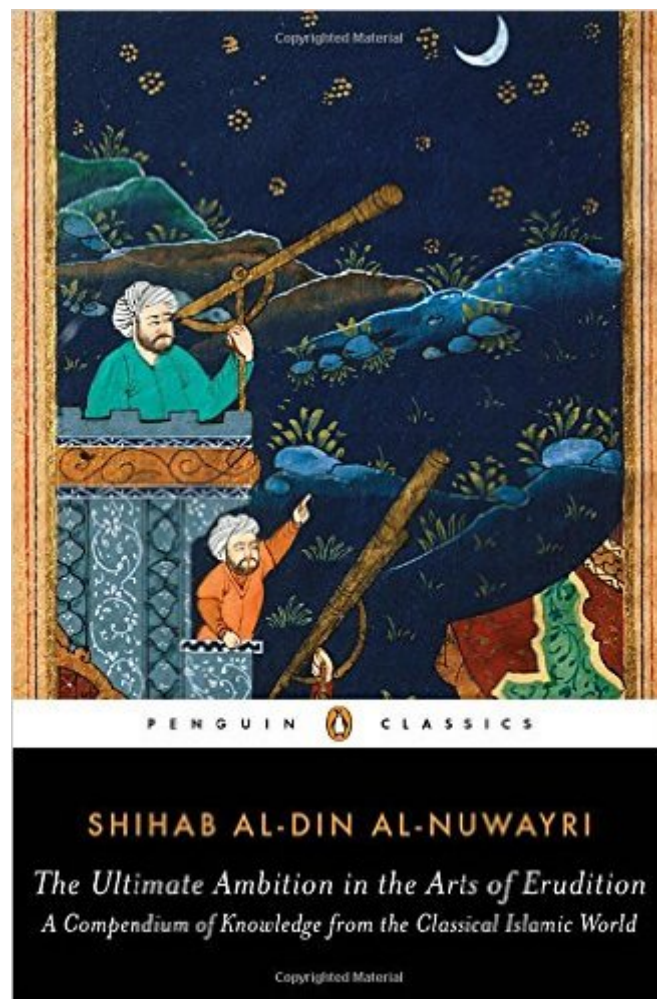


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# The Ultimate Ambition In The Arts Of Erudition: A Compendium Of Knowledge From The Classical Islamic World



## 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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