



The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives

The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives is an oral history collection of Sufi literature shared by parents and children in the United Kingdom. These narratives were recorded through interviews with parents and children conducted as part of a broader social science research project led by Dr Hamide Elif Üzümcü at the University of Edinburgh (hamideelif.uzumcu@ed.ac.uk).

The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives comprises two collections: (1) **Sufi stories** and (2) **Sufi concepts**. This file contains the collection of Sufi concepts.

The Sufi Concepts collection includes individual concepts accompanied by detailed metadata, including Concept ID, storyteller, date and place of collection, theme, context in which the concept was shared, the conceptual meaning described by the storyteller, and an archival citation.

Sufi Concepts

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Family 1: Khalid & His Father

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #1

Concept

Sunnah

Storyteller

Father of Khalid, 12-year-old boy

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Sunnah; Islamic Ethics; Environmental Responsibility; Gratitude; Mindful Consumption; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing

Khalid's Father: I'd probably say that the centrality of sort of being a good person and enacting, first of all, trying to follow the **Sunnah** [the teachings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad]. So by following the Sunnah, you'll take the life of the Prophet that you that's being released. You know, that wasn't a lot of the things that we have now, for example, just for you to have a bottle of water, you know, requires you to have a plastic. Just to have milk requires just to have plastic, even if it's a cereal box. Again, you're using once packaging, whereas back then you'd completely natural. So we do try to explain to them also that we're living in an environment that we can't help, have to store things, but then again about store, you know, we try to ensure that our fridge is not always full 100% for all the time that it is missing that sometimes not isn't made for, you know, purposefully like you know, make sure that ... or, feel that impact of all actually you know. We're still needy, we're still needy of you a lot because, where this has come from, ultimately, you know, even if you go to shops, what does it mean? We have to pay for the good. Where this has come from? Or we have to work. And you know, why do we have to work? Because just so through simple concepts like that.

Conceptual Meaning

Khalid's Father: You can say Sufi or even Islamic concepts, is also making sure that you know you do your... you say **Bismillah** [In the name of Allah] before you eat your meal, you know, making sure that when you're cooking like, you know, tell the kids, "Look, I'm doing **salawat** [Prayers of blessing upon the Prophet Muhammad] while making some food." So it puts ... into the food so that. You know, especially when larger gatherings and things, sometimes people can be end up becoming less than that. We need to and therefore by making by doing the speaker, make sure the **Adkahr** [Prayers and phrases recited in remembrance of Allah] reciting this, this ... and things whilst you're reciting whilst you cook. And impact, spiritual impact through the meeting and therefore it can mean that when you have a little bit, it can make you feel full as opposed to going always buying junk food or going to the shops where the guys making food is, you know, sweating, he's stressing and all of that negative spiritual vibes of stuff and you end up eating that little impact you are meant to as well.

Citation

Khalid’s Father. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #1: Sunnah*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #2

Concept
Purification of the heart

Storyteller
Khalid, 12-year-old boy

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Dhikr; Remembrance of Allah; Purification of the Heart; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing
Khalid: Purification of the heart. That's it. Like purifying yourself, doing **Dhikr** [remembrance of Allah] constantly, that kind of stuff.

Conceptual Meaning
Khalid: Like sometimes I'm just thinking about it like 'cause, like you're purifying yourself from the heart and like, you can really, like, become a better Muslim.

Citation
Khalid. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #2: Purification of the heart*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 2: Layla & Her Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #3

Concept

Mawlid

Storyteller

Layla, 14-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Gathering; Mawlid; Daf; Nasheed; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing

Layla: Definitely, I think **Mawlid** [a regular communal Islamic gathering] is definitely important. Because I actually learned to drum, when I was really young. My mum taught me she's actually spent a lot of her time teaching me on how to use the Daf. So I actually like I do know how to use it. I just I'm quite shy so I don't really drum. And I know quite a lot of like the **nasheeds** [Islamic devotional songs] as well as the Cave of Thawr like that's where I usually that's where I got Tala al-Badru Alayna from like... that that nasheed is one of like I really like that nasheed. And like, I think just going to Mawlid and I like have my own little job there. So I organize all the food and I like, I organize all the food and get all the food out and I go buy things for the Mawlid and then come back but that's usually like my little job, and I just listen and just think it really like it just really affects like your mind the way you listen to Mawlid and just how it affects you.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: So how about a Sufi concept that is important for you in terms of Islamic environmental nature ethics?

