



**THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA LECTURE ON**  
**THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**“SUFISM: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION (*CULTURAL MORES OR MYSTICISM?*)”**  
**By Ms. Shaheeda Mohamed Barrie**

The 115<sup>th</sup> Session of the Monthly Lecture Series of the National Trust - Sri Lanka will be held at the HNB Auditorium, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, HNB Towers, 479 T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 at 6.30p.m. on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Mankind's predominant desire to achieve happiness and peace has been a historical constant.

However, in spite of phenomenal scientific and technological advancements and our best efforts to look outward for meanings and answers, happiness and peace of mind have proved elusive to many.

Modern society, demonstrates a tendency to see the universe as a collection of separate objects rather than a unified living process. The world is perceived in fragmented forms, defining our individual *selves* as separate from the universe, the earth, and other human and non-human beings.

For most part, the basic universal questions of humankind remain unanswered - Who are we? Where are we going? and How do we fit into the universe?

Sufi teachers endeavour to provide the answers to these questions through a journey into an inner dimension of Islam.

***What then is Sufism - social and cultural mores, myth or mysticism?***



Ms. Barrie, holds an LL.B with first Class Honours from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and is a Barrister-at-Law of Gray's Inn, London. She secured a pupillage at a leading Barrister's Chamber in the UK, 4 Essex Court, London (Now Quadrant Chambers).

Upon her return to Sri Lanka and admission to the Sri Lankan Bar, she answered a call to civil service, joining the Attorney General's Department in 1999, as a State Counsel. Today, she is a Senior State Counsel, providing her services as counsel and advisor to the State and discharging a supervisory role in respect of several areas of the work of the Attorney General's Department.

Alongside her professional career, she pursued academic excellence, reading for the post-graduate degree Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) from the University of Oxford and a Master's in Business Law (LL.M) from the American University, Washington College of Law. She was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission of the UK, and the Hubert H Humphrey Fellowship by the Fulbright Commission and the Government of the United States. She has also successfully completed the Practice and Procedure Examination on International Commercial Arbitration, conducted by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK.

Her principal areas of practice are in the field of civil law (including Fundamental Rights, Public Law, Commercial Law and Tax Law) and appears as counsel in judicial proceedings as well as local and international arbitrations and mediation proceedings.

Ms Barrie has a special interest in the law and policy relating to the regulation of financial markets, investment and trade and has advised key regulatory bodies in the field, in multiple capacities and roles.

She serves as Legal Consultant, of Securities and Exchange Commission and is a Member of the Company Law Advisory Commission of Sri Lanka and has served as Legal Advisor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka and done a Short Term Consultant for World Bank, Washington DC, USA.

In addition to her legal practice, she is also a teacher of the law at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels. Her academic involvements and commitments have included being a Lecturer on 'Conflict of Laws' for The Master's Degree in International Trade Law, 'International Economic Law' for The Diploma in International Trade Law, 'Banking Regulation' for The Diploma in Banking Law conducted by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the Council of Legal Education of Sri Lanka and on 'Conflict of Laws': Sri Lanka Law College.

Outside the field of law, she is a keen student of comparative religion, and particularly of Sufi thought and practices, with a special interest in the teachings propagated by the late Sheik Muhammed Nazim Adhil, the Master of the Naqshabandi Sufi Order (1922 -2014).

**The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the public at a nominal fee. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.**

**Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel 2682730 / 0778081214 at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, No. 407, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.**