

Oral Poetry and Narratives from Central Arabia II: The Story of a Desert Knight

P. Marcel Kurpershoek



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The Story of a Desert Knight is the second volume of a trilogy entitled *Oral Poetry and Narratives from Central Arabia.* It is devoted to the narratives told about and the poems composed by l w h al- At wi and his brother Bx t, both famous desert knights in the middle and second half of the nineteenth century. The principal source of this book is l w h 's great-grandson X lid, a sheikh of the Utaybah tribe. The introduction discusses *inter alia* the general characteristics of Bedouin oral culture, the linguistic, prosodic and stylistic features of the text, and X lid's use of his ancestors' oral legacy in order to enhance his position in the tribal hierarchy of prestige. In addition to the translation of the oral text this volume offers a complete transcription, based on taped records and including variants found in published Saudi sources, and a substantial glossary."

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