

The Garden of the Hadith Scholars



THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

CLARIFICATION OF THE BOOKS OF
HADITH AND THEIR SPLENDID AUTHORS

By the Imām and ḥadīth scholar,
ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz ibn Imām Walī Allāh ad-Dihlawī
(1159 AH - 1239 AH)

Translated from Persian to Arabic
and annotated by
Muḥammad Akram an-Nadwī

Translated from Arabic to English by
Aisha Bewley



TURATH PUBLISHING

Copyright: 1428/2007, Turath Publishing

Published by: Turath Publishing
79 Mitcham Road
Tooting
London SW19 9PD
+44-20-8767-3666
www.turathpublishing.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or otherwise, without written permission of the publishers.

By: ‘Abd al-‘Azīz ad-Dihlawī
General Editors: Yaḥyā and Safira Batha
Translation
from Persian to Arabic: Muḥammad Akram an-Nadwī
from Arabic to English: Aisha Bewley
Edited by: Abdassamad Clarke

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
ad-Dihlawī, ‘Abd al-‘Azīz
The Garden of the Hadith Scholars
I. Title

ISBN 0-9547380-4-7

Book Design: Bookwright

Printed by: Megaprinters, Istanbul, Turkey.
ahmet@mega.com.tr

Distributors for UK and Europe:
Azhar Academy
54-56 Little Ilford Lane
Manor Park
London E12 5QA
++44-208-891 19797
sales@azharacademy.com
www.azharacademy.com

Distributors for South Africa :
Darul – Ihsan research and education centre
www.direct.za.org
info@direct.za.org
+27-835 939599

Distributors for America and Canada:
Whitethread Press
www.whitethreadpress.com
ar@whitethreadpress.com
+1-(805) 968 4666

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ





PUBLISHER'S DEDICATION

FOR MY BELOVED WIFE SAFIRA
WITHOUT WHOSE HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT
THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.





CONTENTS

Publisher's Preface	xxv
A Note to the English edition	xxvi
Foreword by Abu'l-Ḥasan ʿAlī al-Ḥasanī an-Nadwī	1
Preface	3
Hadith in the period when they were collected	3
Some of those who were famous for compilations of hadith	5
Biography of the author	6
His birth	6
His quest for knowledge	6
His students	7
His excellence	8
His books	9
<i>Bustān al-Muḥaddithīn</i>	10
The order of the book in the Persian original	11
His death	11
His <i>isnād</i> in hadith	12
The <i>isnāds</i> concerned with the book	12
My work on this book	13
Opening of the Book	15
Books of the Four Imams	17
The <i>Muwattaʿa</i> ʾ of Imām Mālik	19
Mālik's lineage	19
His birth	20
His death	21
His description	21
His knowledge and <i>fiqh</i>	23

THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

His gathering and his relating hadith to people	24
His respect for the noble hadith of the Prophet ﷺ	25
His position and venerableness	25
His position on new things and innovations	26
His statements about knowledge	26
His respect for Madīnah	27
His writing the <i>Muwatta'</i>	27
Dreams about Mālik	27
Mālik and innovating heretics (<i>zindīqs</i>)	28
The <i>Muwatta'</i> and its hadith	29
Verses in praise of the <i>Muwatta'</i>	30
TRANSMISSIONS OF THE <i>MUWAṬṬA'</i>	31
<i>The First Transmission</i>	31
Yahyā's Lineage	32
His ancestors becoming Muslim and going to Andalusia	32
Yahyā's listening and his journey in quest of knowledge	32
Yahyā's excellence and eminence	33
His standing with the amirs	34
The reason for the spread of Mālik's school in Andalusia	35
His following Mālik and adhering to his School	36
His witnessing the final days of Mālik	36
The death of Yahyā ibn Yahyā	38
Ziyād ibn 'Abd ar-Rahmān	38
Ziyād's lineage	38
His journey to Mālik and spreading his school in Andalusia	38
His scrupulousness and forgoing the post of <i>qādī</i>	38
Ziyād's behaviour with kings	38
Ziyād's death	39
<i>Second Transmission</i>	39
The lineage of 'Abdullāh ibn Wahb	39
His birth	39
His seeking knowledge and his journeying	39
The transmission of his shaykhs from him	40
His excellence and position in knowledge	41
A report concerning him and a beggar	42
His scrupulousness and doing-without	43
His death	43
His books	43
<i>The Third Transmission</i>	43
His lineage and birth	44
His shaykhs	44
His reading to Mālik	46
The virtues of al-Qa'c nabī	46
<i>The Fourth Transmission</i>	46

