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In conformity with convention, however, Arabic poetry has not been transliterated but rather transcribed to stress its aural dimensions. In the case of words that have entered the English language, such as *kaaba* and *hajj*, I have adopted the practice of not transliterating but using standard English spellings found in the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. Unless otherwise noted, all translations of Arabic texts are my own. An appendix of poetry texts in Arabic has been included for the reader's convenience. I have attempted to offer readable translations in idiomatic English. In balancing the needs of Arabists with non-Arabists, I have assumed that the Arabist will be able to consult the original, so the translations primarily serve to engage non-Arabists. At least, I hope so.