Reading Avicenna's *Kitāb al-Šifā*' in the Ottoman World

The Circulation of the Work Within the School of As 'ad al-Yānyawī*

Silvia Di Vincenzo

As 'ad Ibn 'Alī Ibn 'Utmān al-Yānyawī (Yanyalı Esad Efendi, d. 1143/1730¹) was one of the most interesting intellectual figures of the first quarter of the eighteenth century, under the reign of Ahmed III. In spite of the interest aroused by his intellectual activity, still much is left to know about his philosophical production. Born in Ioannina (the Ottoman Yanya), in north-western Greece, he started his education under the guide of Mehmed Efendi, Mufti of Yanya, and of İbrahim Efendi, before moving to Constantinople in 1098/1686, where he was appointed as a professor in 1111/1699. He took part in the translation project that started under the patronage of the Grand Vizier Damad İbrâhim Paşa of Nevşehir: his main interest was with the Arabic translations of philosophical and scientific texts, and in 1721 he was commissioned to provide a new translation of Aristotle's works.² At that stage of

^{*} The present research stems from the survey on the manuscript tradition of Avicenna's *Kitāb al-Šifā* 'within the framework of the ERC Project: "PhiBor – Philosophy on the Border of Civilizations and Intellectual Endeavours: Towards a Critical Edition of the Metaphysics (Ilāhiyyāt of Kitāb al-Šifā') of Avicenna (Ibn Sīnā)"; my gratitude goes to the principal investigator of the project, Amos Bertolacci, for providing me with all the reproductions of the manuscripts concerning this work. I wish also to thank Maroun Aouad, director of the ERC Project: "PhiC – Philosophy in Context: Arabic and Syriac manuscripts in the Mediterranean," and his collaborators for their precious support in the research of the manuscripts. Among the collaborators of the PhiC Project, I wish to thank particularly Teymour Morel for the fruitful discussions on several points concerning the present research; I also wish to thank Dr. Gholamreza Dadkhah, collaborating to the PhiBor Project, for his precious help, especially for his patient revision of some of the transcriptions that I provide in the present paper. All the shortcomings are, of course, only mine.

¹ Al-Yānyawī's death is dated to 1134/1722 in Gutas Dimitri (1998), *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture – The Graeco-Arabic Translation Movement in Baghdad and Early 'Abbasid Society (2nd-4th/8th-10th centuries), Routledge, London/ New York, p. 175. Al-Yānyawī was, however, still alive in 1725, when he was appointed as judge of Galata; for al-Yānyawī's biography, see Aslan Adnan (2006), "As'ad Afandi of Yanya," in Leaman Oliver (ed.), <i>The Biographical Encyclopedia of Islamic philosophy*, vol. I: A-I, Bloomsbury, London/ New Delhi/ New York/ Sydney, p. 39-40; see also Şahın Naim (2005), "Türk Mantıkçıları," *Selçuk Üniversitesi Türkiyat Araştırmaları Dergisi* 1/ 17, p. 343-354 (esp. p. 349-350).

On Al-Yānyawī's activity as a translator, see: KAYA Mahmut (1992), "Some Findings on Translations Made in the Eighteenth Century from Greek and Es'ad Efendi's Translation of the Physics," in İHSANOĞLU Ekmeleddin (ed.), Transfer of Modern Science & Technology to the Muslim World, IRCICA, Istanbul,

his career, As'ad al-Yānyawī showed a deep interest in the Aristotelian philosophy and its reception: as I shall argue in the present paper, the breadth of his interests also encompassed Avicenna's most complete philosophical *summa* concerning the Aristotelian philosophy, namely the *Kitāb al-Šifā*'.

The manuscript tradition of this work, that counts up to more than two hundred manuscripts, is still a matter of investigation. A first systematic inquiry into the manuscript tradition of Avicenna's $Kit\bar{a}b$ al- $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ ' is now being conducted within the framework of the ERC Project: "PhiBor - Philosophy on the Border of Civilizations and Intellectual Endeavours: Towards a Critical Edition of the Metaphysics ($Il\bar{a}hiyy\bar{a}t$ of $Kit\bar{a}b$ al- $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ ') of Avicenna (Ibn $S\bar{\imath}n\bar{a}$)," directed by Amos Bertolacci. According to the provisional results of this survey, at least three manuscripts of Avicenna's summa circulated or were even produced in the school of As'ad al-Yānyawī, namely a copy of the section on natural philosophy of Avicenna's $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ ', which preserves an ownership note of As'ad al-Yānyawī, but whose date of copy and copyist are unknown, and two manuscripts containing the section of logic of Avicenna's $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ ', arguably copied in this school.

