

Shafiqe N. Virani, "The Adornment of Assemblies by Husayn b. Ya'qub Shāh b. Šūfi," in *An Anthology of Ismaili Literature: A Shi'i Vision of Islam*, ed. Hermann Landolt, Samira Sheikh, and Kutub Kassam, London: I.B. Tauris, 2008, 296-297.

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# AN ANTHOLOGY OF ISMAILI LITERATURE

## A SHI'I VISION OF ISLAM

Edited by Hermann Landolt, Samira Sheikh & Kutub Kassam

O lord!  
 In this lowly world, you know,  
 Years and months passed by;  
 I lived my life in heedlessness.

O lord!  
 In this world for the sake of that one,  
 I sowed not a seed;  
 Now the season's passed.

Then suddenly from the invisible world  
 An oracle whispered in the inner recesses of my heart:  
 'Grieve not! For an unexpected felicity  
 Has been conferred upon you!'

Though I be bereft of worship,  
 I take joy in the certainty  
 That all who became beggars at this court  
 Become lords of majesty.

O lord!  
 Though I've been mighty impudent,  
 I shall not grieve,  
 For your mercy is my companion.

I also ended with your name,  
 Since in the realms of faith and world,  
 The beginning of all tasks,  
 Commences with '*In the Name of God.*'

### Ḥusayn b. Ya'qūb Shāh b. Ṣūfi

#### THE ADORNMENT OF ASSEMBLIES<sup>1</sup>

I have composed these couplets of poesy  
 To ornament the assembly of spirits,

That whoever may peruse these verses  
 May rejoice in the bounty of glad tidings,

That their time be felicitous, their fortune joyous,

1. Ḥusayn b. Ya'qūb Shāh b. Ṣūfi, '*Tazyin al-majālis*,' IIS Persian MS no. 7822, tr. Shafiqe N. Virani.



That their hearts may gain from God what they desire.

By the grace of God, a light shone upon my imagination,  
Teaching it lessons about His blessings.

My imagination signalled my tongue:  
'I have girded myself to entrust this to you.'

Aided by the lofty aspiration of the Folk of Purity,  
I resolved in the world upon writing this treatise.

I have composed it free of intricate words,  
And thus prepared it to be easily read

That it may approach the understanding of its listeners  
And not be strange to the ears of those who seek its meaning.

I hope that it may become a keepsake of mine,  
By which the people of dignity may remember me in their hearts.

My aspiration is that it may be found pleasing  
And be close to the hearts of the folk of perfection.

May God's mercy be upon the fortunate souls,  
For by His blessings hearts are rejuvenated.

Perchance, I will be included in the aid of His blessings  
That my soul may be touched by that joy.

Perhaps, He shall convey glad tidings of healing to this weary one,  
Or give hope to the one who seeks it.

I have completed this book, seeking such blessings,  
That He may shower His bounties all about – peace!

(Translated by Shafique N. Virani)