



# First Among Sufis: The Life and Thought of Rabia al-Adawiyya, the Woman Saint of Basra

*Widad El Sakkakini, Nabil Safwat, Doris Lessing*

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Born in Basra in the 8th century of an impoverished family, orphaned and sold into slavery, Rabia al-Adawiyya, rose to become one of the greatest Sufi teachers. An extraordinary kaleidoscope of myth and reality, of imagination and fact... is it not of importance that a woman of such stature and independence of mind existed so early in the story of Islam, to show what women could be, and how they could be regarded?

Introduction by Doris Lessing

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