



Glossary

adab. Informal rules of etiquette and manners with which Sufis are expected to behave in the company of fellow human beings.

al-asmā' al-ḥusnā. The most beautiful names of Allah, referring to the ninety-nine attributes.

bāul/baul. A tradition of composing and performing songs drawing from Sufi Islam, Vaishnava Hinduism, and Tantric Buddhism in the Bengal region of South Asia.

bandīr/bendir. A framed drum used in traditional Turkish, Central and West Asian, and Middle Eastern music. It is a common accompaniment in Sufi ritual practice.

barzakh. The term refers to something that separates two entities, inhabiting the in-between space, combining the qualities of both.

chakra. Subtle energy centers of the body in yoga discourse.

dargāh/dergāh. A portal or threshold. The term also denotes a Sufi establishment built in the memory of a saint.

darwīsh/dervish. A poor mendicant. In the medieval Sufi tradition, the term often refers to someone who practiced material detachment and renunciation.

dhawḳ/dhawq. Tasting, direct experience, intuitive and aesthetic appreciation.

dhikr. Remembering or reminding oneself. The term exists in many languages of Islamic societies. In Turkish and Bangla, it is often pronounced as *zikir*. In English and German, the word is often pronounced as *zīkr* or *zīkar*.

Haqqani-Naqshbandi. A branch of the Naqshbandiyya, one of the largest Sufi networks globally. This branch is named after the late Sheikh Nazim al-Haqqani. See also SZR in the *List of Abbreviations*.

ilāhī/ilāhi. A genre of popular poetry inspired by religious sentiments, sung either solo or in chorus, with and without instrumental accompaniment.

khānqāh/khanekah. A composite term for a place found throughout the Islamic world where Sufis gather and practice. *Tekke* and *zāwiya* refer to similar establishments.

laṭīfa (pl. laṭā'if). Subtle centers or substances imagined and enacted in dhikr.

maḳām/maqam (pl. maḳāmāt/maqamat)/ makam (Turkish.). A place, a stage, or a station. In Sufi discourse, the term generally refers to a stage of development. In *makam* music, it refers to the model system corresponding to various body parts.

mevlana. An honorific term for the thirteenth-century Sufi, *Djalāl al-Dīn Rūmī*, popularly known as Mevlana Rumi.

mevlevî/mevlevi. Thirteenth-century Sufi network established by followers of Mevlana Rumi in (Turkish) Anatolia.

murīd/murid. Someone who seeks and desires to learn. It is a term for students or disciples of a Sufi teacher.

murshid/ murshid. The one who provides the right guidance. It is a term for Sufi teachers. See also *pīr* and *shaikh*. Female teachers are known as *murshida*.

nafs/nufs. Ego or self-centered self. The term is also translated as the human soul or spirit.

ney/nāy. A long reed flute, a central instrument in *Mevlevi* rituals and *makam* music, and one of the basic instruments used in receptive AOM.

pīr. An elder. It is a term for Sufi teachers. See also *murshid* and *shaikh*.

qalb. The metaphysical heart is an organ of superior reasoning in Sufi/Islamic discourse, related to the anatomical heart but imagined distinctly in relation to a subtle heart center (*laṭīfa qalbiyya*).

rabāb/rebab. A generic term for any string instrument played with a bow. More specifically, it refers to one of the basic instruments used in receptive AOM.



samā'/sema. Audition or listening, denoting that which is heard. The term refers to a Sufi ritual practice with dhikr, music, and whirling movement.

semazen. Practitioners of *sema*.

shaikh/sheikh. An elder. It is a term for Sufi teachers considered to be advanced practitioners of Sufism. Also used for leaders and authority figures. See also *murshid* and *pīr*.

silsila. A chain. The term refers to a lineage, connecting the leaders of a Sufi network back to the founder and significant figures in the past.

sohbet. Spiritual lecture by a Sufi teacher to an audience that has gathered to listen. The term is also translated as spiritual companionship.

subḥa (pl. tasbīḥ)/tesbīḥ/tasbih. Collection of prayer beads compared to a rosary. In widespread usage, tasbeeh, refers to a handheld string of beads of variable number and length.

Sufismus. Sufism.

Sufitum. A less popular term for Sufism in German.

tariqa/tariqa (pl. ṭuruk). A way or a path. The term refers to the organized Sufi networks often framed as brotherhoods or orders.

taṣawwuf/tasavvuf. The common Arabic term for Sufism.

taṣawwur. The term refers to the embodiment of the teachers through practices with which the Sufi novices aspire to be attuned to their teachers, as an intermediary step on the quest for absorption and subsistence in Allah.

Tümata. Türk Müziğini Araştırma ve Tanıtma Grubu (Traditional Turkish Music Research and Promotion Society) founded by the late Rahmi Oruç Güvenç.

wazīfa. Repetitive recitation of prayers, invocations, and verses from the Qur'an.

zikar/zikir/zikr. See dhikr.