(...)

Layla: I don't know if this is what you mean. But i think like just a particular few of the 99 names of Allah Teala. I think definitely a few of those a few of their names like really just have like a really nice meaning to them and it's just like crazy how like how many names Allah has. Like Allah can do all of those things and like it just like amaze me.

Researcher: Yeah. And how do you connect it to the environment?

Layla: I just like because the... For example, the All Caring that would mean that and like especially in the Qur'an and in some Hadiths as well. And like at school I learned this because sometimes we have a thing called Spirituality day which is a whole day just learning about Islam. And it's how you treat nature and how you treat animals. And because it's Allah's creation and how you treat those animals will really affect you like your deeds and your good deeds or your bad deeds for example.

Citation

Layla. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #3: Mawlid*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #4

Concept

Tawhid

Storyteller

Mother of Layla, 14-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Fitrah; Unity; Creation; Nature; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing**Layla's Mother:**

I'd have to say, Tawhid, really first of all. Because that's, you know, that's at the centre of everything. So if. I feel when that's And when that focus is clear, for me, then the rest will follow behind. Really. So I'd say that was number 1. (...)

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: How do you see to Tawhid in connection with the environment?

Layla's Mother: That understanding the... That oneness and that connectivity through creation. And Allah's oneness. And our connectivity through the whole of creation. And that we... We really have so limited understanding of... The rest of creation's relationship to Allah. The way. Their **fitrah** [innate nature of creation] is so close to Allah and the way even. Really, in what we believe are inanimate objects are vibrating and relating to Allah, the stars, the stones, the rocks, the seas. And I think that that understanding, for me, it completely flips the paradigm of humans at the top. Of a... and the arrogance of that is the hubris of that I am. And it flips that completely to a different way of looking at life and the world. And is a lot more humbling. And I think if you fully reflect on it, it has to lead to more compassion. And it's a lot more. Sees the value of other humans, more of other people and it sees the value of the non-human creation because it's not a paradigm with humans at the top and the power going down. Power and value in going in a kind of vertical kind of paradigm. So that's for me, it changes everything once you start to look at the world, the world and the universe in that way. It changes everything.

Citation

Layla's Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #4: Tawhid*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 3: Bilal & His Father

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #5

Concept

Dhikr

Storyteller

Father of Bilal, 13-year-old boy

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Dhikr; Adkhar; Remembrance of Allah; Protection; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives

Context of Sharing

Researcher: Can you tell me a Sufi concept that do you find that you find central in your understanding of Islamic environmental ethics?

Bilal’s Father: Dhikr of Allah is very is a very central one. That, just constantly just being, you know, emphasising to be... We have a constant ritual of Dhikr is, you know, protection. You know, we'll try and encourage them. When with them we'll do the Dhikr. We also encourage them that they do it, they do **Adkhar** [Prayers and phrases recited in remembrance of Allah].

Conceptual Meaning

Bilal’s Father: You know when they're leaving the house or when they're. And it was interesting. They went to a fairground the other day. You know, the one in the centre of [city]. There's all these rides. And so they went up to this roof. But they said “we were so scared we just did all that we did everything, we read everything we knew all the Adkhar and all **Ayat-al Qursi** [a Qur’anic verse affirming Allah’s protection] and all these things.” And I was like yeah that's it, when you're in that state... What we want is those things come out not just “aaaaa” [mimicking a scream]. You know, we want them to actually say this. When you're in a state of, you know.

Citation

Bilal’s Father. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #5: Dhikr*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 4: Zain & His Parents

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #6

Concept

Adab

Storyteller

Zain, 13-year-old boy

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Islamic Ethics of Behaviour; Adab; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing & Conceptual Meaning

Zain: I think it was like my dad that taught me a lot on **adab** [good manners, moral excellence, and proper etiquette] and stuff. He would just tell me about stuff like that. And like, you know, when he would go to the mosque, he would tell me, like, how to act and stuff. It was really just like, he wouldn't. It was not really stories from him. It was really just like. He would tell me how to act and stuff, so that just helps me in real life.

