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## Five Rağaz Collections

(al-Aghlab al-‘Iğlī, Bashīr ibn an-Nikth,  
Ġandal ibn al-Muthannā, Ḥumayd al-Arqaṭ,  
Ghaylān ibn Ḥurayth)

Materials for the Study of Rağaz Poetry II.

Compiled and edited  
by  
Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila



HELSINKI 1995

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## PREFACE

The present book presents the collections of five raġaz poets from the Umayyad period, ranging from a minor poet (Bashīr ibn an-Nikth), previously almost unknown as a rāġiz, to the earliest remarkable rāġiz (al-Aghlab), considered by many to be the father of the genre of long urġūza, and three other important ruġġāz (Ĝandal ibn al-Muthannā, Ḥumayd al-Arqaṭ and Ghaylān ibn Ḥurayth). These collections will, I hope, elucidate the early history of the genre and its development, and draw attention to poets hitherto little known; especially the rôle of Ghaylān ibn Ḥurayth has much new light shed on it through the present collection. The obscure poet<sup>1</sup> becomes an early master of ṭardīya, probably imitated by Abū Nuwās half a century later.<sup>2</sup>

As the material of the present collections is even more fragmentary than the material in MSRP I (the Dīwān of Abū'n-Naġm al-ʿIġlī), it is inevitable that the reconstructions of the poems and the order of the fragments in them are even more conjectural than in MSRP I; in several cases I have not even endeavoured to organize the few extant lines in an overall scheme, and the numbering of the verses has to be taken only as a practical way of referring to them. Similarly, the question of the attribution of the verses is often more difficult to solve than in the case of better known poets, and one has often to resort to an external consideration in weighing the evidence (e.g. number of sources attributing the verse to an author). It is my sincerest hope that as the present series of MSRP grows, there will be a new means of assessing the internal evidence (e.g. style, use of vocabulary) which will in its turn help to correct the wrong attributions made in the series.

As the book contains several raġaz collections, I have adopted the following abbreviations (in the Index and the internal references) for the individual collections:

- A = al-Aghlab al-ʿIġlī
- B = Bashīr ibn an-Nikth
- G = Ĝandal ibn al-Muthannā
- H = Ḥumayd al-Arqaṭ
- GH = Ghaylān ibn Ḥurayth

The third volume of MSRP will, *in shā'a llāh*, contain the collections of the arāġiz of Abū Muḥammad al-Faq'asī (al-Ḥadhlamī), Manzūr ibn Marthad, Dukayn al-Fuqaymī and Dukayn ad-Dārimī, Himyān ibn Quḥāfa and some less important poets, corrections and additions to MSRP I and—inevitably—to MSRP II, as well as notes, additions and corrections to the raġaz poems of ʿUmar ibn Laġa' and az-Zafayān, published by Yaḥyā al-Ĝabbūrī and Ahlwardt respectively.

All the symbols and abbreviations used in this book are, if not otherways stated, the same as in MSRP I (see MSRP I, p. 8-9). The most important symbols may be repeated here:

<sup>1</sup> Ghaylān is not even mentioned in the standard histories of Arabic literature, e.g., Blachère, *Histoire*; Nallino, *Littérature*; Ullmann, *Untersuchungen* (chapter *Historischer Abriss*) etc.

<sup>2</sup> See my notes to GH no. 3 and 7.

- \* = attributed in the source to the poet whose verses are being collected.
- + = the verses are given in the source as following each other (but they are not the consecutive verses in the edition)
- / = the verses are given in the source in the same place and they are indicated as belonging to the same poem, but not as consecutive verses.

**bold face** indicates the source according to which the verses are given in the edition.

In the Arabic text, a line of five asterisks (\* \* \* \* \*) signifies the boundary of two unconnected fragments. Two lines of five asterisks are used at the end of the poem before the »left over« verses to which I have been unable to securely assign any place within the poem. They have been given a running number but it should be emphasized that their number does not have anything to do with their place in the poem.

Once again, my pleasant duty is to thank Mr. Kaj Öhrnberg, Phil. lic., and Prof. Heikki Palva for the books that have been at my disposal due to their benevolence. Mr. Michael Cox, Theol. lic., has checked the language of the manuscript, and Mr. Harry Halén, Phil. lic., has edited the manuscript for print; to both go my warmest thanks.

This book is dedicated to my daughters Maria and Laura.

JAAKKO HÄMEEN-ANTTILA

