

Gold and silver, branded horses, and well-tilled land: gender and hadrami migration / Ismail Fajri Alatas

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Abstrak

This essay examines the consequences of migration by looking at the relationship between migration and social transformation. In particular, it focuses on the construction of gender and how migration disrupted traditional gender relations among Hadramis from Hadramawt valley of Southern Yemen in Indonesia. It utilizes a fictional work criticizing migration as a point of departure in looking at the effects of migration on the traditional order. The text is important as it is a critique of migration written from the perspective of the Thariqah 'Alawiyyah (the dominant Sufi order in Hadramaut), thereby, highlighting the disruption caused by migration to traditional structures. The essay is divided into four parts. The first deals with the background information concerning migration and the Thariqah in order to contextualize the text. The second part looks at how migration disrupts the notion of masculinity and femininity. The third part focuses on the concept of family and its reconfiguration due to migration. And the final concluding section places the Hadrami migration experience into a gendered theoretical framework to illustrate that gender is historically and culturally dependent.