

Table of Contents

Letter from the General Editor	iii
Foreword	xiii
Introduction	xx
Acknowledgments	xlvi
A Note on the Text	xlviii
Maps	lviii
Map 1: The Tribes of Pre-Islamic Arabia [c. AD 600]	lix
Map 2: The Topography of the Poetry of ‘Antarah	lx
Notes to the Introduction	lxi
 AL-AŞMA‘Ī’S REDACTION	 1
1: Did poetry die?	3
2: Damn the ruins!	17
3: The Battle of ‘Urā‘ir	21
4: Your sorry ass	25
5: Raqāshi is gone	29
6: I know Death	33
7: Blade-thin, war-spent	39
8: The crow croaked	47
9: Traced like tattoos	51
10: The eyes of an ‘Uṣfān gazelle	55
11: Shut up about my horse	59
12: A cavalry charge	63
13: Between Qaww and Qārah	67
14: The hostage you offered up	71
15: I planted my cold arrow	75
16: Primed for battle	79
17: Your last gasp is near!	83
18: Jostled by horses	87
19: I didn’t start this war	91
20: That dung beetle, Ja’d	95

Table of Contents

21: Who'll side with you?	99
22: Grasping at spears	103
23: A panicked leader	107
24: The antelopes sprinted right and left	113
25: An enemy squadron attacked	119
26: Jirwah is mine	125
27: War ripped out Ghatafān's spine	129
 TWO QASIDAS FROM IBN MAYMŪN'S ANTHOLOGY	 133
28: The East Wind blew	135
29: Between shock and grief	149
 POEMS FROM AL-BATALYAWSĪ'S RECENSION	 157
30: Why are you fat as camels' humps?	159
31: Spears adrip with gore	163
32: The crow croaked	167
33: Pay for my blood	173
34: My horse Blaze	177
35: My steeds live for War	183
36: Death and Revenge	187
37: Escape if you can	191
38: At the Pass of Woe	195
39: Man up, Ḥuṣayn!	199
40: Death always finds a way	203
41: In the forest of spears	207
42: The Fates claim their due	211
43: The Half-Blood	215
 POEMS FROM THE EPIC OF 'ANTAR	 219
44: Did 'Ablah's brightness ignite your heart?	221
45: The murky binge of battle	231
46: The fire for you burns in my belly	235
47: A sin 'Ablah can't forgive	241
48: I was betrayed	247
49: 'Ablah's wraith	251
50: The birds are jittery	257
51: That coward, Death	263

Table of Contents

Appendix 1	269
Appendix 2	273
Appendix 3	283
Notes	305
Glossary	319
List of Place Names in the Poetry of ‘Antarah	331
Concordance of Principal Editions	332
Bibliography	336
Further Reading	341
Index	346
About the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute	353
About the Typefaces	354
Titles Published by the Library of Arabic Literature	355
About the Editor-Translators	358