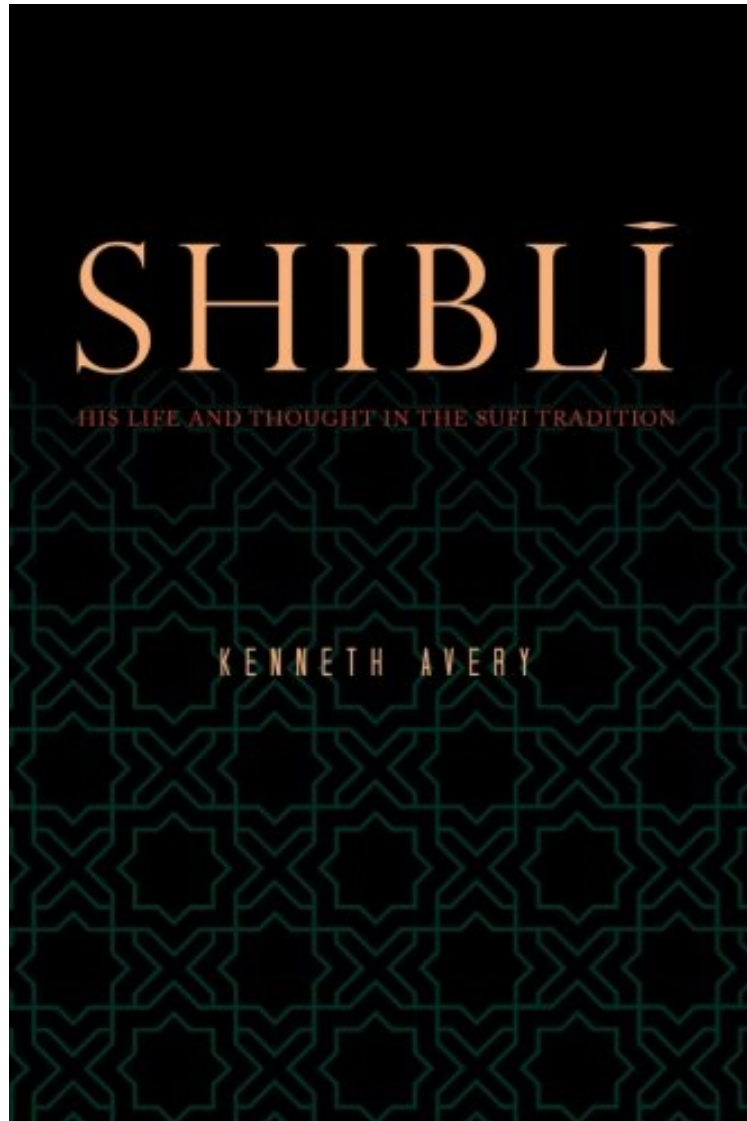


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## Shibli: His Life and Thought in the Sufi Tradition

*Kenneth Avery*

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Islamic mysticism, he left no writings, but his legacy was passed down orally, and he has been acclaimed from his own time to the present. Accounts of Shibl present a fascinating figure: an eccentric with a showy red beard, a lover of poetry and wit, an ascetic who embraced altered states of consciousness, and, for a time, a disturbed man confined to an insane asylum. Kenneth Avery offers a contemporary interpretation of Shibl's thought and his importance in the history of Sufism. This book surveys the major sources for Shibl's life and work from both Arabic and Persian traditions, detailing the main facets of his biography and teachings and documenting the evolving figure of a Sufi saint. Shibl's relationships with his more famous colleague Junayd and his infamous colleague al-Jayyani are discussed, along with his Qur'anic spirituality, his poetry, and the question of his periodic insanity. A very fine contribution to the history of Sufism. John Renard, editor of *Fighting Words: Religion, Violence, and the Interpretation of Sacred Texts*

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