Contents only, from Julio Savi's book *Towards the Summit of Reality*.

See http://bahai-library.com/savi\_toward\_summit\_reality

# **Table of Contents**

Note on transliteration Acknowledgements

# Introduction

## 1. Notes on Súfism

What is Súfism

**Notes of Súfí Doctrine** 

Metaphysic

Tawhid

The Attributes and Names of God

Creation

The Hierarchy of the Divine Worlds

Being

Spirit (rúh)

#### Cosmology

# Psychology and anthropology

Body

Intellect

The Soul

Knowledge

The Heart

Spiritual Yearning

#### **The Ascetic Doctrine**

#### The Mystic Path

#### The Path

Poverty

Mortification

Trust in God

Recollection

#### **Knowledge or gnosis**

Gnosis and Love

**Truth** 

# 2. The Literary Style

# **Grammatical and Syntactic Structure**

The Metaphorical Genitive

Redundancy

The Concision of the Opening Sentences

#### The Use of Arabic and Persian

# **Allegories and Symbols**

Poetic and Literary Aspects

Esoteric Aspects

Prudential Considerations

Mystical Aspects

Stories and Legends: the Tá'wíl

#### **Quotations**

Quotations Used for Literary Purposes

The Ineffability of Spiritual Subjects and Experiences

Allusions to His Prophetic Mission

## **Sources of Quotations**

The Qur'án

**Traditions** 

Mystical Poets

Other Authors:

His Own Poems

Lugmán

A Commentary of the Qur'an

```
The <u>Gh</u>aw<u>th</u>íyya ('Abd al-Qádir al-Jílání)
Abú Yazíd al-Bishámí
```

#### The Science of Letters

The Abjad

# 3. Stories and Legends

### **Stories of Prophets**

**Abraham** 

Joseph

Jacob as the Human Soul

The Fragrant Garment of Joseph

The 'Egypt of love' and 'the Joseph of the Beauty of the Friend'

Jacob's Blindness

Joseph as Interpreter of Dreams and Visions

#### Moses

Moses' White Hand (yad-i-baydá)

Thou Shalt Not See Me (lan tarání)

The Sinaitic Experience: Spiritual Transformation

The Sinaitic Experience: Submission to God

Khidr

#### **Love Stories**

Majnún and Laylí

The Story of the Lover and the Watchman

# **Personages of the Spiritual Worlds**

The Kingdom of the Exalted Ones (malakútu'l-'álín)

The Concourse of the Near Ones (malá'u'l-muqarrabín)

The Realm of the Sincere Ones (jabarútu'l-mukhlisín)

`Izrá'íl

Isráfíl

The Trumpet (aṣ-ṣúr)

Gabriel (Jibra'íl)

# **Legendary Personages, Animals and Places**

The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

Luqmán

```
The Phoenix (Símurgh)
The Leviathan (nahang)
The Sheba (Saba')
Alexander's Wall (sadd-i-Sikandar)
Geographical and historical references
Geographical references

Hijáz
'Iráq
```

Jayḥún

Tabríz

Tiflís

Sanandaj

#### **Historical references**

Alexander (Sikandar)

Ibn-i-Ḥájib

Ibn-i-Málik

Qawlavayh (Qawlawiyyih)

Shaddád

Sibavayh (Saybawiyyih)

#### **Notes**

# 4. Allegories and Symbols: The Pilgrim

# **The Journey**

The Journey (sayr, safar, sulúk) and the Wayfarer (sálik, musáfir)

The Homeland (vatan)

The Valleys (vádí)

The City (<u>sh</u>ahr, madínih)

The Ka'ba

The Sanctuary (haram)

#### The Path

ţarígat, rah, ráh, sabíl

The Straight Path (aṣ-ṣíráṭu'l-mustaqím)

The Snow-white Path (manháju'l-bayḍá)

#### **Symbols of Royalty**

The King (sháh, şulţán)

The Court of Holiness and Nearness and Beauty (sáḥatu'l-quds, wa'l-qurb, wa'liamál)

The Throne ('arsh and sarír)

The Empyrean of Might (kursíy-i-'aẓamat)

The Pavilion of the Loved One (surádiq-i-maḥbúb)

The Lofty Pavilion (khyám-i-raf'at)

The Dome of Glory (qibábu'l-'izz)

#### Trees and Plants, Gardens, Meadows and Deserts

Trees and Plants (sidrih, shajjarih, dirakhth)

The Garden (ríyád, bustán, gulistán, bágh, ḥadíqih)

Meadows and Deserts (saḥrá', barr, baydá')

#### **Animals**

Birds

The Dove (varqá, ḥamámat)

The Falcon (báz, sháhín, sháh-báz)

The Raven (ghuráb)

Birds of Prey (aṭyár-i-ráh-zan)

The Beetle (ju'al)

