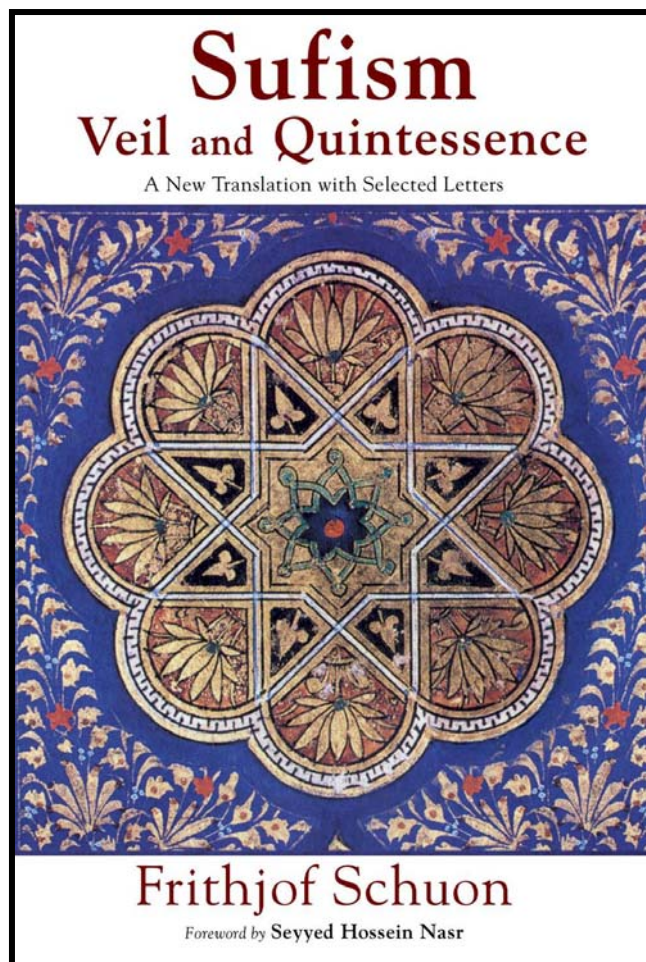
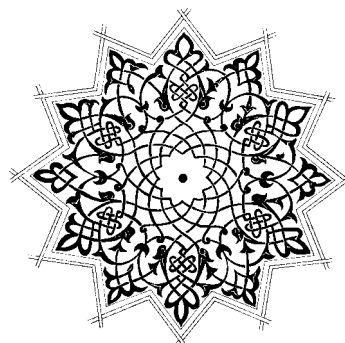


Sufism: Veil and Quintessence

A New Translation with Selected Letters



This new edition of perennial philosopher Frithjof Schuon's *Sufism: Veil and Quintessence* is a fully revised translation from the French original and contains an extensive Appendix with previously unpublished selections from Schuon's letters and other private writings. In seven articles Schuon makes the critical distinction between an "absolute" Islam and a "contingent" Islam, thus distinguishing between the message of Islam in itself, and the pious Arab expressions of that message, which by their style of rhetoric have a tendency to veil it.



What is included in this volume?

- ❖ Editor's Preface by scholar James Cutsinger
- ❖ Preface to the Original Edition
- ❖ Foreword by Seyyed Hossein Nasr
- ❖ An Index
- ❖ An Appendix
- ❖ Selections from Letters and Other previously Unpublished Writings
- ❖ Biographical Notes

This book (1-933316-28-4, Trim Size: 6" x 9") has a publication date of January 30, 2007, is 208 pages, and has a retail price of \$19.95.

World Wisdom



What others have said about this book

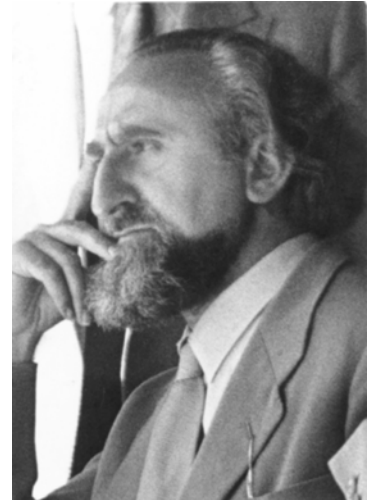
“The chapter entitled ‘The Quintessential Esoterism of Islam’ is a most powerful and, in a deep sense, definitive summary of this subject.”

