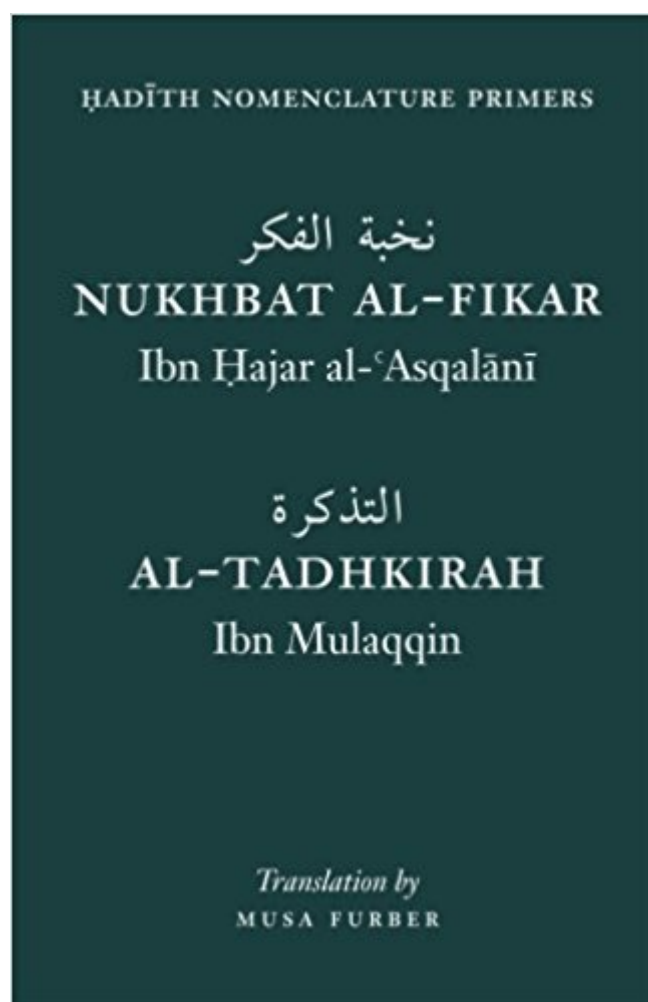


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Hadith Nomenclature Primers



Synopsis

This volume presents two primers on the discipline of hadith nomenclature (mustalah al-hadith) and the authentication of transmitted reports. They are Nukhbat al-fikar ("Chosen Thoughts on the Nomenclature of Hadith Experts") by Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani (773-835AH); and Al-Tadhkirah ("The Memorandum") by Ibn al-Mulaqqin (723-804AH). These primers were written to facilitate speedy mastery of the discipline's core material. Although the primers focus on definitions, they also include methods for addressing problems specific to the topic. Students would often commit a primer to memory while studying it with a living master who would explain its content in detail and demonstrate its application. It is through this interaction between students and instructors that Islamic education transmits both knowledge and skills across generations. In translation, these primers are ideal for English-speaking instructors looking for a primary text covering the subject's core concepts. The translations will also benefit students looking to review their lessons or to prepare themselves for more advanced studies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a good, short and pithy introductory primer to classical and traditional craft and science of Hadith criticism, its foundational vocabulary, and nomenclature. This is not a modern academic or orientalist work of literary criticism. It's a glimpse at what Arab Hadith scholars 1000 years ago considered to be vital introductory primers to the study of the topic, how to classify hadith narrations and reports, and the technical language involved. Basically this book is two small and readable classical Arabic texts on Hadith classification and criticism, compiled into one volume. The Arabic text and English translation face each other nicely, so a student of Arabic, whether University,

self-taught, or otherwise studying classical Arabic, can easily check compare her or his understanding of the Arabic text with the English translation. The book itself is slim, and full of useful information. Some people judge a book's quality on its weight and complain if it's short. This attitude misses the mark with a book like this, the informational depth is so heavy that the book expresses what would have taken a lesser writer and thinker hundreds of pages to express. This is the epitome of clarity of thought. The English translation is stylistically good, and made for enjoyable reading. My only two small complaints are that sometimes the translation is more to capture a shade of meaning and artistic effect, but where a more strict and literal translation of the passage in question might help an English reader understand the nuances of the point better, I think. It happens rarely, and for the most part the translation is almost word for word with the original text. These things are hard calls for a translator to make.

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