Citation

Zain (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #6: Adab*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #7

Concept

Insha’Allah

Storyteller

Zain, 13-year-old boy

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; By God’s Will; Insha’Allah; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing

Zain: When I was saving up for like, my, what's it called? I was saving up for like a like a scooter, like an electric one. And then I said **Insha’Allah** [God willing] and I got it.

Conceptual Meaning

Zain: I think, to be honest, Insha’Allah. Because if you think about it, like “by God's will” so, like you have the choices to do. The choices to do something Allah knows you're gonna do it. He's not gonna stop you but Allah. Like for example if you want something, Allah can make it easier for you to get it or harder. So it's like, by God's will you can, you know.

Citation

Zain. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #7: Insha’Allah*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #8

Concept

Shukr

Storyteller

Father of Zain (13-year-old boy)

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Environment; Gift; Gratitude; Shukr; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: Is there any concept that you would associate with the environment; a Sufi concept that would be helpful for your thinking of the environment?

Zain's Father: The biggest Sufi concept will be basically the gift. I'm gonna that we have from the earth this planet and how basically the concept of gratitude and **Shukr** [gratitude to Allah], that we should have, because we have this planet as a service and present for us. But that's how we see it. That's how I see it myself. And just the fact of disrespecting the planet when we, I mean, if by littering or doing things actually wrong, I mean. These are things we can't do without. I mean we need to drive cars and stuff like that, but the first I mean, the first change from self. And just be basically not littering, for example, will be the first. I think the first principle to start with. It's a lack of gratitude to the plan, the thing that's been given to us and lack of gratitude in Islam has got a name, is called **Kufr Al-Ni'ma** [ingratitude for God's blessings]. Sometimes important to know and sometimes don't know enough about the things. So basically being disrespectful of the environment and not being not being appreciative of it's being ungrateful, and this is actually, this goes against the principle of our religion and we should have.

Citation

Father of Zain. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #8: Shukr*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #9

Concept

Tazkiyah (Purification of the Heart)

Storyteller

Father of Zain (13-year-old boy)

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Purification of the Heart; Tazkiyah;

Conceptual Meaning**Researcher:**

So can you tell me which Sufi concept do you find central in your parenting? One of the many Sufi concepts?

Zain's Father: I mean the basic of Sufism is what we call the **tazkiyah** [purification of the heart], the purification of the heart, which based on from this famous hadith of the Prophet **Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam** [Peace and Blessings be upon Him] when he was visited by Gibrail **Alaihissalam** [Peace be upon Him]. He was with his companions. And Gibrail asked him "Why is Islam? Why is **iman** [faith and belief in God]? And why is **ahsan** [excellence and beauty in conduct]? Out of this concept, he made the real 3 dimension of Islam which is, Islam is **Fiqh** [understanding and practical application of Sharia (Islamic law)], and Ahsan is **aqeedah** [Islamic beliefs and creed], beliefs, and Ahsan is **tazkiyah** [purification of the heart] and **tasawwuf** [Sufism]. And tasawwuf, when the Prophet was asked why is Ahsan, he told Angel Gibrail **Alaihissalam** [Peace be upon Him], that's basically Ahsan is believing, I mean, worship Allah as you would see him. Believe even if you don't see him. Know that he sees you and he sees your inner person. So it's how to perfect yourself. Inside, without basically people knowing it and what is good about, I mean those good for children is understanding that, OK, you can perfect yourself inwardly. OK, you pray. OK, you fast during Ramadan. If you can do **Hajj** [the pilgrimage to Mecca], you do Hajj. We pay **zakat** [charity given to those in need] and things like that, but that's out, people sees this most of the time. They know. But what is between you and God is Tasawwuf. Ahsan is basically, you know, when you have a rancor. And we were talking earlier on about the concept of rancor or angry feeling to someone. It's, I think, among these things that we need to basically get rid of, so, the **Ulama** [Islamic scholars] from Yemen used to say that he had actually had a book on that or the Three Maladies of the heart. And one is called arrogance, **kibr** [pride, arrogance]. The other one is **riya** [an Islamic concept of showing off good deeds], which is ostentation, and **hasad** [malicious envy], jealousy, and those who have these three... Those 3 maladies in the heart he won't elevate himself to **Jannah** [Paradise in Islam] or he won't get better. So it's basically those 3 maladies of the heart that we need to get rid of. Try not to be jealous of people. Be happy for people rather than being jealous for people. Don't show off too much. Be discreet. You have things OK, but don't... there is no, no matter to show you know the latest, you know. Too much showing off. Be simple, and arrogance as well. Arrogance is horrible, because you might make few people feeling like they're nothing, and it's not nice to be like that.

