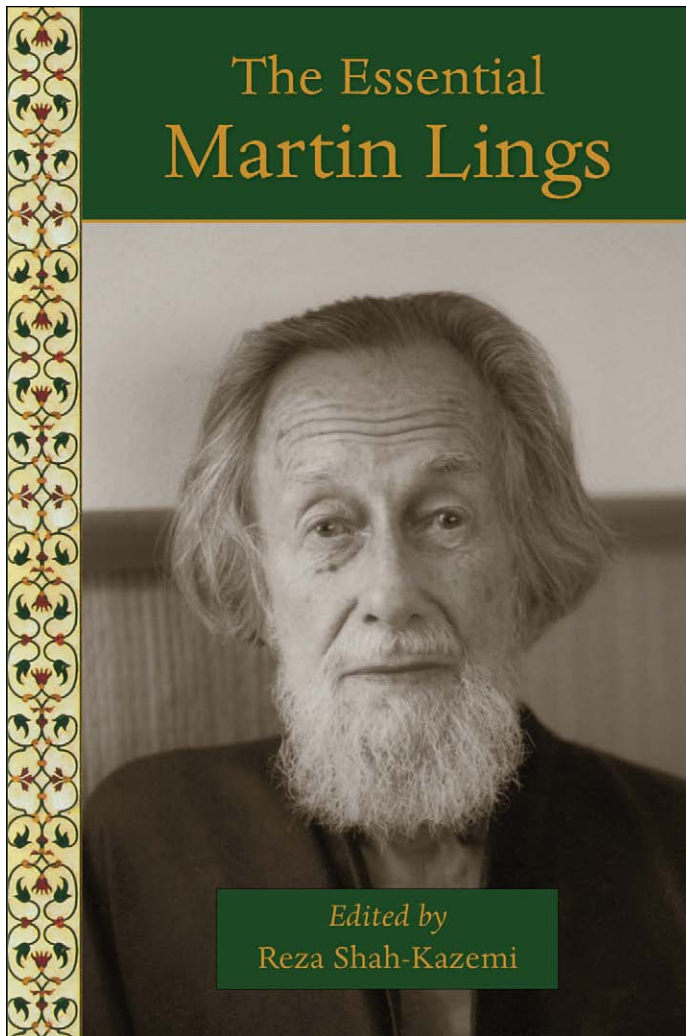


# *The Essential Martin Lings*

Edited by Reza Shah-Kazemi



This collection of the essential writings of Martin Lings brings together some of the most outstanding chapters from his wide range of works. In addition to selections dealing with the perennial philosophy, such as “Do the Religions Contradict One Another?”, the anthology includes sections from his extensive writings on Islam and Sufism, and on the spiritual dimensions to be found in Shakespeare’s mature plays.

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## *About Martin Lings*

Martin Lings (1909–2005), the former Keeper of Oriental Manuscripts at the British Museum, was a leading member of the perennialist school and a renowned author, editor, translator, scholar, Arabist, and poet. After a classical education he read English at Oxford where he was a pupil and later a close friend of C. S. Lewis. Lings is the author of several award-winning books on subjects ranging from Sufism to Shakespeare, including *A Sufi Saint of the Twentieth Century: Shaikh Ahmad al-‘Alawi, His Spiritual Heritage and Legacy*, the best-selling *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources* (translated into over a dozen languages), and *Shakespeare in the Light of Sacred Art*.



## About the Editor

**Reza Shah-Kazemi** (b. 1960) is an author in the fields of Islamic studies and Comparative Religion. He is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, and has been involved in important interfaith initiatives for the last two decades. He has edited, translated, and written numerous books and articles, including *Paths to Transcendence according to Shankara, Ibn Arabi & Meister Eckhart*, the award-winning *Justice and Remembrance: Introducing the Spirituality of Imam Ali*, and *Common Ground Between Islam and Buddhism*, which was prefaced and launched by HH The Dalai Lama. Shah-Kazemi lives in Westerham in the south of England.

## Praise for Martin Lings

“One of the great privileges of my life has been to know Dr. Martin Lings. He saw beneath the surface of things and helped us penetrate the veil behind which lies the sacred meaning to so many of life’s mysteries.”

—HM King Charles III

“Martin Lings has been a role model for me. . . . Like everyone else who knew him intimately, I revered him for being the saint he was.”

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“In Martin Lings’ lucid and supple writings we find an extraordinary synthesis of metaphysical insight, hermeneutical discernment, poetic beauty and mystical illumination, all the more striking considering the variegation of his work. This marvelous anthology is a veritable treasure-house!”

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—Reza Shah-Kazemi, author of *Paths to Transcendence according to Shankara, Ibn Arabi & Meister Eckhart*