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كاي اورنبري

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THE OFFSPRING OF FĀṬĪMA
DISPERSAL AND RAMIFICATION

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and
with an introduction
by
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A B B R E V I A T I O N S

| | |
|-------|---|
| BSOAS | Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies |
| IJMES | International Journal of Middle East Studies |
| JAOS | Journal of the American Oriental Society |
| JRAS | Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society |
| MEJ | The Middle East Journal |
| MW | The Muslim World |
| RH | Revue Historique |
| ZDMG | Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft |

P R E F A C E

From the westernmost to the easternmost corners of the Islamic world we come across people and clans tracing descent from the Prophet of Islam through his daughter Fâṭima. We may be of a different opinion as to the legitimacy of the variously presented genealogies, but the influence of these people who consider themselves direct descendants from the Prophet, and the esteem they enjoy, have been and still are great in the Islamic world.

In this work composed of genealogical tables an attempt has been made to trace the stages of these descendants of Fâṭima during Islam's early centuries, both from the point of view of their geographical distribution and of those tribes which regard them as their ancestors. The information has been gathered from various well-known Islamic genealogical works as well as from one lesser-known manuscript which specifically describes descendants of Fâṭima's in North Africa. The sources used are:

- al-Sayyid Aḥmad, known as Ibn ^cInaba al-aḡghar, al-Dâ'ûdî al-Ḥasanî: *^cUmdat al-ṭâlib fî ansâb âl Abî Ṭâlib*. Bombay n.d.
- Ibn Ḥazm: *Jamharat ansâb al-^carab*. Ed. ^cAbd al-Salâm Muḥammad Hârûn. Cairo 1962.
- al-Zubairî: *Nasab Quraish*. Ed. E. Lévi-Provençal. Cairo 1953.
- Abû al-^cAbbâs Aḥmad ibn al-Shaikh ^cAbdallâh al-Birkawî: *al-^citibâr wal-tawârîkh al-akhbâr*. MS in private possession.
- Ibn al-Kalbî: *Jamharat al-nasab*. Reduced to tables and notes by W. Caskel and G. Strenziok. 2 vols. Leiden 1966.
- ^cUmar Kaḥḥâla: *Mu^cjam qabâ'il al-^carab al-qadîma wal-ḥadîtha*. 3 vols. Damascus 1949.
- al-Sam^cânî: *Kitâb al-ansâb*. Facsimile ed. D.S. Margoliouth. Leiden 1912.

The sources differ from each other in detail somewhat, though this is quite natural in view of the personal interests which these kind of genealogies comprise, but what they say is very much the same in the main

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features. The work in hand would have swollen to quite unreasonable proportions if all differences of opinion had been noted; thus only those differences of the most central people with regard to their descendants have been mentioned in notes.

My sincere thanks to the interlibrary loan department of Helsinki University library for managing to obtain material that was particularly difficult to trace; to Mike Vollar for translating and checking the English; and above all to Irmeli Perho who did a magnificent job with often seemingly hopeless genealogies, typing them up in manageable form.

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