


# Sufism Reoriented

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## Sufism Reoriented

	
<b>Type</b>	Non-profit religious corporation
<b>Founded</b>	1952
<b>Location</b>	Walnut Creek, California
<b>Key people</b>	Carol Weyland Conner
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://sufismreoriented.org">sufismreoriented.org</a> <sup>[1]</sup>

**Sufism Reoriented** is an American school of spiritual training headquartered in Walnut Creek, California, established by Meher Baba in 1952. In November of that year he signed *The Chartered Guidance from Meher Baba for the Reorientation of Sufism*. He appointed Ivy O. Duce as the first Murshida, or spiritual guide, of Sufism Reoriented.

Sufism was originally brought to the West by Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882–1927) in 1910. He appointed Rabia Martin as his successor and Murshida of his Sufi Order. In the 1940s Rabia Martin recognized Avatar Meher Baba as the reigning spiritual authority of the age and surrendered herself and her order to him. She appointed Ivy Duce as her successor as Murshida of the Sufi Order. In 1948 Murshida Duce was called to India by Meher Baba who confirmed her role as Murshida and announced that he intended to reorient Sufism under his guidance and her leadership in the near future. This was realized in 1952 with the creation of Sufism Reoriented.<sup>[2]</sup>

The members of Sufism Reoriented celebrate Meher Baba as the Avatar, the human incarnation of God and the spiritual authority of this age.<sup>[3]</sup> This represents a substantial departure from Sufism in either its traditional Islamic form, or in the form taught by Hazrat Inayat Khan. It is worth noting that Meher Baba asserted that Sufism pre-dates the Islamic prophet Muhammad, having begun with the prophet Zoroaster of Persia,<sup>[4]</sup> and that Muhammad gave Sufism a spiritual push back toward the esoteric aspect of the spiritual path (this last point was conveyed to Don E. Stevens by Meher Baba in person).

Meher Baba designed Sufism Reoriented as a universal spiritual school which recognizes a central core of divine love at the heart of all spiritual systems. Meher Baba reorganized patterns of life and inner training associated with ancient Sufism and adapted them to the needs of spiritual students in contemporary America. He identified the central principles of Sufism Reoriented as love and service: active love for God and active service to others in God's world.

Those who are drawn to join this Sufi school share certain characteristics. First is an inner connection with divinity that cannot be denied or set aside, an overwhelming impetus to dedicate one's life to God and to honor the divinity of life itself. Though this impulse may not always emerge in one's daily awareness, it is felt at deeper levels as a central quality of life. Sufis identify it as love, and they recognize its fulfillment in Meher Baba, the very embodiment of love.

Those drawn to Sufism Reoriented also recognize a natural affinity with the school's spiritual teacher, who occupies the office of Murshid. The term *Murshid* or *Murshida* means Guide. It is used in traditional Sufism to refer to the spiritual figure who directs a Sufi school. Meher Baba, who described himself as the *Murshid of Murshids*, first received Murshida Rabia Martin as His follower, and agreed to guide her and her Sufi group. However, Murshida Martin died before meeting Meher Baba physically.<sup>[5]</sup> Before passing, Murshida Martin made Ivy Oneita Duce (1895–1981) her successor (the next Murshida) of the Sufi Order. In 1952 Meher Baba appointed her the first

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Murshida of Sufism Reoriented. Meher Baba confirmed this in India upon meeting Murshida Duce there. Before her passing, Murshida Duce named Dr. James S. B. MacKie (1932–2001) as her successor. He, in turn, designated Carol Weyland Conner, the current Murshida, as his successor.

## Meher Baba Publications and Media

Sufism Reoriented is the copyright holder and publisher of several books by and about Meher Baba including Meher Baba's most important published book *God Speaks: the Theme of Creation and Its Purpose*. It also owns and publishes *Beams from Meher Baba on the Spiritual Panorama*, *Life At Its Best*, *Glimpses of the God-Man Meher Baba. Volume I*, and *How a Master Works* by Ivy Oneita Duce.<sup>[6]</sup> In addition Sufism Reoriented owns and preserves numerous films and photographs of Baba. These include color 16mm films taken of Baba during his trip to the United States in 1956 by Charmian Duce Knowles, daughter of Murshida Ivy Oneita Duce.

## References

- [1] <http://www.sufismreoriented.org/>
- [2] Glow International ([http://www.belovedarchives.org/glow\\_international/art007\\_02.html](http://www.belovedarchives.org/glow_international/art007_02.html))
- [3] Glow International ([http://www.belovedarchives.org/glow\\_international/art008\\_01.html](http://www.belovedarchives.org/glow_international/art008_01.html))
- [4] Kalchuri, Bhau: "Meher Prabhu: Lord Meher, The Biography of the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba", *Manifestation, Inc.* 1986. p. 1196
- [5] Kalchuri, Bhau: "Meher Prabhu: Lord Meher, The Biography of the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba", *Manifestation, Inc.* 1986. p. 3069
- [6] Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust AMBPPCT PDF file (<http://www.ambppct.org/meherbaba/copyright/Copyrt.pdf>)

## External links

- Official Website of Sufism Reoriented (<http://www.sufismreoriented.org/>)
- Letter from Murshida Rabia Martin to Meher Baba dated August 24th, 1945 (<http://www.lordmeher.org/index.jsp?pageBase=page.jsp&nextPage=3069>)
- Who brought the Inayat Khan Sufi Group to Meher Baba (<http://www.jaibaba.com/mandali/ds/broughtsufis.html>)
- Sufism Reoriented - Fifty Years Later ([http://www.belovedarchives.org/printer\\_friendly/glow\\_art008\\_pf.html](http://www.belovedarchives.org/printer_friendly/glow_art008_pf.html))
- Article about Murshida Carol Weyland Conner (<http://www.boloji.com/wfs/wfs146.htm>)
- Interview with Murshida Conner ([http://www.belovedarchives.org/glow\\_international/art007\\_01.html](http://www.belovedarchives.org/glow_international/art007_01.html))

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