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THE DEVOTIONAL AND OCCULT WORKS OF SUHRAWARDĪ THE ILLUMINATIONIST¹

It was not uncommon for Islamic metaphysicians to attribute the motions of the celestial bodies and spheres to angels. It was rather less common for them to actually pray to those angels. And one would scarcely expect such prayers to be copied in madrasas and then be recopied for the personal use of Islamic rulers. Yet such is the case with the curious magical prayers of al-Suhrawardī.

The mystical philosopher Shihāb al-Dīn Yaḥyā al-Suhrawardī (d. 1191) was known as Shaykh al-Ishrāq, “Master of Illumination,” or al-Maqtūl, “the one who was killed,” to distinguish him from his contemporary Shihāb al-Dīn ‘Umar al-Suhrawardī, the Sufi leader in Baghdad known for his Sufi handbook *‘Awārif al-Ma‘ārif* and the founder of the Suhrawardiya order. The two are often confused by bibliographers, scribes, and people who really ought to have known better, such as Quṭb al-Dīn al-Shīrāzī, the author of the most widely used commentary on our Suhrawardī’s famous *Ḥikmat al-Ishrāq*, “The Philosophy of Illumination”.² Given that the two authors were writing on similar topics at about the same time, it is not surprising that their works are also sometimes confused, especially shorter and less known works. In the case of our Suhrawardī, there is the further factor that he led a wandering life, was executed for his views, and had no appointed disciple to organize his literary remains.

The Biographical and Manuscript Evidence

Our best bibliographical source on Suhrawardī’s writings is Shams al-Dīn al-Shahrazūrī, writing about a century after his death. Shahrazūrī wrote a biographical dictionary of earlier philosophers, known either as *Ta’rīkh al-Ḥukamā’*,

¹ The present article is partly extracted from an unpublished study of the manuscript and historical evidence for the works and lives of al-Suhrawardī and the earlier members of the Illuminationist school.

² *Quṭb al-Dīn al-Shīrāzī*. Sharḥ Ḥikmat al-Ishrāq. Ed. Asad Allāh Hirātī. N.p. [Tehran] 1313–15/1895–97. P. 3.

“History of the Sages,” or more properly *Nuzhat al-Arwāh*, “The Delight of Spirits”. This work contains a long biography of Suhrawardī, by far our best source on his life, within which is a bibliography of some fifty works supposedly by Suhrawardī. Shahrazūrī himself does not seem to have had access to an authoritative list of Suhrawardī’s works, for he says at the end of the list, “These are all of his works that have reached me or whose names I have heard. There may be other things that have not reached me.”³

Elsewhere, in the introduction to his commentary on Suhrawardī’s *Hikmat al-Ishrāq*, he mentions that he learned of Suhrawardī during his scholarly wanderings and that the learned were anxious to acquire copies of his poetry and wise sayings and to learn his philosophical methods.⁴ To the extent that this is not to be read as formulaic, it indicates that Suhrawardī’s works were known mainly by repute in the second half of the thirteenth century or that, at any rate, they were not available systematically. The manuscript evidence bears this out. There are few surviving manuscripts from before the last third of the thirteenth century when the Jewish philosopher Ibn Kammūna seems to have popularized al-Suhrawardī.⁵ With the exception of a collection of mystical and philosophical texts containing ten Persian works of Suhrawardī that was completed in 1261, the earliest surviving attempt at a comprehensive collection of his works is a manuscript copied in the early 1330s in Baghdad.⁶

About half the titles in Shahrazūrī’s list can be identified with surviving works. A few more items are attributed to Suhrawardī in various manuscripts with varying degrees of plausibility, though almost any of these could be works from Shahrazūrī’s list under other (or no) titles. Some are probably or certainly misattributions, in many cases being works that possibly or certainly belong to

³ *Shams al-Dīn al-Shahrazūrī*. *Nuzhat al-arwāh*, in: *Spies O.* (ed.). *Three Treatises on Mysticism by Shihabuddin Suhrawardi Maqtul*. Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer 1935. P. 102; *idem*. Ed. S. Khurshid Aḥmed. 2 vols. Hyderabad, Deccan: Dā’irāt al-Ma’ārif al-‘Uthmāniya, 1396/1976. Vol. 2. P. 129; *idem*. Ed. ‘Abd al-Karīm Abū Shuwayrib. [Tripoli, Libya]: Jām’iyat al-Da’wa al-Islāmiya al-‘Ālamīya, 1398/1978; reprinted Paris: Dar Byblion, 2007. P. 381; *idem*. Ed. Muḥammad-‘Alī Abū Rayyān. 1st ed. Alexandria: Dār al-Ma’rifā al-Jami’a, 1414/1988. P. 609.

⁴ *Shahrazūrī*. *Sharḥ Ḥikmat al-Ishrāq*. Ed. Hossein Ziai. Tehran: Institute for Cultural Studies and Research, 1993. P. 7; trans. in: *Suhrawardī*. *The Philosophy of Illumination*. Ed. John Walbridge and Hossein Ziai. P. xlii–xliii.

⁵ Y. Tzvi Langermann (Ibn Kammūna at Aleppo // *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 3/17/1 (2007). P. 1–19) surveys the scanty evidence of influence of al-Suhrawardī’s writings before the second half of the thirteenth century and speculates that Ibn Kammūna found his writings in Aleppo while he was working there as an ophthalmologist and brought them back to Baghdad.

⁶ This is Ragīp Paşa 1480, discussed in detail below. The earliest Suhrawardī manuscript I know of is Vatican arab. 873, a copy of *al-Lamahāt* dated 588/1192, about the time of Suhrawardī’s death. This is one of the works that ‘Abd al-Laṭīf al-Baghdādī mentions seeing and being disappointed by. He also mentions that Suhrawardī put occult letters between the sections of his books. See: *Langermann*. Ibn Kammūna. P. 4–6.

‘Umar al-Suhrawardī in Baghdad. Shahrazūrī’s list contains a number of titles that seem to refer to devotional or occult works⁷:

17. *al-Raqīm al-Qudsī*, “the sacred Inscription.”

34. *al-Tasbīhāt wa-Da‘awāt al-Kawākib*, “praises and invocations of the planets.”

Several manuscripts list this as two distinct items.

35. *Ad’iya Mutafarriqa*, “various invocations.”

37. *al-Da‘wa al-Shamsīya*, “the solar invocation.”

38. *al-Wāridāt al-Ilāhīya*, “the divine litanies.”

39. *Takhayyurāt al-Kawākib wa-Tasbīhātuhā*, “auguries and praises of the planets.”

