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Encyclopaedia Writing

Please find enclosed my encyclopaedia writing. As required, the writing format was very simple and clear, based on short sentences and simple vocabulary. I have decided to present the life of an unknown scholar in the western literature: Ibn Bari.

Ibn-Bâri Al-Tazî

Summary and Keywords

Known as the greatest scholar in the science of Tadjwîd in Morocco, Ibn-Bâri Al Tazî left a lasting impression through his deep knowledge since his life up to now. Ibn-Bâri is also called "the imam of Quran reciters of Morocco". Up to now, his literary work is still considered as one of the best references in Warsh teaching. He also left behind him many works in Arabic grammar (Nahu) and Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh).

Keywords: Tadjwîd, Quran, Warsh, Qirā'a, Qasida, Rasm.

Biography

Abū Ḥasan 'Alī b. Muḥammad b. 'Alī b. Muḥammad b. Ḥusayn b. Bâri was born in Taza, a little town of the Moroccan middle atlas on the 7th/13th centuryⁱ. Inheriting and spreading the psalmody tradition of that region. He started his education by learning by heart the Holy Quran and in important number of religious referential books and poems (Qasā'id) when he was youngⁱⁱ. Quickly, his teachers saw in him an extreme faculty in memorizing and understanding complex principles very easily. He stayed at Taza during his childhood, then he entered in the circle of the students of Cheikh Alī Al-Charychiⁱⁱⁱ.

After his studies, he went to Fez to become a lawyer and then a teacher in the University of Al Qarawiyyin in Fez. At Fez, his high level of knowledge and education made him noticed and attracting. He then became the scribe and teacher of the actual local sultan son: Abu Sa'id Al Marini. Historians differed on the year of this death, some of them said on 730h, some others claimed on 733h. He died at Fez and then was buried in Taza.

Ibn-Bâri inheritance in the Warsh recitation:

As mentioned in the prophetic narration (Ḥadīth)^{iv}, the Quran was revealed through seven different types of recitations (Qirā'at). These recitations quietly differ one from another. The main difference between them occurs on the pronunciation and some psalmody rules. The meaning remains the same and each recitation is ruled by several specific principles and norms^v. Warsh^{vi} recitation is known as the most difficult recitation^{vii}, some scholars claimed that the recitation of Warsh was chivalric and uplifting.

Warsh recitation is also very sophisticated and taught in mainly two domains, the art of drawing or calligraphy (rasm) and the specific rules of recitation (ahkaamu Tadjweed). In warsh, the same word can be written through several ways. For instance, the word "rivers" is written always with the same writing except in Surah 13. In the recitation, Warsh is the Qirā'a which has the most important number of rules and principles of psalmody. Some of them remain very difficult to teach^{viii}

In Western and North Africa, Warsh recitation has established itself over time as the main used recitation^{ix}. As this recitation was difficult, learning, practicing and then teaching all these rules became a very difficult challenge in this area. For levelling this challenge and issue, many tools have been implemented and introduced. Calligraphy has been taught through wooden planks, these planks were used in order to help students to learn calligraphy by practicing^{xxi}. This method is still used and popular in many countries in North Africa, more especially in Morocco and Mauritania.

The second tool used was the scientific and theological poems called *Ḳaṣa'id*. These poems contain all the major and most important rules of a specific domain in Islamic science condensed in a few verses. The complexity of these poems lies in the fact that the poem needs to be both simple and short on the first hand and thorough and sufficient on the second hand. The more the *Ḳaṣida* will be simple the more it will be considered as helpful and requested by students and the more it will be sufficient the more teachers and scholars will appreciate it. A third complexity remains on the writing of the poem itself. Finding a good syntax compliant with the Arabic rules of poetry require a very high level of knowledge in Arabic literature.

Ibn Bâri wrote a complete *Ḳaṣida* called the stored pearls in the fundamentals of the Nafi' recitations. On the Nafi' recitations which involve the Warsh one. This poem has been considered from its beginning up to now as the reference on Warsh explanation. So far, it is still used for explaining and teaching the Warsh recitation. This poem has been officially explained and detailed by more than fifty scholars in as many books.

As mentioned below on the bibliography. Ibn Bâri wrote also a lot of publications and books on the Quranic recitations, however, this poetry remains as his most important work, his biggest achievement

Bibliography:

- Resume of the Explanation of "Al Idaah" of Ibn Al Rabee Al Muqaree.
- Explanation of "Al Watha'iq" of Al Gharnaty
- The efficient in the offers and rhymes
- The gather of roses and the benefit of the fruits
- Explanation of the poem "Al Fara'id" by Al Awrati.
- The rules in the recitation of Warsh and Qaloun.
- The stored pearls in the fundamentals of the Nafi' recitations.

Further Reading:

Melchert Christopher (2000). "Ibn Mujahid and the Establishment of Seven Qur'anic Readings". Studia Islamica (91): 5–22.

The Walking Qur'an: Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa (Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks, Rudolph T. Ware III, 2104

Notes:

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- ⁱ The allowance for successors to discover the story of the predecessors, Al Hafnawi, 1906, vol. 2, p. 212
- ⁱⁱ "Ibn Bari At Tazi, the Imam of Moroccan recitators" Muhammad Ibn Ahmad Al Amraani
- ⁱⁱⁱ The sufficiency for the seeker to discover the ones who are not mentioned on the brocade, Ahmed Baba At Tunboukty, 2000, p.347
- ^{iv} Saheeh Muslim, hadeeth n°1355
- ^v The Seven Qira'at of the Qur'an, Aisha Bawley
- ^{vi} Warsh Definition on Brill Library: https://referenceworks-brillonline-com.ezproxy.uwtsd.ac.uk/entries/encyclopaedia-of-islam-2/warsh-SIM_7875?s.num=0&s.f.s2_parent=s.f.book.encyclopaedia-of-islam-2&s.q=warsh
- ^{vii} The Art of Reciting the Qur'an by Kristina Nelson, American University in Cairo Press (Cairo, NY), 2001.
- ^{viii} Holy Qur'an speech recognition system Imaalah checking rule for warsh recitation Bilal Yousfi ; Akram M. Zeki, 2017
- ^{ix} Melchert, Christopher (2000). "Ibn Mujahid and the Establishment of Seven Qur'anic Readings". *Studia Islamica* (91): 5–22.
- ^x Extract of video of students writing Quran on the wooden planks: ما السر العجيب في تحفيظ القرآن الكريم من الألواح الخشبية في المغرب؟
- ^{xi} The longue durée of Quran schooling, society, and state in Senegambia, Rudolph T. WareIII