

A MAN OF MANY SPLENDOURS

HABIB AHMAD MASHHUR AL-HADDAD (1907-1995):
HIS LIFE, MISSION, AND INFLUENCE



Habib Ahmad Mashhur al-Haddad with his youngest son Abd al-Qadir in Mombasa in the early 1950s.

This is a vivid and detailed portrait of Habib Ahmad Mashhur al-Haddad, the great 20th century Ba-‘Alawi scholar and saint whose influence in many parts of East Africa was so profound that he was considered the Renewer (*Mujaddid*) of Islam there.

An equally great and famous Saint of the 13th century CE, Shaykh Abu al-Abbas al-Mursi, the direct successor at the head of the Shadhili Sufi Order of Shaykh Abu al-Hasan al-Shadhili, said, “Know that whomever God chooses to make a summoner to Him He must make known to His servants, for only then will he be able to call them to Him. He will then clothe him in both majesty and splendour.”

Mashhur means famous and Habib Ahmad did indeed become exceptionally famous. His presence was imposing, yet at the same time, because of his engaging and affectionate manners, quite soothing. His knowledge was awesome. He was truly a man of many splendours.

To compile this account, Dr Mostafa al-Badawi drew on the numerous verbal and written accounts he had been collecting over the years from those who had known Habib Ahmad closely, his own personal experience, Habib Ahmad’s writings, letters and poems, and the many recordings of his discourses.

Dr Mostafa al-Badawi is an Egyptian psychiatrist, scholar of Islamic sciences, translator, and author of books on Islamic thought and sacred history. Works he has translated include the ten books and *Selected Letters* of Imam ‘Abd Allah al-Haddad, and *Key to the Garden* by Habib Ahmad Mashhur al-Haddad. Dr al-Badawi’s own writings include *Man and the Universe*, *A Sufi Sage of Arabia*, *A Higher Reality*, *Twilight of a World*, *Ancient Prophets of Arabia*, *Spiritual Significance in Islamic Architecture*, *A Blessed Valley*, and *Day of Decision*.

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MOSTAFA
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