

What 'Isa ibn Hisham Told Us: or, A Period of Time, Volume Two (Library of Arabic Literature)

By Muhammad al-Muwaylihi

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Paving the way for the modern Arabic novel, *What ?Isa ibn Hisham Told Us* is invaluable both for its sociological insight into colonial Egypt and its pioneering role in Arabic literary history.

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Editorial Review

Review
"While illustrating his novel with local examples from that time, al-Muwaylihi's effective critique is as broad and relevant as much classical Western satire; surprisingly much of it feels very modern, the various arguments and examples easily imaginable in contemporary settings…a cohesive (and still very far-reaching) work that also offers a lot of entertainment value. It's an enjoyable read, with some great anecdotes and very funny scenes—and a lot of interesting arguments."-*The Complete Review*

"[Allen's] craftsmanship is on full display in these magisterial translations... of supreme literary complexity."-*Journal of Arabic Literature*

About the Author
Muhammad al-Muwaylihi (1274-1348 H/1858-1930 AD) was an Egyptian writer and political journalist, a career that he shared with his prominent father, Ibrahim al-Muwaylihi, with whom he also published the reputable and incisive newspaper Misbah al-Sharq (Light of the East). Other notable works include *Critique of Shawqi's Collected Poems* and *Cure for the Soul.*

Roger Allen retired in 2011 from his position as the Sascha Jane Patterson Harvie Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he served for forty-three years as Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature. He is the author and translator of numerous publications on Arabic literature, modern fiction and drama, and language pedagogy.

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