41. *Kutub fī ‘l-Sīmiyā’ tunsab ilayhi*, “books on white magic attributed to him.”⁸

43. *Tasbīhāt al-‘Uqūl wa’l-Nufūs wa’l-‘Anāšir*, “praises of the intellects, souls, and elements.” One manuscript of Shahrazūrī identifies this as two items.

And indeed among the manuscripts we find a few curious works that seem to correspond to these titles. Only a few pages have been published. Because it is not usually possible to be sure exactly which of Shahrazūrī’s titles belong to the works that we find in manuscript, I have lumped them in my bibliographical study into two categories: *ad’iya mutafarriqa*, “miscellaneous prayers,” and *wāridāt ilāhīya*, “divine litanies.” In addition, one set of prayers does seem to match a specific title: *Tasbīhāt al-‘Uqūl wa’l-Nufūs wa’l-‘Anāšir*, “praises of the intellects, souls, and elements.” Complicating the matter are a number of catalogue entries for manuscripts that I have not been able to examine. Usually these do not provide enough information to identify the text. There is also something called, with variations, *al-Awrād al-Suhrawardīya*, which are litanies either by or attributed to ‘Umar al-Suhrawardī and which themselves have commentaries. It is thus likely that of the score or so of manuscripts that I know of purporting to contain prayers by Suhrawardī, some will turn out to be misidentified. It is also virtually certain that other copies or other such texts exist in inadequately catalogued *majmū‘as*.

However, lest the best be the enemy of the good, I will proceed here on the basis of a small group of Istanbul manuscripts that I have seen. As we will find, such works are compatible with Suhrawardī’s philosophical and religious views.

⁷ The numbering of titles comes from certain Istanbul manuscripts, but the numbers are probably not part of Shahrazūrī’s original text.

⁸ *Sīmiyā* has various senses, but it is distinguished from *sihr*, sorcery, which is certainly condemned by Islamic law. Ibn Khaldūn (al-Muqaddima. Ed. De Slane. Vol. 3. P. 137–38; trans. Franz Rosenthal. P. 171) remarks that the term originally applied to the whole science of talismans but that in his day the Sufis used it to refer specifically to letter magic; cf.: *MacDonald D.B. and T. Fahd. Sīmiyā // Encyclopaedia of Islam*. 2nd ed.

Suhrawardī's Occult Prayers

Let us first consider an example chosen because it is short, the *Da'wat al-Ṭibā' al-Tāmm*, "Invocation of the Perfect Nature." I quote the prayer in full:

أيها السيد الرئيس والملك القديس الروحاني النفيس، أنت الأب الروحاني والولد المعنوي
التمثل بإذن الله بتدبير شخصي المبتهل إلى الله—عزّ فضل إله الألهة—في تكميل
نقصي اللابس من أنوار اللّهوتية أسناها الواقف من درجات الكمال في أعلاها. أسألك
بالذي منحك هذا الشوق العظيم ووهبك هذا الفيض الجسيم ألا ما تجليت لي في أحسن
المظاهر وأريتنني نور وجهك الباهر وتوسّطت لي عند إله الألهة بإفاضته بنور الأسرار
ورفعت عن قلبي ظلمات الأسرار بحقه عليك ومكانته لديك. تم.

O thou chief master and holy king, precious spiritual being, thou art the spiritual father and mystic son entrusted by the leave of God with the care of my person, he who prays devoutly to God—Great is the bounty of the God of gods!—for the rectification of my deficiencies. Thou art clothed in the most splendid of the divine lights and standest in the loftiest degree of perfection. I beseech thee by that One who granted thee this mighty longing and bestowed upon thee this corporeal emanation to reveal thyself to me in the best of manifestations, to show me the brilliant light of thy face, and to mediate for me before the God of gods by the emanation of the light of mysteries, to lift from my heart the shadows of the veils by the right that He hath upon thee and His station before thee.

If this prayer is to be successful in summoning the visible presence of one's perfect nature, some preparation is required:

إذا أردت يظهر عليك فاجتنب أكل الحيوان وجرّد عن العلائق و الزم الصلوة والصوم
وطهر لباسك وهو الموقّق والغني.

If you wish him to appear before you, shun the meat of animals, cast off attachments, devote yourself to ṣalāt, and purify your clothes. It is He who gives success and aid.⁹

The *ṭibā' tāmm*, according to Mu'īn's *Farhang-i Fārsī*, is "a luminous essence associated with each human being created before his birth that accompanies him from the day of his birth and is responsible for protecting him, and when the day of his death arrives, this luminous twin attaches to him."¹⁰ In Suhrawardī's system this would be an immaterial light, which is to say a mind

⁹ Ragip Paşa 1480, f. 314a17–22. Other extant manuscripts are Ankara, Milli 4558/8, f. 88a; Istanbul, Topkapı Sarayı Ahmet III 3217, f. 212a; and Istanbul, Topkapı Sarayı Ahmet III 3232, ff. 73a–b.

¹⁰ *Muḥammad Mu'īn*. *Farhang-i Fārsī*. Tehran: Amīr Kabīr, 1376/1997. Vol. 2. P. 2207. S.v. *Ṭibā'*, quoting some earlier source.

and thus a living being. He mentions this being in his *Mashāri'* in connection with Hermes Trismegistus:

فإذا سمعت أنبذقليس و أغاناذيمون و غيرهما يشيرون إلى أصحاب الأنواع فافهم غرضهم،
و لا تظنن أنهم يقولون إن صاحب النوع جسم أو جسماني أو له رأس ورجلان، و إذا وجدت
هرمس يقول إن دائماً روحانيّة ألفت إلي المعارف، فقلت لها من أنت؟ فقلت أنا طباعك التامة،
فلا تحمله على أنها مثلنا...

“When you hear Empedocles, Aghathadaeom, and others referring to the masters of species, you must understand what they mean and not imagine that they are saying that the master of the species is a body or corporeal or that it has a head and two feet. Thus you find Hermes saying, “A spiritual essence cast knowledge into me, so I said to it, ‘Who are you?’ It replied, ‘I am your perfect nature.’” Do not claim that it is like us.”¹¹

Here the *ṭibā' tamma* is clearly the Platonic Form or archetype of the human species. As for Suhrawardī's prayer, the vocabulary is that of the “science of lights” of his *Ḥikmat al-Ishrāq*: “God of gods” (for *nūr al-anwār*), emanation, divine lights, degrees of perfection, and so on. Second, this prayer is part of a magical operation, expressed in terms that are partly religious and partly philosophical.

