



IBN °AṬA°ILLĀH AS-SAKANDARI
&
HIS ṢŪFISM

by

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What do you think of Who does not vanish....
Oh slave, as you have surrendered to Me in creating My land and sky
all by Myself alone,
surrender your existence to Me.
You are Mine.
Do not plan with Me because you are with me.

DIVISION ONE – Biography of Ibn ‘Atā’Illāh as-Sakandāri
CHAPTER ONE: IBN ‘ATĀ’ILLĀH AS-SAKANDĀRI AND HIS TIMES

1. Introduction
2. His name, ancestors, and family
3. His birth, upbringing in Alexandria, and education
4. His teaching work in Cairo
5. Religious characteristics of his time;
his role in the Alexandrian Māliki school of Law
6. Political and social aspects of his time
7. His death, tomb, and mosque
8. His status among the scholars and community

CHAPTER TWO: THE ŠUFĪ LIFE OF IBN ‘ATĀ’ILLĀH

1. Introduction
2. The beginning of his Šufī life
3. His life as a wayfarer on the Path
4. His life as a complete Šufī:
 - a. His role in the ShādhḌhuli Ṭarīqah
 - b. His role in Egyptian Šūfism
 - c. The debate between him and Ibn Taymiyya
 - d. Wonders related of him

CHAPTER THREE: IBN ‘ATĀ’ILLĀH’S BOOKS AND OTHER WORKS

1. Introduction
2. Comprehensive Classification of His Books
3. Commentary
4. Conclusion

DIVISION TWO – Ibn ‘Atā’Illāh’s Doctrine
CHAPTER ONE: THE DROPPING OF SELF-DIRECTION

1. The basic theme of his doctrine
2. The abnegation of the existence of independent human will and faith in destiny
3. The meaning of self-direction and how to drop it
4. Dropping self-direction in relation to livelihood

CHAPTER TWO: THE HUMAN SOUL (NAFS)

1. Ibn ‘Atā’Illāh’s attention to the soul
2. A definition of the soul
3. Its grades
4. Its connection to the body
5. Blaming the soul as a source of moral evil
6. Classification of the motives of behavior

CHAPTER THREE: STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SOUL (NAFS)

1. The meaning of struggle against the soul
2. Necessity for the supervision of the Shaykh over his disciple in his struggle against the soul
3. Training of the soul
4. Seclusion and isolation
5. Divine Invocation (*dhikr*)
6. Struggle against the soul and the dropping of self-direction

CHAPTER FOUR: THE SOUL AND ETHICS OF BEHAVIOR

1. Ethics of behavior
2. Divestment and having a means of livelihood
3. The moment (*al-Waqt*)
4. Supplication, the gift and the deprivation
5. The balance of deeds and the criterion of works
6. Pure worship
7. Devotion as a means of approaching Allāh ﷻ and caution against being led on to destruction by its tricks and illusions
8. Commentary

CHAPTER FIVE: THE SOUL BETWEEN STATIONS AND STATES

1. What is meant by stations and states?
2. Stations of the Path (*Maqāmāt*)
 - a) station of repentance
 - b) station of abstinence
 - c) station of patience
 - d) station of gratitude
 - e) stations of fear and hope
 - f) stations of contentment and reliance on Allāh ﷻ
 - g) station of love
 - h) the stations of the Path in relation to the dropping of self-direction
3. States of the Path (*Aḥwāl*)
 - a) the incoming flow of states
 - b) intimacy
 - c) contraction and expansion
 - d) annihilation and going-on
 - e) degrees of the travelers on the Path in relation to the states
 - f) the states of the Path in relation to the dropping of self direction

CHAPTER SIX: GNOSIS (MA' RIFAH)

1. Arrival at the Goal
2. Definition of Gnosis and its subject
3. The latent nature of gnosis in the soul
4. The two instruments of gnosis: the intellect and the heart
5. The two ways of gnosis: intellectual progression and witnessing
6. The travelers and the attracted
7. Gnosis in its relation to the dropping of self-direction

CHAPTER SEVEN: BEHOLDING THE DIVINE ONENESS IN EXISTENCE

1. When does a Ṣūfī behold the Divine Oneness in Existence?
2. The manner in which creation was originated
3. The degrees of creation
4. The relation between Allāh ﷻ and man
5. The relation between Allāh ﷻ and the creations
6. The Divine Oneness
7. The grades of gnostics in relation to the beholding of the Oneness
8. Beholding of Oneness and its relation to the dropping of self-direction
9. Discussion of some misinterpretations of Ibn 'Atā'illāh's Doctrine