# Contents

Preface and Acknowledgements  vii  

**Introduction**  

1  **The Narrator and the Narrative: A Literary Analysis of Ḥāḍīth al-Ṣifāt**  
   Introduction  21  
   I. A Preliminary Remark on Hadith and Narratology  23  
   II. The Framing Narrative  25  
   III. The Embedded Narrative  33  
   IV. The Narrator and his Audience  38  
   V. The Motives of the Narrator  42  
   VI. The Narrator’s Role  47  

2  **A Tale of Two Narrators: Some Historical, Geographical and Cultural Considerations**  
   Introduction  68  
   I. Two Different Narrators  69  
   II. The Proliferation of the Abu Razin Narrative  82  
   III. Two Narrators and One Narrative: The Tribal Connection  87  
   IV. The Proliferation of the Jarir Narrative  93  
   V. The Jarir Narrative and the Miḥna  99  

3  **Gestures and Ḥāḍīth al-Ṣifāt**  
   Introduction  120  
   I. The Prophet’s Gestures: Iconic, Metaphoric and Deictic  122
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II. ‘The Instance of Narrating’: The Narrator and his Audience</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. The Performing Trend</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. The Ultimate Performer of <em>Aḥādīth al-Ṣifāt</em></td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. The Predicament of the Traditionalists</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 The Diversified Solution to the Challenge of Islamic Traditionalism: *Aḥādīth al-Ṣifāt* and *Bi-Lā Kayfa*  
Introduction  
I. Drawing the Borderlines of the Traditionalistic Discourse  
II. The Earliest Debate  
III. Transmission, Censorship and Euphemisms  
IV. The All-inclusive *Tanzīh*: The Ashʿarite Solution  
V. Expanding the Borders of the Traditionalistic Discourse  

5 Iconic Books and Gestures: *Aḥādīth al-Ṣifāt* in the Public Sphere  
Introduction  
I. The Iconicity of the Qadiri Creed  
II. The Three Dimensions of *Kitāb al-Tawḥīd*  
III. Fakhr al-Din al-Razi’s Response to *Kitāb al-Tawḥīd*  
IV. Ibn Taymiyya’s *al-Ḥamawiyya al-Kubrā* and Two Iconic Gestures  
V. Iconic Gestures and the Hashwiyya  

Final Remarks and Conclusions  

Appendix I: Full Translations of Lengthy Traditions  
Appendix II: Full Translation of ‘the Ḥadīth of Allegiance’ of Abu Razin  
Appendix III: Chains of Transmission  
Appendix IV: Chains of Transmission  
Appendix V: Chains of Transmission  
Bibliography  
Index