

A POETIC SUMMATION



*For God Most High all praise is due
And for his favours, gratitude
The One who made the dawn-lights glow
On far horizons, so to show
Believers, through the morning dim,
The way to find return to Him.*

*Upon His Prophet blessings send
And peace unto the end of ends,
Whose coming brought a dawn to men
Unto a light that will not end
And on his folk and family
And those who followed them in peace.*

*Take heed! Oh readers, for this work
Sheds light upon a darkened earth,
Beclouded by uncertainties
Round law and then astronomy.*

*Exploring their relationship
That those who wish may then worship:
So start their fast upon its time
And pray when evening turns to night.*

*Take care! Define things clearly
Through this you're spared ambiguity.*

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE DAWN

*For terms take on a different sense
When used in diff'ring sciences –
Like fiqh and physics – do not scorn!
For from these terms are rulings formed.*

*The fast and prayer commence at dawn
Deep in the darkness of the morn.
By false dawn do not be deceived
Take heed the Prophet's warning; eat
And drink until comes clarity:
A light spread horizontally.*

*Isha begins when twilight ends
Take heed the scholars' difference
Twixt fading of the red and white –
Which one of these denotes the night?
And what if neither comes to pass?
How then can isha time be marked?*

*And when the evening stretches on
And dawn draws close to midnight's watch
How then may hardship's heavy yolk
Averted be from Ahmad's folk?
Take heart! For answers lie within:
An understanding of God's will.*

*For deeply delved into the works
Of jurists and astronomers
Have I, to bring their jewels to light –
Their calculations and insights –
And gathered all their scattered pearls
Of wisdom, that you may observe
The brilliance and glory that
Were once Islam's bequest to earth.*

*And in their footsteps set we forth
To darkened skies to chase the dawn*

Introduction

*Through winter, summer and between
We searched for twilight's glimm'ring gleam
So that we may with certainty
Make good our worship through the day.*

*Consider this a gift to you:
That by exertions of a few
The worship of the multitudes
Be set aright in rectitude.*

*Oh God! I offer thanks and praise
For guiding me unto Your ways
And granting me Your blessed grace
In fulfilling this duty great.
On my Beloved blessings send
And on all Your ennobled friends
And everyone who helped me to
Complete this work in praise of You.*

*And with abject humility
I ask that you accept from me
This work that over years I've borne
This 'Shedding Light Upon the Dawn.'*

