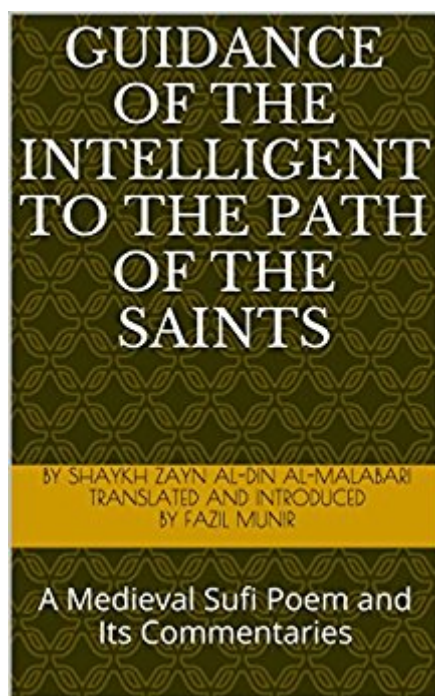


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Guidance Of The Intelligent To The Path Of The Saints: A Medieval Sufi Poem And Its Commentaries



Synopsis

Hidayatul Azkiya (Guidance for the Intelligent) is a didactic Arabic poem authored by the great Indian scholar and spiritual master, Shaykh Zayn al-Din al-Ma'arifi al-Malabari (d. 1521), on the science of tasawwuf, or Islamic spirituality. It remains the most widely studied work of its nature in the author's homeland of Kerala, and is also a standard textbook in religious schools in Indonesia and Malaysia. Drawing from the writings of classical Sufi masters and scholars such as Imam Ghazali, Imam al-Nawawi and Shaykh Shihab al-din Suhrawardi, the poem describes the long and rugged path by which a spiritual wayfarer attains divine illumination and enlightenment. This path includes way-stations such as repentance, detachment from worldly pleasures, purity of intention, the pursuit of knowledge, keeping good company and effective time management. The present effort includes a translation of the poem in its entirety as well as its most famous commentary Kifayatul Atqiya (Sufficiency of the Godfearing), by Sayyid Bakri al-Dimyati (d. 1893). Excerpts from other commentaries (including one by the original author's son) have also been included.

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