The stories of the Prophets by Ibn Muṭarrif al-Ṭarafī

Ibn-Muṭarrif al-Ṭarafī

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Preface
This book contains the edition, with introduction and notes, of the Qīṣāṣ al-anbiyāʾ of Ibn Muṭarrif al-Ṭarafi, taken from my PhD dissertation presented in 1996 at the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples, titled Le Qīṣāṣ al-anbiyāʾ di Ṭarafi. This dissertation contained a detailed introduction to the qīṣāṣ al-anbiyāʾ genre and to Ṭarafi and his work, an edition of the Arabic text from the two extant manuscripts, annotations on the text, an Italian translation and, finally, a bibliography. Parts of the dissertation have been already published, such as the Italian translation, and a few pages from the introduction which have been included in my monograph I profeti biblici nella tradizione islamica. The Arabic text published here reproduces that included in the dissertation with a few amendments, while the annotations have been rewritten and translated into English, with the addition of more recent references. The first two paragraphs of the introduction are taken from my article “The Qīṣāṣ al-anbiyāʾ of Ibn Muṭarrif al-Ṭarafi: Stories of the prophets from al-Andalus”, published in al-Qanṭara. I wish to express my gratitude to the editors and publishers of al-Qanṭara who consented to the reproduction of these sections. The third and fourth paragraphs of the introduction are completely rewritten versions of what appeared in my PhD dissertation.

Many people and institutions have contributed to the completion of my doctorate studies as well to the creation of the text published here. I wish to firstly mention Giuseppina Igonetti for her constant assistance during the preparation of this work. At the same time I also wish to acknowledge the assistance of the professors of the Dipartimento di Studi e Ricerche su Africa e Paesi Arabi of the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples where I carried out most of my research, especially for their help in the acquisition of the materials. With regard to the acquisition of the Esorial manuscript of the Qīṣāṣ al-anbiyāʾ of Ṭarafi I am indebted to M. Fierro and the C.S.I.C. of Madrid. I am also indebted to the Lady Davis Fellowship Trust which granted me a scholarship to study under the supervision of M.J. Kister at the Hebrew University in the academic year 1993-94. Finally, I would like to thank all those who discussed the

1 – Al-Ṭarafi, Storie dei profeti, il Melangolo, Genova, 1997.
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