

AS-SIRR AL-MAŞÜN DE TĀHIR AŞ-ŞADAFİ:
UN ITINÉRAIRE MYSTIQUE AU XII^e SIÈCLE

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D.733/2

AL-QANTARA, vol: XVI / fasc - 2

Madrid - 1995 , s . 273 - 288.

09 OCAK 1996

Le texte que nous présentons est l'oeuvre d'un auteur andalou du XII^e siècle (VI^e siècle H), Tāhir as-Şadafî qui a pour titre *as-Sirr al-Maşün fī mā ukrima bihi al-Mukhlisün*. C'est un manuscrit unique conservé à la Bibliothèque de Berlin (côte 127 b, fol. 149 a-172b) et il fait partie d'un corpus rassemblé par al-Bārizī. Fritz Meier en a publié une traduction allemande dans la revue *Der Islam*¹.

Le corpus se compose de deux épais volumes et porte le titre de *Tawthīq 'Urā al-Imān fī Taṣdīl Ḥabib ar-Rahmān*. Il s'agit d'une anthologie de textes mystiques rassemblés par Sharaf ad-Dīn Abū-l-Qāsim Hibat Allāh, fils du cadi suprême (*qādī al-quḍāt*) Najm ad-Dīn 'Abd ar-Rahmān, fils du cadi suprême Shams ad-Dīn Ibrāhim al-Bārizī al-Jihānī al-Hamawī (de Hamā) mort en 732/1332².

Al-Bārizī appartient à une famille de cadis de Hamā³; cadi lui-même, il exerce la magistrature pendant quarante ans dans sa ville. Son grand savoir et l'importance de sa bibliothèque le rendent célèbre et attirent de nombreux étudiants et savants. On lui offre la charge de cadi au Caire mais il préfère rester à Hamā.

Le corpus est de la même écriture et de la même encre, exception faite de quelques rares pages et le nom du copiste est mentionné deux fois. Il s'agit de Dāwūd Ibn Nūḥ Ibn 'Alī Ibn Shaykh (Shāfi'i?). La copie est achevée le 24 Rajab 740 (Janvier 1340), huit ans après la mort de al-Bārizī.

Les pages sont denses et l'écriture, orientale très serrée. Chaque

¹ Meier, F., «Tāhir as-Şadafis vergessene schrift über westliche heilige des 6/12 jahrhunderts», *Der Islam*, 61 (1984) 14-91. Le texte est actuellement sous presse. Je remercie mon collègue Van Koningsveld qui m'a procuré le microfilm.

² Ferhat, H., *L'Evolution de l'écriture hagiographique*, dans *Le siècle de la foi. Le Maghreb aux xif et xix siècles*, Casablanca, 1993.

³ Ibn Ḥajar al-Asqalānī, *ad-Durar al-Kāmina*, IV, 401.

TĀHIR AL-ŞAFADĪ'S FORGOTTEN WORK ON WESTERN SAINTS
OF THE 6TH/12TH CENTURY

A few specialized works have come down to us about pious Muslims and miracle-workers in the west of North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula. The oldest date from the 7th/13th century.¹ All of them deal with people from a narrow geographical area, some venturing into neighboring districts, whereas most remain limited and incomplete in their choice of persons. They are the following writings:

Ibn al-‘Arabī (d. 638/1240): *Rūḥ al-quds fi munāṣahat al-naṣf*,² composed in Mecca in 600/1203-04. In the second part of this work Ibn al-‘Arabī describes a total of 55 Sufis whom he had personally known and who had in part even given him instruction. Printed several times. I have at my disposal the two editions by ‘Izzā Ḥusriyya, Maṭba‘at al-‘ilm, Damascus, 1964-65 and 1970, both unsatisfactory. Spanish translation by M. Asín Palacios: *Vida de Santones Andaluces*, Madrid, 1939/reprint Madrid, 1981.

Ibn al-‘Arabī: *Al-durra al-fākhira fi dhikr man intafa‘tu bihī fī tarīq al-ākhira*,³ already partly composed before his emigration to the east in 598/1201 but left behind in the west and restored from memory after 608/1211-12, or perhaps only after 620/1223, with abridgements and additions. Contains 26 of the 55 persons listed in the *Rūḥ al-quds* along with 16 new names, i.e. a total of 42 Sufis.

Both works have been presented in summarized form with excerpts by R.W.I. Austin: *Sufis of Andalusia. The Rūḥ al-quds and al-Durrat al-fākhirah of Ibn ‘Arabī*, London, 1971. He gives the 55 Sufis that occur in the *Rūḥ al-quds* and the *Durra fākhira* with the additional 16 new ones from the *Durra*, amounting to 71 Sufis altogether.

Ibn al-‘Arabī only enumerates people whom he had seen himself, most of them from Spain but also others from North Africa up to Tunis. He takes delight in being able to show by his list that the old

¹ Comprehensive prosopographical works of the 6th/12th century such as Qāḍī ‘Iyād’s *Tartib al-madārik*, Ibn Bashkuwāl’s *Šila*, Dabbī’s *Bughyat al-multamis*, among others, naturally contain some names which likewise belong in this category.

² Osman Yahya: *Histoire et classification de l’œuvre d’Ibn ‘Arabī*, Damascus, 1964, no. 639. Brockelmann: *GAL*, I, p. 445, no. 56 (58); *GAL S*, I, p. 800, no. 157; confusion.

³ Osman Yahya, no. 105. *GAL*, I, pp. 445, no. 56 (58); confusion with *Rūḥ al-quds*.

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Essays on Islamic piety and mysticism

E.J. Brill, Leiden - 1999, s. 423-504.

DN: 79490

