

Abu Nuwas: A Genius of Poetry (Makers of the Muslim World)

By Philip Kennedy

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Abu Nuwas (c. 756-813) was one of the greatest Arab poets of the classical period. In literary history, he is remembered chiefly as the hard-drinking and eloquent composer of dissolute wine poems, from which he emerges as one of the most charismatic figures in world literature. Yet, he was in fact an all-round poet and exerted a profound influence on Abbasid poetry more generally; he is one of a handful of individuals who can be deemed to stand at the very heart of Arabic literary culture. Abu Nuwas presents the entertaining life story of this legendary figure alongside accessible translations of some of his most important poems. With commentaries, a glossary and a guide to further reading, this book is the ideal introduction to a true genius of Arabic literature.

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Review
"Philip has written a very good book on the great (in my view) greatest Arabic poet, Abu Nuwas... The literary analysis is generally excellent, balanced and erudite." -- *Geert Jan van Gelder - Laudian Professor of Arabic, Oxford University*

About the Author
Philip F. Kennedy is Associate Professor of Middle Easterna dn islamic Studies and Comparative Literature at New York University. His published works include The Wine Song in Classical Arabic Poetry: Abu Nuwas and the Literary Tradition.

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