—**Titus Burckhardt**, scholar and author of *An Introduction to Sufi Doctrine*

About the author Frithjof Schuon

Frithjof Schuon was arguably the leading light of the Traditionalist/Perennialist school of thought during many of its formative years in the twentieth century. This school is marked by its dedication to the exploration of the single timeless Truth that finds its various expressions in the many spiritual traditions that have guided humankind over the millennia.

Over thirty titles of Schuon’s work have appeared in English, covering themes on metaphysics, philosophy, comparative religion, symbolism, esoterism, critiques of the modern world, aesthetics, and the nature of human existence. In addition, he wrote thousands of poems in his native German, and produced hundreds of paintings, often with images of the American Plains Indians or Mary, the mother of Jesus. These poems and paintings, just as much as his prose, always carried a profound spiritual message for seekers who could think beyond the bounds of modernist prejudices.



Schuon was born in Basle, Switzerland, but was moved at age 14 by his widowed mother to France, where he learned French, the language in which he later wrote his masterpieces of metaphysics. From a very young age he was attracted to sacred things of both East and West, to beauty of soul and beauty of artistic creation, and to scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, the Vedas, the Koran, and, of course, to the Bible. Schuon was also attracted to Platonic thought and ideals. While still in his teens, he began to read the works of the pioneering Traditionalist René Guénon. Around 1930, Schuon began a correspondence with Guénon that lasted till the latter’s death in 1951.

Schuon completed military service and moved to Paris, where he learned Arabic and Arabic calligraphy. In 1932 he left Europe to spend some months with the renowned Sufi master, Ahmad al-’Alawî, in Algeria. Following additional trips to the Orient, Schuon returned to France to again enter military service due to the Nazi threat. He was captured by the enemy but escaped to Switzerland, where he settled for the next forty years. Now focusing on his writing, Schuon became an important contributor to a number of journals on traditional spirituality and comparative religion and soon became known as the preeminent interpreter of the Perennial Philosophy. Frithjof Schuon moved to America in 1980, where he continued to write and paint. He died in 1998.

What others have said about Frithjof Schuon

"... in M. Schuon's writings we find no passion, but the serenity of the vision of 'that which eternally exists, really and unchangeably,' outside the temporal which can destroy only itself. His work is full of calm and profound illumination." — **Kathleen Raine**, author, editor, and poet

"In reading Schuon I have the impression that I am going along parallel to him, and once in a while I will get a glimpse of what he means in terms of my own tradition and experience.... I appreciate him more and more.... I am grateful for the chance to be in contact with people like him." — **Thomas Merton**, from a letter published in his *The Hidden Ground of Love*

"[Schuon is] the most important religious thinker of our century." — **Huston Smith**, author of *The World's Religions*

"M. Schuon's thought does not demand that we agree or disagree but that we understand or do not understand. Such writing is of rare and lasting value."
— **Times Literary Supplement**, on Schuon's *Stations of Wisdom*

"Readers ... will certainly find in the writings of Schuon ... completely new perspectives in every aspect of religious thought—on the meaning of symbolism, for example, or the idea of sin, or the warfare between scientism and religion, or the idea of esotericism, and much, much else. Very probably, it will seem to the reader that until now he has ignored an entire dimension in his thinking..." — **Jacob Needleman**, San Francisco State University

"If I were asked who is the greatest writer of our time, I would say Frithjof Schuon without hesitation." — **Martin Lings**, author of *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources*

"It is a very good thing to see a book with Mr. Schuon's writings about the American Indians. His words are important because he sees the Indian traditional religion with the eyes of a man who prays and who loves the Indians. He has studied all the religions in the world so he can compare our Indian ways to the ways of other religions."
— **Thomas Yellowtail**, Crow Sun Dance Chief, on Schuon's *The Feathered Sun*

