

5.3 Ibn al-Wardî, al-Lāmiyya al-Wardiyya

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5.3.1 Author

The author's full name runs Abū Ḥaḥṣ Zayn al-Dīn 'Umar ibn al-Muzaḥḥar ibn 'Umar al-Qurashî al-Bakrî al-Ma'arrî, Ibn al-Wardî al-Shāfi'î (d. 749/1349; GAL 2,175-77 S 2,174; MAL 1,185, fn. 7; Kaḥḥāla 8,3-4; EP 3,966b-977a; TDVIA 21,239-240). The scholar, known by his *shuhra* Ibn al-Wardî, was a productive author, a poet and a Sufi mystic.

Ibn al-Wardî was born in 691/1292 in a place called Ma'arrat al-Nu'mān in northern Syria whence he has been called al-Ma'arrî. He claimed descent from the caliph Abū Bakr and was therefore also known as al-Bakrî and al-Qurashî. He alludes to the nobility of his descent in verse 45 of his *Lāmiyya*.

He studied law, tafsîr and philology in Ḥamāt, Damascus and Ḥalab, under various renowned teachers such as the theologian and jurist Taqî al-Dīn Ibn Taymiyya and he became the disciple of a number of Sufi Shaykhs who included, i.a. Sharaf al-Dīn al-Bārizî and Abs ibn 'Isā al-Sarjāwî (TDVIA 21,239). For some time he worked as a judge in Aleppo, Manbij and Shayzar, the latter famous for its castle, in which function he attained such esteem that, while he served in Aleppo, he was dubbed the *Faqîh Ḥalab*. However, he eventually abandoned his duties as a qadi in order to pursue a career in *taṣawwuf*, to train novices and to write books. He died in Ḥalab from an epidemic of the plague which in 749/1349 caused the death of thousands of people.

5.3.2 Al-Lāmiyya

Among his works¹⁶⁵ the *Lāmiyya*, written in the Ramal-metre, with rhyme in -l, is one of the best-known. The poem was composed as an admonition directed to his

¹⁶⁵ Brockelmann lists as many as 15 (GAL 2,176-77 S 2,174-75) titles of works authored by Ibn al-Wardî which include a diwan of his poetry, two more didactic poems, tracts on grammar, law, mysticism and history as well as dream interpretation.

The second didactic poem which Ibn al-Wardî composed is entitled *al-Tuḥfa al-Wardiyya* or *al-Urjūza (al-Manzūma) al-Wardiyya* and it treats grammar in 152 or 153 verses (in the two manuscripts listed in Ahlwardt's catalogue, no. 6703, 6704, resp.). The text of the *Urjūza* (pp. 29-40) was published as a (hand-written) doctoral dissertation by Rudolf Habicht (Abich) of Namislovija (then Namslau in Lower Silesia near Oppeln/Opole, today: Namysłow), Breslau: Grass, in 1891 (*Donum Wardianum: Carmen didacticum de Linguae Arabicae Grammatica etc. Lapide pictum a M. Doeringio Vratislaviae a.D. 1891*); the text is preceded by an introduction and description of 9

5184-215

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son, and, indicating its function, it carries the alternative title *Naṣīhat* or *Waṣīyat al-ikhwān wa-murshidat al-khillān*. The text of the *Lāmiyya* has been printed several times and translated into French, German, Turkish and Hindustani (cf. GAL 2,17,13 S 2,174f.). The French translations are: 1. Ishaq Cattan, *Lamiat el Ouardi*. In: *Revue Tunisienne de l'Institut de Carthage*, 1900, and 2. Albert Raux, *La Moallaka de Zohair suivie de la Lamiyya d'Ibn al-Wardî*, Alger 1905 (cf. GAL S 2,174); the German: Joel Schleifer, *Die Lamija des Ibn al-Wardî. Ein arabisches Lehrgedicht*, Wien 1902. On the text see also TDVIA 21,239,2.

5.3.2.1 Commentaries

The *Lāmiyya* has become the object of commentaries as well as of versifications of various types such as *takhmīs* and *tashfīr* (cf. TDVIA 21,239,c). An amplification of the poem into stanzas of five verses each was made by one Yūsuf al-Maghribî (d. 1019/1609; GAL 2,285 S 2,394-95) of which VOHD XXXVII4 no. 168 is one manuscript, dated 1082/1672 and copied by one 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Fayyūmî.

Al-Wardî's commentators include Abū al-Makārim Najm al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Ghazzî al-'Āmirî al-Dimashqî al-Shāfi'î (d. 1061/1651; GAL 2,176,1,3,b S 2,174; Kaḥḥāla 11,288) whose commentary is entitled *al-Tuḥfa al-nadiyya* (manuscripts are BSB Cod.arab. 1635 = VOHD XVIIIB9 no. 301, with 24 folio pages; GAL 2,176,1,3,b S 2,174; Princeton (Mach) no. 4170).

manuscripts (pp. 1-28) and followed by "lectiones variantes" of the said Mss. (pp. 41ff.) and by a vita of Ibn al-Wardî taken from the Rifa'iyya Ms. no. 74 of Leipzig (p. 27). The poem on grammar had been commented upon by the author himself, in 741/1341 (cf. Ahlwardt, no. 6703), who entitled it *al-Nafḥa al-Wardiyya fi l-Tuḥfa al-Wardiyya* or *Sharḥ al-Tuḥfa al-Wardiyya*. Ibn al-Wardî apologizes for the brevity of his *Sharḥ* by comparing it with a star which the eyes wrongly consider to be small. This however - he explains - is due to the limitations of the human eye rather than being the fault of the star. A copy of the commentary is included in BSB Cod.arab. 2579, a manuscript of two parts made in Egypt, namely Cairo, and in Ṣa'id, i.e. Upper Egypt, resp. The *Tuḥfa al-Wardiyya* was widely disseminated and studied even in West Africa (cf. Hall 2011, 122). As for the second grammatical work included in Cod.arab. 2579 and the dating thereof (11/17th c.), see the description in my third Catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts of the BSB Munich.

A third didactic poem authored by Ibn al-Wardî, dedicated to the study of (Shāfi'î) law, is a versification entitled *Bahjat al-Ḥāwî* made of *al-Ḥāwî l-ṣaghîr fi l-fatāwî* of the Sufî 'Abd al-Ghaffār b. 'Abd al-Karîm al-Qazwîni (d. 665/1266; GAL 1,494-5). The poem, also known as *al-Bahja al-Wardiyya* (GAL 2,176,10), which includes additions to the versified tract (*wa-hiya nazmuh ma'a ziyādāt 'alayh*; Ibn Ḥajar, *Mu'jam*, no. 1821) is mentioned among the works studied by Ibn Ḥajar al-'Asqalānî in his *Mu'jam* (loc. cit).