



Ascent to Felicity: A Manual on Islamic Creed and Hanafi Jurisprudence

Hasan Shurunbulali , Faraz A. Khan (Translator)

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Written by an eminent medieval Hanafi scholar, this is a concise yet comprehensive primer in creed and jurisprudence. It spans all five pillars of Islam, as well as the topics of slaughtering, ritual sacrifice, and haunting.

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Author : Hasan Shurunbulali , Faraz A. Khan (Translator)

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From Reader Review Ascent to Felicity: A Manual on Islamic Creed and Hanafi Jurisprudence for online ebook

Jonathan Widell says

"Less is more". Written by the 11th-century Hanafi scholar Shurunbulali, "Ascent to Felicity in the Sciences of Theology and Jurisprudence of Worship" (the complete title of the book), is a marvel of lapidary scholarship, such as they used to have it in the Golden Age of Islam. Without the copious footnotes, the foreword and the appendices, it would be no longer than about 90 pages. The downside is that if you know nothing about Muslim prayers beforehand, you will get nothing out of it. If you do, it is just long enough to settle many questions.

Not all questions though. That is what one might have misgivings about. I mean the footnotes that admittedly provide a lot of additional information without which the meaning remains obscure but also add some precepts that are not necessarily supposed to be there. For instance, Shurunbulali says that if you missed some obligatory prayers after you became a Muslim and you did not move to Muslim lands, you do not have to make up for the missed prayers. The translator Faraz A. Khan adds in a footnote that actually you DO (these days, that is) because Islamic knowledge is now available pretty much in every country across the globe(p. 102).

All of the five pillars are covered as well as the basic tenets of Islamic creed. The last three chapters cover ritual sacrifice, ritual slaughter, and hunting. What I find more useful are the supplications in Arabic (both in Arabic script and transliteration) and their English translations in Appendix 1.

Despite succinctness, remarkably quick read. Depending on how much one knows in advance, illuminating!

Razi Shaikh says

An excellent primer on Islamic creed and Hanafi Fiqh. SeekersHub has a two-part course titled 'Essentials of Worship (Hanafi)' taught by Shaykh Tabraze Alam. Suggest that one combines the two for maximum benefit.

?Ism???l says

Do you speak English and follow the Hanafi madhhab or would like to learn more on one of the largest schools of law in Islam? Get this book. Faraz Khan is nothing less than a genius in this translation. It's precise, detailed, very technical (a good thing in fiqh), and my favourite - packed with juicy footnotes.

This book was designed for students and is a staple for any seeker of sacred knowledge in the West. It's offered at Zaytuna College's bookstore and now being taught in most of the local madrasas and institutions I know of. I'm currently learning it at SeekersHub (online classes available).

Abul Hasan as-Shurunbulali was a great Hanafi jurist of his time hailing out of Egypt when Al-Azhar was the leading university in the world. His major work is Nur al-Idah, an excellent work on Hanafi legal theory

and jurisprudence. It's an advanced fiqh book that needs prerequisite knowledge. That's why he penned Ascent of Felicity to fill in the gap for a seeker to reach intermediate understanding in fiqh. Once one gets a strong foothold in Ascent to Felicity which contains the essentials, basics, and principles you'll need to know, then one can move onto Nur al-Idah, under the guidance and teachings of a qualified teacher of course.

Said Bak says

This is the book for those followers of the Hanafi school of Islamic jurisprudence who studied/read the Absolute Essentials of Islam (by Faraz Rabbani) or another very basic primer. This book is a classical primer by the great scholar al-Shurunbulali. Another must-have.
