

THE SECRET OF SECRETS

The Great Hadrat
Abd al-Qādir al-jilāni

REVELATION OF ISLAMIC SUFISM & MYSTICISM



CONTENTS

FOREWORD/VII

TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTION/XI

ADDRESS TO THE READER/XLV

The Secret of Secrets

INTRODUCTION/3

CHAPTER ONE

Man's Return Home to the Original Source/13

CHAPTER TWO

The Descent of Man to the Lowest of the Low/18

CHAPTER THREE

The Places of the Souls Within the Body/20

CHAPTER FOUR

On Knowledge/26

CHAPTER FIVE

On Repentance and On Teaching by the Word/31

CHAPTER SIX

On Islamic Mysticism and the Sufis/40

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

On the Pilgrimage to Mecca
and the Inner Pilgrimage to the
Essence of the Heart/84

CHAPTER SEVEN
On Remembrance /45

CHAPTER EIGHT
The Necessary Conditions for Remembrance /48

CHAPTER NINE
On the Vision of God: Arriving at the Level of Seeing
the Divine Essence /51

CHAPTER TEN
The Veils of Light and Darkness /55

CHAPTER ELEVEN
The Joy of Being Good and the Misery of the Rebel /58

CHAPTER TWELVE
The Dervishes /65

CHAPTER THIRTEEN
On the Purification of the Self /71

CHAPTER FOURTEEN
On the Meaning of Ritual Worship and Inner Worship /73

CHAPTER FIFTEEN
On the Purification of the Perfect Man,
Who has Isolated Himself from, and Stripped
Himself of, All Worldly Concerns /76

CHAPTER SIXTEEN
On Charity /79

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN
On Fasting Prescribed by the Religion
and on Spiritual Fasting /82

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN
On the Pilgrimage to Mecca
and the Inner Pilgrimage to the
Essence of the Heart /84

CHAPTER NINETEEN

On Witnessing Divine Truth through
the State of Peace Coming from Abandonment
of the Worldly and through Ecstasy/89

CHAPTER TWENTY

On Withdrawing from the World into
Seclusion and On Solitude/93

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

Prayers and Recitations Pertaining to
the Path of Seclusion/98

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

On Dreams/108

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

On the Followers of the Mystical Path/116

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

Afterword/120