The present inquiry will focus on the two eighteenth-century manuscripts preserving the section of logic (*ğumlat al-manţiq*) of Avicenna's *Šifā*', namely mss. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Ragıp Paşa 909 and Atıf Efendi 1565.⁶ Both manuscripts reveal some new evidence of al-Yānyawī's intellectual activity in the period in which he was professor in the *madrasa* of Abū Ayyūb al-Anṣārī in Constantinople. In what follows, I will argue that they preserve several *marginalia* quoting some as

p. 385-391; ÖZERVARLI M. Sait (2011), "Yanyalı Esad Efendi's Works on Philosophical Texts as Part of the Ottoman Translation Movement in the Early Eighteenth Century," in SCHMIDT-HABERKAMP Barbara (ed.), Europa und die Türkei im 18. Jahrhundert/Europe and Turkey in the 18. century, V&R University Press, Bonn University Press, Göttingen, p. 457-472; Küçük B. Harun (2013), "Natural Philosophy and Politics in the Eighteenth Century: Esad of Ioannina and Greek Aristotelianism at the Ottoman Court," Osmanlı Araştırmaları 41, p. 125-158. See also Gutas Dimitri (2000), "Translations from Greek and Syriac" s.v. "Tardjama," in Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition, ed. BEARMAN P., BIANQUIS T., BOSWORTH C.E. et al., Brill, Leiden/ New York, vol. X, p. 225-9, esp. p. 228.

³ As a preliminary step towards the more recent systematic inquiry into the manuscript tradition of this work, see Bertolacci Amos (2008), "On the Manuscripts of the *Ilāhiyyāt* of Avicenna's *Kitāb al-Shifā'*," in Akasoy Anna and Raven Wim (eds.), *Islamic Thought in the Middle Ages – Studies in Text, Transmission and Translation, in Honour of Hans Daiber*, Brill, Leiden/ Boston, p. 59-75.

⁴ Of great importance for this survey is the collaboration with the ERC Project: "*PhiC* – Philosophy in Context: Arabic and Syriac Manuscripts in the Mediterranean," directed by Maroun Aouad.

⁵ Ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Hamidiye 796; the first folio preserves an ownership note by As'ad Ibn 'Alī Ibn 'Utmān al-Yānyawī, and the manuscript has plenty of marginal notes signed by As'ad. On these marginal notes, see *infra*, §I.1.2.

⁶ Both mentioned among the manuscripts containing the logic of Avicenna's Šifā' in Gutas Dimitri (2014), Avicenna and the Aristotelian Tradition – Introduction to Reading Avicenna's Philosophical Works, Second Revised and Enlarged Edition, Brill, Leiden/ Boston, p. 421.

of yet unedited translations by As'ad al-Yanyawi, and even some interesting and yet unstudied notes of his own on Avicenna's text (section I). Then, I shall argue that both manuscripts derive from the same exemplar, namely a manuscript that must have circulated within As'ad al-Yanyawi's school and that must have preserved some marginalia to Avicenna's Kitāb al-Šifā' that are also preserved in three thirteenthcentury manuscripts ascribed to Fahr al-Dīn al-Rāzī (d. 606/1210)⁷ (section II).

I. THE LOGIC OF AVICENNA'S ŠIFĀ 'WITHIN As'AD AL-YĀNYAWĪ'S SCHOOL

I.1. Ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Ragıp Paşa 909 [= ms. P]

I.1.1. A General Presentation of the Manuscript

Manuscript Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Ragıp Paşa 909 [henceforth: ms. P]⁸ (end of the copy: yawm al-hamīs 29 Ğumādā al-āhira 1134/ Thursday, 16th of April 1722) contains only the section on logic of Avicenna's Šifā'. According to the information provided in the colophon (T1), the manuscript was copied in the madrasa of Abū Ayyūb al-Ansārī in Constantinople by Muhammad Ibn Ahmad al-Uskūbī, under the request of As'ad Ibn 'Alī Ibn 'Utmān al-Yānyawī himself.

