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# the **red** between black and white

My work questions the 'black and white image of the 'practising' Muslim. Devoid of nuances, it is often imagined in contrasting tropes of uncritical submission to, or outright rejection of, religious tradition. Practices at the shrine of the 'red' saint in southern Pakistan highlight an inventive vocabulary of negotiation between local devotion and trans-local agency giving rise to new forms of religiosity. Far from constructions of a fixed, homogenous and universal Islam, referred to invariably in the singular, with a capital I, my encounters in Sehwan *sharif* reveal the dynamic, heterogenous and plural capacities of 'lived islams'.

omar kasmani