

### Handout for Muwaylihi [Allen]—on e-Reserve

As I mentioned in the book review handout, two years ago Copy Tech lost a few pages of my copy original, therefore I start you at a semi-random spot in the first chapter—in which the Isa, the writer, encounters the Pasha in the cemetery. It is not necessary to read the book in order. If you are getting bored at the beginning skip ahead and then go back if you have time—some of the funniest chapters are at the end, i.e. pp. 231-379.

1. What is Muwaylihi's purpose in writing this work? Is he effective in achieving this aim? What function does each of the characters serve?
2. What types of changes regarding neighborhoods and homes is Muwaylihi depicting in Ch. 1.
3. Why does the Pasha have a nasty encounter with the donkeyman, and what are its repercussions?
4. What is the purpose of an Islamic endowment (*waqf*) and why is the Pasha trying to access his? What has become of the Pasha's endowment? Who is its caretaker and why is he staying in a hotel?
5. What kinds of criticism does Muwaylihi have about modern medicine and its practitioners?
6. Chapters 19-23 deal with the Pasha's encounters with several different professions/classes of individuals—what does Muwaylihi hope to demonstrate by including these chapters?
7. Most of the remaining chapters of the book have Muwaylihi following the antics of an *'Umda*. What sorts of places does he go and what kinds of activities are taking place? What are the obvious and not-so-obvious criticisms that Muwaylihi is making?