# Primary Source Handout – Devotional Poetry in the Islamic World

Source: ʿA’ishah al-Baʿuniyyah, \*The Clear Inspiration, in Praise of the Trustworthy\* (15th–16th century). Translated and adapted for classroom use.

# Excerpt

“My heart has clung to the light of God’s guidance,  
A lamp that never fades, even in the darkest night.  
The love of the Prophet has filled my soul,  
His path is the beacon that leads me aright.”

“Through remembrance, my spirit finds its rest,  
In the sweetness of prayer, my longing is complete.  
Every breath is a witness to His mercy,  
Every word a song of devotion at His feet.”

# Annotation Questions

1. What emotions and imagery does the poet use to describe her devotion?

2. How does the poem reflect the role of belief and religious practice in daily life?

3. What does this poem reveal about the influence of Sufism within Islamic culture?

4. How might this text demonstrate the role of women in Islamic intellectual and cultural life?