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DANIEL AND THE BOY CALEB

FRAGMENT OF AN ARABIC PSEUDEPIGRAPH

Study, critical edition & translation

YOUHANNA NESSIM YOUSSEF
JUAN PEDRO MONFERRER-SALA

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וְדָנִיֵּאל הֵבִין בְּכָל־חָזוֹן וַחֲלֹמוֹת

Daniel 1:17

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Foreword

The fragment edited here is part of a *membrum disjectum* composed of two different works: The first, a fragment about the history of Pentapolis (*al-Ḫams mudun*), and the second, the text under estudy: A fragmentary pseudepigraphic text of the story known as *Daniel et puero Caleb*, i.e. *Daniel and the boy Caleb*. The fragment was discovered by father Angelos al-Naqādī, who kindly sent us a digitised copy. These sheets come from a private collection in the region of Naqādah, on the west bank of the Nile, twenty five km north of Thebes.

The plural word pseudepigrapha is a technicism that comes from Greek ψευδής ("false") and ἐπιγραφή ("inscription", "subscription", "title") and is used to refer to those books in the Jewish and Christian tradition that have a false *inscriptio*, later replaced by the term *subscriptio*. This literary production, which encompasses diverse genres and varied narrative typologies, underwent a rich development during the period between the conquests undertaken by Alexander the Great (332-323 BC) and the end of the second Jewish War against Rome (132-135 CE), i.e. the time known as the the second Temple period. It was in those days that a luminous literature flourished around the figure of the prophet Daniel.

The figure of Daniel was the subject of a series of stories of which we have a number of examples that would form a Danielic cycle, which never formed part of the canonical text of Daniel. During the Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages there was a copious production of pseudepigraphic texts associated with or attributed to prophet Daniel, including Daniel's legends, the apocalypses, and the *prognostica*. Many of these texts were later translated into other languages.

Among all these works is the *Prayer of Nabonidus*, an Aramaic text that narrates how the last king of Babylon was afflicted by a disease for seven years in the city of Teman. The king, on confessing his sins, was helped by a Jewish exile. This texts of the *Prayer of Nabonidus* together with chapter 4 of the *Book of Daniel* are the two basic literary materials to which our Arabic pseudepigraph refers. It may be that the Arabic text comes from a lost Syriac original judging by the *Karšūnī* manuscripts that have survived.

Since the Arabic pseudepigraphic work *Daniel and the boy Caleb* remains unpublished, and since it is currently very difficult for researchers to have access to the fragment, we both have considered it appropriate to give an edition of the fragment with English translation and consequently to put it into the hands of colleagues who might be interested. We hope that this volume may be of interest to someone.

In autumn 2023

Melbourne & Córdoba
The Authors

Transliteration system

Consonants

أ	ʾ	ض	*ḍ*
ب	*b*	ط	*ṭ*
ت	*t*	ظ	*ẓ*
ث	*ṯ*	ع	ʿ
ج	*j*	غ	*ġ*
ح	*ḥ*	ف	*f*
خ	*ḫ*	ق	*q*
د	*d*	ك	*k*
ذ	*ḏ*	ل	*l*
ر	*r*	م	*m*
ز	*z*	ن	*n*
س	*s*	ه	*h*
ش	*š*	و	*w*
ص	*ṣ*	ي	*y*

Short vowels

ـُ	*u*
ـَ	*a*
ـِ	*i*

Long vowels

ـُو	*ū*
ـَا	*ā*
ـِي	*ī*

Tanwīn vowels	(ـٌ / ـًا / ـٍ) *un*, *an*, *in*
Tā' marbūṭah	(ة / ـة) *–ah* / *–at* (*iḍāfah*)
Alif maqṣūrah	(ـَى) *ā*
Alif mamdūdah	(ـَا) *ā*
Diphthongs	*aw* (ـَو) / *ay* (ـَي)

Introduction

ABBREVIATIONS

ABRL	*The Anchor Bible Research Library*
BEL	*Bibliotheca Ephemerides Liturgicae*
BJRL	*Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*
BSAC	*Bulletin de la Société d'Archéologie Copte*
BSGRT	*Bibliotheca Scriptorum Græcorum et Romanorum Teubneriana*
BWANT	*Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament*
CC	*Corpvs Christianorvm*
CCO	*Collectanea Christiana Orientalia*
CE	*Coptic Encyclopaedia*
CSCO	*Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium*
DDD	*Dictionary of Deities and Demons*
DI	*Der Islam*
DJD	*Discoveries in the Judaean Desert*
EAI. ED	*Études Arabes et Islamiques. Études et Documents*
EDNA	*Estudios de dialectología norteafricana y andalusí*
EI²	*Encyclopaedia of Islam (Second Edition)*
EPh	*Ekklesiastikos Pharos*
FO	*Folia Orientalia*
GCA	*A Grammar of Christian Arabic*
GCAL	*Geschichte der christlichen arabischen Literatur*
HUCA	*Hebrew Union College Annual*
IHC	*Islamic History and Civilization*
JBL.MS	*Journal of Biblical Literature. Monograph Series*
JECS	*The Journal of Eastern Christian Studies*
LAHR	*Late Antique History and Religion*
LM	*Le Muséon*
MEAH	*Miscelánea de Estudios Árabes y Hebraicos*
MIE	*Mémoires de l'Institut d'Égypte*
NS (PLO)	*Neue Serie (Porta Linguarum Orientalium)*
OCP	*Orientalia Christiana Periodica*
OrS	*Orientalia Suecana*
PIOL	*Publications de l'Institut Orientaliste de Louvain*
PJT	*Palestinian Jewish Texts (Pre-Rabbinic)*

PLO	*Porta Linguarum Orientalium*
PO	*Patrologia Orientalis*
R	*Recherches*
RSO	*Rivista degli Studi Orientali*
S	*Subsidia*
SA	*Scriptores Arabici*
SemAnt	*Semitica Antiqva*
SeT	*Studi e Testi*
SS	*Studia Sinaitica*
SSLL	*Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics*
SVTP	*Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha*
TED	*Translations of Early Documents*
TSQ	*Texts and Studies on the Qur'ān*
TUS	*Tabvlae in Vsvm Schcholarvm*