

“Grief Is an Unlawful Resident in Love’s Sanctuary”:

Gendering the Borders of ‘Home’ in Safavid Sufi Poetry and Shiite Treatises

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Distinctly gendered demarcations between the world of private (*andaruni*) and public (*biruni*) appear to be a typical subject matter of religious treatises composed in the Safavid period (1501-1736), an era renowned for the official establishment of Shiism in Iran. The inner sections of the house, where women generally resided, were further governed by a composite of rules based on the Shari’ah and cultural traditions. On the other hand, from a Sufi perspective, these “interior and exterior” worlds transcend strict spatial borders and represent the contrasting ebb and flow between seemingly dissimilar spiritual states. This paper will focus on exploring gender within and outside the borders of ‘home’ in Safavid Sufi poetry, as the site of self-inscription, and in the context of Safavid Shiite jurisprudential treatises. It aims to shed light on how poetic renditions of gender-coded jurisprudential terms contribute to a more complex understanding of Safavid and Sufi Iran across the borders of religious codes (*shari’ah*) and their spiritual significance (*tariqah*).