

Muṭrān Dā'ūd

DATE OF BIRTH Unknown; presumably early 11th century
PLACE OF BIRTH Unknown; maybe Lebanon
DATE OF DEATH After 1059
PLACE OF DEATH Unknown; presumably some Maronite
center

BIOGRAPHY

We know nothing about a Maronite metropolitan bishop named David who, according to the introduction of the work presented below, received a letter in 1058-59 from a monk and priest named Joseph, who asked him to make a translation from Syriac into Arabic of a book entitled *Kitāb al-kamāl*, attributed to 'the holy Father' (*al-ab al-qiddīs*). David's role in the production of the Arabic text that follows this introduction is not entirely clear; certainly, the section on the Trinity and Incarnation is *not* a translation from Syriac, but to a considerable extent a compilation of materials composed in Arabic, as will be seen below.

MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Primary

For the *Kitāb al-kamāl*, see below.

Secondary —

WORKS ON CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

Kitāb al-kamāl, 'The book of perfection'

DATE About 1059
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Arabic

DESCRIPTION

In much of the manuscript tradition, *Kitāb al-kamāl* is transmitted together with a Maronite *Nomocanon*, and it was the ensemble that was published in 1935 by P. Fahed under the (misleading) title *Kitāb al-hudā*. However, a succession of scholars (Graf, Jubayr, Samir) have

realized that *Kitāb al-kamāl* is an independent work that provides a summary of Christian belief and practice. It is clearly divided (as Samir has shown, 'L'exposé', pp. 259-61, 'Kitāb al-hudā', p. 214, and 'Dāwūd le Métropolitain', pp. 216-17) into four parts and 13 chapters:

- Introduction (ch. 1)
- Part I: Faith (Trinity and Incarnation, ch. 2)
- Part II: Prayer (chs 3-9)
- Part III: Fasting (ch. 10)
- Part IV: Tithes and alms (chs 11-13a)
- Conclusion (ch. 13b)

As Samir has pointed out ('Dāwūd le Métropolitain', p. 216), the very structure of the work is of interest for the history of Christian-Muslim relations, as it mirrors the 'pillars' of Islamic practice, only pilgrimage being left out. And in particular chapters, the author draws on the Arabic-language theological library of his time: for his apologetic presentation of the Trinity he draws from Iliyyā of Nisibis (d. 1046 [q.v.]; see Samir, 'L'exposé'), while in the section on Christology he lightly edits a chapter from the *Kitāb al-ittiḥād* of 'Abdallāh ibn al-Ṭayyib (d. 1043 [q.v.]; see Samir, 'Bibliographie....Addenda et corrigenda', pp. 301-2).

SIGNIFICANCE

Kitāb al-kamāl is significant as a presentation of Christian faith and practice that was accepted and transmitted within the Maronite community, but that leans on apologetically-motivated presentations of Christian doctrine developed by East Syrian ('Nestorian') theologians, and that in its very structure reflects an Islamic presentation of fundamental religious practices.

MANUSCRIPTS

See Samir, 'L'exposé', pp. 261-62, for a list of 12 MSS. The MSS selected by Samir for his edition (of part of ch. 2) are:

- MS Vat – Syr. 133 (1402; *karshūnī*)
- MS Kuraym, Couvent des Missionnaires Libanais – 31a (1550; *karshūnī*)
- MS Paris, BNF – Syr. 223 (16th century; *karshūnī*)

EDITIONS & TRANSLATIONS

- Saad Youssef, 'La Trinité et l'Incarnation dans le Kitāb al-Hudā. Texte édité, traduit et commenté', Rome, 1977 (Diss. Pontificia Università Lateranense; not seen)

- [S.]K. Samir, 'L'exposé sur la Trinité du Kitāb al-Kamāl. Edition critique', *Pd'O* 6 (1975) 257-79 (repr. in S.K. Samir, *Foi et culture en Irak au XI^e siècle. Elie de Nisibe et l'Islam*, Aldershot UK, 1996, no. VIII; critical edition of a passage from Part I, on the Trinity)
- E. Houry, 'Les canons sur l'Eucharistie dans "Kitab al-Huda"', *Melto* 2 (1966) 251-71; 'Les sacrements de l'initiation chrétienne dans Kitāb al-Hudā', *Melto* 3 (1967) 309-23; 'Canons sur la prière dans *Kitāb al-Huda*', *Melto* 4 (1968) 45-57 (taken together, these three articles reproduce most of Part II, on Prayer, from Fahed's edition, with French trans.)
- P. Fahed, *Kitāb al-hudā ou Livre de la direction. Code Maronite du haut moyen age. Traduction du syriaque en arabe par l'évêque Maronite David l'an 1059*, Aleppo, 1935, pp. 16-164 (edition on the basis of MS Vat. Syr. 133)

STUDIES

- [S.]K. Samir, in 'Bibliographie', *Islamochristiana* 5 (1979) 301-3 (on 'Abdallāh ibn al-Ṭayyib's *Kitāb al-ittihād*, ch. 11, partially reproduced in *Kitāb al-kamāl*, ch. 2)
- Youssef, 'La Trinité et l'Incarnation dans le Kitāb al-Hudā'
- [S.]K. Samir, 'Dāwūd le Métropolitain', in 'Bibliographie', *Islamochristiana* 2 (1976) 201-42, pp. 216-17
- [S.]K. Samir, 'Kitāb al-Hudā, Kitāb al-Kamāl et Kitāb an-Nāmūs', *OCP* 42 (1976) 207-17
- Samir, 'L'exposé sur la Trinité du Kitāb al-Kamāl'
- A. Joubair, *Kitāb al-Huda. Essai*, Jounieh, 1974 (not seen)
- Graf, *GCAL* ii, pp. 94-98 (with earlier bibliography, p. 98)
- G. Graf, 'Der maronitische Nomokanon "Buch der rechten Leitung"', *OC* 33 [= 3. series, 11] (1936) 212-32
- Fahed, *Kitāb al-hudā*

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