

Creating an inheritor: Uniting al-muhjir's migration story within the spiritual narrative lineage of the prophet & usayn's migration stories

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Abstrak

Studies on hagiographies of the migrant founder of the Balaw Hadrami and its diaspora, Amad b. s al-Muhjir tend to be critical of them as being too descriptive or fantastical and fabricated in nature thereby rendering them otiose as subjects of study in scholarly research. Through juxtaposing these hagiographies with that of two of the most important ancestors of al-Muhjir, the Prophet Muammad and usayn, this article argues that the hagiographies of al-Muhjir's migration are purposefully aligned with the migration narratives of Muammad and usayn in order to cement him and his descendants, the Balaws, as the legitimate inheritors of the Prophet and his grandson in a spiritual and genealogical chain. By carefully dismantling the elements present in these three narratives, this article stresses the need to look at history beyond its factual and descriptive utility but as a tool used to create and legitimize an ideological agenda.