

Literary Engagement: A Comparative Study of Schimmel's *Garden of Myrtles* and Attar's *Tadhkirat-ul-Awliya*

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Abstract

Traces of literary engagement and influence have always been well evident in different tribes and cultures. Tourists, orientalist and literary figures have taken effective steps in this interaction. Annemarie Schimmel, a contemporary writer, translator, orientalist, and researcher in Islam and Gnosticism is an example of such orientalist, whose personality and scientific competence are well appreciated in both the world of Islam and the West. One of the most outstanding works of the scholar is *In the Garden of Myrtles: Studies in Early Islamic Mysticism*, written under the influence of Attar of Nishapur's *Tadhkirat ul Awliya*. This study, while comparing and contrasting *Tadhkirat ul Awlia* and *The Garden of Myrtles*, aims to introduce Schimmel as a contemporary scholar who has taken effective steps in introducing the world of Islam, Shiism, and Gnosticism to the world.

Keywords: Annemarie Schimmel, Attar, literary engagement, Gnosticism, *Tadhkirat-ul-Awliya*, *The Garden of Myrtles*.

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