Table of Contents

His Lineage	47
His birth	47
His <i>fiqh</i>	47
The beginning of his quest for knowledge	48
His excellence, worship and scrupulousness.....	48
His death	49
<i>The Fifth Transmission</i>	49
His lineage	50
His position with Mālik	50
His death	50
<i>Sixth Transmission</i>	50
His lineage	51
His excellence	51
<i>Seventh Transmission</i>	51
His lineage	52
His trustworthiness and integrity	52
His death	52
<i>Eighth Transmission</i>	52
His lineage	53
His listening and excellence	53
His birth and death	53
<i>Ninth Transmission</i>	53
His lineage	53
His birth and quest for knowledge	53
His transmission of the <i>Muwatta'</i>	54
His excellence	54
His death	54
<i>Tenth Transmission</i>	54
<i>Eleventh Transmission</i>	54
<i>Twelfth Transmission</i>	55
The lineage of al-Ghāfiqī	55
His listening	56
His excellence	56
His books	56
His death	56
Note	56
<i>Thirteenth Transmission</i>	56
<i>Fourteenth Transmission</i>	57
His lineage	57
His death	57
What hadith scholars said about him	57
<i>Fifteenth Transmission</i>	58
His lineage	58
The opinions of the hadith scholars	58
His death	59

THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

<i>Sixteenth Transmission</i>	59
Commentaries and notes on the <i>Muwatta'</i>	61
Important Point	62
The <i>Musnad</i> of the Greatest Imām Abū Ḥanīfah ؓ	63
The <i>Musnad</i> of Imām ash-Shāfi' ؓ	66
The <i>Musnad</i> of Imam Ahmad ibn Ḥanbal	68
Sections of the <i>Musnad</i>	69
Composition and arrangement of the <i>Musnad</i>	69
Identification of the lineage of al-Qaṭī'ī	69
The books of Ahmad ibn Ḥanbal	70
The number of the hadith of the <i>Musnad</i>	70
The Six Primary Sources	73
The <i>al-Jāmi' as-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by al-Bukhārī	74
His lineage	74
His birth	74
The beginning of his affair	74
Writing	75
His composing his collection, <i>al-Jāmi'</i>	76
His trial	77
<i>Al-Jāmi' as-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by Imām Muslim	80
His lineage	80
His books	80
The birth and death of Muslim	82
The <i>Sunan</i> by Abū Dāwūd	83
The lineage of Abū Dāwūd	84
The error of Ibn Khallikān	84
His birth	84
His journey and seeking knowledge	84
His death	88
<i>Al-Jāmi' as-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by at-Tirmidhī	89
His lineage	89
Praise for his collection	90
His death	91
Using Abū 'Īsā as a <i>kunyah</i>	91
<i>As-Sunan as-Ṣuḡhrā</i> by an-Nasā'ī	92
His lineage	92
His birth	93
His journey and listening	93
The <i>Sunan</i> of Ibn Mājah	95
His lineage	95
His birth	96
His journey and quest for knowledge	96
His death	97

