

A Sufi tale from *Alf Layla wa-layla (the Arabian nights)*: the story of Abu L-Hasan with Abu Ja'far the leper. An analysis of the social and religious context of medieval Islam

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Alf Layla wa-layla (the Arabian Nights) is a major source for the study of the popular knowledge and practices of everyday life in Medieval Islam. Islamic religiosity and the mystic experience (Sufism) of personal approach to God are common themes in *Alf Layla wa-layla*. This article studies in detail the story of Abu l-Hasan with Abu Ja'far the leper, a story which is very rich in mystical values, placing Sufism and personal approach and knowledge of God in its historical context. The social treatment of lepers in Medieval Islam is studied in order to obtain a general and complete view of the history and the society of Medieval Islam. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2022 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

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The Arabian Nights is undoubtedly one of the most important literary masterpieces of Medieval Islam and one of the more remarkable

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