



Budapest march 16th 1909

My dear Macdonald, many thanks for your kind and so instructive letter of 25/II. Your remarks about Nabhus are striking of interest and I cannot but envy you for your experiences there. Never I had thought that a Nabhus-sheikh would have so friendly intercourse with a Christian's divine. But was he a Qadi? Do you remember? The Muslim fanaticism is a very strange matter. It will not hurt the humanity and the traditional duty of Islam. ^{This} holds good for an Arab (not for a Persian); he will never forget the great principle ﴿﴾ لا إله إلا الله. His religious fanaticism will attain other objects; heretic Muslims etc. Living in Egypt and Syria (Damasus was then renowned for the fanaticism of the common people) I never experienced fanatic outbursts of Muslim people against myself, although they knew that I belong to the People of the Book; and I had so many friends among theologians and laymen. Alas, with few exceptions, all left this world of frailty since that long time!

I read your Lectures with much pleasure! although there are many points where I cannot ^{share} ~~partake~~ your point de vue. In all, it is a masterly conceived and written book. I will try to review it in the Revue de l'Histoire des Religions, but not before the vacation (June). I am for the moment always occupied and troubled. I cannot work during the day-time, al-

my visitors interrupting my reading and writing attempts, reports to write for the University and our Academy, proof-sheets to revise for friends and answers to give to questions addressed to me weekly half days of research in books and notes. etc. etc.

I got your paper on ابن قتيبة and can give you an additional notice about this bel.-report. Nagāshū (lived at the end of the IV and the first quarter of V. century) writes in his Kitāb al-ridjāl (ed. Bombay)

١٠١٧: عبد الله بن أحمد بن حرب بن مهران بن

خالد بن النضر العدوي أبو فغان مشهور في أصحابنا

(vid. the Stāh) ولد شعر في الذوق وبنو مهران بن

كبير بالبصرة في عبد القيس شيعة عبد الله كتاب شعر

أبو طالب بن عبد الملك وأخباره كتاب طبقات الشعراء

وكتاب أشعار عبد القيس وأخبارها

The work about Abū Nawās, as you see, is not mentioned here; but on the other side it is interesting to know that ^{a. Haffar} he collected the epic poems of the father of 'Alī.

I have much to do this year with my teaching; but that will end in the middle of June. As soon as the beginning of May we will الله ان شاء الله move to the same place, where we passed the last summer, near the

town. Then I hope to can read a bull of new Oriental editions ~~postponed~~ for that time, among them the new edition of أهل القبلى, which I read about 28 years ago ~~for~~ in the Paris Ms. of the work, where I made my extracts, which I used in my various works.

I do not know, what will happen with the American Lectures. The "Notes" (I think the principal part of that work) are ready; the editor will begin to print, but I have not the strength and nervous ability to plunge me in a very complicated & proof-sheets-revision = misery. In the notes, principally in the chapters on dogmatics and sects, I give many new informations about some specialities. Would it not be the best, to leave that all as a "posthumous" work? My drawers are full of such papers and materials.

Next week I have to write the article, Biography ellat for Hastings. After having finished with it I will put on paper some remarks on Stic critic religious terminology p. e. جلائل; عقب < عقب - عقب etc. I cannot find in the books on Islam any satisfying exposition about these terms.

fundamental in Shi'itic theology. All our books
are based on Summitic sources, a valuable
exposition of Shi'itic ideas is lacking

I do not know what will be the fate of our
Encyclop. of Islam if we can not get some subven-
tion from America. You must find out some person
who could ~~write~~ open the purse of one of the
American Congresses in favour of our work.

It would be a pity if we were forced by lack
of means to put an end to the whole work
with the ~~close~~ close of "Littera K." One can
not say that this Encyclopedia is a work which
fills a gap in our literature. America has more
interest in Islamic matters as Denmark and
Belgium.

But now, I suppose, I tormented you enough
with my English. It is the fourth language I
used to-day in my correspondence (I wrote an
Arabic letter also) and you cannot wonder, when
I write in every language in equal bad manner.

My best compliments to Mrs. McDonald,

Yours faithfully Goldziher