T1. Ms. P, Colophon, fol. 426r:

قد وقع الفراغ من تنميقه بعون المعين وحسن توفيقه عن يد العبد النحيف الضعيف المحتاج إلى رحمة ربّه اللطيف، الراجي عفوه يوم يؤخذ بالنواصي محمّد بن أحمد الأسكوبي ساكناً في مدرسة أبي أيّوب الأنصاري وقت الظهر في يوم الخميس التاسع والعشرين من شهر جمادي الآخرة في سنة أربع وثلثين ومائة وألف؛ رحم الله امرءاً نظر في هذا المكتوب ودعا لكاتبه ولباعث كتابته المعروف بأسعد بن على بن عثمان الينيوي سلمه الله ولجميع المؤمنين والمؤمنات. والحمد لله ونعم المعين والصلوة والسلام على محمّد سيّد العالمين.

The end of its [scil. the book's] composition has come with the help of the Helper, and the excellence of its result [has been attained] by the hand of the weak, frail servant, in need of the mercy of his Lord the Kind, hoping for His forgiveness

An edition of these marginal notes and a reconstruction of their manuscript tradition is provided in Di Vincenzo Silvia (2018), "Early Exegetical Practice on Avicenna's Šifā': Fahr al-Dīn al-Rāzī's Marginalia to Logic," Arabic Sciences and Philosophy 28/1, p. 31-66.

⁸ A description of the manuscript is provided in the catalogue: Dughaym M. al-Savvid (2010), Fihris al-mahtūtāt al-'arabīya wa-al-turkīya wa-al-fārisīya fī al-Maktaba al-Sulaymānīyya, Sagīfat al-Safā al-'Ilmiyya, Ğidda, p. 556-558.

the day he will be seized by the forelocks⁹, Muḥammad Ibn Aḥmad al-Uskūbī, staying in the *madrasa* of Abū Ayyūb al-Anṣārī at midday on Thursday, day 29 of the month of Ğumādā al-āḥira in the year 1134 [= 16th April 1722]; may God give mercy on the man who looks at this text and prays for its copyist and for him who encouraged its copy, known as Asʿad Ibn ʿAlī Ibn ʿUtmān al-Yānyawī, may God protect him and all the men and the women having faith in Him. The praise belongs to God, and may the grace of the Helper, His blessing and His peace be on Muḥammad, Lord of the world.

Muḥammad Ibn Aḥmad al-Uskūbī was one of Asʿad al-Yānyawī's students active in the *madrasa* of Abū Ayyūb al-Anṣārī,¹⁰ where Asʿad al-Yānyawī was professor at the time ms. P was copied. This piece of information regarding al-Yānyawī's biography is provided by the colophon of his translation and reworking of the *Compendiosa Logica in Usum Scholarium*¹¹ by Ioannes Cottunius (d. 1658), preserved in mss. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Ayasofya 2568 and Nuruosmaniye Kütüphanesi, 2655,¹² which was reportedly accomplished the day 21 of Ğumādā al-āḥira 1134 (i.e. April 8th, 1722, just eight days before the end of the copy of ms. P) when Asʿad al-Yānyawī was professor in the *madrasa* of Abū Ayyūb al-Ansārī in Constantinople.¹³

⁹ Cf. Qur'ān 55:41: "The guilty will be known by their distinguishing marks and will be seized by the fore-locks (fa-yu'hadu bi-l-nawāṣī) and the feet." It is a humility statement on the copyist's part, who portrays himself as guilty.

Muḥammad Ibn Aḥmad al-Uskūbī is also the copyist of ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Hamidiye 812 (preserving al-Fārābī's summaries of Aristotle's logic), copied in the *madrasa* of Abū Ayyūb al-Anṣārī just a year before the copy of ms. P (in the month Ğumādā al-āḥira of the year 1133 H/1721). In the colophon of the manuscript, the copyist explicitly mentions As ad Ibn 'Alī Ibn 'Umān al-Yānyawī as his professor (*ustād*). I owe this piece of information to Teymour Morel, who worked on ms. Hamidiye 812 within the *PhiC* Project; Gutas, *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture*, p. 175 mentions an Aḥmad al-Uskūbī as the copyist of ms. Hamidiye 812 and Al-Yānyawī's student, relying on Türker Mubahat (1963), "Fārābī'nin "Şerā'it ul-yakīn"i," Araşturma 1, p. 151-152, 173-174.

