

al=Kurdī's *Happiness of Novices*;  
Translation and Commentary

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Muḥammad Amīn al=Kurdī is a prominent *Naqshbandī sufi* of Kurdish origin, and one of the Azhar *ulamā'* of the 19th century.

He has written several books about sufism and Islamic jurisprudence, one of which is *the Happiness of Novices* which al=Kurdi composes for his *murīds*, sufi disciples belonging to *Shāfi'ī's* school of Law.

At the beginning of the book, *al=Kurdi* says that every muslim should learn Islamic creed and ritual prescription before learning sufism.

So *the Happiness of Novices* is composed of three sections, the creed, the rituals, and the sufism.

First in the creed, attributes of the God and the Prophet are discussed, then he enumerates the unseens of which *Qur'ān* and *ḥadīth* inform us so that we should believe in them.

The rituals' section consists of 5 chapters, purification, prayer, alms-giving, fasting, and pilgrimage, besides a brief introduction to the sources of Islamic jurisprudence.

As for sufism, al=Kurdi explains some of sufi conceptions such as *ṣuḥba*, association, *dhikr*, contemplation, *murāqaba*, self-examination, as well as sufi rules of conduct and the *Khaṭm al=Khawājakān* which is the most important pillar of *Naqshbandīya* order.