as a part of the elect group of humanity chosen by God to represent him, and his followers have continued to believe in this idea in more or less attenuated forms to the present day." About the Author SHAHZAD BASHIR is an assistant professor of religion at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Born in Pakistan and educated at Amherst College and Yale University, Bashir now lives in Northfield.