¹¹ COTTUNIUS Ioannes (1669), Compendiosa logica in usum scholarium, Ex Typograph. Matthaei Bolzetta de Cadorinis, Padova.

The translation bears the following title: al-Šarh al-anwar fī al-manţiq. According to the catalogue, Şeşen Ramazan (1997), Muḥtārāt min al-maḥṭūṭāt al-'arabīyya al-nādira fī maktabāt Turkiyyā, Waqf al-Abḥāt li-al-tārīḥ wa-al-funūn wa-al-taqāfa al-islāmīya, Istanbul, p. 296, the two manuscripts preserve Al-Yānyawī's translation of Aristotle's logical works, but on ms. Ayasofya 2568 see Özervarlı, "Yanyalı Esad Efendi's works," p. 464. The work is also described by Aslan, "As'ad Afandi of Yanya" (p. 39) and by Özervarlı, "Yanyalı Esad Efendi's works," p. 464, who both mention this work under the title Tarğamat Šarḥ al-anwar and claim that, more than being just a literal translation of the Aristotelian logical corpus, it contains an Arabic translation of a summary and commentary on Aristotle's Categories, De Interpretatione, Prior and Posterior Analytics by Ioannes Cottunius.

¹³ For the text of this colophon, see SESEN, Muhtārāt min al-mahtūtāt, p. 296.

I.1.2. As 'ad al-Yānyawī's (autograph?) Marginalia to the Logic of Avicenna's Šifā'

Ms. P is a witness of special relevance to the study of al-Yānyawī's reception of Avicenna's Śifā': in fact, it preserves several marginal notes ascribed to As'ad al-Yānyawī himself that went almost unnoticed so far and that deserve more consideration. Each note is ascribed to al-Yanyawi by the signature "As ad" at the end of the text. At first glance, it is clear that these notes contain very specific remarks of philosophical interest concerning Avicenna's text. As a first example, I shall present below (T2) two marginal notes ascribed to As ad al-Yanyawi which comment on Kitāb al-Madhal I 4.14

T2. IBN Sīnā, al-Šifā', al-Mantiq, al-Madhal I 4, p. 22.7-12 Cairo ed. and al-Yānyawī's marginal notes in ms. P (fol. 5r):

The main text:

وكذلك صناعة المنطق، فإنَّها ليست تنظر في مفردات هذه الأمور من حيث هي على أحد نحوي . الوجود الذي في الأعيان والذي في الأذهان، ولا أيضا في ماهيات الأشياء من حيث هي ماهيات، بل من حيث⁽⁾ هي محمولات وموضوعات وكلّيات وجزئيات وغير ذلك ممّا إنّما يعرض لهذه المعاني من جهة ما قلناه فيما سلف(١).

[The case of] the discipline of logic is analogous, since it doesn't inquire into the simple ones among these things inasmuch as they are in one of the two ways of existence, [i.e.] the one that is in the individuals and the one that is in the minds, nor [does it inquire into] the things' quiddities inasmuch as they are quiddities, but rather⁽¹⁾ inasmuch as they are predicates and subjects [of predication], universals and particulars and other [things] among what only occurs to these notions under the respect that we said in what preceded⁽²⁾.

The marginal notes:

(1) There is in it an indication of the fact that its [i.e. logic's] subject are the secondary intelligibles, as it will be explained in what follows; it has also been explained in the beginning of the *Metaphysics*. ¹⁵ As 'ad.

¹⁴ Avicenna's Kitāb al-Madhal is quoted from the following edition: IBN SĪNĀ (1952), al-Šifā', al-Mantiq, 1. al-Madhal, ed. MADKŪR Ibrāhīm, QANAWĀTĪ Georges Š., AL-ḤUDAYRĪ Maḥmūd and AL-AHWĀNĪ Fuʾād, al-Matba'a al-amīriyya, Cairo (henceforth: Cairo ed.).

¹⁵ See IBN SĪNĀ (1960), al-Šifā', al-Ilāhiyyāt I 2, ed. MūsĀ Yūsuf M., DUNYĀ Sulaymān and ZĀYID Sa'īd, Cairo, al-Hay'a al-'āmma li-šu'ūn al-maṭābi' al-amīriyya, p. 10, 17 – 11, 2.

