

## NOTES AND COMMUNICATIONS

### A WORK OF IBN AL-KALBĪ ON THE ARAB PENINSULA

The list of the works of Ibn al-Kalbī recorded by Aḥmad Zakī Pasha (Ibn al-Kalbī, *Kitāb al-aṣnām*, Cairo, 1924, p. 73, no. 57) contains a work *Kitāb Ghuzayya* (correctly: *Kitāb Ghaziyya*; see Yāqūt, *Muʿjam al-udabāʾ*, ed. Aḥmad Farīd Rifāʿī, Cairo, n.d., xix, 290, l. 1); Aḥmad Zakī remarks that Ghuzayya is a well-known tribe. The title of the work seems to indicate that it deals with the tradition and stories about the tribe.

The name of the book was, however, transmitted erroneously and it seems that the error crept very early into the copied book of Ibn Nadīm's *Fihrist*. The correct name of the book is recorded in the MS of al-Ḥusayn b. ʿAlī b. al-Ḥasan al-Kātib, known as al-Wazīr al-Maghribī (see *GAL*, Suppl., I, 600-1), *Adab al-khawāṣṣ* (MS Brussa, Ḥusayn Ḥelebi, 85b) in a significant passage in which one of the meanings of the root 'arb' is discussed (fols. 38b-39b). Al-Wazīr al-Maghribī quotes an opinion that 'arba denotes the Arab peninsula and records a passage from Ibn al-Kalbī's book 'Arba (so vowelled) confirming this opinion:

*fa-min al-shāhidi ʿalā anna ʿarbata ismu jazīrati ʿl-ʿarabi mā anshadahu  
hishāmūn al-kalbīyyu fī kitābihi ʿl-musammā ʿarbata li-abī ṭālibin ʿammi  
ʿl-nabīyyi ṣallā ʿllāhu ʿalayhi wa-ʿalā ālihi. . . .<sup>1</sup>*

*wa-ʿarbatu arḍun lā yuḥillu ḥarāmahā: min al-nāsi ghayru ʿl-shautariyyi  
ʿl-qunābili.<sup>2</sup>*

Al-Wazīr al-Maghribī gives the explanation of the meanings of *shautarī* and *qunābil*<sup>3</sup> and differs with the opinion of Ibn al-Kalbī that 'arba—according to the quoted verse—denotes the Arab peninsula. In his opinion 'arba in the verse quoted by Ibn al-Kalbī denotes Mecca. 'But Hishām (i.e. Ibn al-Kalbī) knows better'<sup>4</sup> remarks al-Wazīr al-Maghribī respectfully at the end of the passage.

Al-Wazīr al-Maghribī may indeed be trusted in his information about genealogy and about the works of Ibn al-Kalbī. He had a profound knowledge of *nasab* which is attested by his book *al-Īnās bi-ʿilmi ʿl-ansāb* (British Museum,

<sup>1</sup> The author gives a detailed pedigree of Abū Ṭālib: . . . *wa-ismuhu ʿAbd Manāf b. ʿAbd al-Muṭṭalib (wa-ismuhu Shayba) b. Hāshim (wa-ismuhu ʿAmr) b. ʿAbd Manāf (wa-ismuhu ʿl-Mughīra) b. Quṣayy (wa-ismuhu Zayd) b. Kilāb b. Murra b. Kaʿb b. Luʿayy b. Ghālīb b. Fīhr b. Mālik b. al-Naḍr (wa-huwa jimāʿu Quraysh, man laysa min wuldi ʿl-Naḍr fa-laysa min Quraysh) b. Kināna b. Khuzayma b. Mudrika (wa-ismuhu ʿAmr) b. al-Yās b. Muḍar b. Nizār b. Maʿadd b. ʿAdnān.*

<sup>2</sup> See the verse in Yāqūt's *Muʿjam al-buldān*, s.v. 'araba with the hemistich:

*min al-nāsi illā ʿl-laudhaʿiyyu ʿl-ḥulāḥilu*

and see *L'A*, s.v. 'arb with the hemistich as in Yāqūt's *Muʿjam*; but *L'A*, s.v. *qnbil*, the hemistich is recorded as in *Adab al-khawāṣṣ*.

<sup>3</sup> A *rajaz* verse of Abū Ghālīb al-ʿIjlī is quoted:

*Banī Kulaybīn sāqakum jaddun shaqiyy:*

*Ḥattā ramākum ʿinda āṣāli ʿl-ʿashiyy:*

*Bi-muṭraḥammīn fī ʿl-shabābi shautariyy.*

<sup>4</sup> . . . *wa-anā arā anna hādhā ʿl-bayta yadullu ʿalā ghayri mā ʿstashhada bihi ʿalayhi Hishāmūn li-annahu yadullu ʿalā Makkata Jaqā, wa-Hishāmūn aʿrafu.*

MS Or. 3620).<sup>5</sup> His quotations, glosses, and remarks prove that he had a vast erudition in Jāhiliyya tradition and that he was a connoisseur of Jāhili poetry. His immense knowledge of *nasab* is evident in his detailed pedigrees given in the recorded stories of *Adab al-khawāṣṣ*. His esteem for Ibn al-Kalbī and his keen interest in his works is attested by the comments and notes recorded on his authority in the margin of the MS of *Kitāb al-aṣnām*.<sup>6</sup>

It is evident that the work of Ibn al-Kalbī referred to by Ibn al-Nadīm in his *Fihrist* is *Kitāb 'Arba* not *Kitāb Ghaziyya*. The cause of the error is obvious: the slight graphical difference between غزبية and عربة which led to the clerical error. The quotations recorded on the authority of Ibn al-Kalbī in Yāqūt's *Mu'jam al-buldān*<sup>7</sup> are with all probability derived from his *Kitāb 'Arba*, a book obviously dealing with the Arab peninsula.

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<sup>5</sup> The note of the editor Aḥmad Farīd Rifā'ī in Ibn Khallikan's *Wafayāt* (v, 39, n. 3): *huwa kitābun fī 'l-muḥādārat wa 'l-adab* is erroneous.

<sup>6</sup> See *al-Aṣnām*, 26-7.

<sup>7</sup> s.v. *'Araba* Beirut, 1957, iv, 97a, 97b; see the verses of Ibn Munqidh, and Abū Sufyān al-Aklubī (pp. 97, 98) in *Adab al-khawāṣṣ*, fol. 39b f. (On Abū Sufyān al-Aklubī see al-Sam'ānī, *al-Ansāb*, ed. al-Mu'allimī, Hyderabad, 1962, i, p. 337, n. 1.)