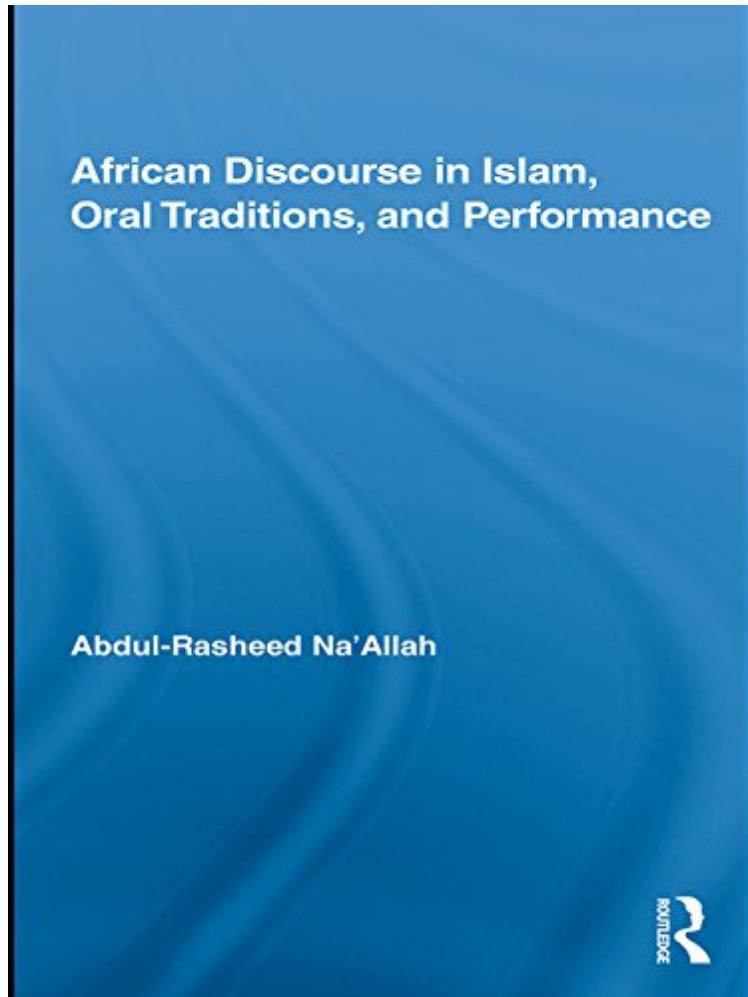


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African Discourse in Islam, Oral Traditions, and Performance (African Studies)

Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised African Discourse in Islam, Oral Traditions, and Performance (African Studies):

Through an engaged analysis of writers such as Wole Soyinka, Ola Rotimi, Niyi Osundare, and Tanure Ojaide and of African traditional oral poets like Omoekpe Amao Ilorin and Mamman Shata Katsina, Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah develops an African indigenous discourse paradigm for interpreting and understanding literary and cultural materials. Na'Allah argues for the need for cultural diversity in critical theorizing in the twenty-first century. He highlights the critical issues facing scholars and students involved in criticism and translation of marginalized texts. By returning the

African knowledge system back to its roots and placing it side by side with Western paradigms, Na'Allah has produced a text that will be required reading for scholars and students of African culture and literature. It is an important contribution to scholarship in the domain of mobility of African oral tradition, and on African literary, cultural and performance discourse.

"This rich collection of essays contains some of the most original studies of the interaction between Islam and African cultures. In their specific focus on the centrality of the religion to the oral literature and indeed the entire range of expressive culture among the Yoruba people of Ilorin, the studies demonstrate the way in which Islam has functioned not as a constraining factor, as it has been widely presumed, but rather as a liberating force of the creative energies in Yoruba society." - F. Abiola Irele, Harvard University, author of *The African Imagination: Literature in Africa and the Black Diaspora* "African Discourse in Islam, Oral Traditions, and Performance is the most important stylistic analysis of oral traditions published in the last twenty years. It is an original and groundbreaking study of the intertextual relations between tradition and modernity, Islam and the indigenous religions in Africa, oral poetry and popular music in Nigeria. Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah is exceptionally brilliant in his accounts of how Islam penetrated African oral traditions and music and filled them with Islamic verses and the names of Prophets from the Holy Quran... Na'Allah's analysis of the theories of translation, adaptation and change will also constitute an important contribution to comparative textual studies." - Manthia Diawara, Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and Film, New York University, author of *We Won't Budge: An Exile in the World* (2003) "...a good, solid work. The author's enthusiasm for the oral tradition is paramount but he shines in the other parts as well." - Journal of Folklore Research, David M. Westley, Boston University About the Author Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah is Chair of the Department of African American Studies at Western Illinois University.