

MADDE YAYIMLANDIKTAN
SONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

01 Temmuz-2021

0799



Ibn Arfa
030153

AL-QANTARA
XLI 2, julio-diciembre 2020
pp. 373-408
ISSN 0211-3589
<https://doi.org/10.3989/alqantara.2020.010>

The Identity, Life and Works of the Alchemist Ibn Arfa' Ra's*

Identidad, vida y obra del alquimista Ibn Arfa' Ra's

Regula Forster

University of Tübingen

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4391-7217>

Juliane Müller

University of Tübingen

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3356-3147>

Ibn Arfa' Ra's is the author of a famous collection of alchemical poems entitled *Shudhūr al-dhahab* (The Splinters of Gold). In addition to *Shudhūr al-dhahab*, he authored several other works, including a commentary on *Shudhūr*, which is discussed here at some length for the first time, and strophic poetry on alchemy. The attribution of other works to him seems to be incorrect, and this applies especially to two works on magic. This contribution focusses on our findings on the identity of Ibn Arfa' Ra's and on his life, challenging the identification of the alchemist Ibn Arfa' Ra's with a Mālikī religious scholar known as Ibn al-Naqirāt. Based both on manuscripts and on bio-bibliographical literature, we argue that from an early period, two different people, both from sixth/twelfth century Morocco, have been

Ibn Arfa' Ra's es el autor de una colección famosa de poemas alquímicos titulada *Šuḍūr al-dahab* (Las Esquirlas de Oro). Además de *Šuḍūr al-dahab* compuso otras obras — en particular un comentario de las *Šuḍūr* que está descrito aquí por primera vez más detalladamente — así como poesía estrófica sobre alquimia. La atribución que se suele hacer de algunas obras a Ibn Arfa' Ra's parece incorrecta, sobre todo en lo que se refiere a dos obras concretas sobre magia. Esta contribución enfoca nuestros hallazgos sobre la identidad de Ibn Arfa' Ra's y su vida, desafiando la identificación del alquimista Ibn Arfa' Ra's con un erudito religioso Mālikī conocido como Ibn al-Naqirāt. Basado tanto en los manuscritos como en la literatura bio-bibliográfica, suponemos que dos personas diferentes,

* This article was written as part of the project "Between Religion and Alchemy. The scholar Ibn Arfa' Ra's (d. 1197) as a model for an integrative Arabic literary and cultural history," funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. We wish to thank Maribel Fierro (Madrid) as well as the anonymous reviewers of *Al-Qantara* for their helpful comments on a draft version of the text and Wendy Quay for her help with the English language. All remaining faults are ours.

Copyright: © 2020 CSIC. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) License.