

Shafique N. Virani, "Gināns by Pīr Ṣadr al-Dīn," in *An Anthology of Ismaili Literature: A Shi'ī Vision of Islam*, ed. Hermann Landolt, Samira Sheikh, and Kutub Kassam, London: I.B. Tauris, 2008, 312-314. (Reprint) www.shafiquevirani.org



AN ANTHOLOGY OF ISMAILI LITERATURE

A SHI'Ī VISION OF ISLAM

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You
 Are the Apparent,
 You
 Are the Hidden
 You,
 Such as You are,
 You alone
 Are my Lord in truth.

III

The entire world says,
 Beloved, beloved.
 But the beloved
 Is had by none.
 The lips relate but one story,
 While of the beloved's mystery,
 None knows a thing.

IV

Love does not
 grow in fields;
 Nor is love
 sold in shops;
 Love arises
 in the heart,
 and the heart
 it corrodes,
 through and through.

(Translated by Aziz Esmail)

THE IMAM'S HERALD¹

The Imam's herald travels throughout the world
 Blessings be upon the Imam, the Pīr and the community
 For the Imam has appeared in the fortress of Alamūt

Brother, we are perpetually blissful
 By God, he has arrived, the community enjoys its fortune
 Hail the advent of the lord 'Alī in the West!

1. Pīr Ṣadr al-Dīn, 'Jugame phīre shāhājī munerī,' in 102 *Ginānājī chopadī* (3rd ed., Mumbai, 1912), vol. 4, no. 3, vv. 1–4; tr. Shafique N. Virani in *The Ismailis in the Middle Ages: A History of Survival, A Search for Salvation* (Oxford, 2007), p. 43.

Recognize the Supreme Man, lord of Light
 Friends, know the Pīr to be he
 Who has led you to the lord of Twelve Splendours¹

Serve none other than that very lord, my brother
 Friend, never doubt in this
 Hail the advent of the lord
 As glorious as the risen sun!

THE TRUE GUIDE²

Friend! None but a few know of the exalted station. Indeed, they alone recognize it who have found the true guide.

Friend! Within the heart, at the confluence of the three spiritual rivers, there is an imperishable light. There – a shimmering effulgence, pearls are showered.

Friend! I completely lost consciousness of my physical self when my meditation mounted the empyrean, bursting forth.

Friend! I beheld the place of the lofty throne, I saw the seven islands, the nine continents.

Friend! The religious scriptures and books cannot fathom this, for there is neither day there, nor night, neither sun, nor shade.

Friend! My lord is not such that he can be spoken of. He is to be seen – for he is indescribable, and nameless.

Friend! How sweet is that lord, indescribable, nameless.

Says Pīr Ṣadr al-Dīn, truly,
 with my own eyes, I have seen him!

(Translated by Shafique N. Virani)

1. The twelve splendours (*bār kaḷā*) refer to the sun, perhaps because it passes through twelve signs of the zodiac on its celestial rounds.

2. Pīr Ṣadr al-Dīn, 'Sakhī māhā pad kerī,' in *100 Ginān nī chopaḍī*, (5th ed., Mumbai, 1935), vol. 3, no. 30, vv. 1, 4, 9–13; tr. Shafique N. Virani in *The Ismailis in the Middle Ages*, p. 181.