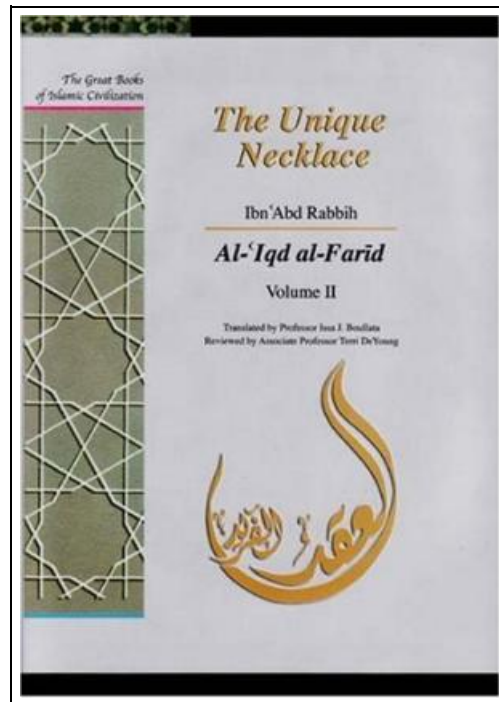


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Garnet Publishing Ltd, United Kingdom, 2009. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: Arabic . Brand New Book. Al-Iqd al-Farid (The Unique Necklace), translated now for the first time into English, is one of the classics of Arabic literature. Compiled in several volumes by an Andalusian scholar and poet named Ibn Abd Rabbih (246-328 H./860-940 C.E.), it remains a mine of information about various elements of Arab culture and letters during the four centuries before his death. Essentially it is a book of adab, a term understood in modern times to specifically mean literature but in earlier times its meaning included all that a well-informed person had to know in order to pass in society as a cultured and refined individual. This meaning later evolved and included belles letters in the form of elegant prose and verse that was as much entertaining as it was morally educational such as poetry, pleasant anecdotes, proverbs, historical accounts, general knowledge, wise maxims, and even practical philosophy. Ibn Abd Rabbih's imagination and organization saved his encyclopedic compendium from easily being a chaotic jumble of materials by conceiving of it as a necklace composed of twenty-five books, each of which carried the name of a jewel. Each of the twenty-five books was organized around a major theme and had an introduction written by Ibn Abd Rabbih, followed by his relevant adab selections of verse and prose on the theme of the book. He drew on a vast repertoire of sources including the Bible, the Qur'an, and the Hadith, and the works of al-Jahiz, Ibn Qutayba, al-Mubarrad, Abu Ubayda ibn al-Muthanna and several others, and the diwans of many Arab poets, including his own poetry which is why The Unique Necklace is a standard text for those interested in classical Arabic literature....



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