Mūsā Ibn 'Azra

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by al-Ka'im bi-amr Allah (?). Encouraged by the desert and such territories as remained under his control, a short-lived: within a few months, al-Ka'im's forces succeeded in regaining Fas (325/935). His triumph was exceeded by his son 'Abd Allah (d. 360/971), the Idrisids—now re-established in the Rif and northern Morocco with new loyalties—played a prominent part, that after a life of wandering through the western Morocco with new loyalties—played a prominent part, that after a life of wandering through the western Morocco with new loyalties, and after the destruction of the Jewish community. Most of the members of the Ibn Ezra family left the city. Moses ibn Ezra, however seems to have remained in Granada for a while; perhaps he did not have the necessary funds to flee. Finally, he succeeded in escaping to Christian Spain (Castile). He did not return to his native city and considered himself in exile for the rest of his life, although his family and friends invited him to return there. We know little about the conflicts which he had with his family; he had some disagreements, it seems, with his brother Yosef and with his own children.

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MUSA b. 'AZRA — MUSA b. NUŞAYR

Musa and his troops thereupon entered on a career of successful conquest which ended in the consolidation of Muslim power in Ifriqiya and in the conquest of the rest of North Africa and of Spain. Here we give only the most essential details. From his nephew 'Abd Allah and Marwan he sent successful expeditions against Zaglawî and Sadji'na (?) and returned the Hawwâra, the Zanâta and the Kutâmâ (q.v.). The Berbers taking refuge in the west of the Maghrib, Mûsä decided to bring them to subjection; confirmed in his office by 'Abd al-Malik, 'Abdar-Rahmân II continued his advance to Tangier and the Sûs (q.v.) and returned to Ifriqiya, leaving as his deputy in the Maghrib his freedman Târik (q.v.). The latter in 92/710-11 invaded Spain, Mûsä, anxious about it and at the same time jealous of the progress made by his lieutenant, himself crossed into Al-Andalus, leaving his son 'Abd Allah as governor of Ifriqiya. Landing at Algeciras in Ramadan 93/June-July 712 with his other son 'Abd al-'Azîz, he refused to take the same route as Târik and taking the towns of Sidona (Shadhâna [q.v.]), Carmona, Seville and Merida, he was on his way to Toledo when Târik came to meet him and was bitterly reproached by his master. Musa Ibn Nusayr b. Nuṣayr then continued his march and completely subjugated the north of Spain from Saragossa to Navarre. In 95/713-14 he left Spain with immense booty, leaving his son 'Abd al-'Azîz as governor; he reached Kayrânân at the end of the year and continued by land to Syria in a triumphal procession of Arab chiefs and Berber and Spanish prisoners. The caliph al-Walîd, then near his end, urged him to hurry while his brother and heir-presumptive Sulaymân, eager to appropriate the vast wealth brought by Mûsä, tried to delay him. He arrived in Damascus shortly before the death of al-Walîd, and when Sulaymân assumed power in 96/715, he at once displayed his hatred of the conqueror. Regarding Mûsä b. Nuṣayr's stay in Syria before his death in 98/716-17, the Arab historians give a number of details which are obviously of quite a legendary character.

Bibliography: All the Muslim chroniclers who have described the conquest of North Africa and Spain in their works have dealt with Mûsä b. Nuṣayr at fair length, but with details of a more legendary than historical nature. Moreover, these historians have copied each other, and in this connection one should consult the study made by A. Gateau on the relationships between the various chronicles, in RT, xxv (1937), xxxiii—xxiv (1938), xxxviii—xl (1939) and lii (1942). Among the principal historians whose works are accessible, one may cite: Ibn 'Abd al-Hakam, Futdh Miir, ed. Torrey, New Haven 1922, ed.-partial tr. Gateau, Algiers, 2nd ed. 1948 (cf. R. Brunschwig, Ibn Abdallâhâkam et la conquête de l'Afrique du Nord, in AIEO Alger, 8 [1942-7]); Ibn al-Kutaybi, l-Jâhâlah al-Andalus, ed. Ríbera, Madrid 1926; Akhâbâr maghribi', ed. tr. Lafuente y Alcantara, Madrid 1867; Ibn Djalâr, al-Usayl al-mughrib, i—ii, ed. G.S. Colin and E. Levi-Provençal, Leiden 1948-51; Ibn al-Ashraf Kâmirî, Lívi-Provençal, Nûsâyî 'an fath al-'Arab li 'l-Mughrib, in Sakûtât al-Muhamd al-Miṣri, ii (1937-1954), 223-4. There are biographical notices devoted to Mûsä b. Nuṣayr in Ibn Khallâkân, Wafâyât, i. 3 Abbâb, v, 318-29, no. 748; Ibn al-Faradhî, Tur'idh 'ulamâ' al-Andalus, no. 1545; Dâbbî, Bayqisayt al-muallamîn, ii, 1334; b. Nu'mân. The various chroniclers are not agreed as to the date of his appointment to the office, but it possibly took place in 79/698 or the following year.

orientation), with the metaphorical interpretation of the anthropomorphic passages about God in the Hebrew Scriptures, perhaps considering God in somewhat the same way as the Mu'tazila [q.v.] did earlier ("it follows that the metaphorical unitive unity of God that the Divine Essence cannot be comprehended by the human mind, but only described by metaphor"). The book contains some references to Arabic poetry. It is perhaps of interest in the light of recent research on the hâshâka and madâjam terminology in early works on Kûfî calligraphy. The Hadîdî has not yet been edited. Being part of the Sassoon collection, it came into the possession of the Israel National Library in 1976.

Moses ibn Ezra also composed some fifteen Hebrew muwashshâdât [qv.] in which he imitated Arabic examples, and adopted Arabic and Romance hâshâka.


MÚSÁ b. MAYMÚN, MAIMÔNIDES [see IBN MAYMÚN].

MÚSÁ b. NUŞAYR b. 'Abd al-Râhîm b. ZAYD b. Lâkimî (or ABâR-BAKÎ) ABî 'Abd al-Râhîm, conqueror of the western Maghrib and of Spain. He was born in 19/640; his father had been in the immediate entourage of Mu'ašîwîya [q.v.]. Músá was at first appointed by the caliph 'Abd al-Malik to collect the hâshâka at Makárâ, but having been suspected of embezzlement, he fled and took refuge with the caliph's brother, the governor of Egypt 'Abd al-'Azîz b. Marwân; the latter took Músá to Syria to the caliph, who fined him 100,000 dinàrîs. 'Abd al-'Azîz provided half of this sum for Músá and brought him to Egypt, where he gave him the governorship of Ifriqiya, which he had previously held with Hisân b. al-Nu'mân. The various chroniclers are not agreed as to the date of his appointment to the office, but it possibly took place in 79/698 or the following year.