Table of Contents

Ṣaḥīḥ Collections	99
<i>Aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by Ibn Khuzaymah.	101
His lineage	101
<i>Aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by Ibn Ḥibbān	102
The lineage of Ibn Ḥibbān	103
His listening to scholars and travel.....	103
The trial of Ibn Ḥibbān	104
His death	104
His books	104
<i>Aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by Abū ‘Awānah	105
Definition of <i>Mustakhrāj</i>	105
<i>Al-Muntaqā</i> by adh-Dhahabī	105
The beginning of the <i>Ṣaḥīḥ</i> of Ibn ‘Awānah	105
His lineage	106
His journey	107
His school	107
His listening	107
His death	108
<i>Aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by al-Isma‘īlī	109
Definition of ‘ <i>awālī</i> ’	109
His lineage	110
His birth	110
His yearning to travel and seek knowledge	110
His listening	110
His excellence	111
<i>Kitāb al-Mustakhrāj ‘alā Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim</i> by Abū Nu‘aym al-Aṣbahānī ..	112
His lineage	112
His birth	112
His <i>Ijāzahs</i> in hadith	112
His listening to hadith	113
Transmitting hadith and teaching	114
His composing <i>Hilyat al-awliyā’</i>	115
His grandfather becoming Muslim	115
His books	115
His death	116
<i>Kitāb al-Muntaqā</i> by Ibn al-Jārūd	117
<i>Aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥ (al-Mustadrak)</i> by al-Ḥākim	118
The attribution of being a Shi‘ite to al-Ḥākim	118
The standing of his book	119
The excellence of al-Ḥākim.....	119
The books of al-Ḥākim.....	120
His lineage	120
His birth	120
His seeking knowledge and travel	120
His listening	120

THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

Al-Hākim's students	121
His being called "al-Hākim (the judge)"	121
His death	122
<i>Al-Mustadrak</i>	122
Musannaf, Sunan and Ahkam Collections	123
<i>Al-Muṣannaf</i> by ʿAbd ar-Razzāq	125
His lineage	125
His transmission	125
Those who related from him	126
His connection to Maʿmar	126
His Shiʿite inclinations	126
His death	126
<i>Al-Muṣannaf</i> by Abū Bakr ibn Abī Shaybah	127
His lineage	127
Identifying his lineage	127
His books	127
His listening	128
Those who related from him	128
His position in knowledge	128
His death	128
<i>As-Sunan</i> by Saʿīd ibn Manṣūr	129
His lineage	130
His listening to Hadīth	130
His students	130
Testimonial on his behalf	130
<i>Al-Musnad</i> by ad-Dārimī	131
His lineage	131
His students	131
His excellence	131
His birth	132
His death	132
The transmission of the <i>Musnad</i> ad-Dārimī	132
<i>As-Sunan</i> by Abū Muslim al-Kashshī	133
His lineage	133
His working on the <i>Sunan</i>	133
His death	134
<i>Kitāb al-Ishrāf fī Masāʾil al-Khilāf</i> by Ibn al-Mundhir	135
His lineage	135
His books	136
His position in knowledge and <i>ijtihād</i>	136
His listening	136
His students	137
His death	137
<i>Sharḥ Maʿānī al-Āthār</i> by aṭ-Ṭahāwī	138

Table of Contents

His lineage	139
His listening to scholars	139
His students	139
His birth	139
His books	140
His death	140
<i>Al-Amāli</i> by al-Muḥāmīlī	141
His lineage	141
His birth	141
His listening to scholars	141
His students	142
His death	143
<i>As-Sunan</i> by ad-Dāraqutnī	144
The differences in transmissions	144
The preface of the book	144
His lineage	145
His birth	145
His listening	145
His journey	146
His students	146
His position in knowledge	146
His memory and precision	146
Some of his uncommon qualities	147
His death	147
<i>As-Sunan al-Kubrā</i> by al-Bayhaqī	149
<i>Kitāb Maʿrifat as-Sunan wa'l-Āthār</i> by al-Bayhaqī	150
His lineage	151
Identification of the lineage of al-Bayhaqī	151
His birth	151
His listening and travel	151
His lack of familiarity with the <i>Sunan</i>	152
His books	152
His life	152
His favour to ash-Shāfiʿī	152
His superiority in different types of knowledge	152
Dreams	153
His death	153
Poetry	153
Musnad Collections	155
<i>Al-Musnad</i> by Abū Dāwūd at-Ṭayālīsī	157
His lineage	157
His listening	157
His death	158
His accreditation	158

THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

<i>Al-Musnad</i> by al-Ḥumaydī	160
His lineage	161
His students	161
The firmest of people of Sufyān	161
His death	161
<i>Al-Musnad</i> by al-ʿAdanī	162
<i>Al-Musnad</i> by ʿAbd ibn Ḥumayd ibn Naṣr al-Kassī	163
Identification of Kashsh	163
His lineage	163
His travel and listening	163
His death	164
His books	164
<i>Al-Musnad</i> by al-Bazzār	165
His lineage	166
The meaning of <i>muʿallal</i>	166
His listening	166
His journey to disseminate knowledge	167
His being declared trustworthy	167
His death	167
<i>Al-Musnad</i> by Abū Yaʿlā al-Mawṣulī	168
<i>Kitāb al-Jamʿ bayna aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥayn</i> by al-Ḥumaydī	169
His lineage	169
His travel and listening to scholars.....	169
His birth.....	169
The death of al-Ḥumaydī.....	170
Muʿjam Collections	173
<i>Al-Musnad</i> by al-Ḥārith ibn Abī Usāmah	175
His lineage	175
His listening	176
The opinion of hadith scholars about him	176
His death	177
<i>Al-Muʿjam</i> by Abū Yaʿlā.....	178
His lineage	178
His listening	179
His students	179
His position	179
His birth and death	179
<i>Al-Muʿjam</i> by Ibn Qānīʿ	180
His lineage	180
His listening to scholars and his journey	180
His students	180
His birth and death	181
The three <i>Muʿjam</i> collections by aṭ-Ṭabarānī	182
Definition of <i>al-afrād</i>	182

Table of Contents

His name and lineage	183
His birth	183
His seeking knowledge and his journey.....	183
His listening	183
His enduring hardships	185
The excellence of at-Ṭabarānī.....	185
The extensive narration (<i>riwāyah</i>) of at-Ṭabarānī	186
His death	186
<i>Al-Muʿjam</i> by al-Ismāʿīlī	187
<i>Al-Muʿjam</i> by Ibn Jumayʿ	189
His lineage	189
His travel and listening	189
His students	189
His birth	190
His death	190
<i>Al-Muʿjam</i> by ad-Dimyāṭī	191
His lineage	191
His birth	191
His seeking knowledge and listening	191
His death	193
Part of his poetry	193
His books	195
Virtues and Good Manners	197
<i>Kitāb az-Zuhd wa'r-Riqāq</i> by ʿAbdullāh ibn al-Mubārak	199
His lineage	200
His father's story	200
His birth	200
His journeys	200
His listening	201
His students	201
His excellence	202
His learning <i>fiqh</i> from Abū Ḥanīfah and Mālik	204
His division of his time.....	204
Highlights from his words	204
His scrupulousness	204
His death	205
His generosity	205
<i>Kitāb al-Adab al-Mufrad</i> by Imām al-Bukhārī	207
<i>Kitāb ad-Duʿāʾ</i> by Ibn Abīʿd-Dunyā	208
His lineage	208
His birth	208
His listening	209
His students	209
His death	210

THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

<i>Nawādir al-Uṣūl</i> by al-Ḥakīm at-Tirmidhī	211
His lineage	211
His transmission	212
His students	212
His expulsion from Tirmidh	212
Weakness in his books	212
Some of his statements.....	213
<i>Kitāb al-Mujalāsah</i> by ad-Dīnawarī	214
<i>Kitāb ‘Amal al-Yaym wa’l-Laylah</i> by an-Nasā’ī	215
<i>Kitāb Karāmāt al-Awliyā’</i> by al-Khallāl	216
His lineage	216
His birth	216
His listening	216
His students	216
His death	216
<i>Kitāb al-Mi’atayn</i> by aṣ-Ṣabūnī	218
His lineage	218
His birth	218
His listening	218
His students	218
His excellence	219
<i>Ash-Shihāb fi’l-Mawā’iz wa’l-Ādāb</i> by al-Qudā’ī	221
His lineage	222
His listening	222
His students	222
His books	222
His death	222
<i>Kitāb Al-Fitqād wa’l-Hidāyah ilā Sabīl ar-Rashād</i> by al-Bayhaqī	224
<i>Kitāb Iqtidā’ al-‘Ilm wa’l-‘Amal</i> by al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī	225
<i>Al-Firdaws</i> by ad-Daylamī	226
His lineage	226
His listening	227
His students	227
His death	227
His son	227
His [son’s] death	227
<i>Kitāb ash-Shifā bi-Ta’rīf Huqūq al-Muṣṭafā</i> by Qādī ‘Iyād	229
His lineage	230
His birth	230
His poetry	231
<i>Ṣalāḥ al-Mu’min</i> by Taqī ad-Dīn al-‘Asqalānī, known as Ibn al-Imām	232
His lineage	233
His birth	233
His seeking.....	233
His books	233