#### Notes

# 5. Allegories and Symbols: The Lover

#### The Beloved, the Lover and Love

The Beloved, the Lover and Love

The Pains of Love

The Fearlessness of the Lover

The Insatiability of the lover

The Insanity of Love

The Wisdom of Love

Love and Purification

Love and Death of the Self

Love and Beauty

The Secret of the Lovers

```
The Confirmations of the Creator Love and Joy
```

The Nightingale (bul-bul) and the Rose (gul)

The Face  $(r\acute{u}y)$  and the Hair (ja'd) of the Beloved

**Erotic-Mystic Poetry** 

# Convivial Symbols: Wine, the Cup, the Cup-Bearer, the Minstrel and

Wine (khamr, sharáb, bádih), and the Tavern (khaniy-i-khammár)

The Cup (jam, ká's, ku'úb, zujájih)

The Cup-Bearer (ságí)

The Minstrel (muṭrib)

Food (ţa'ám)

Arabian Melodies (naghmát-i-ḥijází) and Sweet Iranian songs (áváz-háy-i-khwush-i-'iráqí)

Notes

# 6. Allegories and Symbols: The Ascetic

The Heart (dil or qalb)

The Heart as an Organ of Knowledge

The Heart as the Seat of the Divine Presence

The Heart as the Organ of Attraction

Cleansing the Heart

The Veils (ḥijáb, pardih)

# The Sun and Light

Light as God

Light as Being

Light as Spiritual Qualities

**Mirrors** 

Spring

#### **Colours**

Fire (nár, átish)

Fire as a Purifying Agent

Alchemic Aspects of Fire

Fire as Bearer of Heat and Light: the Lamp (miṣbáḥ) and the Lantern (mishkát), the Candle (shama') and the Lantern (fánús), the Flame (siráj), the Lamp (zujáj) and the Globe (mishkát), the Lamps of Wayfaring and Wandering (chirágh-háy-i-sayr wa sulúk)

Fire as a Source of Life

#### Water, Rain, Flowing Waters and the Sea

Water

Water of Life

Rain

Streams and Fountains

The Sea and the Ocean (baḥr, lujjih, yamm)

The Drop and the Sea (qaṭra and baḥr)

Winds

Scents

Dust (turáb, khák)

**A Conclusion** 

Notes

# 7. Şúfí Concepts and Ciphers Revised by Bahá'u'lláh: God, Creation, the Worlds of God

#### God

God is Unknowable

The Divine Essence

The Shahada and the Divine Unity and Oneness (tawhid)

The Oneness of Being (vaḥdat-i-vujúd) and Manifestation (vaḥdat-i-shuhúd)

God's Names and Attributes (asmá' al láh and sifát al láh)

The Names Most Beautiful (al-asmá'u'l -ḥusná)

#### Attributes and Names of God

The Attributes of the Basmalah

The Four Divine States (chihár rutbiy-i-iláhíyyih)

Other Divine Attributes

The Self of God (nafsu'alláh)

#### Being

Being (vujúd), essence (dhát), existence (hastí) etc.

#### Creation

The Concept of Manifestation as Effulgence (tajalli)

'adam ('nothingness', 'shadow'), ma'dúm ('lost ... nothing', 'destroy')

The New Creation (khalq-i-jadídí)

The Day wherein None hath a Mention

Justice in the World of Creation

Creation Vocabulary

#### The Worlds of God

#### The Divine Worlds for the Súfís

Introductory Remarks

The World of Háhút

The World of Láhút

The World of Jabarút

The World of Malakút

The World of Násút

The Worlds of Time

#### The Divine Worlds in the two Epistles

The Two Worlds (har du jahán, du 'álam)

The Worlds of Names ('aválim-i-asmá')

The Worlds of Attributes ('álam-i-șifát)

The World of Oneness ('aválim-i-aḥadiyyih)

The Realm of Absolute Command ('álam-i-amr)

The Worlds of Authority and Command ('álam-háy-i-iṭláq wa amr)

The World of Holiness ('álam-i-qudsí)

#### **Notes**

# 8. Şúfí Concepts and Ciphers Revised by Bahá'u'lláh: The Manifestation of God

# The Manifestation of God (mazhar-i-iláhí)

Dispensing with a Prophet-Mediator

Prophetic and Initiatory Functions

The Highest Station of the manifestation of God

Coincidence of the Opposites

Incognoscibility of the Manifestation of God

Preexistence, Poverty, Omnipotence

Inspired knowledge

The Great Infallibility ('ismat-i-kubrá)

The Secret of Divine Guidance (sirr-i-rashád)

The Oneness of the Manifestations of God

Progressive Revelation

# **Ciphered References to the Manifestation of God**

The Book (kitáb)

The apex of eternity (qutb al -baqá')

The Center of Realities (qutb al -ma'aní)

The Most Great Pillar (rukn-i-a'zam)

