

## **"*Futuwwa* and religious exchange in medieval Anatolian cities"**

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In the 13th and 14th centuries, one of the most distinctive characteristics of Anatolian cities was the emergence of *futuwwa*, Sufi organisations which were largely made up of artisans. *Futuwwa*, with its distinctive rituals and initiation ceremonies, constituted a means by which both religious and commercial life were organised. Although *futuwwa* manuals - codes of ritual and conduct - from the late 13th century stipulate that these were to be exclusively Muslim organisations, there is evidence that on occasion non-Muslims participated. Certainly, *futuwwa* organisations were emulated by Christians, and an Armenian *futuwwa* with its own codes and rituals modelled on the Muslim ones came into existence. This paper will argue that on the one hand *futuwwa* constituted a means for inter-religious exchange, but on the other also acted as an incentive to conversion.