So you know, be nice to people, make them feel good, make them feel welcome. You know, it would make them happy to where they are. You're doing this way and that's nice. You know you are, you know. Like, don't embarrass people or things like that, so that's actually the key of Sufism, Tasawwuf, of Tazkiyah. I mean there's so many words for it. Yeah, to me the purification of the heart is very important.

Citation

Father of Zain. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #9: Tazkiyah*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #10

Concept
Moderation

Storyteller
Mother of Zain, 13-year-old boy

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Moderation; Khayru al-umūr awsaṭuhā, Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing
Zain’s Mother: My dad used to tell me at some point. It's a hadith. It's from the Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, which is interesting. I'm not from a religious family, but my dad used to say that always. (...) **‘Khayru al-umūr awsaṭuhā’** [the best of matters are those that are moderate] was one of the things my dad would always tell me. Be moderate in everything you do. Why does he tell you all the time? Because being not practising and me becoming Muslim. When I was in my early 20s, he said, oh, you know those days especially the reputation of Islam, especially after you know, the story of the war in Iraq and the September 11th, so it was a bit, you know, “Is he going to be an extremist?” He would tell me that all the time.

Conceptual Meaning
Zain’s Mother: It's ‘Khayru al-umūr awsaṭuhā.’ It's basically the best of action is the action of moderation. The best of the action is moderation. He's saying, it basically, teaches you like, “OK, don't go crazy on anything. Be moderate.” And we say Islam is the moderation.

Citation
Zain’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #10: Moderation*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 5: Rania & Her Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #11

Concept

99 Names of Allah

Storyteller

Mother of Rania (14-year-old girl)

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; 99 Names of Allah; Asma al-Husna; Mercy; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: Among many of the Sufi concepts, can you tell me which Sufi concept you find central for you?

Rania’s Mother: Reciting Allah’s names. Because we constantly call upon Allah's name at the time of need, at the time of comfort, especially for myself when I'm in bed and I'm thanking a lot all the time for his mercy, for having this comfortable warm bed, comfortable home, comfortable night, we're not hearing any bombings, constantly thanking Allah, calling upon his beautiful names, 99 names. However, I don't know all of them. I just know a few of them.

Citation

Mother of Rania. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #11: 99 Names of Allah*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #12

Concept

Rahma (Mercy)

Storyteller

Mother of Rania, 14-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Environment; Baraka; Blessing; Rahma; Mercy; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: How about a Sufi concept that you find central in understanding Islamic environmental ethics?

Rania's Mother: I think it all revolves around the mercy of Allah. See, it's because it depends on the depth of your understanding. And now this question is, it's a little bit they're different to any other question. This is something that the centre of Islam to me is mercy. Because what it depends on how you're living it basically. So me as a person, it may be different to everyone. It may be different to my husband. It could be, it could be patience for him. And for me it's mercy, because Allah sent him to me as a mercy. Allah gave me two children as a mercy. My ethics relate to the mercy of Allah, because you know the people around me taking care of me is a mercy. The food, the money, the **Baraka** [divine blessing, abundance, or spiritual growth], everything that I have is a form of mercy for me. Me being in the state of this challenging situation in my health is a mercy for me, because Allah has showed me the right path. It's given me **hidaya** [guidance from God]. So it really depends what lens you're looking through. So central for me is the **Rahma** [mercy and compassion] of Allah.

