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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Part I: 1. Persianate Sufism in the 12th-13th centuries -- 2. The rise of Awhad al-Din Kirmani -- 3. The fall of Awhad al-Din Kirmani -- 4. Friends or foes? Ibn Jawzi's criticisms of shahid bazi assessed through Kirmani's Hagiography -- Conclusion -- Part II: Translation of Kirmani's Hagiography -- Notes to the Hagiography.
Sommario/riassunto	Awhad al-Din Kirmani (d. 1238) was one of the greatest and most colourful Persian Sufis of the medieval period; he was celebrated in his own lifetime by a large number of like-minded followers and other Sufi masters. And yet his form of Sufism was the subject of much discussion within the Islamic world, as it elicited responses ranging from praise and commendation to reproach and contempt for his Sufi practices within a generation of his death. This book assesses the few comments written about Kirmani by his contemporaries, and also provides a translation from his Persian hagiography, which was written in the generation after his death. The controversy centres on Kirmani's penchant for gazing at, and dancing with, beautiful young boys. This anonymous hagiography presents a series of anecdotes that portray Kirmani's "virtues". The book provides an investigation into Kirmani the individual, but the story has significance that extends much further. The controversy of his form of Sufism occurred at a crucial time in the

evolution of Sufi piety and theology. The research herein situates Kirmani within this critical period, and assesses the various perspectives taken by his contemporaries and near contemporaries. Such views reveal much about the dynamics and developments of Sufism during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when the Sufi orders (*turuq* , s. *tariqa*) began to emerge, and which gave individual Sufis a much more structured and ordered method of engaging in piety, and of presenting the Sufi tradition to society at large. As the first attempt in a Western language to appreciate the significant contribution that Kirmani made to the medieval Persian Sufi tradition, this book will appeal to students and scholars of Sufi Studies, as well as those interested in Middle Eastern History.
