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The unseen saints of Islam: Sufi ritual and religious worldmaking in Java

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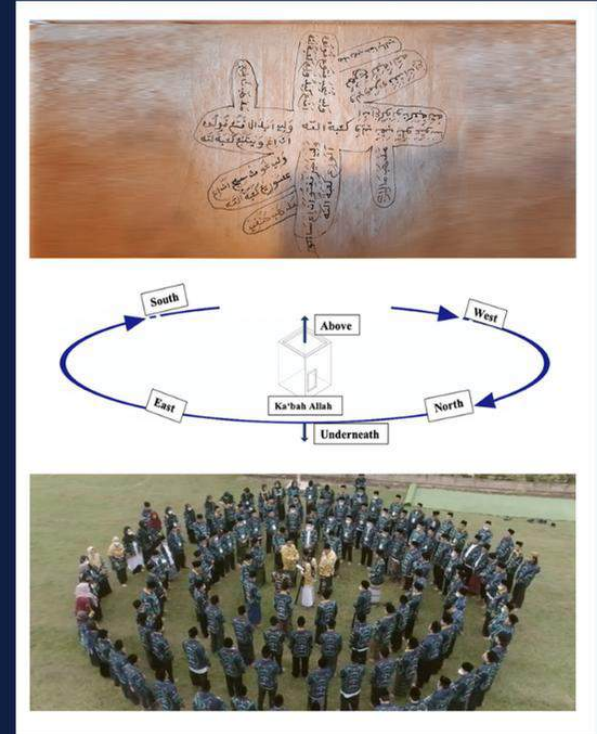
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The Unseen Saints of Islam explores the ritual of asking help from God through the *Wali Kutub*, or the 'Poles of the Saints'. This ritual is referred to as the *Walikutuban*. By applying a philology of performance lens, this book delves into two kinds of cultural artefacts: (1) the Book of the Poles of the Saints (*Kitab Wali Kutub*) from the second half of nineteenth century Java; (2) the *Walikutuban* ritual, which was revived and has been performed by members of the Nahdhatul Ulama (NU) since the early twenty-first century. By exploring the lingual properties of *Kitab Wali Kutub*, this book discusses the Sufi paths (*tarekats*) and colonial political practices as well as Islamic religious practices in the high-colonial period of Java. Furthermore, by studying the performative features of *Walikutuban* ritual, this book presents the social and political issues which are related to the *Walikutuban* in present-day Java. By making sense of both artefacts, the book explores how a world is built. Thus, *The Unseen Saints of Islam* concerns an instance of religious worldmaking, a creation of reality by means of religious artefacts.

THE UNSEEN SAINTS OF ISLAM

SUFI RITUAL AND RELIGIOUS WORLDMAKING IN JAVA



Wahyu Widodo