



The Path of Love

According to the Spiritual Tradition of Islam

Saturday, July 22, 2023
10:00 am to 2:30 pm
(no charge / lunch provided)

Columbus Marriott Northwest
5605 Blazer Pkwy
Dublin 43017

RSVP by July 10, 2023
to Fazeel S. Khan at:
fazskhan@aol.com

Presented by The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society hosts a symposium each year that offers an opportunity to better understand the spiritual basis of the religion of Islam. This year, we will be presenting on the topic of *Divine Love*.

Islam is viewed in many ways. It is recognized as a monotheistic religion and an Abrahamic faith. It is appreciated as a rich tradition from which great historical contributions were made to the development of modern civilization. It is also accepted as a way of life and a source of spirituality for over a billion people on earth today. But what it is not normally associated with, is the concept of *love*.

It is rarely acknowledged that the very essence of the Islamic faith is based on the notion of *love*. One of the names of God expressly mentioned in the Quran is *Al Wadud*, or *The Loving*. The primary Divine attribute mentioned in the Quran, that of *Rahma*, defines God's nature as lovingly compassionate and tenderly merciful, like the nurturing environment of a mother's womb. And the very purpose of life presented in Islamic theology is to achieve an inner state of peace in which a loving relationship with the Divine is formed, the primary condition for which is kind and caring treatment to all creation.

Please join us as we explore *The Path of Love*, according to the spiritual tradition of Islam. In addition to presentations titled *Divine Love*, *Union with the Beloved* and *A (Loving) Mercy to all Mankind*, we are very pleased to also have participate:

Prof. Michael Birkel (Professor of Religion at Earlham College, author of *Quran in Conversation*) to offer reflections from the mystical traditions of Islam and Christianity on the conception of love;

Prof. Omid Safi (Director of Duke University's Islamic Studies Center, author of *Radical Love*) to present a talk on the poetry by classical Muslim sages, like Rumi, that expound on the spiritual significance of love.

We look forward to you joining us for the program!