Let us now look more systematically at these texts and the manuscript evidence for them.

The Manuscript Evidence 1: Ragip Paşa 1480

The closest thing we have to a comprehensive edition of Suhrawardī's works in an early manuscript is Ragip Paşa 1480, copied in a professorial scrawl by one Badr al-Nasawī in 731–35/1330–34 in the Niẓāmīya and Mustanṣarīya madrasas in Baghdad. This manuscript contains eighteen works of Suhrawardī, including all the major philosophical works, a number of minor Arabic works, two of the Persian allegories, and some of the prayers. Its importance was recognized early, for it was copied in 865/1461 for the palace library of the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II; the latter manuscript is now Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi, Ahmet III 3217. It contains the following four short devotional or occult works:

3. ff. 182a–b: *al-Taqdīsāt*, “the Sanctifications”

¹¹ *Al-Suhrawardī*. *al-Mashāri'* wa'l-Muṭārahāt. § 193 // Corbin H. (ed.). *Shihāb al-Dīn al-Suhrawardī*. *Majmū'a-yi Muṣannafāt*. Tehran: Anjuman-i Shāhānshāhī-yi Falsafa-yi Irān, 2535/1976. Vol. 3. P. 463–64. The subject is discussed at length at: *Pseudo-Majrīfī*. *Ghāyat al-Ḥakīm: Picatrix of the Latins*. Ed. Helmut Ritter. Berlin: B.G. Teubner, 1933. 3. 6. P. 187–94, including an elaborate description of the ceremony Hermes conducted to summon up the *ṭibā' tamm*.

4. f. 182b: *Min da'awātihi ayḍan*, “another of his invocations”
 14. ff. 313b–314a: *Min Wāridātihi*, “one of his litanies”
 15. ff. 314a: *Da'wat al-Ṭibā' al-Tāmm*

The last we have already seen, but I will consider the others in turn.

Al-Taḡdīsāt, “the Sanctifications,” corresponding to Ahmet III 3217/4, ff. 174b–175a. An invocation or sanctification (*taḡdīs*) in succession of seventeen levels of divine intellects and holy souls, beginning with Bahman, the first intellect, and descending through the ten spheres, the intellects responsible for the material forms, and the souls of the prophets and saints. This could be Shahrazūrī's *Tasbīḥāt al-'Uqūl wa'l-Nufūs wa'l-'Anāšir*. The content of the work is Illuminationist, both in its terminology and in its invocation of Platonic Forms under the Illuminationist title *arbāb al-ṭilamsāt*, and is startlingly pagan in its prayers to the celestial bodies. It is not magical, however, in that the content simply praises the angelic intellects rather than summoning their presence or requesting some boon.

تقدیس بهمن نور العقل الأول. أقدس عبد الله وحجاب الله الأعظم نور الله الأكبر صنع الله
 العلى المثال الأول القدیس الأقرب ملك الملائكة رئیس الأصحاب القاهرة كخداء الملکوت
 فی حضرة الله نور بهمن...
 العقل السابع. أقدس لتعظیم الله المور القاهر الشدید البهیّ الجمیل الصبیح صاحب الحسن
 والمحبة کامل العشق القدیمی المشرق المضيء، ربّ الزهرة التي هي ظلّه، والقدس عبد الله
 الطالع الزهرة الغراء الصبيحة المشرقة البهينة [كذا] ذات الملاحه واللفظ والنظافة و
 السخاء والكمال والعطف والأعتدال والمودة والخاص والحسن والغناء والأز والطرب و
 الطرب والبهجة وأنتی وعلى شخصه النیر ونفسه الشریفة وأقدس مسكنه العالی المقدس
 الکریم.

The Sanctification of the Bahman Light, the first intellect. I sanctify the servant of God, the mightiest veil of God, the greatest light of God, the highest creation of God, the first archetype, the nearest holy one, king of the angels, chief of the privy companions, sheriff of the Kingdom in the presence of God, Bahman Light...

The seventh intellect. I sanctify for the glorification of God the overflowing light, strong, splendid, beautiful, comely, possessor of love and affection, perfect in passion, eternal, shining and bright, the Lord of Venus, which is his shadow. I sanctify the ascendant servant of God, Venus, glorious, bright, shining, splendid, she who possesses sweetness, grace, purity, munificence, love, a fair visage, she who is melodious, musical, and joyful. I praise his shining person and his noble soul. I sanctify his lofty, holy, and generous station.¹²

¹² Ragıp Paşa 1480/3, f. 182a1–5, 25–28.

Min da 'awātihi ayḍan, “another of his invocations,” corresponding to Ahmet III 3217/5, ff. 175b–76a. This is a more conventional prayer of half a dozen lines praising God and asking for detachment from the world. The language is generally philosophical and Illuminationist with some faux-Syriac words (“*al-ragha-būt*”) but without specific Islamic references.

إلهي وإله جميع الموجودات، يا واجب الوجود وفانض الجود، يا جاعل الأرواح وفاعل
الأشباح، منك الرّهوت واليك الرّغوت، خلّصنا عن العلائق الجسمانيّة ونجّنا عن العوائق
الظلمانيّة، وطهّرنا عن رجس الهيولى إلى مشاهدة أنوارك... فسبحان الذي بيده ملكوت كل
شيء واليه ترجعون.

*My God and the God of all existents. O necessary existent, dispenser of grace, maker of spirits, and creator of forms. From Thee is the realm of terror and to Thee the realm of desire. Purify us from corporeal connections, and deliver us from the impediments of darkness. Purify us from the defilement of matter that we might behold Thy lights... Glorified is He in whose hand is the Kingdom of all things, and to Him shall ye return.*¹³

Min wāridātihi, “one of his litanies,” corresponding to Ahmet III 3217/9, ff. 211a–212b, is a similar prayer to God, written in strongly Illuminationist language.

سبحانك مبدع الكلّ أوّل الأوائل مبدئ المبادئ موجد جميع الماهيات مظهر كل الهويات
مسبّب الأسباب ربّ الأرباب فعّال العجائب وما هو أعجب من العجائب متفنّ اللطائف وما
هو أطف من اللطائف إله العقول الفعّالة الدّوات المجرّدة عن الموائد والأمكنة والجهات التي
هي الأنوار القاهرة المفارقة من جميع الوجوه هم الكاملون الأقربون... أسألك أن تفيض
عليّ أنوارك المشرقة وتكلمني بمعرفة أسرارك الشريفة...