Table of Contents

His death	233
<i>Takhrij Ahādīth al-Ihyā' entitled al-Mughnī 'an Haml al-Asfār by Shaykh Zayn</i>	
ad-Dīn al-'Iraqī	234
<i>Al-Ḥiṣn al-Ḥaṣīn</i> by Shams ad-Dīn al-Jazarī.....	235
His lineage	236
His birth	236
His seeking.....	236
His disseminating knowledge	237
His books	237
His death	237
His poetry	237
<i>Mukhtaṣar al-Ḥiṣn al-Ḥaṣīn</i> known as <i>al-'Uddah</i>	239
Juz' Collections	241
<i>Kitāb Raf' al-Yadayn</i> by al-Bukhārī, and	243
<i>Kitāb al-Jumu'ah</i> by an-Nasā'ī	243
<i>Juz' al-Fīl</i> by Abū 'Amr ibn as-Simāk	244
His lineage	244
His listening	244
His students	245
His death	245
<i>Al-Fawā'id</i> by Abū Bakr ash-Shāfi'ī	246
His birth	247
His lineage	247
His listening	247
His journey	248
His students	248
His death	248
<i>Juz' collection</i> by Ibn Nujayd	249
His lineage	249
His listening	250
His students	250
His death	250
<i>Juz' Faḍā'il Ahl al-Bayt</i> by Abū'l-Ḥasan 'Alī ibn Ma'rūf al-Bazzār	252
<i>Ahādīth al-Hunafā'</i> by al-Ḥasan ibn 'Abdullāh al-Abrāzī.	254
<i>Al-Fawā'id</i> by Tammām ar-Rāzī	255
His lineage	255
His birth	255
His listening	255
His students	256
His death	256
Arba'ūn (40) Collections	259
<i>Al-Arba'ūn</i> by Muḥammad ibn Aslam aṭ-Ṭūsī	261

THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

His lineage	261
His listening	261
His students	262
His death	262
<i>Al-Arba'ūn</i> by Abū'l-Qāsim al-Qushayrī	263
His lineage	263
His seeking and listening	263
His listening	264
His students	264
His death	264
His poetry	264
<i>Al-Arba'ūn</i> by Abū Bakr al-Ājurri	266
His lineage	266
His listening	266
His students	266
His death	267
<i>Al-Arba'ūn</i> by ash-Shahhāmī	268
<i>Al-Imtā' bi'l-Arba'in al-Mutabāyinah bi-Sharṭ as-Samā'</i> by Ḥāfiẓ Ibn Ḥajar al- Asqālānī	270
Musalsalat Collections	273
<i>Nuzhat al-Huffāz</i> by Abū Mūsā al-Madīnī	275
His lineage	275
His birth	275
His listening	275
His students	276
His books	277
His death	277
<i>Al-Musalsalāt aṣ-Ṣuḡhrā</i> by Jalāl ad-Dīn as-Suyūṭī	278
History and Biographies	281
<i>Tārīkh Yahyā ibn Ma'īn</i> on the states of the narrators	283
His lineage	283
His birth	283
His listening	284
His death	284
His desire in poetry	284
Point	285
<i>Kitāb al-Kunā wa'l-Asāmī</i> by an-Nasā'ī	288
<i>Kitāb Tārīkh ath-Thiqāt</i> by Ibn Ḥibbān	289
<i>Ḥilyat al-Awliyā'</i> by Ḥāfiẓ Abū Nu'aym al-Aṣbahānī	290
<i>Al-Irshād</i> by Abū Ya'lā al-Khalīlī	291
His lineage	291
His listening	291
His students	291

