

ABSTRACT

Tasyīr and the projection of rays in Maghribī astrological texts

This thesis is divided into two complementary parts: a philological study, and a historical and scientific commentary.

The philological study constitutes the critical edition of four texts by Maghribī authors of the eleventh to fifteenth centuries: *al-Bāri‘ fī aḥkām al-nujūm wa-l-ṭawālī‘* by Ibn Abī-l-Rijāl (Tiaret, Algeria, ca. 965-1050); *al-Fuṣūl fī jam‘ al-uṣūl* by Ibn ‘Azzūz (d. Constantina, Algeria, 1354); *Šarḥ rajaz Ibn Abī-l-Rijāl* by Ibn Qunfuḍ (Constantina, Algeria, 1339-1407) and *al-Adwār fī tasyīr al-anwār* by al-Baqqār (fl. Fez, Morocco, ca. 1411-1418). These sources are unpublished; one of them, Ibn Abī-l-Rijāl, was the most influential astrologer in the Islamic West whose work spread widely in medieval Europe. The critical edition is based on a collation of fifteen manuscripts, most of them compiled during a research stay in the al-Hassania Library in Morocco.

Tasyīr and the projection of rays were techniques based on mathematical operations, which were used in medieval astrology to identify celestial influences. The edition and study of these sources helps to understand the history of Arabic science practised in the Maghrib in those centuries. We learn that Maghribī astrologers were aware of the scientific production in the Islamic East and West, both in their own times and in ancient times. They based their work on Eastern sources such as Ibn Hibintā or al-Qabīṣī; indeed we now have documentary proof of their use in the Maghrib. Their astrology goes back to the system of cycles attributed to Abū Ma‘šār in his book *al-Ulūf* (*The Thousands*); however, it has distinctive traits of its own, as it evolved into a practical discipline interested in the human being, and independent from the discipline practised in al-Andalus and under the influence of Ibn Abī-l-Rijāl’s work.