*Exalted art Thou, originator of all, first of the first, origin of origins, giver of existence to all quiddities, manifester of all identities, causer of causes, lord of lords, doer of miracles and of that which is more miraculous than any miracle, proficient in subtleties and that which is yet more subtle than any subtle thing! O lord of the active intellects, of the essences abstracted from all matter, place, and dimension, of them that are the triumphal lights. Incorporeal in all respects they are perfect and nigh unto Thee... I ask Thee to pour out upon me thy blazing lights and to teach me the knowledge of the noble mysteries...*¹⁴

While the prayers of Ragip 1480 are not especially long or magical, they do tend to establish that Suhrawardī wrote such things and give us some grounds for crediting the authenticity of other such works.

¹³ Ragip Paşa 1480/4, f. 182b.

¹⁴ Ragip Paşa 1480/14, f. 312b23–26, 214a14–15.

Manuscript Evidence 2: Ayasofya 2144/1 and Ahmet III 3271/4

These two manuscripts contain a set of occult and magical prayers. Ayasofya 2144 is an occult *majmū‘a* of nine items, including texts on the magical powers of the Qur’ān, ethics, and spiritual chivalry by al-Tha‘ālibī, Ṭughrā’ī, Ibn al-Mu‘ayyad al-Nasafī, Ibn Sīnā, and others.¹⁵ It was copied in mid-October 652/late October 1254, sixty-three years after Suhrawardī’s death, by one Sulaymān b. Mas‘ūd b. al-Ḥasan. It is thus one of the earliest surviving manuscripts of any work of al-Suhrawardī. Ahmet III 3271/4 was copied half a century later in Kashan in 708/1308 at the end of a volume containing three of Suhrawardī’s philosophical works. The scribe remarks that “These noble prayers were copied from a vile (*fī ghāyat al-suqm*) manuscript. God willing, they have been copied correctly.” Since this latter manuscript is missing both the first and last items found in Ayasofya 2144, perhaps part of the *suqm* of its exemplar was that it had lost pages at the beginning and end. At any rate, it was not copied from the Ayasofya manuscript, which is still clear and in excellent condition. The contents are as follows:

al-Raqīm al-Muqaddas, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 1b5–7a8; missing in Ahmet III 3271.¹⁶ A meditation on the unity of God in which the Sun plays an important role as a symbol of God. The language is unmistakably Illuminationist. There is a reference at Ayasofya 2144, f. 3b15 to “*dhāt al-abrāj hayākil al-nūr*,” perhaps an allusion to Suhrawardī’s *Hayākil al-Nūr* and *Risālat al-Abrāj*, thus tending to confirm the authenticity of the latter.

اقرأ رقيمك أيها الطلسم البشري فإن رقيمك لوح الله المحفوظ، بالإتقان، قدس الله والنير
الأعظم على أحد الأفقين وجرّد الذكر أنّ مواقف الذكر يشهدها إلا أن ليس بذئ بال عند الله
صلوة من لم يوجّه الوجه المجرّد ولا يرضى ربك بعمل لغيره فيه سهم...

*Read thine inscription, O thou human talisman, for thine inscription is without doubt in the Preserved Tablet of God. Sanctify God and the great luminary in one of the two horizons. Purify thy mention of God, for minds bear witness to the occasions of such mention. God will pay no heed to the prayer of one who has not turned thither a face sanctified from the world, nor will thy Lord be satisfied with any action or with any act in which another has a portion.*¹⁷

¹⁵ For a detailed description see: Ritter H. *Philologika* ix: Die Vier Suhrawardī: Ihre Werke in Stambuler Handschriften // *Der Islam* 24–25 (1937–38). P. 56–57.

¹⁶ Baghdādī (*Baghdādī*. *Īdāḥ al-Maknūn* 1, col. 582, the supplement to Kātib Çelebi’s *Kashf al-Zunūn*) mentions *al-Raqīm al-Awwal*, which he unambiguously attributes to our Suhrawardī. However, the opening words are different, so it is presumably a different work.

¹⁷ Ayasofya 2144/1, f. 1b5–8.

Awrād al-Istibṣār, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 7a9–7b17; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 183b–184b1. A prayer for illumination using the language of *Hikmat al-Ishrāq* and invoking God and the angelic intellects. I translate the beautiful invocation of the Sun and the refrain that is repeated six times.

جعل الله النّير الأعظم وسيلةً وسلطاناً وألقى بنوره عليه وأتاه ملك حضانر الأجسام
وصيره مالك رقاب المتجسّدين وأكد الحجّة على العالمين وجعله واسطة النّظام ومتّم الحياة
وسبب الفصول والليل والنّهار التمسّت منه مقسّدات النّفوس فحاطبته أن يا أيّها الشخص
الأنور الذي بدا وجهه إلى أبيه. سل واهب العقل والوفاة الحياة وقل: ارفع ذكر النّور وإيد
اهل النّور وأرشد النّور إلى النّور.

God hath made the supreme luminary a sovereign instrument and hath cast His light upon him. He hath brought unto him the sovereignty of the corporeal domains¹⁸ and made him master of those who are in bodies. By him hath He made clear the proof to all the worlds. He hath made him the means of order, the perfecter of life, the cause of seasons, of night and day. The holy souls seek to converse with him, saying, O thou most luminous person, whose face is ever to his father, beseech the giver of mind and death and life and say:

[Refrain] *Exalt the remembrance of light, aid the people of light, and guide the light unto the light.*¹⁹

Wārīd al-Waṣīyya al-Kabīra, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 8a1–10b12; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 184b1–188a8. Suhrawardī invokes his “father,” his celestial archetype (*ṣāhib al-ṭilism*), asking to be delivered from darkness into the realm of divine light, and seems to allude to the composition of *Hikmat al-Ishrāq*. The language is unquestionably Illuminationist. The bulk is general spiritual counsel to his followers.

يا من ملكه الله طرفاً من الدّنيا، أما تدري أنّ الرّاجي ثبات هذه الزّائلة كمن أراد أن يخيط
النّهار على ثوبه كيلا يزول، ومن أراد أن يثبت به الظّل بالوتد لا يكتسب بالزّائل ما يرقم
عليك وباله.

*O thou to whom God hath granted possession of some part of the world below, dost thou not know that he who seeks stability in this ephemeral realm is like one who tries to stitch the day to his robe lest it pass away or one who wants to stop the shadow with a peg? Acquire not the ephemeral whose evil end will be inscribed against thee!*²⁰

Awrād al-Anwār, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 10b13–13a16; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 188a9–191b6. This prayer begins with a plea for deliverance in a time of trial,

¹⁸ Reading *ḥazā'ir* for *ḥadā'ir*.