Context of Sharing

Rania's Mother: I've not spoken to them very deeply about this, because I don't want them to feel that "my mum is getting annoying." But they see that in the reflection of my everyday lifestyle. You know, I do tell them that I have beautiful daughters. I, you know, you should just take care of your daddy. He does a lot of hard work. He is taking care of everybody. They understand that. But the problem is if I start telling them about my central ethics about, you know, connection with Allah or whatever your question was relating to, again I forgot. They will not understand, because they have not lived what I am living. So they will understand that through their own experience. And my children are seeing me in a different perspective, because they're still growing and they have not discovered the characters of Islam, of attributes of Allah, because still they're yet to unfold a lot of things. So it's important that I reflect mercy on them and my children and let them open up eventually, as Allah has given me enough time to open up for myself. There's always a time for these things and there is no right time. And there will be a point in life where your heart will open up and you will realise. "Wow, I didn't realise this, that this was good for me." Like Allah says in the Quran, there's something that may be bad for you but

you like it, you know and but you're not allowed and there is something that is good for you, but you don't like it, so you know you should do that. So in that understanding, this very ayah of the Quran. You understand it in different situations and in different people, however, you're spending your life, so that is why Allah's attributes reflects differently to different person.

Citation

Rania's Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #12: Rahma (Mercy)*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 6: Nabil & His Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #13

Concept

Salawat

Storyteller

Mother of Nabil (13-year-old boy)

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Salawat; Blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Nabil’s Mother: I think it's probably **Salawat** [Prayers of blessing upon the Prophet Muhammad] and just reminding them to send blessings to the Prophet Peace be upon Him and that's what Allah... That's what we've been recommended to do and that's what people who've got so close to Allah have done. And yeah, most likely. Although even though I say this, I don't think we're very good at it. You know, I'd like to be, but yeah, I would like to say that is central to it all, but I don't know how great we are. I think we're very much focused on the **fardh** [an obligatory duty in Islam] and what we have to do, we have to pray, we have to fast, you know, less on the **Sunnah** [the teachings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad], you know.

Citation

Nabil’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #13: Salawat*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 7: Amina & Her Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #14

Concept

Junoon

Storyteller

Mother of Amina (14-year-old girl)

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Junoon; Ecstatic Devotion; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Amina’s Mother: That’s one concept I kind of practise myself to be in a **Junoon** [intense passion or devotion]. I can't be in a Junoon state, because I am not this but I try and I try and find that moment where I'm like spiritually, like linked with God. I'm just talking to him, my issues and all. And then it gives me peace and calmness.

Citation

Amina’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #14: Junoon* In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #15

Concept

Intention

Storyteller

Mother of Amina (14-year-old girl)

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Environment; Niyyah; Intention; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: I was wondering if there is any Sufi concept that you find fundamental in understanding Islamic environmental ethics?

Amina’s Mother: I would say it's your intention, isn't it? Your piety and your righteousness towards your religion, really.

Context of Sharing

Researcher: When was the last time you referred to this concept, intention, in the context of environment to your children?

Amina’s Mother: It’s always, it's part and parcel of my thing. So, intention like always kind of say to myself, I'll remind them of the praying time, although they should know themselves, but I kind of have this like, I remind them to pray, remind them. “Ramadan is coming. Let's make some plan what we are going to do together.” So it kind of try and pull it, because I can't... The thing is I want it easy for them. Easy for me as well.

Citation

Amina’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #15: Intention*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 8: Tariq & His Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #16

Concept

Love

Storyteller

Mother of Tariq, 14-year-old boy

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Love; Essence; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: I was wondering if you can tell me which Sufi concept do you find central for yourself?

Tariq’s Mother: Love. I think I will not be wrong to say that, because I think it is the essence of every, everything. I think if you don't have love, you don't do things well. You don't do things right. I think, it should be on the centre of everything. You can't have faith. You can't have nothing without love. So I don't know. It's just. Nothing will work.

Citation

Tariq’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #16: Love*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #17

Concept

Servants of the Earth

Storyteller

Mother of Tariq, 14-year-old boy

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Environment; Servants; Stewardship; Hikmah; Divine Wisdom; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: How about, if you can tell me the Sufi concept that you find central in understanding Islamic environmental ethics?

