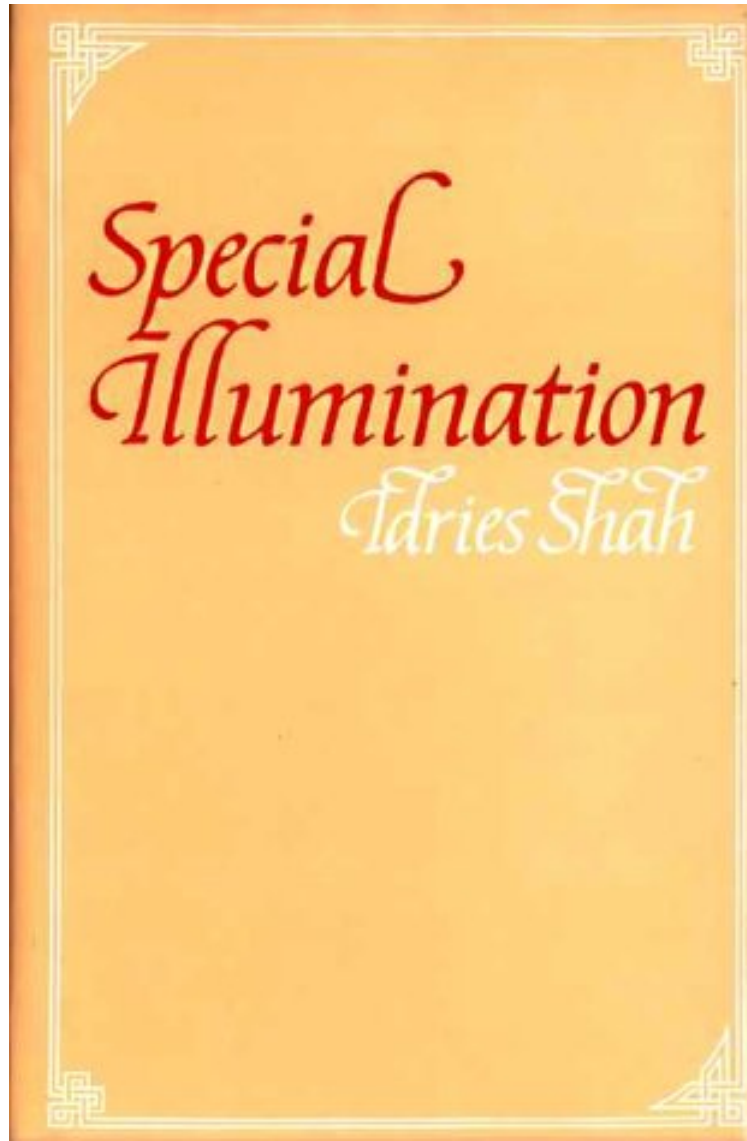


(Read now) Special Illumination: The Sufi Use of Humor

Special Illumination: The Sufi Use of Humor

Idries Shah

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Idries Shah : Special Illumination: The Sufi Use of Humor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Special Illumination: The Sufi Use of Humor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Customerhappy1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Can Jokes be "Spiritual"?By Aubrey DavisSpirituality is typically associated with religion, occultism, sacred texts or holy sites. What about jokes? Could they be "spiritual" in some way? The great poet and mystic Jalaludin Rumi thought so. He coined the phrase "Special Illumination" to stress the importance of humour in

metaphysical experience. This is also the title of a pioneering work on the subject by Idries Shah, first published in 1977. This outlandish little book is riddled with jokes and how to learn from them. Throughout history jokes have survived and spread even in the most inhospitable societies. Like the basket in which baby Moses nestled, some can protect and transport something precious delicate that may, in time under the right circumstances, develop into something of critical importance. The intriguing jokes in this little book are almost like exercises. They can challenge our fixed ideas and preconceptions, increasing our flexibility. As mirrors they provide opportunities to observe how we react to them. Shah says that many are dynamic templates or patterns; working blueprints of the mind. Here are a couple to ponder: Belief The master was at the height of his harangue. "And if I were to tell you anything of what I really, deeply know, you would not believe me. If I were even to hint at the truths which are understood by those who have attained to Truth, you would scoff; if I were to give you any statement of the amazing realities behind what you imagine to be reality, you would not credit it..." A member of the audience held up his hand: "Surely you cannot expect anyone to believe that?" No Service, No Charge A Man went to a physician, feeling very much out of condition. "Ah, yes" said the doctor, "you must do this and not do that; you must eat this and drink that..." and he droned on for a time. Presently the patient started to walk out. "You haven't paid for my advice," said the leech. "Ah but I am not taking it!" You may also want to look at the hundreds of Mulla Nasrudin collected by Idries Shah. This wise fool of eastern folklore holds a special place in Sufi studies. <http://idriesshahfoundation.org/?s=Nasrudinlang=en> 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Humour and Learning By Kevan The frequent use of humour seems one of the things distinguishing the Middle Eastern Sufi sages from many religionists (not to say fanatics or cultists). This short volume of jokes, accompanied by commentaries that do not explain everything but invite further thought, shows something of the use of humour in Sufi learning situations. The title derives from the great teacher Rumi's association of laughter with 'special illumination.' Well worth a read.

Not only are the 60 jokes contained in this volume representative of the type of material used in Sufi development, but their selection, arrangement, and presentation also comprise an actual learning experience for the modern reader. Shah weaves contemporary jokes, humorous anecdotes, and stories with skillful commentary. The result is an entertaining journey that mixes laughter, introspection, and surprise.

"Multiple meanings and incongruities can assist in restoring flexibility to blinkered minds. Shah demonstrates these ideas with very funny jokes." -- New Society From the Publisher "If you want special illumination, look upon the human face: See clearly within laughter the Essence of Ultimate Truth." -- Jalaludin Rumi These lines by the great teacher and mystic Jalaludin Rumi indicate the many faceted role of humor in Sufi teaching. Shah writes: "As a shock-applier and tension-releaser and an indicator of false situations, humour, certainly to the Sufi in traditional usage, is one of the most effective instruments and diagnostic aids." About the Author As the urgency of our global situation becomes apparent, more and more readers are turning to the books of writer Idries Shah as a way to train new capacities and new ways of thinking. Shah has been described as "the most significant worker adapting classical spiritual thought to the modern world." His lively contemporary books have sold more than 15 million copies in 12 languages worldwide. They have been reviewed positively by The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Times (London), The Tribune, The Telegraph, and numerous other international journals and newspapers. "The most interesting books in the English language." Saturday "A major psychological and cultural event of our time." Psychology Today "One is immediately forced to use one's mind in a new way." New York Times The instrumental function of Shah's work is now well established among people from all walks of life. Stockbrokers, scientists, lawyers, managers, writers, physicians, and diplomats have found Shah's literature for human development "extraordinary." "It presents a blueprint of the human mental structure." Robert Ornstein, psychologist and author "Extremely useful in teaching students about management and computers." Thomas Malone, MIT "Idries Shah provides the unique perspective that allows us to assess real motivations and social biases in a more accurate light." E. Neilsen, attorney at law