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Kenneth Lizzio. « Ritual and Charisma in Naqshbandi Sufi Mysticism ». *Anpere (Anthropological Perspectives on Religion)*, published on-line 21-02-2007, p. 1-37.

- 1 This ethnological study of a branch of the Naqšbandiyya Mujaddidiyya order based in Pakistan's tribal area combines ethnological fieldwork with a historical and textual analysis that evinces recent theories in transpersonal psychology. Suggestive of an original approach to the study of Sufism, its chief aim is to correct the anthropologist's tendency to focus exclusively on the social, political and economical aspects of Sufi orders while neglecting the esoteric and spiritual ones. The author makes a strong case for taking the cultivation of spiritual life more seriously in the anthropology of Sufism. By providing a detailed description of Naqšbandī cosmology, rituals and spiritual exercises, this article refines the description of the characteristics of a Sufi master's charisma and spiritual authority. Referring to Naqšbandī doctrine and practices and to testimonies from practitioners, the author argues that the order's *raison d'être* is to cultivate the deep structures of human consciousness. The text ends with a call for a new theoretical framework, a "transcendental anthropology" that would be better suited for explaining spiritual issues and practices.

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