

SHAIKHA CAMILLE HELMINSKI and her husband Shaikh Kabir Helminski co-founded (1983) and now direct The Threshold Society, a nonprofit educational foundation rooted within the traditions of Sufism and dedicated to facilitating the direct personal experience of the Divine. It offers educational programs and retreats in spiritual psychology and practice, as well as books and audio recordings listed on their website: www.sufism.org. Its particular focus is on the inspiration of the life and work of the renowned and beloved Sufi poet and teacher Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi.

Though centered in the U. S., Threshold Society which is one of the foremost publishers of Sufi literature especially the writings of Mevlana Rumi, is recognized as an authentic source of Mevlevi teaching with close links to the International Mevlana Foundation in Turkey. The Threshold Society draws on the Mevlevi tradition as taught in contemporary Turkey as well as on Western sources, and is thus also eclectic. Its founders have studied with Samuel Lewis, Ram Das, Reshad Feild, Tosun Bayrak, and Murat Yagan, among other spiritual teachers. Threshold Books stopped its publishing program in 1999, and a number of its books were subsequently taken up by Shambhala. However, in 2017, Threshold Books became active once more.

Shaikha Camille has taught in the Mevlevi Sufi Tradition of Rumi for over 40 years. She is an internationally respected teacher, author, editor, and translator. She has been a core faculty member of the Spiritual Paths Foundation (Aspen, Colorado) which promotes peace, respect, and mutual understanding between peoples of diverse religious and spiritual traditions through programs in Interspirituality rooted in contemplative practice. She was also one of the mentors of the Snowmass Interspiritual Dialogue led by Father Thomas Keating which illustrates a new era of spiritual consciousness and a new level of communication and exchange among many of the world's spiritual and contemplative traditions. She and her husband are also closely associated with teachers from other *tariqahs* (schools or orders of Sufism) in Turkey, India, Iran, and Syria, all of whom are committed to integrating classical methods with modern needs.

Shaikha Camille has been a prolific author, editor and translator. One of her best-known books is *Women of Sufism: A Hidden Treasure, Stories and Writings of Mystic Poets, Scholars, and Saints* (Shambhala Publications, Boulder, Colorado, 2011) which explores an important historical element of Sufism. This book consists of a diverse selection of writings from numerous women who participated in Sufi mysticism during several periods of Islamic history. Covering the seventh century to the present day, the volume contains poems, journal entries, scholarly essays, and other writings from women who made a valued contribution to their religion. Through this book, Shaikha Camille has helped to increase awareness of the integral contribution of women to the spiritual path of Islam.

Other writings of which she is the author, selector, editor or translator, include the following:

(Selector and Translator, with Kabir Helminski), *Rumi - Daylight: A Daybook of Spiritual Guidance*, Threshold Books (Putney, Vermont), 1990.

(Translator, with Kabir Helminski and Ibrahim Al-Shihabi) Assad Ali, *Happiness without Death: Desert Hymns*, Threshold Books (Putney, Vermont), 1991.

(Translator, with Kabir Helminski) *Rumi: The Path of Love*, Harper Collins Publishers (New York), 1999.

(Translator, with Refik Algan) *Awakened Dreams: Raji's Journey with the Mirror Dede*, by Ahmet Hilmi, Shambhala Productions (Boulder, Colorado), 1999.

(Selector and Translator, with Kabir Helminski), *Jewels of Remembrance: A Daybook of Spiritual Guidance: Containing 365 Selections from the Wisdom of Rumi*, Shambhala Productions (Boulder Colorado), 2000.

(Translator, with Kabir Helminski), *The Rumi Collection: An Anthology of Translations of Mevlâna Jalâluddin Rumi*, Shambhala Publications (Boulder, Colorado), 2000.

(Selector and Translator) *The Light of Dawn : A Daybook of Verses from the Holy Qur'an*, Shambhala Publications (Boulder, Colorado), 2000.

(Translator, with Mahmoud Mostafa) *The Mevlevi Wird: The Prayers Recited Daily by Mevlevi Dervishes*, Threshold Society (Soquel, California), 2000.

(Translator, with Kabir Helminski), *The Pocket Rumi Reader* (Shambhala Pocket), Shambhala Publications (Boulder Colorado), 2001.

(Translator, with Kabir Helminski), *Rumi: the Path of Love Card Set*, The Book Laboratory (Dayton, Ohio), 2001.

The Book of Character: Writings on Virtue and Character from Islamic and Other Sources (The Education Project Series), The Book Foundation (Watsonville, California), 2005.

The Book of Nature: A Sourcebook of Spiritual Perspectives on Nature and the Environment, The Book Foundation (Watsonville, California), 2006.

(Translator, with Refik Algan) *Rumi's Sun: The Teachings of Shams of Tabriz*, Morning Light Press (Sandpoint, Idaho), 2008, republished by Threshold Book (Putney, Vermont), 2019.

(Selector and Translator, with Kabir Helminski), *The Rumi Daybook: 365 Poems and Teachings from the Beloved Sufi Master*, Shambhala Publications (Boulder, Colorado), 2011.

(Translator, with Susan Blaylock), *Rumi and His Friends: Stories of the Lovers of God: Excerpts from the Manaqib al-'Arifin of Aflaki*, Fons Vitae (Louisville, Kentucky), 2013.

Words from the East, Sweet Lady Press (Louisville), 2017.

Ninety-Nine Names of the Beloved: Intimations of the Beauty and Power of the Divine, Sweet Lady Press (Louisville), 2017.

Ramadan Love Songs, Sweet Lady Press (Louisville), 2019.

Shaikha Camille is recognized as a spiritual elder by *Women's Islamic Initiative of Spirituality and Equality (WISE)*, a New York based non-profit organization which brings together Muslim women leaders from around the world to build their capacity as leaders, equipping them with knowledge of their rights and enabling them to use their personal power to elevate the status of Muslim women and girls globally.

The Salaam Network (TSN) is proud of its association with Shaikha Camille and Shaikh Kabir who presented one of its earliest programs entitled "*Sufism: The Inner Heart of Islam*" at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (Louisville, November 2016) in which they offered an introduction to the principles and practices of the Sufi tradition, as well as an opportunity to experience some Sufi practices, either as a participant or as an observer.

Shaikha Camille was a distinguished participant in TSN's Workshop on "*Challenges for Women: Enduring Wisdom from the Native American, Jewish, Christian and Islamic Traditions*," held at St. Agnes Church, in Louisville, in October 2017. She chanted a Sufi prayer at the start of the Workshop, and later led a Discussion Group where she made a presentation on "*Women of Sufism: Encompassing Freedom, Striding towards Unity*." The presence of Shaikha Camille and Shaikh Kabir in our community is a special gift to all spiritual seekers, and is greatly valued by *The Salaam Network*.