¹⁹ Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 7b7–13.

²⁰ Ayasofya 2144/1, f. 9b10–13, Ahmet III 3271, f. 186b10–13.

then the voice shifts to God proclaiming his own majesty as the source of the light that illumines and vivifies the worlds. The terminology and theological structure are those of *Hikmat al-Ishrāq*. There is an extended passage in praise of Bahman, the first light.

ما قضيت أمراً أكرم لدي من بهمن نور، هو أول من أبدعته وألقيت في ذاته مثال كمالي
فأبدعت به الأعلين على نظام وصير الأعلين كلهم عقل ونور انعكست الأشعة في العوالي
فتضاعفت الأضواء، فقدرت بها أعداد النازلين نظر الأمر إلى سلطان مولاه.

*I have ordained nothing nobler before me than the light Bahman. He was the first that I created. Into his essence I cast the image of my perfection. By him I created the archangels in their order. Since the archangels are every one intellect and light, the rays are reflected in these lofty beings. Thus, the lights are redoubled and by them are ordained the individuals beneath them in their contemplation of the sovereignty of their master.*²¹

*Wārid al-Taqdīs li-Kulli Mawqif [Kabīr*²²], Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 13a17–16a15; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 191b7–194b10. Formal praise of God that quickly moves into Illuminationist language, including a reference to God as Ahura Mazda (*Ūrmazda Adhār Kayhān*). After that it continues with praise of the first light Bahman, occasionally using other Persian terminology from *Hikmat al-Ishrāq* such as *kadkhudā*, *isfahbadh*, and *kaywān*. The prayer goes on to praise the angelic minds associated with the fixed stars and the planets.

أقدس لتعظيم الله النور الفاهر الشديد ذي العزة والقوى والغلبة والعظيمة والبصيص
النأذ، رب المريخ هو ظله، وأقدس عند الله الطابع المريخ الفاضل الشجاع الغالب الظافر
صاحب القهر والسطوة والبأس الشديد النار الموقد والضوء المهيب ذو الحر واليبس
والقوة والسلطة، وأثني على شخصه النير ونفسه الشريفة.

*I sanctify for the glorification of God that awful triumphant light, the possessor of great might and and strong power, of triumphant victory, of penetrating luster, the lord of Mars, whose shadow it is. I sanctify the obedient servant of God, Mars, the virtuous, the courageous, victorious and triumphant, possessor of triumph and pomp, of great fortitude, kindled fire, awe-inspiring luminary, possessor of freedom and might, of power and sovereignty. I praise his luminous person and noble soul.*²³

Wārid al-Tidhkār, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 19a2–19b5; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 198a8–198b15. A prayer affirming the sincerity of devotions, invoking various celestial beings as witnesses and support.

²¹ Ayasofya 2144 ff.12b16–13a3, Ahmet III 3271, f. 191a2–7.

²² Omitted in Ahmet III 3271.

²³ Ayasofya 2144 ff. 14b9–14, Ahmet III 3271, f. 193a3–9.

Wārid Taqdīs al-A'lā li-Kull Yawm, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 19b6–20b12; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 199a1–200b1. A prayer of praise of God in which He is praised as unique and as the supreme lord and creator of all other beings, in the process describing His relationship to the various elements of the cosmological system of *Ḥikmat al-Ishrāq*.

Wārid Taqdīs al-Shams li-Yawm al-Aḥad or *Hūrakhsh-i Kabīr*, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 20b13–21b7; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 200b2–201b3. A prayer in honor of the Sun, for Sunday.

أهلاً بالحيِّ النَّاطِقِ الأَنُورِ والشَّخْصِ الأَطْهَرِ والكوكبِ الأزهر، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ وَتَحِيَّاتِ اللَّهِ
وبركاته أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ الأَعْظَمُ والسَّيِّدِ الأَشْرَفِ والطَّايِعِ لمبدعه المتحرِّكِ في عَشْقِ جلالِ باريه
بحركةِ فلكه المتبرِّئِ عن قبولِ الخرقِ والكونِ والفسادِ والحركةِ المستقيمة، أنتِ هورخش
الشَّدِيدِ قاهرِ الغسقِ رئيسِ العالمِ ملكِ الكواكبِ سيِّدِ الأشْخاصِ العلويةِ فاعلِ النَّهارِ بأمرِ اللَّهِ.

*O thou most great luminary, noblest wandering star, obedient to his creator, moving in love of the glory of his maker by the motion of his orb, an orb that is beyond any rent, any generation, corruption, or linear motion. Thou art mighty Hūrakhsh, vanquisher of dusk, chief of the universe, king of planets, master of the ones on high, bringer of day by the command of God.*²⁴

Wārid Taqdīs Yawm al-Ithnayn li'l-Qamar, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 21b8–22a4; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 201b4–202a7. A prayer for Monday in honor of the Moon. It invokes various occult properties of the Moon and asks its intercession with God in obtaining enlightenment.

Wārid Taqdīs Yawm al-Thālithā' li'l-Mirrikh, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 22a5–22b4; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 202a8–202b10. A prayer for Tuesday invoking Mars and using language appropriate to Mars' traditional association with war.

Wārid Taqdīs Yawm al-Arba'ā' li'l-'Uṭārid, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 22b5–23a4; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 202b11–203a13. A prayer for Wednesday sanctifying Mercury. The attributes invoked mostly relate to intelligence and knowledge.

Wārid Taqdīs Yawm al-Khamīs li'l-Mushtarī, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 23a5–23b10; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 203a14–204a7. A prayer for Thursday invoking Jupiter under the name “Hurmus”—that is, Ahura Mazda, for whom Jupiter is named in Pahlavi, not Hermes. The qualities attributed to him relate to wisdom and justice.

²⁴ Ayasofya 2144, ff. 20b14–21a2, Ahmet III 3271, f. 200b3–9. This prayer has apparently been published twice, first by Muḥammad Mu'īn (in *Majalla-yi Āmūzish wa-Parwarish* 24), and then by Najaf-Qulī Ḥabībī (in: *al-Suhrawardī. Majmū'a-yi Muḥannaḥāt-i Shaykh-i Ishrāq*. Tehran: Parwarishgāh-i 'Ulūm-i Insānī wa-Muṭālī'āt-i Farhangī, 1380/2001. 4 vols. Vol. 4. P. 9–10, n. 2).

Wārid Taqdīs Yawm al-Jum‘a li’l-Zuhra, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 23b11–24a9; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 204a8–204b8. A prayer for Friday addressed to Venus. Venus is referred to as “Üzmān,” a name I have not traced. The qualities attributed to her relate to love and femininity.