- (2) I.e. in the second chapter [i.e. *Kitāb al-Madḫal* I.2]; he [scil. Avicenna] said in it: "but rather inasmuch as it is useful for the acquisition of the states of those two [kinds of] existence" [a *verbatim* quotation of *Kitāb al-Madḫal* I 2, p. 15, 18-19 Cairo ed.]. As ad.
- (1) In the case of the first marginal note, As 'ad al-Yānyawī identifies an allusion Avicenna made to the subject of logic (namely the secondary intelligibles), which is not explicitly spelled out in the passage at stake. Therefore, As 'ad al-Yānyawī makes it explicit in his marginal note and also recalls another passage of Avicenna's \check{Sifa} ' in which the subject of logic is dealt with, namely the beginning of the section on *Metaphysics*, which very likely refers to $Kit\bar{a}b$ $al-Il\bar{a}hiyy\bar{a}t$ I 2, p. 10,17-11,2. ¹⁶
- (2) The second marginal note on the passage aims at clarifying Avicenna's vague reference to something he stated in "what preceded". As ad al-Yānyawī interprets the reference as a hint to *Kitāb al-Madḫal* I 2, p. 15,18-19 Cairo ed., which he quotes *verbatim*: the portion quoted is part of Avicenna's statement that logic is a theoretical inquiry concerning the things inasmuch as it is useful for the acquisition of the two kinds of existence, namely the existence in the external reality and that in the mind.

The two examples discussed so far show the exegetical purpose of al-Yānyawī's *marginalia*. Some other marginal notes in the same handwriting end with the clause "*li-nāmiqihi As 'ad*" or "*li-nāmiqihi al-faqīr As 'ad*" ("[The note] belongs to the one who wrote it, the poor As 'ad"), which seemingly points to the fact that not only As 'ad al-Yānyawī is the author of these glosses, but that he himself must have written them in the margins of ms. P.¹⁷ A transcription of the marginal note on fol. 13v is provided below (T3) by way of example:

T3. Ms. P, fol. 13v:

قوله «والثاني إنّه الذي» إلى آخره ليس الثاني هو ما ذكره فقط، بل الثاني على ما خرّجه صاحب الكلّيات، أعني پورفريوس، وغيره من الشرّاح هو الذي يوضع تحت الجنس ويقال عليه الجنس فيما هو؛ وإنّما نقّصه لنقصان فهمه بالمأخذ. لنامقه الفقير أسعد عفى عنه.

IBN SĪNĀ, al-Šifā', al-Ilāhiyyāt I 2, p. 10,17-11,2: "The subject matter of logic, as you have known, was the secondary intelligible ideas (al-ma ʿanī al-ma ʿqūla al-ṭāniyya) that depend on the primary intelligible ideas (allatī tastanidu ilā al-ma ʿanī al-ma ʿqūlati al-ūlā) with respect to the manner (kayfiyya) by which one arrives through them from what is known to what is unknown (yutawaṣṣalu bihā min ma ʿlūmin ilā maǧhūlin) —not [however] with respect to their being intelligible[s], having [that] intellectual existence that either is not at all attached to matter or attached to noncorporeal matter," tr. in Marmura Michael E. (tr.) (2005), Avicenna, The Metaphysics of the Healing. A parallel English-Arabic text, Brigham Young University Press, Provo (Utah), p. 7.

¹⁷ I would incline to think that the notes are autographs by As ad al-Yanyawi, rather than that someone else copied them in ms. P, because of the presence of the humility formula al-faqir ("the poor"), which points to the fact that As ad al-Yanyawi is describing himself in such a way. On the use of similar humility statements, see GACEK Adam (2009), Arabic Manuscripts – A Vademecum for Readers, Brill, Leiden/ Boston, p. 239-240.

His statement "and the second [definition] states that it is the one that..." up to the end: the second [definition] does not consist in what he mentioned only, on the contrary, the second [definition], in the way in which the Master of the Universals, i.e. Porphyry, and the other commentators produced it, is that "it is that which is subsumed under the genus and of which the genus is predicated in answer to 'what is it?""; he [scil. Avicenna] failed [to correctly mention] it only because he failed in understanding the source [of the passage]. [The note] belongs to the one who wrote it, the poor As 'ad, may [God] forgive him.

