

## **Supplement: Expressions, Sufi ways of life**

The importance of the *shaykh(ah)* must be emphasised. There is a tradition amongst the sufis that those who attempt to follow the sufi paths without the guidance of a *shaykh(ah)* himself will become their *shaykh*

historically there were a few who are understood to have travelled the path without one. These practices are not things to be taken lightly or used by the uninitiated by way of an experiment. There is a good deal in common between the practices of the sufis and those of Jewish and Christian mystics. Some scholars have even spoken of an ecumenism between them on the esoteric level. It is clear that there were sufi *tariqas* in Islamic Spain that took into full membership Jews and Christians as well as Muslims, and in India, it is known that Hindus prayed with sufi *tariqas*.