

## English Translation of *Al-adilla al-ḥisān fī bayān taḥrīm shurb al-dukhān: Valid Proofs to Proclaim Smoking Forbidden*<sup>1</sup>

In the following text ⟨...⟩ are used to indicate where text was erased in the manuscript, and \.../ are used to indicate words that were written in the margin of a page and meant to be inserted in the text.

### Valid Proofs to Proclaim Smoking Forbidden

This is the ultimate study and statement concerning the prohibition of smoking. It was put together by the critical investigator and magnanimous shaykh and imām, our generous master Muḥammad al-Wālī, son of the shaykh *al-walī*<sup>2</sup> Sulaymān b. Abī Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm al-Fulānī, follower of the Mālikī legal school and of the Ash‘arī creed. May God grant him Paradise as his abode, to the honour of Muḥammad, the best of the  
<sup>1v</sup> prophets. Amen, amen. | In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, God’s blessing be on our lord and master Muḥammad, and on his family and companions. The learned and erudite shaykh, the holy and ascetic, who is pious, obeys (God) and is understanding, Muḥammad al-Wālī son of the shaykh *al-walī*, the generous Sulaymān b. Abī Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm al-Fulānī, follower of the Mālikī school and of the Ash‘arī creed. May God grant him Paradise as his abode. Amen.

Praise be to God who makes the truth manifest through evidence and annuls falseness through proof, who clarifies the truth to him whom he wishes from his servants, those who have spiritual knowledge. Blessing and peace be upon our lord Muḥammad, who was sent to make clear this message through the verses

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- 1 I am very grateful to Geert Jan van Gelder for his corrections and many suggestions for improvement of an earlier version of this translation. Also, most of the references to the sources of poetry quoted in the text come from his vast knowledge of Arabic poetry and literature.
  - 2 As mentioned in Chapter 3, al-Wālī’s name is usually written with ā and ī, as it is in this manuscript. His father, however, is here called al-walī, a word that can have many meanings including that of holy man, saint, legal guardian, benefactor, tutor.

of the Qur'an that He sent down to him; and to his family and companions, leading stars and suns of knowledge.

Now then, the humble servant in need of the mercy of his Lord, Muḥammad al-Wālī son of the shaykh Sulaymān, learned in the Mālikī school, of the Ash'arī creed, whose *nisba* is al-Fulānī, says:

People have had more and more questions concerning the judgement about smoking the plant *tinbāk*. Those of the competent ulema gave as legal judgement that smoking it is forbidden. Some others, who like to smoke, were inclined to proclaim it permitted. I say: The uncontestable truth is that it should be forbidden. The arguments for prohibition are clear to everyone who regards (this) properly. I give ten proofs, in a concise way in an epistle | which I have called *Valid proofs to proclaim smoking forbidden*. Then I wish to add an explanation to these arguments. I will show once and for all the invalidity of the claim of all those who plea for its permission. I will make an end to the desire for it, and take away the illusions about it. And I have called that *The ultimate study and statement concerning the prohibition of smoking*.<sup>3</sup> 2r

Know that this filthy plant was not known in the time of the prophecy, nor in the time of the (Prophet's) Companions and (their) Successors and after that their successors and those who came after them, until the end of the tenth century (of the Hijra) and the beginning of the eleventh. Then it came to the lands of Islam, while none of these Muslims knew anything of it. Tobacco reached them from the realms of the Christians, from a mountain that is called English, and from certain countries of the Black.<sup>4</sup> Then its consumption became general among all people, night and day, hidden and publicly, even in markets and roads, without a moment's pause. They prefer it over all treasures. Would a sensible person doubt (the necessity of) a prohibition of this repulsive habit? What the exemplary shaykh, our master Ibrāhīm al-Laḳānī enumerated in his epistle, called | *Advice to the brothers regarding the avoidance of smoking* is sufficient (to account) for the prohibition of tobacco. To all who agree regarding the prohibition, it leaves no doubt. May God, on account of all Muslims, compensate him with ample remuneration and beautiful favours. 2v

The theologian after him<sup>5</sup> only speaks to repeat his message to the masses of people of good faith, based on the truth that cooperation in what is good is demanded and cooperation in what is evil is blameworthy and undesired. The

3 The second part of the treatise in Or. 8362 has a separate title. *ALA* mentions both parts as separate works.

4 Al-Laḳānī talks of tobacco coming from the Maghrib (Or. 8288h, f. 124<sup>v</sup>) after it was introduced there by a Jew (Or. 8288h, f. 120<sup>v</sup>).

5 Other theologians who adopt al-Laḳānī's point of view, but al-Wālī himself in particular.