Wārid Taqdīs Yawm al-Sabt li’l-Zuḥal, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 24a10–24b13; Ahmet III 3271/4, ff. 204b9–205a14. A prayer for Saturday invoking Saturn, named in the text “Kayān,” for “Kaywān,” an old Persian name for Saturn. He is invoked in terms of wisdom, dignity, and solitude with reference to cold and dryness being under his rule.

Faṣl on how to speak with the planets, Ayasofya 2144/1, ff. 24b14–26b15; missing in Ahmet III 3271. This chapter is apparently part of the preceding set of *awrād* and gives instructions on how to speak with the seven planets, respectively Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, the Sun, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon. It concludes with cabbalistic symbols for each of the seven planets.

* * *

Again, there seems little reason to question the authenticity of these texts. The manuscripts are early and correspond plausibly with titles in Shahrazūrī’s list. The doctrines and style are compatible with those of *Hikmat al-Ishrāq*.

Manuscript Evidence 3: Isolated Items

A significant number of manuscripts contain prayers, bits of verse, and the like attributed to Suhrawardī.

Min kalimāt [sic] *al-mawsūma bi’l-Taqdīsāt*. In Esad Efendi 3688/10, f. 62b, the only manuscript I have seen, this is a single prayer of a few lines. There is a manuscript in Cairo of three folios, followed by commentary by one Muḥammad al-Isfārā’īnī, that presumably contains more. At any rate, the text that I have seen is a vaguely Illuminationist prayer similar in style to the ones above. Since it is attributed to “Shihāb al-Dīn al-Suhrawardī” there is nothing to link it incontrovertibly to our Suhrawardī. The manuscript actually has texts by both Suhrawardīs, but since it is mixed in with wise sayings attributed to al-Ḥallāj and various ancient philosophers, it is most likely our Suhrawardī.

يا إلهي وإله جميع الموجودات من المعقولات والمحسوسات، يا واهب النفوس والعقول
ومخترع ماهيات الأركان والأصول، يا واهب الوجود وفايض الجود، يا فاعل القلوب
والأرواح وجاعل الصور والأشباح، يا منور الأنوار ومدبر كل دوار، أنت الأول الذي
لا أول قبلك وأنت الآخر الذي لا آخر بعدك.

O my God and the God of all existents, intelligible and visible! O Giver of souls and intellects, deviser of the quiddities of the elements and principles! O Giver of existence and emanator of grace! O Maker of hearts and spirits, shaper of forms and images! O Enlightener of lights, manager of every orb! Thou art the First before whom there is none, and Thou art the Last, after whom there shall be none!

A number of other manuscripts contain works said by their catalogers to be prayers or other devotional works of Suhrawardī. That is what they may be, or they may be works by ‘Umar Suhrawardī, spurious or pseudonymous works, versions of the “Forty Names,” of which I will say more below, or other things entirely. In one case, what is cataloged as a prayer is actually Suhrawardī’s best known poem written out as prose.²⁵ In the absence of further information, I list these for whatever they are worth:

Buhar 320/2a, c, in a manuscript of a Zoroastrian commentary on *Hikmat al-Ishrāq*.

Istanbul, Atatürk, Ergin 953/17 (= 224).

Istanbul, Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi, Emanet Hazinesi 1006.

Tehran, Sinā 286/2, ca. 916/1510.

Damascus, *Zāhīrīya* 8734, ff. 44–71.

Istanbul, Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi, Emānet Hazinesi 1006.

London, British Library Supp. 825/3.

Mecca, Maktabat al-Ḥaram 3877/9 *Ad’iya*. P. 253–55.

Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale 3954, ff. 56b–57a.

Streiche 360, 9, 1.

Vienna 1750, ff. 111b–173a [?], late 10th/17th century or later.

Magic and the Invocation of Celestial Intellects

What then are we to make of these texts, particularly those that invoke the celestial intellects rather than God? There are obvious parallels in the genre known as *istiḥdār* or *istinzāl*, “summoning of spirits,” a branch of *sihr*, magic or sorcery, and therefore an art forbidden by Islamic law. Ḥājji Khalīfa writes,

“The science of bringing down (*istinzāl*) and conjuring (*istiḥdār*) of spirits in the forms of wraiths (*qawālib al-ashbāh*) is one of the branches of the science of magic. If you control jinn or angels so as to attain your desires by their means without making them take bodily form in your presence, it is called the science

²⁵ Ragıp Paşa 1480/4, ff. 182b; Ahmet III 3217/5, f. 176a. The poem is “*Abadan taḥinnu*,” in *kāmīl* rhyming in *ḥu*. The text is found in the biographies of al-Suhrawardī by al-Shahrazūrī, Ibn Khallikān, Ibn Abī Uṣaybi’a, as well as in other later biographies. It is translated in De Slane’s translation, in *Ibn Khallikan’s Biographical Dictionary* (Paris: Oriental Translation Fund, 1843. Vol. 4. P. 156).

of incantations (*al-‘azā‘im*). If the jinn take bodily form in your presence so that you can perceive them, it is called the science of conjuring (*istiḥdār*), whether or not you attain your desires by means of them. Only the prophets are able to conjure the celestial angels, but there is disagreement as to whether other are able to conjure the earthly angels.”²⁶

Such ceremonial invocations of the celestials play a major role in the greatest classic of Islamic magic, pseudo-Majrīfī’s *Ghāyat al-Ḥakīm*, the *Picatrix* of the Latins, as well as later magical works, such as the *Shams al-Ma‘ārif* attributed to al-Būnī. And, indeed, the biographers are clear that Suhrawardī was skilled in magic and alchemy, which feature in some of the most entertaining stories about him. On the other hand, the stories told about him are more like the miracles of Sufī saints than the dark deeds of sorcerers motivated by greed and lust for power. In one he smashes a large Badakhshān ruby, obviously the product of alchemy, to show that his poverty was a matter of choice. In another, when a man from whom he has bought a lamb demands more money while pulling on his arm, the arm comes off in a spray of blood and the man runs away in terror, ridding Suhrawardī of an annoyance. In a third story, he entertains his disciples in a jeu d’esprit by summoning up the towers of Damascus above the southern horizon of Aleppo. This is very different from the purposes to which the *Picatrix* puts such invocations, matters to do with inheritance, mixing with kings, love affairs, and the like.²⁷

Most of Suhrawardī’s texts relating to the celestial spirits are strictly devotional, addressing praise to them as exalted beings with near access to God. These texts are, to use his term, *taqdīsāt*, sanctifications. What al-Suhrawardī is really interested in is talking to the spirits of the planets, an exercise that makes perfect sense given the structure of his philosophical system, in which mystical apprehension of the celestial lights is a tool for understanding the metaphysical structure of the universe. It is, to be sure, a rather strange thing for a Muslim to be doing, since it borders on polytheism, but Suhrawardī, like the Late Antique pagan Neoplatonists, would surely protest that he was simply giving due reverence to the greatest of God’s servants, doing something little different than the formal greeting given to Muslim saints at their shrines. In fact, he is doing theurgy, something with very deep and continuing roots in the Platonic tradition.²⁸ His prayers are very similar to those of Proclus addressed to the celestial bodies.

