



Mount of Knowledge, Sword of Eloquence: Collected Poems of an Ismaili Muslim Scholar in Fatimid Egypt (Ismaili Texts and Translations)

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A distinguished scholar, author, and statesman, al-Mu'ayyad fi'l-Din al-Shirazi (1000-1078 CE) lived during one of the most turbulent periods in Islamic history. The 11th century was characterized, among other things, by an acute struggle for supremacy between the Sunni and Shi'a branches of Islam, represented politically by the 'Abbasid and Fatimid caliphates. Al-Mu'ayyad was originally a Fatimid missionary; but his outstanding intellectual and literary skills eventually gained him important positions in the Fatimid administration. Eventually, he attained the highest ranks in the religious hierarchy, and won widespread acclaim for his scholarship and sagacity. The Diwan, the work translated here, is notable for its exceptional poetic quality and covers a wide range of fascinating political and religious issues, from al-Mu'ayyad's intellectual disputations to devotions in praise of the Prophet Muhammad and his family. This first complete English translation seeks to recapture some of the poetic power and flavor of one of the undoubted masterpieces of medieval Arabic literature.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Mohamad Adra is an independent scholar of Ismaili literature based in Salmiyya, Syria. A graduate of Damascus University, he is currently preparing an English translation of the first volume of al-Mu'ayyad's al-Majalis al-Mu'ayyaddiya (The Counsels of al-Mu'ayyad).

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