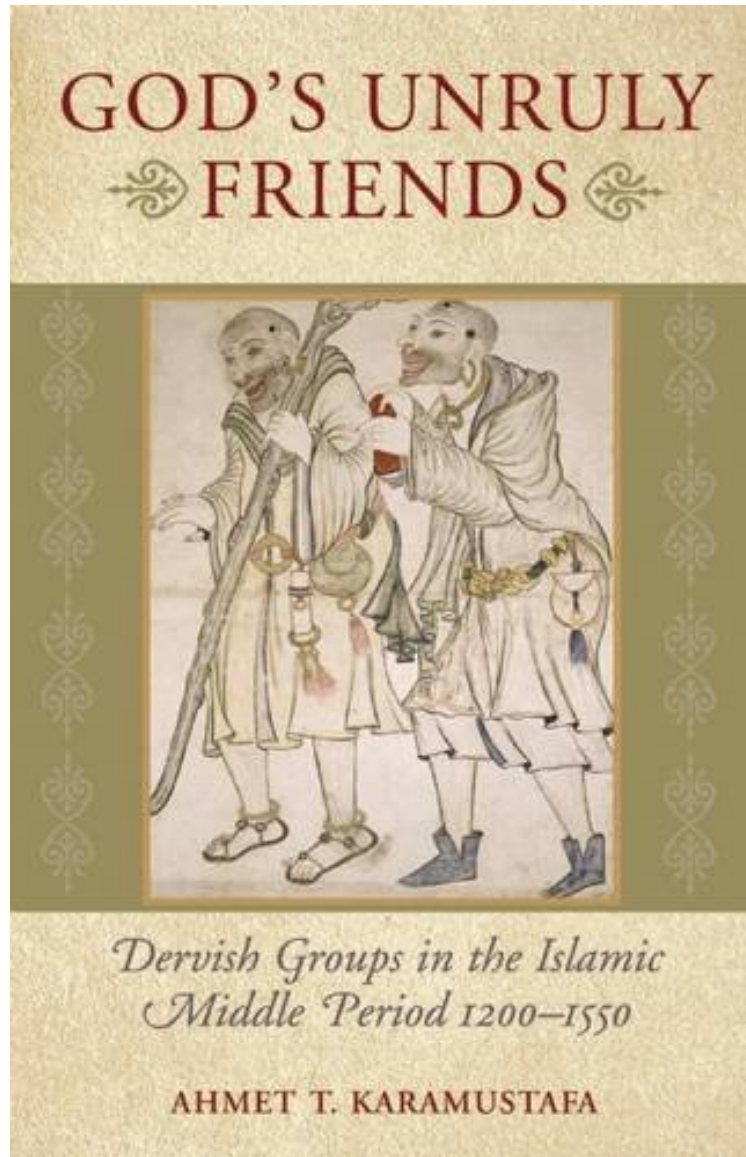


God's Unruly Friends: Dervish Groups in the Islamic Middle Period 1200-1550

Ahmet T. Karamustafa

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fascinating look at antinomian dervishes. Explains their thought, outlandish modes of dress , and behavior. This book posits that within Sufism are two basic streams of thought often at odds with each-other . One was community oriented and structured and the other which was radically individualistic and embraced often extream methods of renunciation . Antinomian dervish piety has its roots primarily in the ascetic / individualistic "tradition" as domesticated within Sufism.

Wandering dervishes formed a prominent feature of most Muslim communities well into the modern period, surviving in some regions even today. Shocking in appearance, behavior, and speech, these social misfits were revered by the public, yet denounced by cultural elites. *God's Unruly Friends* is the first in-depth and comprehensive survey of this enigmatic type of piety, tracing the history of the different dervish groups that roamed the lands in Western, Central and South Asia, as well as the Middle East and Southeast Europe.