

The Book Regarding the Key to Success in Morphology

Composed by ‘Abd al-Qahir al-Jurjani, died 471 A.H.

Preface

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, by Him do we seek assistance.

All praise belongs to God, the Conduit of all good, the Bestower of blessings. And may God’s blessings be upon Muhammad, Seal of Messages, may God bless him and his family, those righteous men and women, constant and eternal, perpetually in the earth and in the heavens.

To proceed, this book is brief in detail, abundant in meaning, easy to memorize, close to grasp, and thus I have named it, *The Key* in hopes that I will be remembered in the accepted supplications of the Believers.

The Science of Morphology

Know that the science of morphology (*tasrif*), on the form of taf’il, is taken from *sarf*. It (*tasrif*) is to morph one word, by which another is born in a different form and a different meaning.

The word “*kalim*”, for instance, is made of non-compounded consonants that alleges the root’s order of “*k-l-m*” (note: that k-l-m are consecutive in almost every alphabet and al-Jurjani presumes this is known to his reader). If they do not do so they will be read as “*mulk*” (as if you read it from right to left).

The science of morphology is also shared with the construction of nouns and verbs, in the soundness of their context, Qalb, phonetic substitution, grammatical form, and dramatization. Morphology is to arrange the consonants of a trilateral word in the order represented by the three letters of “fa’-‘ayn-lam”. In the case of quadrilateral roots, the “lam” is repeated and similarly so for nouns with quintilateral roots. If there is no quintilateral root originally in the verb