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"The Roost", New Harbor, Maine, U.S.A., August 21, 1899.

My dear Professor Goldziher:-

Your letter of criticism on my al-Chazzālī paper has given me the greatest pleasure. From no other writer on Muslim life and thought have I gained a tithe of what I have learned from you in your books; and now there is added to that your most kind and appreciative letter. Believe me that I am very grateful for such recognition from the greatest master in the subject; it has encouraged me to go on in my studies in a line which is little if at all followed in this country. I doubt if, among our few Arabists, there is another besides myself who pays the slightest attention to Muslim theology.

You will understand how valuable your criticisms and suggestions are to one who like myself has been working at this subject without any teacher to refer to. I am only beginning to find my way in the great labyrinth and your many references have opened up new paths of advance to me. On my first opportunity I must work through ad-Da'irī; You will hardly believe that I have not yet read a page of him - my knowledge of Arabic literature is still very slight. The passages which you quote on Ibn Ḥamdīn's auto da fé of al-Chazzālī's writings have especially interested me. I am occupied just now in trying to work out a little sketch of the religious position of Ibn Rusūd and my grand puzzle at present is about the cause, or causes, of his sudden fall from favour with Abū Yūsuf al-Manṣūr and his equally sudden restoration. Your "Zahiriten" is of much value for this. As for al-Mātaridī, the SM knows next to nothing about him. He refers to lives in the Jawāhir al-mudī'a of Muḥyī ad-Dīn Abū Muhammad ibn Abī Wafā al-Qurāshī and in the Kitāb al-ansab of Majd ad-Dīn Ismā'īl al-Balbīsī al-Qāhirī but he complains that kullun minhumā 'alā-l-likhtisār. Something also is to be learned about him fī-ntisab kutub al-madhhab. Evidently the SM was as much in the dark as we. But he has some excellent remarks on the relation of al-Ash'arī and al-Mātaridī to their predecessors and to the great Imams.

For some time past I have been trying to gather copies of your different Abhandlungen but I did not succeed in getting your As-Suyūfī till my article was in type. When your letter came I had already noted on the margin a reference to what you say on the mujaddidun.

With repeated thanks for your kind criticism and encouragement, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

*uncan B. MacDonald*