Tariq’s Mother: Maybe the fact that we are here to serve, servants of the earth. Or something like that, maybe that. We are at service and at the same time, we are the one that, we are, kind of, king, because we receive everything from the environment, from the Earth. But we are here to, we are responsible. So like king as well, in the sense that we are responsible of it. The importance of **hikmah** [wisdom, insight] when you are a Sufi, a Muslim. To work to, to do good deeds, which are actions as well, working for the earth, for the best of the society, and for the best of the environment. So I think, yeah, we can't be Muslim without having this notion of being at service.

Context of Sharing

Researcher: Can you tell me the last time you referred to this concept in your dialogue with your son?

Tariq’s Mother: I think it must be during lunch, during dinner time or something. When we make as well, yeah, when we make **duas** [prayers to God], you know when we pray always ask that everything we do, we eat will be good for others, for ourselves, physically, mentally, spiritually. So yeah, I try to make them think that whatever they're eating need to bring goodness to them. And now it's Ramadan, so even more to realise the work behind a grain of rice, that we shouldn't waste that grain of rice, because it's done the long way to be in our plate and the respect of the food, the respect of the people. Yeah, it's a long topic on environmental, it's every detail and everything.

Citation

Tariq’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #17: Servant of the Earth*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #18

Concept
Nafs

Storyteller
Tariq, 14-year-old boy

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Nafs; Ego; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning
Tariq: Maybe **nafs** [self, ego]. Like it's hard to control them and like, if you've got too much into nafs, it will lead to you doing really bad things and stuff.

Researcher: Why do you find it so significant for yourself?

Tariq: Because I feel like it's kinda like the catalyst to all problems in a way, yeah.

Citation
Tariq. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #18: Nafs*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 9: Fatima & Her Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #19

Concept

Inner and outer Lokman

Storyteller

Mother of Fatima, 11-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Inner and outer Lokman; Wisdom; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Fatima’s Mother: There's the idea of the names of God being **Jalālī** [Majesty, greatness] and **Jamālī** [beauty, grace], inner and outer Lokman [refers to **Lokman-i Zāhīr** (Outer Lokman) and **Lokman-i Bāṭīn** (Inner Lokman)]. (...) The **Zaat** [Essence, intrinsic being of Allah] of Allah is only revealed in glimpses to the one who works hard for it, to the one who deserves it. And that was just the most incredible concept. I think the most incredible connection that he made. The concept's all there, but sometimes you don’t connect them in the same way. So that was beautiful. Really beautiful, yeah.

Citation

Fatima’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #19: Inner and outer Lokman*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #20

Concept

Oneness

Storyteller

Mother of Fatima, 11-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Being Present; Oneness; Interconnected; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Context of Sharing

Fatima's Mother: So for me, as a person like, I've always loved being in nature and often. Like recently over the past, you know, maybe six months. I think I was very much in the head. I can often get lost in thoughts and ideas and maybe and find it hard to focus on things or feel present, but I've really started giving myself time every single day, even if it's 5 minutes, I will stop at the park on the way to work or home from school. And I'll just be... To me, it really helps me feel present, really helps me to feel still. And like stepping out of all the puzzle and bustle of everything, of everything, but just to be present. That's my access to inspiration, or eternity or whatever. So that's the time when I get to experience that concept of how everything is connected, because I feel connected to myself and to nature, to Allah, to creation, I suppose.

Conceptual Meaning

Researcher: How about a Sufi concept that you find central in understanding Islamic environmental perspective?

Fatima's Mother: There's a teaching about Oneness, right? How actually it's the same life that animates. All life source of life is One and that's the source. That's manifested in everything, us all, our human beings, animals, plants, nature, everything, right?

Citation

Fatima's Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #20: Oneness*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #21

Concept

Tawassul

Storyteller

Fatima, 11-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Dua al-Tawassul; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Fatima: Tawassul [seeking closeness to God through an intermediary or means]. (...) Also, like when you like ask for something in like do somebody else. (...) 'Cause, like every Thursday, it's recommended to recite the Dua al-Tawassul.