The note comments on Kitāb al-Madhal I 11, p. 60, 14-15 Cairo ed., where Avicenna mentions the second of Porphyry's definitions of the species as "that of which the genus is predicated in answer to 'what is it?'" (aḥaduhumā qawluhum [...] wa-al-tānī innahu alladī yuqālu 'alayhi al-ğins min tarīqi mā huwa). As ad al-Yānyawī raises an objection against the way in which Avicenna reports Porphyry's definitions of the species, claiming that the second definition provided by Porphyry actually states that the species is "that which is under the genus and of which the genus is predicated in answer to 'what is it?'". Al-Yānyawī's objection is grounded in a different interpretation of Porphyry's text (Isag., 4, 9-11 Busse), 18 which is slightly ambiguous. In fact, there are two possibilities to understand the passage: it could be read (a) as if Porphyry were presenting two definitions of the species, namely one claiming that the species is what is under the genus and the other claiming that it is that of which the genus is predicated in answer to 'what is it?', ¹⁹ or (b) as if the two statements were parts of one and the same definition, claiming that the species is that which is under the genus and of which the genus is predicated in answer to 'what is it?'. ²⁰ Reading (a) is Avicenna's way of understanding the passage, whereas reading (b) is al-Yānyawī's. The difference between the two readings depends on the way the conjunction "and" (καὶ) is interpreted, namely on whether it is taken as a conjunction between two different definitions (a) or as a conjunction between two halves of the same definition (b) of the species.

The note in T3 provides us with an interesting insight into al-Yānyawī's attitude towards the text he comments. A general feature of his exeges is seems to be a careful study of Avicenna's work along with an attentive reading of the Greek text it

¹⁸ POPRHYRIUS (1887), Porphyrii Isagoge et in Aristotelis Categorias Commentarium, ed. Busse Adolf, (CAG IV.1) Reimer, Berlin, p. 4.9-11: ἀποδιδόασιν οὖν τὸ εἶδος καὶ οὕτως· εἶδός ἐστι τὸ ταττόμενον ὑπὸ τὸ γένος καὶ οὖ τὸ γένος ἐν τῷ τί ἐστι κατηγορεῖται.

¹⁹ According to this reading, the passage could be translated as in BARNES Jonathan (tr.) (2003), *Porphyry*, Introduction, Clarendon Press, Oxford, p. 5: "Now they present species thus: a species is what is ordered under a genus; and: that of which a genus is predicated in answer to 'What is it?'."

²⁰ In this case, the passage could be translated thus, modifying Barnes' translation: "Now they present species thus: a species is that which is ordered under a genus and of which a genus is predicated in answer to 'What is it?'."

comments.²¹ As far as his attitude towards the author of the text he comments is concerned, clearly he doesn't refrain from criticism when his interpretation diverges with respect to Avicenna's²².

To sum up, this brief overview of the *marginalia* preserved in ms. P provides us with a clue about Asʿad al-Yānyawī's study of Avicenna's logic. However, the presence of al-Yānyawī's most probably autograph marginal notes in ms. P is not an isolated phenomenon: several marginal notes in the same handwriting and signed in an identical manner ("Asʿad") are to be found also in the margins of the aforementioned witness of the natural section of Avicenna's Šifā' owned by Asʿad al-Yānyawī, i.e. ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Hamidiye 796. I would suggest that both ms. P and ms. Hamidiye 796 were annotated by Asʿad al-Yānyawī himself. Hence, one should expect a systematic survey of al-Yānyawī's notes in both manuscripts to reveal many relevant details concerning al-Yānyawī's reading of Avicenna's text.

I.2. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Atıf Efendi 1565 [= ms. A]

I.2.1. A General Presentation of the Manuscript

Manuscript Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Atıf Efendi 1565 [henceforth: ms. A] is a witness of the first half of the logic of Avicenna's Šifā' (more precisely, the first five funūn, namely al-Madḥal, al-Maqūlāt, al-ʿIbāra, al-Qiyās and al-Burhān). Although neither the date nor the place of copy are stated in the colophon, it is nonetheless possible to contextualize the manuscript within the same *milieu* as ms. P.

The main text was copied in ms. A by several scribes, who also alternated in copying the great number of *marginalia* preserved in the manuscript. It is possible to date approximately at least one of the several handwritings alternating in the copy of the text (for the sake of simplicity, hand1):²³ in fact, hand1 is also the author of a number of notes copied on some folios that were added to the manuscript at a second stage, and some of these notes reproduce excerpts of a commentary on Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics* translated by As ad al-Yanyawi, together with the date 29 Ṣafar

²¹ This peculiar attention to the original text is consistent with the fact that As ad al-Yānyawī produced Arabic translations of Porphyry's *Isagoge* and of other parts of Aristotle's logic, fragments of which are preserved in the margins of ms. A; on this point, cf. *infra*, §I.2.2.

