

Hibat Allāh ibn al-Tilmīdh

DATE OF BIRTH 1071
PLACE OF BIRTH Baghdad
DATE OF DEATH 1165 (or 1154)
PLACE OF DEATH Unknown

BIOGRAPHY

Hibat Allāh ibn al-Tilmīdh was a renowned physician, working at the prestigious ‘Aḍudiyya hospital. His medical activities are elaborately recorded by Ibn Abī Uṣaybī‘a and al-Qiftī. He was an influential member of the (‘Nestorian’) Church of the East, as appears from his presence at the patriarchal consecration of Elias II (q.v.), recorded in the patriarchal lists of the *Kitāb al-majdal* (‘The tower’) and the *Asfār al-asrār* (‘The books of secrets’). He is also the author of an important theological work (see below).

MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Primary

Patriarchal chronicle of *The tower*: H. Gismondi (ed.), *Maris Amri et Slibae De patriarchis Nestorianorum commentaria. Pars prior. Maris textus arabicus; Maris versio Latina*, Rome, 1899, pp. 152 (Arabic), 129 (Latin trans.)

Al-Qiftī, *Ta’rikh al-ḥukamā’*, ed. J. Lippert, Leipzig, 1903, pp. 340-42

Ibn Abī Uṣaybī‘a, *‘Uyūn al-anbā’ fi ṭabaqāt al-aṭibbā’*, ed. A. Müller, Cairo, 1882, pp. 25976

Gregorius Barhebraeus, *Mukhtaṣar ta’rikh al-duwal*, ed. A. Ṣāliḥānī, Beirut, 1956², pp. 363-65

Patriarchal chronicle of the *Books of mysteries*: H. Gismondi (ed.), *Maris Amri et Slibae De patriarchis Nestorianorum Commentaria. Pars altera. Amri et Slibae textus*, Rome, 1896; *Amri et Slibae versio*, Rome, 1899, pp. 103 (Arabic), 60 (Latin trans.)

Secondary

R. le Coz, *Les médecins nestoriens au moyen âge*, Paris, 2004, pp. 206-7

Landron, *Chrétiens et musulmans en Irak*, pp. 120, 129

S.K. Samir, ‘Bibliographie’, *Islamochristiana* 2 (1976) 201-42, pp. 224-25

- J.M. Fiey, *Chrétiens syriaques sous les Abbassides, surtout à Bagdad (749-1258)* Louvain, 1980, pp. 230-31
- M. Ullmann, *Die Medizin im Islam (Handbuch der Orientalistik. I. Ergänzungsband VI. 1)*, Leiden, 1952, p. 163
- G. Troupeau, 'Recherches sur un médecin-philosophe de Bagdad. Ibn Atradi (XI^e siècle)', in *Mémorial Mgr Gabriel Khouri-Sarkis (1898-1968)*, Louvain, 1969, pp. 259-62
- Graf, *GCAL* ii, p. 199, cf. pp. 197-98

WORKS ON CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

Risāla fī ithbāt 'aqā'id al-dīn al-Masīhī, Luma' 'ajib (sic) min al-umūr al-shar'iyya wa-nukat gharība min al-milal al-dīniyya, 'Demonstration of the beliefs of the Christian religion'

DATE 12th century

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Arabic

DESCRIPTION

This (for the greater part) unedited work deals with various general theological subjects, which can no longer be specified. Cheikho (*Chresthomathie*, pp. 282-83) published an extract from one chapter on the abrogation of the Mosaic law, the law of justice, as opposed to the final and universal character of the law of Christ, the law of perfection. Though this argument seems to be primarily addressed to the Jews, it is also a common theme in Christian apologetic texts intended for Muslims (cf. Landron, *Chrétiens et musulmans*, pp. 155-58), and possibly reflects the Islamic discussion about abrogation of revealed texts (*nāsikh-mansūkh*). That the author had Muslim readers in mind also appears from the fact that he tries to show the perfection of the Christian law by a reference to a passage from the description of India by al-Bīrūnī (d. 1048) (q.v.).

The work has sometimes been confused with the *Kitāb al-hidāya* of Abū l-Ghanā'im Hibat Allāh ibn 'Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn Athradī (q.v.), for example by Landron, *Chrétiens et musulmans*, p. 156 (cf. Troupeau, *Recherches*, pp. 260-61).

SIGNIFICANCE

One chapter of this work discusses a classical theme of Christian-Muslim apologetics. The originality of the argumentation is in the reference made to al-Birūnī.

MANUSCRIPTS

MS formerly Diyarbakir 133 (13th century; present location unknown, probably lost)

EDITIONS & TRANSLATIONS

L. Cheikho, *Chrestomathia Arabica*, Beirut, 1897, pp. 282-83 (edition of one chapter)

STUDIES

Landron, *Chrétiens et musulmans*, pp. 120, 129

Samir, 'Bibliographie', pp. 224-25

Graf, *GICAL* ii, p. 119

A. Scher, 'Notice sur les manuscrits syriaques et arabes conservés dans la bibliothèque de l'évêché chaldéen de Diarbékir', *Journal Asiatique*, série x, 10 (1907) 414-15

Herman G.B. Teule