Citation

Fatima. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #21: Tawassul*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #22

Concept
Love and Nafs

Storyteller
Fatima, 11-year-old girl

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Environment; Love; Nafs; Ego; Soul; Earth; Unity; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning
Fatima: I think the two biggest ones are love and **nafs** [self, ego] like the soul. (...) I mean, like, love comes from the soul and the soul is connected with the earth. There was this once this **Jummuah khutbah** [Friday sermon] that we listened to about how it's just wrong to take like some something from where it came from. And we came from the Earth and Allah. So it's wrong to separate humans from Earth. Yeah, we're losing our connection to it from the earth. Modern stuff. And we have to reconnect with it. But also pollution and water.

Citation
Fatima. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #22: Love and Nafs*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 10: Yasmin & Her Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #23

Concept

Love

Storyteller

Mother of Yasmin, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Love; Inward-Looking Teaching; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Yasmin’s Mother: I think just the fact that, the teachings all about love, isn't it? It's about love. It's about respecting others. It's about not judging others. And what I love about it is, don't look at others. It's, look within. I think that's what I take from it. So, it's not about looking externally anymore. It's about within. It's that internal battle. Now looking at your own character, your own thought process, you know, trying to better yourself each day, I think that's what I've taken from it now.

Citation

Yasmin’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #23: Love*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #24

Concept
Respect

Storyteller
Mother of Yasmin, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Environment; Respect; Human and Non-human; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning
Yasmin’s Mother: Respecting everything. For example, you know when you're on the road and if you see a stone there, move it out the way. Right. It's just a respect for everything, isn't it? From human beings to nature, to animals and having respect and love for our environment, the world. Everything. Yeah, I think that's what it takes for me.

Citation
Yasmin’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #24: Respect*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #25

Concept
99 Names of Allah

Storyteller
Yasmin, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; 99 names of Allah; Asma al-Husna; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning
Yasmin: Well, I quite like the 99 names of Allah, because, they describe different like personalities and traits of Allah. So if perhaps if you're feeling like upset or annoyed or something. If you think of his name like or if you feel like you've done something wrong and you think, oh Allah, will never forgive me, you just think of like Allah is **the Most Forgiving** and it just shows us that Allah is forgiving, the best.

Citation
Yasmin. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #25: 99 Names of Allah*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #26

Concept
Tabarru

Storyteller
Yasmin, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Tabarru; Care for Human and Non-human; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning
Yasmin: But I'm not too familiar with many Islam, like, words, but I think it's generally like. I'm sure it's in word of the **Tabarru** [voluntary charitable giving] or something where you give what you get or you get what you give them. So if you keep like the environment and people well and everything, you'll get treated well in return.

Citation
Yasmin. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #26: Tabarru*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Family 11: Huda & Her Mother

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #27

Concept

Love all, hate none

Storyteller

Mother of Huda, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Environment; Love; Respect; Care for Human and Non-human; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Huda’s Mother: Sufi Concept. There's one line that all... From Sufi Chishti, Moinuddin Chishti, it was his last sermon. I don't actually remember the whole sermon, but only the first line: “Love all, hate none.” And I find that's really powerful. It doesn't matter who, what, where, when, genders, animals, everything. It encompasses everything. Absolutely, I think like “love all, hate none,” and it's like you should love all, all of Allah's creation. People think Allah's creation are just humans. But it's not. It's respect. It's respecting your environment. It's respecting your space. It's respecting, you know, it's respecting everything.

Citation

Huda’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #27: Love all, hate none*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #28

Concept
Adab

Storyteller
Mother of Huda, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Respect; Care for Human and Non-human; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning
Huda’s Mother: I read a whole book on **adab** [good manners, moral excellence, and proper etiquette]. I think it was a Turkish lady that wrote it and I can't remember her name. She wrote a whole book about adab. And I was reading that. And yes, it's about, again, it's respecting everything. It's hard, it's really hard to do. It's very hard to do, to respect everything and that not just humans. Even the ones that are not good to you. You should still show them some respect.

