# CONTENTS

**Notes On Transliteration** iv  
**List Of Abbreviations** v  
**List Of Illustrations** vi  
**Acknowledgement** vii

**Introducing The Dissertation** 1

## CHAPTER I

**Sufism: The Quranic Perspective** 16  
- The Mystic/Sufi and the Holy Quran 17  
- Quran in the Eyes of the Chishtia Mystics 18  
- Understanding the Suhrawardia Approach to Quran 45  
- Quran in a Plural Society 52

## CHAPTER II

**Accommodating Audition: Introducing Sama In South Asia**  
- Mystical Dimension of Music 55  
- Locating *Sama* in *Kashf ul-Mahjub* 62  
- Patrons of *Sama*: Khwajagan i-Chishi 75  
- *Sama* among the Chishtis of North India 81  
- *Sama* among the Chishtis of Deccan 100  
- Khwaja Bandanawaz Gesudaraz and his Practice of *Sama* 109  
- Tools of Iblis?: Musical Instruments in *Sama* 131
CHAPTER III

REMEMBERING THE LORD: SUHRAWARDI PRACTICE OF ZIKR

- Zikr as Mystical Exercise 137
- Remembering Rasul i-Allah: Zikr i-Muhammadi 141
- Remembrance of Prayer: Zikr i-Namaz and Zikr al-Quran 156
- Zikr Namaz i-Khrifsan 159
- Zikr Shab i-Barat 165
- Zikr fi'I Shaban 166
- Zikr fi'l Ramadān 167
- Zikr i- Ilābi 168

CHAPTER IV

SHARED SPIRITUAL SPACES: MYSTICAL PRACTICES ACROSS SILSILAS

- Practice of Sama among the Suhrawardis 175
- Suhrawardi Rules of Etiquette (ad'ab) in Sama 197
- Chishtia Approach to Zikr 204
- Chishtia Manners of Zikr 216
- Ways of Performing Zikr 219
- Benefits Accrued from Zikr 220

CHAPTER V

ETHICS OF ETIQUETTE: MAINTAINING ADAB

IN SUFI RITUALS 223

- Etiquette (ad'ab) as Spiritual Aid 225
- Adab in the Kashf ul-Mahjub 231
- Ad'ab i-Sama of the Chishtis of North India 235
- Ad'ab i-Sama among the Deccani Chishtis 241
- Essence of Purity (safa) in the Assembly (majlis) of the Shaykh 253
CHAPTER VI

EMOTIONS UNBOUND: EXPERIENCING SUFI RITUALS

- Losing the Self: Ecstasy (wajd) and its Forms 258
- Artificiality of Inducement: The Role of Tawajud 272
- Rhythm Divine: Dance (raqs) as Expression of Spirituality 279

CONCLUDING THE ARGUMENT 295

GLOSSARY 310
BIBLIOGRAPHY 319
TABLES, MAPS & FIGURES 338