Contents

Letter from the General Editor / iii
Foreword / xii
Introduction / xxi
Note on the Text / lxvi
Notes to the Introduction / lxix

Brains Confounded by the Ode of Abū Shādūf
   Expounded, Part One / 1
The Author Describes the Ode of Abū Shādūf / 5
The Author Embarks on a Description of the Common
   Country Folk / 11
      An Account of a Few of Their Names, Nicknames, and Kunyahs / 14
      Their Children / 19
      Their Women during Intercourse / 19
      Their Weddings / 20
An Account of Their Escapades / 23
      Anecdotes Showing that a Man Cannot Escape His Inborn Nature / 23
      Anecdotes Showing the Stupidity of Country People / 28
      Accounts of What Happened to Peasants Who Went to the City / 40
      The Peasant Who Attended the Friday Prayer in a Village
         by the River / 44
      The Tale of the Three Whores of Cairo / 46
      Anecdotes Concerning Country People Who Went to the City and Were
         Overtaken by the Need to Relieve Themselves, Etc. / 51
      The Tale of the Champions of Discourtesy of Cairo and Damascus / 55
The Tale of the Boors of Cairo and Damascus / 57
More Anecdotes Illustrating the Stupidity of Country People / 59
Anecdotes about Country People Who Voided Their Prayers / 62
An Account of Their Pastors and of the Compounded Ignorance, Imbecility, and Injuries to Religion and the Like of Which They Are Guilty / 67
The Tale of the Persian Scholar / 69
Sermons by Country Pastors / 73
Further Anecdotes Showing the Ignorance of Country Pastors / 74
Funayn’s Letter and Another Missive / 83
An Account of Their Poets and of Their Idiocies and Inanities / 89
The First of Their Verses: “My shirt kept trailing behind the plow” / 89
The Second of Their Verses: “And I said to her, ‘Piss on me and spray!’” / 100
The Verse of Shaykh Barakāt: “Barakāt was passin’ by” / 108
The Third of Their Verses: “By God, by God, the Moighty, the Omnipotent” / 112
The Fourth of Their Verses: “The soot of my paternal cousin’s oven is as black as your kohl marks” / 117
The Fifth of Their Verses: “I asked after the beloved. They said, ‘He skedaddled from the shack!’” / 127
The Sixth of Their Verses: “The rattle staff of our mill makes a sound like your anklets” / 137
The Seventh of Their Verses: “I saw my beloved with a plaited whip driving oxen” / 145
It Now Behooves Us to Offer a Small Selection of the Verse of Those Who Lay Claim to the Status of Poets but Are in Practice Poltroons, and Who Make Up Rhymes but Are Really Looney Tunes / 155
Verses by al-Amīn / 155
Verses by Murjān al-Ḥabashī / 157
Verses by a Turkish Judge / 161
Verses by Shaykh Muḥammad al-Rāziqī / 162
Elegy by a Certain Dim-Witted Poet to the Emir Ibn al-Khawājā Muṣṭafā / 163
A Chronogram / 166
An Account of Their Ignorant Dervishes and of Their Ignorant and Misguided Practices / 168

The Practices of the Khawāmis Sect / 168

Anecdotes Showing the Ignorance of Country Dervishes / 178

More Anecdotes Showing the Beliefs and Practices of Heretical Dervishes / 182

Urjūzah Summarizing Part One / 202

Notes / 216

Index / 273

About the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute / 287

About the Translator / 288

Titles Published by the Library of Arabic Literature / 289