Citation
Huda’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #28: Adab*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID

Sufi Concept Record #29

Concept

Intention

Storyteller

Mother of Huda, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection

2025

Place of Collection

United Kingdom

Theme

Sufism; Intention; Care for Human and Non-human; Mindfulness; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning

Huda’s Mother: For me, I’m always thinking more of the spiritual side of things. If you put out good, you’re only going to get good back. And I suppose that’s like karma, you know. If you do good unto others, not just humans, you’re only going to receive good. It’s always the intention behind it, I guess. Yes, always the intention behind it. And I think we’re quite guilty of not being conscious of our intentions. We just do. Again, they’re just the same word for mindfulness, intention, being conscious. I think they’re all interchangeable words. (...) Yeah, intention is everything and it’s also, there’s your outward intention of doing something or making it known, but it’s also your intention inside that you don’t voice. And sometimes you might not be aware of it, but I think Allah’s always aware of what the actual intention is inside.

Citation

Huda’s Mother. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #29: Intention*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Concept ID
Sufi Concept Record #30

Concept
Innā lillāhi wa innā ilayhi rāji ‘ūn

Storyteller
Huda, 13-year-old girl

Date of Collection
2025

Place of Collection
United Kingdom

Theme
Sufism; Environment; Birth; Death; Intergenerational Storytelling; Islamic Narratives.

Conceptual Meaning
Huda: Oh, I think it was, what was that saying? My mom said it was like, Allah gives life and he takes it away. But it's in Arabic, it was like, **Innā lillāhi wa innā ilayhi rāji ‘ūn** [Indeed, we belong to God, and to Him we return] or something. But yeah, because that's the environment. Because we get buried in the ground.

Citation
Huda. (2025). *Sufi Concept Record #30: Innā lillāhi wa innā ilayhi rāji ‘ūn*. In H. E. Üzümcü (Curator), *The Family Archive of Sufi Narratives*. UK Data Archive ReShare Repository. [Include here the DOI assigned upon deposit]

Glossary

Concept	Description
Adab	Good manners, moral excellence, and proper etiquette
Adhkār	Prayers and phrases recited in remembrance of Allah
Ahsan	Excellence and beauty in conduct
Alayhis-salam	Peace be upon him
Aqeedah	Islamic beliefs and creed
Ayat al-Kursi	A Qur’anic verse affirming Allah’s protection
Barakah	Divine blessing, abundance, or spiritual growth
Bāṭin	The inner or hidden dimension
Bismillah	In the name of Allah
Dhikr	Remembrance of Allah
Du‘a	Supplication or prayer to God
Fardh	An obligatory duty in Islam
Fiqh	Understanding and practical application of Sharia (Islamic law)
Fitrah	The innate nature of creation
Hajj	The pilgrimage to Mecca
Hasad	Malicious envy
Hidayah	Guidance from God
Hikmah	Wisdom and insight
Iman	Faith and belief in God
Innā lillāhi wa innā ilayhi rāji‘ūn	Indeed, we belong to God, and to Him we return
Insha’Allah	God willing
Jalālī	Majesty and greatness
Jamālī	Beauty and grace
Jannah	Paradise in Islam
Jumu‘ah khutbah	Friday sermon
Junoon	Intense passion or devotion
Kibr	Pride and arrogance
Khayru al-umūr awsaṭuhā	The best of matters are those that are moderate
Kufr al-Ni‘ma	Ingratitude for God’s blessings
Mawlid	A regular communal Islamic gathering
Nafs	The self or ego
Nasheeds	Islamic devotional songs or chants
Rahma	Mercy and compassion
Riya	Showing off good deeds to gain others’ admiration
Salawat	Prayers of blessing upon the Prophet Muhammad
Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam	Peace and blessings be upon him
Shukr	Gratitude to Allah
Sunnah	The teachings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad

Tabarru	Voluntary charitable giving
Tasawwuf	Sufism
Tawassul	Seeking closeness to God through an intermediary or means
Tazkiyah	Purification of the heart
Dhāt	The Essence or intrinsic Being of Allah
Zāhir	The outward or apparent dimension
Zakat	Charity given to those in need