Letter from the General Editor

The Library of Arabic Literature is a new series offering Arabic editions and English translations of key works of classical and premodern Arabic literature, as well as anthologies and thematic readers. Books in the series are edited and translated by distinguished scholars of Arabic and Islamic studies, and are published in parallel-text format with Arabic and English on facing pages. The Library of Arabic Literature includes texts from the pre-Islamic era to the cusp of the modern period, and will encompass a wide range of genres, including poetry, poetics, fiction, religion, philosophy, law, science, history, and historiography.

Supported by a grant from the New York University Abu Dhabi Institute, and established in partnership with NYU Press, the Library of Arabic Literature will produce authoritative Arabic editions and modern, lucid English translations, with the goal of introducing the Arabic literary heritage to scholars and students, as well as to a general audience of readers.

Philip F. Kennedy

General Editor, Library of Arabic Literature
رسالة الغفاز
لأبي العلاء المعرَّيّ
المجلد الأول
The Epistle of Forgiveness
or
A Pardon to Enter the Garden
by
Abū l-ʿAlāʾ al-Maʿarrī
edited and translated by
Geert Jan van Gelder
and
Gregor Schoeler
Volume One:
A Vision of Heaven and Hell
preceded by
Ibn al-Qāriḥ’s Epistle
To our spouses, Sheila and Christa, asking their Forgiveness for spending so many hours in al-Ma'arri’s company instead of theirs.