Major books in English

- ❖ *The Transcendent Unity of Religions*, 1953
- ❖ *Spiritual Perspectives and Human Facts*, 1954
- ❖ *Gnosis: Divine Wisdom*, 1959
- ❖ *Language of the Self*, 1959
- ❖ *Castes and Races*, 1959
- ❖ *Stations of Wisdom*, 1961
- ❖ *Understanding Islam*, 1963
- ❖ *Light on the Ancient Worlds*, 1965
- ❖ *In the Tracks of Buddhism*, 1968
- ❖ *Logic and Transcendence*, 1975
- ❖ *Esoterism as Principle and as Way*, 1981
- ❖ *Images of Primordial & Mystic Beauty*, 1992
- ❖ *Echoes of Perennial Wisdom*, 1992
- ❖ *The Play of Masks*, 1992
- ❖ *Road to the Heart*, 1995
- ❖ *Sufism: Veil and Quintessence*, 1981
- ❖ *From the Divine to the Human*, 1982
- ❖ *Christianity/Islam: Essays on Esoteric Ecumenicism*, 1985
- ❖ *Survey of Metaphysics and Esoterism*, 1986
- ❖ *In the Face of the Absolute*, 1989
- ❖ *The Feathered Sun: Plains Indians in Art & Philosophy*, 1990
- ❖ *To Have a Center*, 1990
- ❖ *Roots of the Human Condition*, 1991
- ❖ *The Transfiguration of Man*, 1995
- ❖ *The Eye of the Heart*, 1997
- ❖ *Songs for a Spiritual Traveler: Selected Poems*, 2002

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- ❖ *Adastra & Stella Maris: Poems by Frithjof Schuon*, 2003
- ❖ *The Fullness of God: Frithjof Schuon on Christianity* (J.S. Cutsinger, Ed.), 2004
- ❖ *Prayer Fashions Man: Frithjof Schuon on the Spiritual Life* (J.S. Cutsinger, Ed.), 2005
- ❖ *The Essential Frithjof Schuon* (S.H. Nasr, Ed.), 2005
- ❖ *Light on the Ancient Worlds: A New Translation with Selected Letters* (Deborah Casey, Ed.) 2006
- ❖ *Gnosis: Divine Wisdom, A New Translation with Selected Letters* (J.S. Cutsinger, Ed.), 2006

About the author of the foreword



Seyyed Hossein Nasr is University Professor of Islamic Studies at the George Washington University. The author of over fifty books and five hundred articles, he is one of the world's most respected writers and speakers on Islam, its arts and sciences, and its traditional mystical path, Sufism. His publications include *Sufi Essays, Knowledge and the Sacred, Religion and the Order of Nature*, and *The Heart of Islam: Enduring Values for Humanity*. A volume in the prestigious *Library of Living Philosophers* series has been dedicated to his thought.

An excerpt from the foreword

"This book has a place of honor in this genre of literature. It is not only a book about Sufism, but also a Sufi book. Moreover, it is a unique work in that it peels away layer by layer contingent elements and draws aside the many veils that have conditioned and colored the exposition and practice of Sufism and also hidden its essence to one degree or another, leaving the reader at last with a vision of the naked truth of quintessential Sufism.

"We must all be grateful to Professor James Cutsinger for the new edition of this work which includes his own helpful notes and to which many valuable unpublished letters and texts, not included in the original edition, have been added, and to World Wisdom for publishing the work and making it available once again." — **Seyyed Hossein Nasr**

About the editor

James S. Cutsinger is Professor of Theology and Religious Thought at the University of South Carolina and is an important contemporary author on spirituality, particularly within the Christian tradition. He is also emerging as one of the most widely recognized authorities on the Traditionalist school of comparative religious thought. Professor Cutsinger currently serves as secretary to the Foundation for Traditional Studies and is the recipient of numerous teaching awards. He offers courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in Religious Studies at USC.



Professor Cutsinger has edited *Paths to the Heart: Sufism and the Christian East* (World Wisdom, 2002) and *Not of This World: A Treasury of Christian Mysticism* (World Wisdom, 2003). Professor Cutsinger is now working with World Wisdom on the long-term project of editing revised editions and anthologies of the works of Frithjof Schuon, the late philosopher, poet, and artist of whom Professor Cutsinger is one of the world's best known interpreters. These revised editions include *The Fullness of God: Frithjof Schuon on Christianity* (World Wisdom, 2004) and *Gnosis, Divine Wisdom, A New Translation with Selected Letters* (2006).