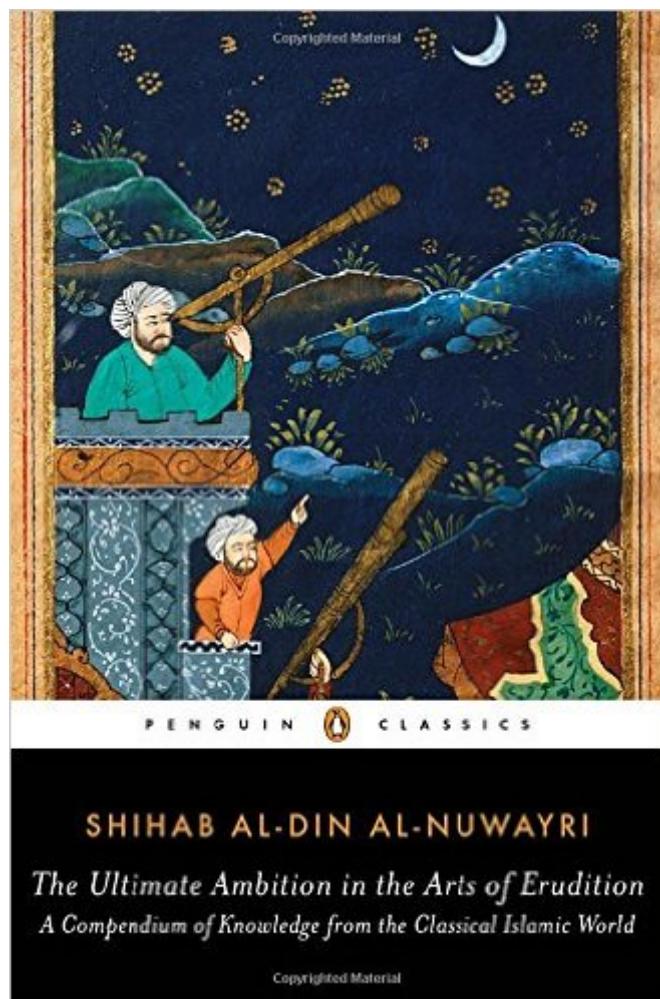


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The Ultimate Ambition In The Arts Of Erudition: A Compendium Of Knowledge From The Classical Islamic World



Synopsis

For the first time in English, a catalog of the world through fourteenth-century Arab eyesâ "a kind of Schottâ ™s Miscellany for the Islamic Golden Age. An astonishing record of the knowledge of a civilization, The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition catalogs everything known to exist from the perspective of a fourteenth-century Egyptian scholar and litterateur. More than 9,000 pages and thirty volumesâ "here abridged to one volume, and translated into English for the first timeâ "it contains entries on everything from medieval moon-worshipping cults, sexual aphrodisiacs, and the substance of clouds, to how to get the smell of alcohol off oneâ ™s breath, the deliciousness of cheese made from buffalo milk, and the nesting habits of flamingos. Similar works by Western authors, including Plinyâ ™s Natural History, have been available in English for centuries. This groundbreaking translation of a remarkable Arabic textâ "expertly abridged and annotatedâ "offers a look at the world through the highly literary and impressively knowledgeable societies of the classical Islamic world. Meticulously arranged and delightfully eclectic, it is a compendium to be treasuredâ "a true monument of erudition.

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This is such an amazing book. Never would I have imagined these ideas being side by side--it really shows the richness of life comes from variety! Thank you, Elias Muhanna for translating this incredible piece of history for us to read, understand and enjoy!

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