

# THE READER'S REVIEW

## THE VISION OF ISLAM

### Reflecting On The Hadith Of Gabriel

**Author:** Sachiko Murata, William Chittick  
**Publisher:** Paragon House  
**Price:** \$ , Tradepaper, 368 Pages  
**ISBN:** 1-55778-516-3

**Rating:** Excellent  
**Audience:** General  
**Popularity:** Text, Steady

**Review:** Murata and Chittick supply an exemplary introduction to Islam through the classic modes of practice, faith and spirituality as well as the Islamic view of history. Interweaving the principle teaching of the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet, the wellsprings of the tradition, the authors provide intellectual and aesthetic appreciation of these principles and historical context as well. It is the most successful introduction to Islam for a Western audience produced to date and should become a widely use text. It has good trade potential because of its versatile style and authoritative nature.

## INTRODUCTION TO SUFISM

**Author:** Titus Burckhardt  
**Publisher:** Thorsons (Harper Collins)  
**Price:** \$ 12.00, Tradepaper, 126 Pages  
**ISBN:** 1-85538-458-2

**Rating:** Excellent  
**Audience:** Religious Studies, Mysticism  
**Popularity:** Good, Steady

**Review:** This welcome reissue of *An Introduction To Sufi Doctrine*, under this less forbidding title offers one of the best introductions to the main mystical doctrines of Sufism, especially that of the great theosopher, ibn 'Arabi. Burckhardt provides the basic terminology not only with definitions but with a care to show their inner economy and practical application to religious practice. Highly recommended.

## TEACH YOURSELF ISLAM

### World Faiths

**Author:** Ruqaiyyah Maqsood  
**Publisher:** Teach Yourself Books (NTC Publishing Group)  
**Price:** \$ 11.95, Tradepaper, 218 Pages  
**ISBN:** 0-8442-3746-9

**Rating:** Fine  
**Audience:** General  
**Popularity:** Steady

**Review:** Teach Yourself Books has for several generations been the solid place to begin for the self-learner. Each volume gives a matter-of-fact introduction to the field of inquiry, presenting key terms, essential background, and the basic ideas of the subject. This introduction provides at one's finger tips essential general information about Islam including definitive issues usually dealt with in more oblique ways. Recommended as a factual approach to Sunni Islam.

## ISLAM

### An Introduction For Christians

**Editor:** Paul Varo Martinson  
**Publisher:** Augsburg  
**Price:** \$ , Tradepaper, 264 Pages  
**ISBN:** 0-8066-2583-X

**Rating:** Fine  
**Audience:** Christian Comparative Religion  
**Popularity:** Steady

**Review:** This Lutheran produced introduction to Islam attempts to inaugurate an fair account of Islamic teachings but often falls into an implied antagonism with the points of creative tension between Islam and Christianity. Recommended for theologically inclined Christian study of Islam.

## THE PROPHET'S PULPIT

### Islamic Preaching In Contemporary Egypt

**Author:** Patrick D. Gaffney  
**Publisher:** University Of California Press  
**Price:** \$ 20.00, Tradepaper, 375 Pages, 1 Map  
**ISBN:** 0-520-08472-1

**Rating:** Excellent  
**Audience:** Islam, Religious Studies, Egypt  
**Popularity:** Good, Steady

**Review:** Gaffney offers a careful analysis of the nature of religopolitical discourse from the pulpit in modern day Egypt. Distinguishing between, the scholar ethicist, the Sufi mystic, and the militant holy warrior, Gaffney demonstrates the conflicting levels of appeal these styles of preaching have, and how this affects the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Recommended for its nuanced understanding of the role of preaching in popular political discourse.

## WISDOM, AUTHORITY AND GRAMMAR IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY

### Decoding Virgilius Maro Grammaticus

**Author:** Vivien Law

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