GOD'S BANQUET

Food in Classical Arabic Literature

Geert Jan van Gelder

Columbia University Press New York



Contents

Preface	vii
Chapter I – Introduction	1
Chapter II – Early Poetry: Feeding as Good Breeding	7
1. Food and Glory	7
2. The <i>Qaṣīda</i> or 'Ode'	12
3. The <i>Qit^ca</i> or Short Poem	19
Chapter III – Eating and the New Ethos	22
1. From Generously Abstaining to Pious Abstinence	22
2. Satiety and Sin	34
Chapter IV – Adab, or the Text as a Banquet	39
1. Adab Anthologies	39
2. Dishes and Discourse: Food in Narrative and Poetry	48
3. Food and Filth in al-Azdī's A Day in the Life of Abū l-Qāsim	74
Chapter V – Food for Satire and Parody	80
1. Cacophagy	80
2. Ibn Sūdūn's Sweet Nothings	90
3. Warring Edibles, High and Low: Ibn al-Ḥajjār's Delectable War	96
4. From <i>Falūdhaj</i> to <i>Fūl</i> : Different Food for Different People	99
5. Peasant Fare: al-Shirbīnī's The Nodding Noddles	102

CONTENTS

Chapter VI – Alimentary Metaphors	109
1. Two Good Things: Food and Sex	109
2. Dreams Sweet and Savoury	118
3. Texts and Tastes	121
Notes	126
Bibliography	156
Index	170