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medieval Saracendom the Sufi genius asserted itself, when Sufis became physicians and scientists, and left their symbols in buildings and in decorative art. e. g. the arabesques.

“The perfected Sufi is great, exalted, he is sublime. Through love, work and harmony he has attained the highest degree of Mastership. All secrets are open to him, and his whole being is imbued with magical effulgence. He is the Guide and the Traveller on the Way of infinite beauty, love , attainment, fulfilment; the Guardian of the Most Ancient Wisdom, the Trailblazer to the highest secrets; the beloved friend whose very being elevates us, bringing new meaning to the spirit of humanity.” - *The Sufis*, by Idries Shah p15

Al Ma'arri : Syrian philosopher 973- 1057

He was a highly influential blind ascetic philosopher, scholar and poet who lived during the golden Age of Islam and the Abbasid Caliphate. Al Ma'arri rejected all forms of organised religion, which he described as 'a fable invented by the ancients', denouncing superstition and dogmatism.' He believed that reason only provided an infallible moral guide, and that virtue was its own reward.

As a strict vegetarian, he used no animal products writing ,
And do not desire as food the flesh of slaughtered animals, or the white milk of mothers, who intended it for their young.

In 2013 his statue was decapitated by members of the jihadi *Al Nusra Front* - a branch of *Al Qaeda* – in his home town in Syria nearly 1,000 years after he died. He was perceived by them as an ideological threat to the group.