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Windows on the House of Islam

*Muslim Sources on Spirituality
and Religious Life*

Edited by

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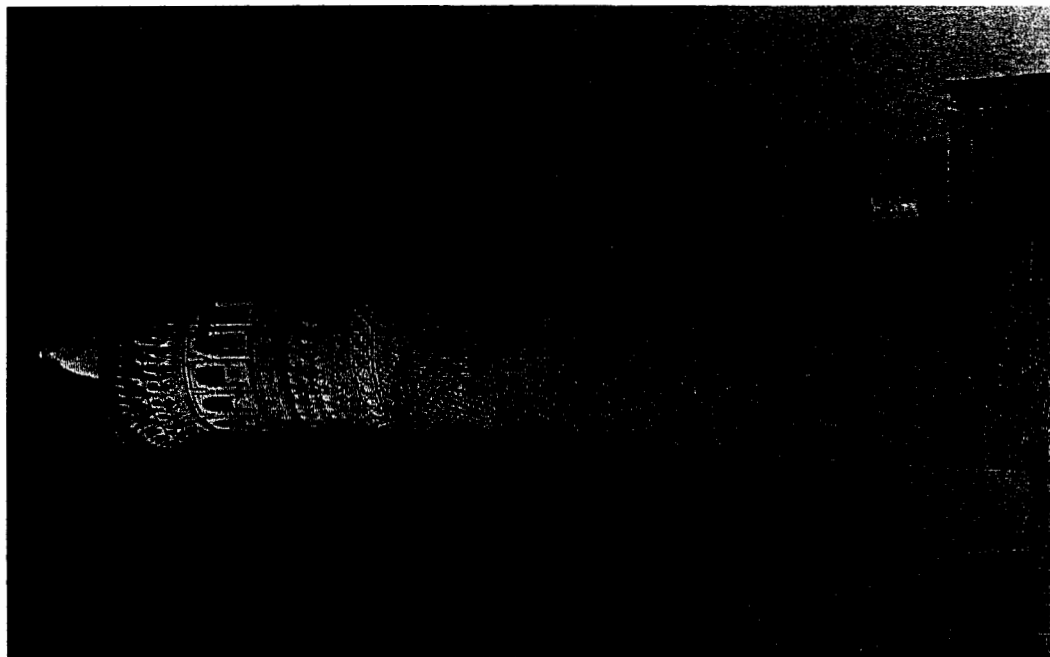


Figure 14. Fifteen stories tall, the Kalyan Minaret in Bukhara (1127) exemplifies the ornate geometric design in baked brick characteristic of early medieval Iran and Central Asia.

* Tabari

Hadith on the Five Daily Ritual Prayers

REUVEN FIRESTONE

Islamic tradition includes a treasury of lore about the divine origins of ritual practices, such as the following hadith about the five rounds of daily salat. Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Jarir at-Tabari (d. 923) grew up in Tabaristan, a northern province in today's Iran. He traveled in search of learning and became a brilliant legalist, qur'anic scholar, historian, and collector of hadith, spending most of his adult life in the center of the civilized world of his day, Baghdad. He fol-

lowed the Shafi'ite legal school until founding a legal school of his own known as the Jariri school, which, perhaps because of its strong similarity to that of Shafi'i, did not long survive. Many of his works are lost, but his great world history and his enormous Qur'an commentary survive. Both are popular among Muslims and are considered extremely important among critical scholars of Islam. His Qur'an commentary includes the following tradition concerning the