²⁶ *Hājī Khalīfa*. *Kashf al-Zunūn*. Istanbul: Maarif Matbaasi 1941. Vol. 1. Col. 80, apparently a quote from *Miftāḥ al-Sa‘āda*. cf.: *T. Fahd*. Istinzāl; *Siḥr // The Encyclopaedia of Islam*. 2nd ed.

²⁷ *Pseudo-Majrīfī*. *Ghāyat al-Ḥakīm*. 3. 6–9. P. 198–253.

²⁸ On the Islamic interpretation of philosophical paganism as Sabianism, see my *The Wisdom of the Mystic East: Suhrawardī and Platonic Orientalism* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001), P. 24–42. On theurgy and its relation to Neoplatonism, see: *Kingsley P.* *Ancient Philosophy, Mystery, and Magic: Empedocles and the Pythagorean Tradition*. Oxford:

The Forty Names

There is an exception to the rule that Suhrawardī's magical texts are not practical, a protean occult text known as *al-Arba'ūn Isman al-Idrīsīya*, *al-Asmā' al-Idrīsīya*, *Sharḥ al-Arba'īn Isman*, *Khawāṣṣ al-Arba'īn Isman*, and other similar titles. It is variously attributed to our Suhrawardī, 'Umar, 'Alī, and Aḥmad al-Suhrawardī, and the like, but most commonly and exasperatingly just to "Shihāb al-Dīn al-Suhrawardī." It is not, so far as I know, found in early collections of Suhrawardī's works, and the Persian commentary that also circulates widely attributes it to 'Umar al-Suhrawardī in Baghdad. Thus, its attribution to our Suhrawardī is very uncertain, at the least. However, because it is mentioned so often in connection with him, I will briefly discuss it here.²⁹

The text is a commentary on a prayer attributed to the Prophet Idrīs, which is to say Enoch or Hermes, consisting of forty short invocations of various names, starting with *سبحانك لا إله إلا أنت يا رب كل شيء و وارثه*, "Exalted be Thee, there is no God but Thee, the lord and inheritor of all things." The underlying prayer clearly predates this particular text. Al-Majlisī's *Biḥār al-Anwār* (Vol. 92. P. 168–69), contains a version taken from a little collection of prayers in the *Muhaj al-Da'awāt* of Ibn Tāwūs (589/1193–664/1266). The latter claims to have found this particular prayer in the *Faql al-Du'ā'* of Sa'd b. 'Abd Allāh al-Ash'arī al-Qummī (d. ca. 300/912), who in turn says that he found it attributed to al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī. In its most common form, each of these sentence-long invocations is followed by instructions for using it to gain various ends. The first, for example, if said seventeen times while facing the person of the king, will gain the king's attention and favor. The text is extremely variable. Copyists clearly felt free to add commentary and instructions and to modify the text in various ways. The elaborations might be as simple as added instructions—in the case of the first invocation, several sources add instructions for using it against an enemy—the addition of more or less elaborate introductions, usually mentioning that it is "transmitted," *manqūl*, from Suhrawardī, or elaborate commentaries. There are versions with introductions giving seven or eight conditions for the invocations to be effective in their intended use. At least one manuscript discusses the "eight fives," how the eight groups of five names might be used in similar ways. There are translations into Turkish and Persian. The whole thing is less a text set down by its author than the sort of urban myth that floats around

Oxford University Press, 1995. P. 301–305. On the relationship of magic and philosophy in the Renaissance, see: *Yates F.A. Giordano Bruno and the Hermetic Tradition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1964.

²⁹ There is also another text entitled *Muqaddama fī Khawāṣṣ Manāfi' Asmā' Allāh al-Ḥusnā*, found in at least two manuscripts—Adana 140/11, ff. 85a–87a, 1162/1756 and Istanbul, Esad Efendi 3704, ff. 69b–70b—which deals with the powers of the names of God and their numerical values.

the internet—where, not surprisingly, a search for *al-asmā' al-idrīsīya* turns up nearly four thousand items. In manuscript it is typically found in private collections of popular occult texts.

There is nothing in the text to especially associate it with our Suhrawardī. It is a typical example of '*ilm al-khawāṣṣ*, the science of the occult properties of the names of God, or *sīmiyā'*', and the language is totally Islamic. On those grounds, it would seem more natural to associate it with 'Umar al-Suhrawardī, a more normal Sufi. However, it is interesting that many copyists had no reservations about associating such a text with our Suhrawardī, presumably on the basis of his lingering reputation as a magician. It is also a warning against underestimating the role of the occult in popular Islamic culture. Anyone who works with Islamic manuscripts will know that occult texts show up everywhere: collections of popular occult texts, items included in collections of otherwise perfectly orthodox material, spells in the margins and flyleafs of other books, sometimes with the notation that they are *mujarrab*, shown by experience to be effective, as is the case with a spell against the plague that I found in several Ottoman manuscripts. Clearly, the occult was a continuing interest of Islamic civilization, and the fact that classic occult texts are still being published shows that the interest has not ended.

Illuminationism and the Ottoman State Ideology

The presence of these prayers, and more generally the presence of royal copies of almost all the key Illuminationist works, in the Ottoman royal libraries is an indication of the significance of this school for the Ottoman imperial ideology, particularly in the age of Fatih Mehmet. The exact role of this philosophy in the self-image of the Sultans is something for Ottomanists to investigate, but their concern for it is easy to document in the manuscript record and too pervasive to attribute to the chances of library acquisition. It certainly undermines any image of the Ottomans as simple *ghāzīs* committed to the spread of legalistic orthodoxy. It can be documented in manuscript acquisition, commission of independent works, copying, and pedagogical use over at least a four century period running from the time of Mehmet II down to the very close of the age of manuscripts. This is a theme that requires more exposition and investigation than can be included here, so I will confine myself to a few examples.

