

The Sufi Madad in Arabic Literature and Translation

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Abstract : This paper deals with the translational mystic in Arabic aesthetics and their linguistic and narrative revelation and mediation across textual spaces. The paper particularly engages with the nature of the Egyptian Sufi Madad, its relation to spaces/places, its intergenerational and intertextual manifestations, and its intersection with questions of identity—the historical spaces and geographical places one inhabits and embodies. Opening a repertoire between contextualized stylistics and poetics semiology (Boise-Bier2011; Jakobson 1960), the paper reads in al-Ghitany's Kitab al-Tagiliat (The Book of Revelation1983), Bassiouny's Sabil Al-Ghareq (2018) and its translation (Fountain of the Drowning2022). The paper examines the stylistic and poetical encoding and recoding of the Sufi Madads from Ghitany to Bassiouny and their entanglement in the question of Egyptian identity-politics through the embodiment of historical places and geographical spaces. The paper argues for the intergenerational intertextuality of Arabic aesthetics that stylistically and poetically enacts the mysticism of Sufi Madad through historical and geographical semioticization of the Egyptian character continuity across time and space. Both Ghitany and Bassiouny engage with the historical novel as a form of delivery of their Egyptian mystical relation with time and place. Both novelist-historians are involved with the question of place and the life-worlds that spaces generate across time and gender.

Keywords : intertextuality, interdiscursivity, madad, egyptian identity

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