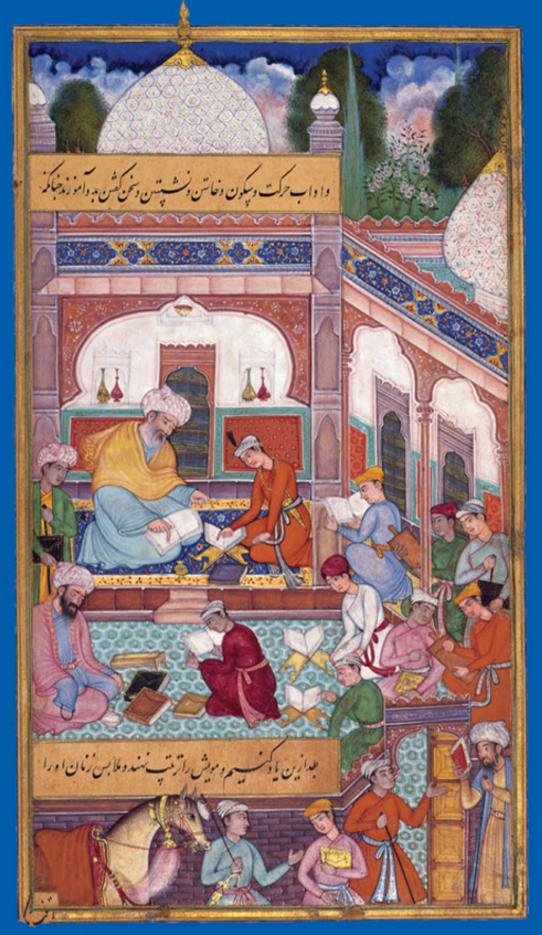
i Literature: A Shi'i Vision of Islam, ed. Hermann Landolt, Samira Sheikh, and Kutub Kassam, London: que N. Virani, "The Adornment of Assemblies by Husayn b. Ya'qūb Shāh b. Ṣūfī," in An Anthology o





AN ANTHOLOGY OF ISMAILI LITERATURE

A Shi'i Vision of Islam

Edited by Hermann Landolt, Samira Sheikh & Kutub Kassam

I.B. Tauris, 2008, 296-297 www.shafiquevirani.org O lord! In this lowly world, you know, Years and months passed by;

I lived my life in heedlessness.

O lord!

In this world for the sake of that one, I sowed not a seed;
Now the season's passed.

Then suddenly from the invisible world An oracle whispered in the inner recesses of my heart: 'Grieve not! For an unexpected felicity Has been conferred upon you!'

Though I be bereft of worship, I take joy in the certainty That all who became beggars at this court Become lords of majesty.

O lord!

Though I've been mighty impudent, I shall not grieve, For your mercy is my companion.

I also ended with your name, Since in the realms of faith and world, The beginning of all tasks, Commences with 'In the Name of God.'

Ḥusayn b. Yaʻqūb Shāh b. Ṣūfī

THE ADORNMENT OF ASSEMBLIES1

I have composed these couplets of poesy To ornament the assembly of spirits,

That whoever may peruse these verses May rejoice in the bounty of glad tidings,

That their time be felicitous, their fortune joyous,

^{1.} Ḥusayn b. Yaʻqūb Shāh b. Ṣūfī, ʻ*Tazyīn al-majālis*,' IIS Persian MS no. 7822, tr. Shafique N. Virani.

That their hearts may gain from God what they desire.

By the grace of God, a light shone upon my imagination, Teaching it lessons about His blessings.

My imagination signalled my tongue: 'I have girded myself to entrust this to you.'

Aided by the lofty aspiration of the Folk of Purity, I resolved in the world upon writing this treatise.

I have composed it free of intricate words, And thus prepared it to be easily read

That it may approach the understanding of its listeners And not be strange to the ears of those who seek its meaning.

I hope that it may become a keepsake of mine, By which the people of dignity may remember me in their hearts.

My aspiration is that it may be found pleasing And be close to the hearts of the folk of perfection.

May God's mercy be upon the fortunate souls, For by His blessings hearts are rejuvenated.

Perchance, I will be included in the aid of His blessings That my soul may be touched by that joy.

Perhaps, He shall convey glad tidings of healing to this weary one, Or give hope to the one who seeks it.

I have completed this book, seeking such blessings, That He may shower His bounties all about – peace!

(Translated by Shafique N. Virani)