Introduction and Appendices to Siddur Farhi translated into English from Dr. Farhi's Arabic text

by Halfon N. Hamaoui z''l

This translation is dedicated to my wife Paula and to my daughters Ludmilla Marie, Desirée Leona Rebecca, and Michelle Leah; and to my granddaughters Shira and Talya

Foreword

Siddur Farhi was given to me in 1965 by my uncle, Joseph Peppi z''l. Since then I have used it for the very purpose for which it was intended. It helped me to understand the meaning of my prayers in my mother tongue, Arabic. I never failed to admire Dr. Hillel Farhi's masterpiece every time I used his Siddur over many years. I never knew Hillel Farhi but I did have the pleasure of meeting his sons Jacques z''l and Azar Farhi z''l in Egypt - both scholars and gentlemen.

I had contemplated the task of translating Dr. Hillel Farhi's teachings into English for a long time but it was only when his grandchildren reprinted the 3rd edition of the Siddur in 2003 that the time came to act. I felt that it was not only necessary but my duty to translate the introduction and the appendices of the Siddur into English; and I was fortunate that Sarine de Picciotto, his granddaughter, then encouraged me to do it. I thank her for the honor and for the pleasure I derived from this task.

Nevertheless, it was a great challenge; and I tried my best to find the correct English expressions with which to express the precise meaning of the Arabic words chosen so carefully by Dr. Farhi. I used the Oxford University method of transliteration of Hebrew letters and vowels and I remained faithful to Dr. Farhi's method of exposé, which follows Maimonides's style.

I thank his grandchildren and all those who worked to put together the 4th Edition of Siddur Farhi. Hazak u'baruch - may you be strong and blessed.

I pray that God, blessed be he, has accepted into Gan Eden the soul of the scholar, poet, grammarian, mathematician, cabalist, physician, journalist, teacher and father, Hillel Yaacob Farhi z''l. Amen.

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