Acquisition. The prime example of discerning early Ottoman acquisition of Illuminationist manuscripts is Ragıp Paşa 1480, the collected edition of Suhrawardī's works copied by a scholar in Baghdad in the early 1330s. Although it presently resides in the relatively late Ragıp Paşa collection, it clearly was in royal hands earlier since a copy of it was made for the library of Mehmet II. This does not fall into the category of self-evidently valuable plunder like, for exam-

ple, illustrated Timurid manuscripts. Its value is only recognizable to an informed scholar. Another example is Veliüddin 2050, a manuscript of al-Shahrazūri's *al-Shajara al-Ilāhīya*, an independent compendium of Illuminationist philosophy written about ninety years after al-Suhrawardī's death and one of the most important works of the school. This particular manuscript was copied by a Jewish scribe in Sivas from an autograph in 1288 and is, as far as I can determine now, the most important manuscript of this work. Finally, there is the fact that almost all the early manuscripts of the works of Ibn Kammūna, the Jewish philosopher who evidently played a key role in popularizing the works of al-Suhrawardī in the third quarter of the 7th/13th century, are in Ottoman libraries.

Commissioning. Illuminationist works commissioned by the sultans are rarer but do exist. The prime example is the *Hall al-Rumūz* of 'Alī al-Biṣṭāmī, known as Muṣannifak, "the little writer," a prominent scholar associated with the court of Mehmet II. The work is a commentary on a disputed work of al-Suhrawardī, the *Risālat al-Abrāj*, "Treatise on towers," also known as *al-Kalimāt al-Dhawqīya* from its opening words.³⁰ The autograph is, appropriately, in the Fatih Mosque collection, no. 2611. The list of such works will certainly grow as we learn more about Ottoman philosophy.

Copying. Though these occult prayers seem not to have been copied often, various versions of the *Forty Names* were constantly copied; I know of more than a hundred manuscripts of various versions, and I have no doubt there are many more. The other works of Suhrawardī and his followers—notably including the Jew Ibn Kammūna—were copied down to the very end of the age of manuscripts. Veliyüddin 2050, the early manuscript of Shahrazūri's *Shajara*, for example, seems to have been rediscovered in the eighteenth century, for there are at least five copies made between the early eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. I know of Illuminationist manuscripts of both Turkish and Iranian provenance made after World War I.

Pedagogy. For the most part the works of al-Suhrawardī and his early followers were advanced, and occult works were not used as textbooks, but both al-Suhrawardī's *Ḥikmat al-Ishrāq* and particularly his short *Hayākil al-Nūr* were copied for student use. The latter work appears in many Ottoman textbook compilations.

³⁰ The work is an allegory in Arabic resembling Suhrawardī's *al-Ghurba al-Gharbīya*. Its authenticity has been questioned by some modern scholars (see: *Pourjavady N. Mas'ala-yi Intisāb-i Risālat al-Abrāj* ba Shaykh-i Ishrāq // *idem. Ishrāq wa 'Irfān: Maqāla-hā wa Naqd-hā*. Tehran: Markaz-i Nashr-i Dānishgāhī, 1380/2001. P. 95–113). However, the manuscripts seem to consistently attribute it to Suhrawardī, so I see no justification for questioning its authenticity. At any rate, Muṣannifak thought it was Suhrawardī's.

Conclusions and Comments

1) *Diversity of manuscripts.* One lesson that I have drawn from looking through some four hundred Illuminationist manuscripts is that there are lessons not to be drawn from printed books. People wrote things in flyleaves. I have seen things ranging from a little debate about whether Ibn Kammūna converted to Islam (and thus should receive the normal blessing due a dead author) to the record of a disastrous flood in a forgotten village and the death of half a dozen members of the owner's family from the plague.

2) *Incompleteness of published literature.* In the case of Suhrawardī, a little more than half of his surviving work is published, with the gaps including minor works, works like ours that do not fit in somehow, and the logic and physics of two of his four major philosophical works. Of the commentaries and derivative works the situation is far worse. Moreover, popular works that were obviously widely read have not been published, or at any rate exist only in unscholarly and inaccessible popular editions.

3) *Patterns of Islamic intellectual life.* In the manuscripts texts tend to come in families, so that, for example, particular groups of philosophical texts tend to occur together, thus indicating a perceived intellectual affinity.

4) *Importance of popular, occult, and 'secret' literature.* There is a large body of popular pious and occult literature ranging from the charm against the plague and a little story about a woman who spoke only in quotations from the Qur'an to large number of magical and astrological literature. We read the classics, but there are many works that premodern Muslim readers obviously knew, read, and copied that we barely know. We certainly do not appreciate the importance of this literature to Muslim readers. We certainly know almost nothing of its importance to al-Suhrawardī.

Regarding John Walbridge's article The Devotional and Occult Works of Suhrawardi the Illuminationist - Free download as PDF File (.pdf), Text File (.txt) or read online for free. My revised (and slightly expanded) review of John Walbridge's 2011 article on the occult prayers of Suhrawardi. I have read all of his published writings dealing with Suhraward and the Illuminationist school. Likewise I have read the originals of most of the texts he has written about and translated, whether in scans of manuscripts or in the printed editions. As-Suhraward wrote voluminously. The more than 50 separate works that were attributed to him were classified into two categories: doctrinal and philosophical accounts containing commentaries on the works of Aristotle and Plato, as well as his own contribution to the illuminationist school; and shorter treatises, generally written in Persian and of an esoteric nature, meant to illustrate the paths and journeys of a mystic before he could achieve ma'rifah (gnosis, or esoteric knowledge). Influenced by Aristotelian philosophy and Zoroastrian doctrines, he attempted to reconcile traditional philosophy and mysticism. In his best-known work, 'Iqmat al-ishraq (The Wisdom of Illumination), he said that essences are creations of the intellect, having no objective reality or existence. learn when reading his recent journal piece entitled "The Devotional and Occult works of Suhrawardi the Illuminationist" that not a single reference or acknowledgement was forthcoming in the entire article to Henry Corbin's work previously undertaken on this material of Suhraward's. Corbin has so far been the only person to have provided a complete, analytical treatment and translation in French of Suhraward's prayers and occult invocations to the planetary intelligences, which is the subject of Walbridge's article. It should be noted that Walbridge's piece is the published version of a presentation he gave at the 2009 annual MESA (Middle East Studies Association) conference. Regarding John Walbridge's article The Devotional and Occult Works of Suhrawardi the Illuminationist. Item Preview. Regarding John Walbridge's article The Devotional and Occult Works of Suhrawardi the Illuminationist. by. Wahid Azal.