

Contents

Acknowledgements VII

List of Figures VIII

Introduction 1

The *Thousand and One Nights* and Processes of Transmission 6

Source Material 11

1 Kings, Viziers, Concubines 24

The Cycle of the 'Seven Viziers'/'Seven Sages of Rome' and Its Cognates 25

Variations: The Story of 'Jali'ad of Hind and His Vizier Shimas' 34

King Wu's Expedition against Zhou and Proclaiming Harmony 38

Concluding Remarks 48

2 Gods, Demons, and Kings 52

The Prince and the Demons of Evil: The Legendary Vikramaditya 53

The Thirty-Two Steps of the Throne 54

Harun al-Rashid, Vizier Ja'far, and the Jinns 61

Harun al-Rashid and the Discourse of Power 68

Fighting the Evil Spirit: Creation of the Gods 71

Concluding Remarks 76

3 Divine Insights, Cosmic Harmony 78

The Cycle of the 'Queen of the Serpents' 79

King and Cosmos: *The Sorcerer's Revolt* 88

Jan Potocki's *Manuscrit Trouvé à Saragosse* 98

Concluding Remarks 107

4 The Knight and the King 109

Tirant lo Blanc: The Ideal Knight 113

The Harbinger of the Faith: Amir Hamza 121

The Emperor and the Barbarians: The Exploits of Yue Fei 133

Hang Tuah, the Malay Hero 141

The 'Foreign' Sultan: Al-Zahir Baybars 147

The Muslims against the Byzantines: Sayyid Battal 155

Concluding Remarks 159

5 Kingship and Love	163
The Prince and the Mysteries of Love	167
The Enchantment of Love: European Fantasies of Kingship and Love	182
Concluding Remarks	196
6 Unrequested Advice	198
The Frustrated Official: Mustafa Ali of Gallipoli	201
Against the Old Order: Huang Zongxi and Hung Sheng	210
European and Oriental Despots: Montesquieu and Diderot	215
A Modern Mirror-for-Princes: Christoph Martin Wieland's <i>Der Goldene Spiegel</i>	232
The Official and His Empress: Alexander Radischev and Catherine II	239
Concluding Remarks	250
Conclusion	253
Bibliography	261
Index	268