

TRIP, DANCE, TRANCE, AND SMILE FOR GOD AND THE YOUNG SUFI MASTER IN AN EGYPTIAN SUFI ORDER

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Currently, the Jazuliya Shadhuliya has about 7,000 card-carrying members in Egypt. Over 50% of the members participate in Sufi rituals with their families. Membership ranges from children to adults, but most are 40-60 years old. This Sufi order has followed a path of modernization and innovation through a close study of two notable characteristics. Whereas most Sufi orders that have modernized tend to restrain or ban external manifestations of emotion, the Jazuliya Shadhuliya allows, and even encourages, frenzied self-expression of emotion in religious practices, and permits devotion to God.

From an analytical viewpoint, emotion is expressed in two ways in the Sufi order. First, the presence of the Master is important in Sufism as he inspires and arouses strong feelings and emotions in the devotees as he leads them along the spiritual path towards God. Second, individual devotion to the Master as leader of the organization is important. However, the general consensus among members revealed that these two emotions are ambiguous. In summary, the emotional context binds members to the Master, strengthening the leadership of the Master within the organization, which demonstrates that both “pre-modern” and “modern” features interact and compliment each other, and are indispensable to the internal organization of the Sufi order.

This film deals with a trip made by the Young Master (the next Master of the Sufi order) and some members from Cairo to the Aswan branch of this Sufi order. The Jazuliya Shadhuliya has about 50 branches throughout Egypt. In this film, the Young Master and the other members move their bodies, show love, enter a trance, and smile, on the train, at the Comombo branch near Aswan, and during a nighttime Sufi ritual.

Duration: 30 min, **Medium:** DV, **Year:** 2006, **Location:** Egypt

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