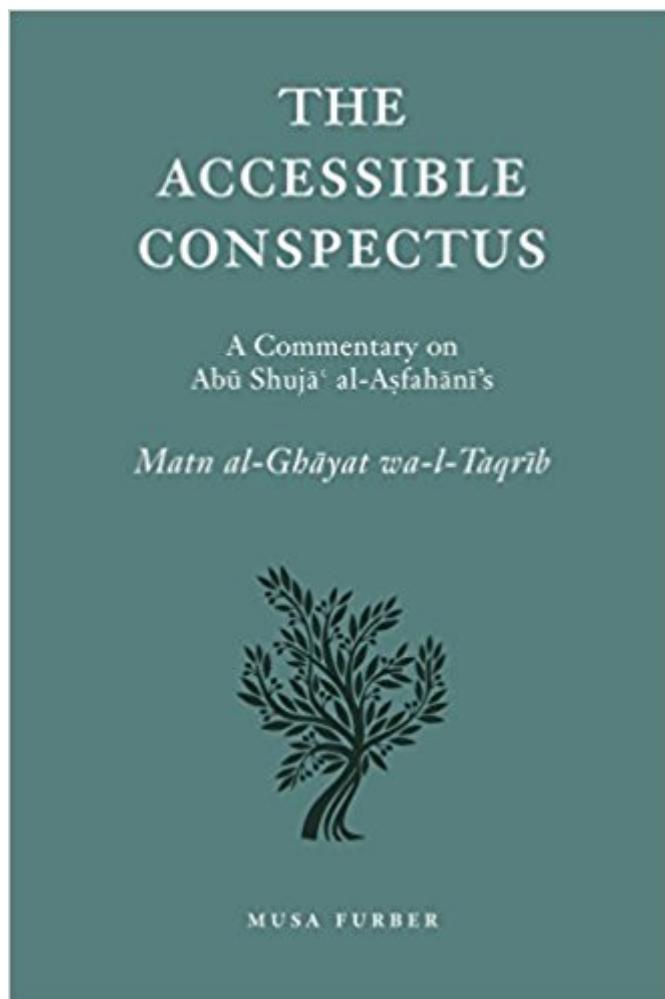


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# The Accessible Conspectus



## **Synopsis**

For centuries, Abu Shuja al-Asfahani's legal primer *Matn al-Ghayat wa-l-Taqrib* (The Ultimate Conspectus) has been a standard text for introducing students of the Shafii school of Islamic law to the full range of basic legal issues. Students will often start their studies by reading it from a basic commentary with their instructor. Many students will read it again from more advanced commentaries as they progress in their mastery of the subject. This volume presents an amiable commentary that makes Abu Shuja's primer accessible to new students. It uses contemporary language and examples to help readers build a sound foundation in Islamic law. The Accessible Conspectus is a perfect companion to The Ultimate Conspectus.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 318 pages

Publisher: Islamosaic (May 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1944904042

ISBN-13: 978-1944904043

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #800,857 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Law

## **Customer Reviews**

Musa Furber studied traditional Islamic disciplines for over 15 years with numerous scholars in Damascus, Cairo, and elsewhere. He also holds a BA in Applied Linguistics from Portland State University, and an MPA from Dubai School of Government. He currently resides in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

I recommend to those who are busy in their daily life but still wanted to learn/practice their Deen correctly.

Great Islamic book

Easy to read and understand ..for basic to intermediate shafi fiqh...good buy

Great resource and well written

The Accessible Conspectus, translated and annotated by Shaykh Musa Furber, is an excellent resource for learning Islamic Law according to the Shafi'i school of jurisprudence for beginner-intermediate level students. The basic text is from Imam Abu Shuja' Al-Isfahani's classic primer Al Ghayat al Taqrib or commonly known as Matn Abu Shuja'. This is the first text studied in Shafi'i jurisprudence that covers the entire basic spectrum of rulings typically found in larger works. Shaykh Musa has provided useful explanatory notes and basic evidence that suit the needs of contemporary students who want to grasp the basic concepts and rulings. Oftentimes, classical primers such as Abu Shuja's list only abbreviated and terse statements that are inaccessible without the aid of a living qualified teacher and or detailed commentary or marginalia. This is not to say that this book is meant to obviate the need to learn Islamic law from qualified teachers. Classical Islamic texts, even with detailed commentary, still require the aid of a living qualified teacher to explain any difficulties in terminology, comprehension and other conditions not mentioned. Shaykh Musa makes this clear in his introduction to the work. The book is an augmented version of Shaykh Musa's earlier translation of the text, Ultimate Conspectus. The Ultimate Conspectus is a basic translation of Abu Shuja's work with abbreviated explanation and is suited for those wanting to memorize or grasp the rulings in isolation to its commentary. Accessible Conspectus, as it is aptly titled, makes this classic work more accessible to a wider audience.

Matn al-Ghayat wa-l-Taqrib or "Abi Shajaa" is a well known and acclaimed primer on Shafi Fiqh. Abu Shuja (may Allah have Mercy on him), the author, is said to have had a mastery of Fiqh both in terms of knowledge and action. So much so that it is said about him that even in his last years he had his teeth intact and he lived to over 150 years. When asked about this, he said that he guarded his mouth (from any act of disobedience in eating, talking or other) in his early years, so Allah guarded it for him in his later years. The Accessible Conspectus is the accessible version of "The Ultimate Conspectus" which is the English translation of the basic text of Abu Shuja's work, still by Musa Furber.

"Accessible" here means that the book is written in a style that is easy to understand and simplifies technical terminology making it easier to implement, particularly for new Muslims or Muslims who are new to the study of Fiqh. The book covers Fiqh relating to the acts of worship purification, prayer, zakat, fasting, pilgrimage and so on.

as well as Fiqh relating to human interactions such as trade, marriage, inheritance and so on. Musa Furber is to be lauded for the clear style and clarification in accessible English of this classic and essential text. It would be a good standard to work with in bringing to the fore future Fiqh books from the other schools/madhabs. In case it is not clear, Fiqh basically deals with condensed conclusions from the primary sources of the Quran and reports from the Prophet Muhammad (SallAllahu Alaihi Wasallam). These are conclusions drawn by righteous Islamic scholars and one righteous scholar is a walking compendium of millions of pages of knowledge assimilated from the correct understanding of the Quran and reports from the Prophet Muhammad (SallAllahu Alaihi Wasallam). I follow the Hanafi Madhab, but this book is being taught by the Shafi Imam of our local Mosque in Arabic and Swahili and I wanted to have a better understanding of the first book I have studied under a scholar, which is one of the reasons for buying it. It has become a great insight into what I look forward to from further Islamic scholarship in plain English without "dummifying down" on correct practice. If you are following the Shafi Madhab, this book is not just a recommendation it is an essential.

I feel confident starting that this is probably the first book of its kind in the English language. Musa Furber has made another significant contribution to the corpus of traditional texts in Islamic Law in the English language. This original commentary of his own translation of "The Ultimate Conspectus" (see <https://amzn.com/0985884029>) is full of essential details and discussions left out of the original text for brevity and therefore opens the door to deep understanding and rich meaning of a broad range of topics in Islamic Law. The commentary is interspersed between the translation and the examples given are timely, contextual, and fitting for a large audience. This text is essential for anyone interested in studying Islamic Law in a method that resembles the traditional way of studying a text with a commentary.

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