



# Islamic Mysticism and Abu Talib Al-Makki: The Role of the Heart (Routledge Sufi Series)

*Saeko Yazaki*

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Both in everyday language and religious metaphor, the heart often embodies the true self and is considered to be the seat of emotion in many cultures. Many Muslim thinkers have attempted to clarify the nature of Sufism using its metaphorical image, particularly in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

This book examines the work of Abū Ṭalīb al-Makkī and his wider significance within the Sufi tradition, with a focus on the role of the heart. Analysing his most significant work, *Qūt al-qulūb* ('The Nourishment of Hearts'), the author goes beyond an examination of the themes of the book to explore its influence not only in the writing of Sufis, but also of Hanbalī and Jewish scholars.

Providing a comprehensive overview of the world of al-Makkī and presenting extracts from his book on religious characteristics of the heart with selected passages in translation for the first time in English, this book will give readers a better understanding not only of the essential features of Sufism, but also the nature of mysticism and its relation to monotheistic faiths.

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