al-Kurdī's *Happiness of Novices;*
Translation and Commentary

by Koh Nakata

Muḥammad Amin al-Kurdī is a prominent Naqshbandī sufi of Kurdish origin, and one of the Azhar ulamā’ of the 19th century.

He has written several books about sufism and Islamic jurisprudence, one of which is *Happiness of Novices* which al-Kurdī composes for his murīds, sufi disciples belonging to Shāfi‘ī’s school of Law.

At the beginning of the book, al-Kurdī says that every Muslim should learn Islamic creed and ritual prescription before learning sufism.

So *Happiness of Novices* is composed of three sections, the creed, the rituals, and the sufism.

First in the creed, attributes of the God and the Prophet are discussed, then he enumerates the unseens of which Qur‘ān and ḥadīth inform us so that we should believe in them.

The rituals’ section consists of 5 chapters, purification, prayer, almsgiving, fasting, and pilgrimage, besides brief introduction to the sources of Islamic jurisprudence.

As for sufism, al-Kurdī explains some of sufi conceptions such as ṣuḥba, association, dhikr, contemplation, murāqaba, self-examination, as well as sufi rules of conduct and Khaṭm al-Khawājakan which is the most important pillar of the Naqshbandiyya order.