

The book of noble character: critical edition of makarim al-Akhlaq wa-mahasin al-adab wa-Badai'i al-Awsaf wa-Ghara'ib al-Tashbihat, attributed to Abu Mansur al-Tha'alibi (d. 429/1039)

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Abstrak

This critical Arabic text edition of K. Makarim al-akhlaq wa-mahasin al-adab wa-bada i al-awsaf wa-ghara ib al-tashbihat(Book of Noble Character, Excellent Conduct, Admirable Descriptions, and Curious Similes) is a substantial work of adab attributed to the prominent litterateur Abu Mansur al-Tha alibi (d. 429/1039) that consists of a short introduction and three chapters. The first chapter addresses acquiring noble character and excellent conduct (al-tahalli bi-makarim al-akhlaq wa-mahasin al-adab); the second addresses shunning away from base character and ugly traits (al-tazakki an masawi al-akhlaq wa-maqabi al-shiyam); and the third addresses admirable descriptions and curious similes (bada i al-awsaf wa-ghara ib al-tashbihat). At the end of the text one finds a relatively large collection of widely circulating proverbs (amthal sa ira) that are alphabetically arranged. Makarim al-akhlaq is in essence an anthology of good conduct and of quotations suitable for social and literary discourse. It reflects the three ingredients of adab: behavior, literary culture, and learning. The work is introduced by an analytical study discussing the attribution of the work, the related genres, and the unique manuscript of the text.