Stanford



Yousuf Azhar

Affiliate, Continuing Studies

Bio

BIO

Yousuf Azhar is a memoirist and fiction writer. Born in India and raised in California, he lives in Tracy, in the Central Valley, and works in tech in the Bay Area.

He completed Stanford Continuing Studies' Online Certificate Program in Memoir Writing in 2026 and is now at work on a memoir about his thirteen years in a high-control Sufi group. He writes about that experience in his Substack newsletter, "Sacred Learning: A Memoir," and he discussed spiritual manipulation and charismatic leadership as a guest on the Diffused Congruence podcast. His piece "The Playground" was selected for Issue II of Tasbih, a Muslim literary magazine.

Much of Yousuf's writing lives in the short form: flash fiction and micro memoir, supported by a daily flash-writing practice. In July 2026 he attended the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop in Gambier, Ohio.

When he isn't writing, Yousuf roasts coffee at home, takes photographs, and spends time with his family.