Table of Contents

His death	291
<i>Al-Istī'āb fī Ma'rīfat al-Ashāb</i> by Abū 'Umar ibn 'Abd al-Barr	292
His lineage	292
His birth	292
His acquiring knowledge	292
His excellence	293
His books	293
The highest <i>isnād</i> he had	293
His death	293
His poetry	294
<i>History of Baghdad</i> by al-Khaṭīb	295
His lineage	296
His birth	296
His seeking knowledge and listening	296
His students	296
His transmission of <i>Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī</i>	296
His books	296
His excellence	297
His death	298
His poetry	298
Commentaries	301
<i>Ash-Shawāriq</i> by Qāḍī Abū'l-Faḍl 'Iyād ibn Mūsā al-Yaḥṣubī as-Sibṭī	303
<i>Kitāb Sharḥ as-Sunnah</i> by al-Baghawī	304
His lineage	304
His proficiency in knowledge	304
His listening	305
His worship and asceticism	305
His death	305
<i>Bahjat an-Nufūs</i> by Abū Muḥammad ibn Abī Jamrah	306
<i>Sharḥ al-Kirmānī 'alā Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī</i>	307
His lineage	307
His birth	307
His seeking	307
His death	308
<i>Fath al-Bārī bi-Sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī</i> and its preface Ibn Ḥajar al-Kinānī al- 'Asqalānī	309
His birth	309
His journey and seeking	309
His death	309
The superiority of Ibn Ḥajar over as-Suyūṭī	310
His books	310
<i>Tanqīḥ Alfāz al-Jāmi' as-Ṣaḥīḥ</i> by Badr ad-dīn az-Zarkashī	313
His birth	313
His listening	313

THE GARDEN OF THE HADITH SCHOLARS

His death	314
<i>Ta' liq al-Maṣābīh Abwāb al-Jāmi' as-Ṣaḥīh</i> by Abū 'Abdullāh al-Iskandarī	315
His birth	316
His seeking	316
His death	316
His books	316
<i>Al-Lāmi' as-Ṣaḥīh fī Sharḥ al-Jāmi' as-Ṣaḥīh</i> by Shams ad-Dīn an-Nu'aymī	318
His birth	318
His books	319
His death	319
<i>Irshād as-Sāri</i> by Shihāb ad-Dīn al-Qaṣṭalānī	320
His birth	320
His quest	320
His books	320
What happened between him and as-Suyūṭī	321
His death	321
<i>Hāshiyah</i> of Shaykh Sayyidī Zarrūq	322
His lineage	322
His birth	322
His quest for knowledge	322
His writing	322
His excellence	323
His students	323
His poetry	323
His death	323
<i>At-Tawshīh</i> , Ḥāfiẓ Abū'l-Faḍl ibn Abī Bakr as-Suyūṭī	324
<i>Ma' ālim as-Sunan</i> by al-Khaṭṭābī	325
His lineage	325
His listening	325
His students	325
His death	325
<i>ʿAriḍat al-Aḥwadhī fī Sharḥ at-Tirmidhī</i> by Qāḍī Abū Bakr ibn al-ʿArabī	327
His lineage	327
His travel and listening	327
His students	328
His books	328
His death	331
<i>Kitāb al-Maṣābīh</i> by al-Baghawī	332
Selective Books	333
<i>Al-Imām fī Aḥādīth al-Aḥkām</i> and its summary <i>al-Imām bi-Aḥādīth al-Aḥkām</i> both of them by Taqī ad-Dīn ibn Daqīq al-ʿĪd.	335
His lineage	336
His birth	336
His listening	336

Table of Contents

His death	336
Some of his miracles.....	337
His qualities	337
His poetry	338
His excellence	339
General Indexes	341
Index of Qur'ānic <i>āyats</i>	343
Index of hadith	346
Index of scholars with biographies.....	348
Index of scholars with biographies in the notes	350
Most important sources	356





PUBLISHER'S PREFACE

In the name of Allah, the All Merciful, the Most Merciful

I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets ﷺ. I would like to thank Dr. Mohammad Akram of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies for translating the original work into Arabic, for his work in adding the extremely useful footnotes to this work and finally for bringing this wonderful work to our attention and giving us the opportunity to publish it. We ask Allah ta'ala to bless the author Shāh 'Abd al-'Azīz and reward him well. I would like to thank Ustadhah Aisha Bewley for translating this work, Abdassamad Clarke for taking special care in editing and typesetting it and Muhammad Ansa for his meticulous and painstaking proofreading. If any benefit is brought about from this book please remember us and the people mentioned above in your *du'ās*.

Yahya and Safira Batha