

Ibn Arafе

090159

I

01 Ocak 2021

Ibn 'Arafa al-Warḡhammī

Abū 'Abdallāh Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. 'Arafa al-Warḡhammī (716–803/1316–1401) was the leading jurist of his generation in the Mālikī school—one of the four major Sunnī schools of Islamic law—in Ifrīqiya (present-day Tunisia).

The eighth/fourteenth century was a turbulent time for Islamic North Africa, with three different dynasties competing for control: the Ḥafṣids (627–982/1229–1574), whose capital was in Ifrīqiya; the 'Abd al-Wādids (633–962/1236–1555), who were centred in Tilimsān (Tlemcen), al-Maḡhrib al-Awsaṭ (present-day Algeria); and the Marīnids (614–869/1217–1465), who were based in al-Maḡhrib al-Aqṣā (present-day Morocco). Following the collapse of the Almohad (Muwaḥḥidūn) dynasty (524–668/1130–1269), the Ḥafṣids, who claimed descent from a prominent member of the early Almohad movement, established a dynasty of their own in the second quarter of the seventh/thirteenth century. By the early eighth/fourteenth century, however, the dynasty had descended into a nearly fifty-year period

of civil strife. There was a rapid succession of rulers, each of whom held power for no more than a few years before a rival overthrew him. This infighting enabled the Marīnids to seize Ifrīqiya in the middle of the century, but they were forced to abandon it just a few years later in the face of popular discontent, which was the result of years of incessant warfare combined with an outbreak of the plague. It was only when the Ḥafṣid prince of Constantine and vassal of the Marīnids, Abū l-'Abbās Aḥmad (r. 772–96/1370–94), took over Ifrīqiya in the last quarter of the eighth/fourteenth century that political stability and economic prosperity were restored.

In spite of its political upheavals, eighth/fourteenth-century Ifrīqiya enjoyed a vibrant scholarly culture. Ibn 'Arafa received a rigorous education both in the traditional sciences (*al-'ulūm al-naqliyya*) and the rational sciences (*al-'ulūm al-'aqliyya*). He studied Mālikī substantive law (*fiqh*) and theoretical jurisprudence (*uṣūl al-fiqh*) with the leading Tunisian legal scholars of his day, including Muḥammad b. 'Abd al-Salām (d. 749/1348), Ibn Hārūn al-Kinānī al-Tūnisī (d. 750/1349), and Ibn

S.47-49