

Navigating  
*the End of*  
Time



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## TRANSLITERATIONAL KEY

|           |    |   |     |
|-----------|----|---|-----|
| أ / آ / إ | ā  | ظ | ẓ   |
| ب         | b  | ع | ʿ   |
| ت         | t  | غ | gh  |
| ث         | th | ف | f   |
| ج         | j  | ق | q   |
| ح         | ḥ  | ك | k   |
| خ         | kh | ل | l   |
| د         | d  | م | m   |
| ذ         | dh | ن | n   |
| ر         | r  | و | w/ū |
| ز         | z  | ه | h   |
| س         | s  | ي | y/ī |
| ش         | sh | ة | a   |
| ص         | ṣ  | ء | ʾ   |
| ض         | ḍ  | أ | a   |
| ط         | ṭ  | إ | i   |

Both Gregorian and Hijrī dates are to be found throughout the text. The former is indicated by c.e and the latter by a.h. In instances where the calendar year referred to is clearly implied, no indication is afforded. Most typically they refer to the year of death of the authors or figures mentioned; for example:

Imām Mālik b. Anas al-Aṣḥabī (179 a.h).

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## PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

IN THE RECENT war, the Ukrainian Government ordered residents of Kyiv to remove all the street signs so that the invading Russian soldiers would be lost and confused. Our need for maps is dire. Without knowledge or guidance in a strange territory, all sense of security evaporates—fearful imagination sets in. Today, our reliance on GPS and navigating systems in cars or phones is nearly absolute. These facilities are usually taken for granted and as the phrase goes, ‘we would be lost without them.’ More generally, as the writer Wendell Berry has said, “If you don’t know where you are, you don’t know who you are.”

A map is not merely a chart, but something that unveils paths and gives directions through illumined way markers—lamp posts if you like. Rewards and dangers lie on the way. It is no coincidence perhaps that the teaching game ‘Snakes and Ladders’ was invented in Moghul India [*Shataranj al-‘Urafā*]. An inability to map-read or interpret the virtues and dangers in those signs renders them futile. In such a case, one must be led, grasping the hand of a guide. Whose hand today can be trusted?

The key to following any map is that one must be ready for a journey. Ready or not, mankind’s journey is simply one of time; a journey imposed on its wayfarers without options. This chronological journey began at the creation of man and will end with the Day of Judgement, a journey full of trials [*fitna* (pl. *fitan*)], from which few of us can escape. Yet it is from these