The Crimson Pillar (al-ruknu'l-ḥamrá')

The Excellent Temple (haykalu'l-mukarram)

The Heavenly Messenger (bashír-i-aḥadíyyih)

The Lord of Messengers (siyyidu'l-mursalín)

The Lord of the House (saḥib-i-bayt)

The Holy Souls (awliyá)

The Guardian of the Cause (valíy-i-amr)

The presence of the Beloved (liqáy-i-maḥbúb)

Nearness (qurb)

Communion (uns)

The reunion with the beloved (vaṣl, viṣál, vuṣúl)

The Face of God (vajh)

#### The Teachings of the Manifestation of God

The Law of the Book (hukm-i-kitáb)

The Divine Utterance (bayán)

The True Standard of Knowledge (mízán)

Mysteries, Secrets and Strangers (mu'ammá, asrár etc.)

**Notes** 

# 9. Şúfí Concepts and Ciphers Revised by Bahá'u'lláh: Man

Man as the Image of God

The Divine Trust (vadí'iy-i-iláhíyyih)

The Soul and the Self (nafs, ján)

Spirit (ruḥ)

Reason and Intellect ('aql)

Knowledge

Certitude (yaqín)

The Inner Eye

#### Free will

The Decree of God (qaḍa') and God's Immutable Decree (qadar)

His Foreordained Mystery (sirr-i-muqaddar)

# **The Spiritual Path**

Heedlessness (ghaflat)

Returning to God

The spirit of search (rúyy-i-taḥqíq) and blind imitation (rúyy-i-taqlíd)

Those who believed and surrendered themselves (min ámana wa istaslama)

The Dying from Self (fanáy-i-az nafs)

The Living in God (baqáy-i-bi alláh)

Resurrection (ma'ád, ḥa<u>sh</u>r)

The Four Journeys in the Pathway of Love (safar-hay-i-sabíl-i-'ishq)

The 'Four Stages of the Heart' (chihar rutbih)

Various kinds of seekers

The Beloved of God, the Saints and the Prophets

Obeying the Divine Teachings

The Straight Path (aṣ-ṣírát al -mustaqím)

Faithfulness (istiqámat)

- ...

Fear of God

Detachment

**Astonishment** 

**Poverty** 

The importance of the instant

Sleep and Dreams

Miracles

#### Notes

# 10. Şúfí Concepts and Ciphers Revised by Bahá'u'lláh: The Journey of The Seven Valleys

Valleys in Şúfí literature and in Bahá'u'lláh's Writings

#### The Plane of Limitations

The Plane of Heedlessness

The Valley of Search

The Valley of Love

The Valley of Knowledge

#### The Valleys above this ...

The Valley of Unity

The Valley of Contentment

The Valley of Wonderment

The Valley of True Poverty and Absolute Nothingness

#### **Notes**

# 11. Şúfí Concepts and Ciphers Revised by Bahá'u'lláh: The Journey of The Four Valleys

#### Four-stages Models in Şúfí Literature

Abú'l-Ḥusayn an-Núrí

al-Iílání

The Bektashí Four Gateways

The Four Valleys and the Seven Valleys

**The Prologue** 

The First Valley

The Self Not Rejected, But Beloved

The Realm of Conflict

The Signs of God

Obedience to the Laws of God

Transformed into an Angel

A Comparative Study

Feelings and Experiences Related to this Valley

#### The Second Valley

Training the 'feeble reason'

Faith as Conscious Knowledge

The Fruits of the Process: Knowledge

A Comparative Study

The Second Valley and Spiritual Chivalry

#### The Third Valley

Love as Detachment from Self

Romantic Love Versus Spiritual Love

Love and Deeds

A Comparative Study

The First Three Valleys: A Comparison

The Fourth Valley

Notes

## A conclusion

**Notes** 

# **Appendixes**

# **Appendix I**

The Qur'an and quotations from the Qur'an

# **Appendix II**

**Traditions and quotations from the Traditions** 

# **Appendix III**

#### **Quotations from other sources**

A Commentary of the Qur'án Luqmán

- 40 540

# 'Abd al -Qadir al-Jílání, the Ghaw<u>th</u>iyyih Abú Yazíd al-Bistámí

# **Appendix IV**

## **Quotations from mystical poems**

Shaykh Abú Ismá'íl 'Abd al láh Anşárí

Ḥakím Saná'í

Ibn Fárid

Farídu'd-Dín 'Aţţár

Muşlihu'd-Dín Sa'dí

Mawláná Jalálu'd-Dín Rúmí

Shamsu'd-Dín Ḥáfiz

Hátif

Unidentified Persian mystical poems

Unidentified Arabic poems

Bahá'u'lláh's Sáqí-az-Ghayb-i-Baqá

#### Notes

Bibliography
Index of Names and Places
Index of Subjects