Hailing the righteous king
A manuscript text for visitors to the Nağāšī

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Addis Ababa, 19 March 2014
Dias 1
The episode of the *hiğrā ilā al-Ḥabasa*

- Foundation myth of the Muslims of the Horn
- Directly linked to the Prophet
- Connected with the birth of Islam
- Preceeding the *hiğra* to Medina
Main historical sources on the Naḡāšī


Looking for Nağāšī
Looking for Nağāşī
Nägaš: the shrine of the Nağāšī

Main features

- Ziyārat al-Nağāšī
- Pilgrimage on the 10th of Muḥarram
- 10 Muḥarram: yawm ‘āšūrā’
- Particularly significant in shiite Islam
- Important in Harar

Addis Ababa, 19 March 2014
Dias 6
Nägaš: the shrine of the Nağāšī

Textual kit available:

- Two photocopies from al-Ṭabarī’s Ta’rīḥ:
- Letter of the Prophet Muḥammad to the Nağāšī
- Reply of the Nağāšī
- MS: a list of the Companions of the Prophet (Ṣaḥāba; men and women) who deceased in al-Ḥabaša and are buried in Nägaš
- MS: Salām to be read during the ziyārat al-Nağāšī
The letter of the Prophet to the Nağāšī

after al-Ṭabarī
The letter of the Nağāšī to the Prophet

after al-Ṭabarī

كتاب النجاشي إلى النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم
فكتب النجاشي إلى رسول الله (ص)

"بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

إلى محمد رسول الله من النجاشي الأحصمه بن أبحر سلم عليك يا نبي الله من الله ورحمة الله وبركاته لا إله إلا هو الذي هداي إلى الإسلام فقد بلغني كتابك يا رسول الله فيما ذكرت من أمر عيسى فنوربا السماء والأرض إن عيسى ما يزيد على ما ذكرت وقد عرفنا ما بعثت به إلينا وقرتنا بن عك وأصحابه وأشهد أنك رسول الله صادقا مصدقا وقد بادعت وبايعت ابن عك وأسلمت على يديه رب العالمين وفد بعثت إليك يا نبي الله بني أحرار بن الأحصمه بن أبحر فاني لا أملك إلا نفسي وإن شئت أن أتعبد فإني رسول الله فاني أشهد أن ما تقوله حق.

Addis Ababa, 19 March 2014
Dias 9
The list of the Companions of the Prophet buried at Nägaš

Nägaš, 2006
Salām ʿalā al-Nağāši

Addis Ababa, 19 March 2014
Dias 11

Nāgaš, 2006
The list of the Companions of the Prophet buried at Nägaş

- Coarse hand
- Copyist: not so well acquainted with Arabic writing
- Many orthography mistakes
- 15 names (10 men, 5 women)
The list of the Companions of the Prophet buried at Nägaş

Names

1) ‘Adī b. Nuḍla b. ‘Abd al-‘Uzzā (SN 1, 356; 3, 312, 314)
2) al-Muṭṭalib b. Azhar (SN 1, 291, 353; 3, 311)
3) Sufyān b. Ma’mar (SN 1, 355, SN 3, 311): he emigrated but went back to Arabia
4) ‘Urwā b. ‘Abd al-‘Uzzā (SN 3, 312, 314)
6) Ḥāṭīb b. al-Ḥāriṯ (SN 3, 311, 314)
7) ‘Amr b. Umayya (SN 3, 310, 313)
8) Ḥaṭṭāb b. al-Ḥāriṯ (brother of n. 6; SN 3, 311, 314)
9) Tulayb b. Azhar (brother of 2): he emigrated but it is disputed whether he died in Ḥabaṣa
10) Mūsā b. al-Ḥāriṯ (SN 3, 314-5)
11) Fāṭima bint Ṣafwān (SN 3, 308)
12) Ramla bint Abī ‘Awf (SN 3, 13)
13) ‘Āʾīsa bint al-Ḥāriṯ (SN 3, 14)
14) Zaynab bint al-Ḥāriṯ (SN 3, 15) Rābiṭa (or Rāyiṭa or Rayṭa) bint al-Ḥāriṯ (mother of 10, 13 and 14)
The list of the Companions of the Prophet buried at Nägaş

Elements to be clarified

- Written source base of the list: names not too famous
- The list is almost fully in agreement with the main written sources
- The clumsy writing points out to someone with a very low level of education
- Hypothesis:
  - oral tradition based on a previous written tradition
  - becoming written once more?
Salām ‘alā al-Naḡāṣī

Features

Attributed to ‘Umar Abrār
Structure of a typical salām text
• Model in the salām ‘alā al-nabī
• Salām ‘alā al-a‘īmma
Not a simple devotional text/complex underlying content
• Every line after al-salām ‘alā:
  • recounts an episode of the story of al-Naḡāṣī;
  • is a quotation from a written source
Main sources

- al-Sīra al-nabawiyya of Ibn Hišām: “lā yuẓlam ‘indah”; refuses of the gifts of Qurays; sends gifts to the Prophet; paid the dowry on behalf of the Prophet;

- al-Sīra al-ḥalabiyya by ‘Ali b. Burhan al-Din al-Halabi “man nazara ila hawla’” and his putting the letter of the Prophet on his eyes and saying Habasa will be in prosperity so far this letter remains here»

- Tafsir al-bagawi and asbab al-nuzul by al-wahidi Al-Imran 3: 68 awla al-nas bi-Ibrahim:

- Tafsir al-Bagawi: also for the reading of surat al-‘ankabut and al-rum

- Indirect reference to Cor. 5:83

- Ibn Kaṭīr, Bidāya wa nihāya Law la ma ana fih min al-mulk
Salām ʿalā al-Naḡāšī

Main sources

- al-Sīra al-nabawiyya of Ibn Hišām: “lā yuẓlam ‘indah”; refuses of the gifts of Qurayš; sends gifts to the Prophet; paid the dowry on behalf of the Prophet;

- al-Sīra al-ḥalabiyya by ‘Alī b. Burhān al-Dīn al-Ḥalabi (d. 1567): “Man naẓara ilā hawla’ al-raḥāṭ”; the Naḡāšī putting the letter of the Prophet on his eyes and saying “Al-Ḥabaša will be in prosperity so far this letter remains here”

- Asbāb al-nuzūl by al-Wāḥidī (d. 1075) and Tafsīr al-Baģawī (d. 1122): Āl-‘Imrān 3: 68

- Tafsīr al-Baģawī is the source also for the reading of Sūrat al-‘ankabut and Sūrat al-rūm in front of the Naḡāšī

- Indirect reference to Cor. 5:83: “And when they listen to the revelation received by the Messenger, thou wilt see their eyes overflowing with tear”

- Ibn Kaṯīr (d. 1373), Bidāya wa nihāya: “Law la ma ana fih min al-mulk”
Assessment

- Complex text with a precise literary background
- Functions:
  - Devotional for ziyāra
  - Educational: teaching and diffusing knowledge about the righteous king, his deeds, his story
- Pilgrimage and pilgrimage texts as tools to spread the fundamentals of the faith among the common faithful (like: 'aqida, mawlid, 'ağamî literature)
- Connection between devotional and educational literature once more confirmed
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Addis Ababa, 19 March 2014
Dias 19