²² As ad al-Yānyawī is classified among the "anti-Avicennist Peripatetics," in Gutas Dimitri (2002), "The Heritage of Avicenna: The Golden Age of Arabic Philosophy, 1000 – ca. 1350," in Janssens Jules and DE SMET Daniel (eds.), Avicenna and his Heritage – Acts of the international colloquium, Leuven-Louvain-la-Neuve, September 8-September 11, 1999, Leuven University Press, Leuven, p. 81-97 (esp. p. 97).

²³ It is the handwriting that copied, for instance, the text from fol. 101r to fol. 103v.

1135 /December 9th, 1722.²⁴ If this date corresponds, as I think, to the date in which the note was copied in the added folio, 25 then it can be argued that hand 1 was actively working on ms. A on the 9th of December 1722. What is more, these notes, as well as other marginalia in the manuscript, refer to As'ad al-Yānyawī as a "professor": in fact, the notes reportedly quote some excerpts of the works of "our professor, the philosopher As'ad" (*li-ustādinā al-faylasūf As'ad*), or even simply "the professor" (al-ustād). Arguably, hand1 as well as the other handwritings of ms. A belong to some anonymous students of As 'ad al-Yanyawi, and should definitely be contextualized in the framework of his school.

Moreover, another handwriting (that I shall name hand2), copying, e.g., the beginning of Kitāb al-Burhān on fol. 221v, could belong to a well-known disciple of As'ad al-Yānyawī: in fact, it is a nasta 'līq that highly resembles that of Muḥammad Ibn Aḥmad al-Uskūbī, copyist of ms. P. If the identification of hand2 with Muḥammad Ibn Ahmad al-Uskūbī holds, this piece of evidence is consistent with the estimated dating of hand1 (which was active around the year 1722 and is, therefore, contemporary with hand2, which copied ms. P in the same year), and both elements suggest that ms. A was copied in the same milieu and more or less at the same time as ms. P, i.e. in the *madrasa* of Abū Ayyūb al-Anṣārī in Constantinople around the year 1722.

I.2.2. Ms. A as a Witness for al-Yānyawī's Translations

As already stated, ms. A was heavily annotated by several students of As'ad al-Yanyawi. Generally speaking, the notes quote many excerpts of translations ascribed to al-Yanyawi himself. More specifically, it is possible to identify in ms. A excerpts of al-Yānyawī's translations of:

- A) The Aristotelian logical corpus:
 - i. Porphyry's *Isagoge*;
 - ii. Aristotle's Posterior Analytics;
- B) Commentaries:
 - iii. A commentary on Porphyry's *Isagoge*;
 - iv. A commentary on Aristotle's Posterior Analytics;
 - v. A commentary on Aristotle's Physics.

²⁴ On the identification of this translation, see *infra*, §I.2.2.

²⁵ On this point, see *infra* §I.2.2.

(A) The Aristotelian Logical Corpus

Ms. A preserves several marginalia quoting As ad al-Yānyawī's translations of portions of the Aristotelian logical corpus. During the present inquiry, it was possible to identify with certainty several excerpts of a translation of Porphyry's *Isagoge* (i) and at least a fragment of a translation of Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics* (ii); in what follows, I shall provide a brief presentation of both cases.

(i) Al-Yānyawī's Translation of Porphyry's *Isagoge*

In the margins of Avicenna's *Kitāb al-Madḫal* there are several *marginalia* quoting "As ad's translation of Porphyry" (e.g. fol. 20v: *tarðamat As ad li-Pūrfuriyūs*): at a closer inspection, these *marginalia* appear to be excerpts of an Arabic translation of Porphyry's *Isagoge* reportedly accomplished by As ad al-Yānyawī. As an example, I will transcribe below the marginal annotation preserved on fol. 24r, which is the quotation of an excerpt of As ad al-Yānyawī's translation of a passage of Porphyry's *Isagoge* concerning the shared features and the differences between the *differentia specifica* and the common accident (Porph. *Isag.* 19,17-20,10 Busse).

T4. A fragment of As ad al-Yānyawī's translation of Porphyry's *Isagoge*

²⁶ Here I mean by "Aristotelian logical corpus" the entire set of logical works studied in the scholastic curriculum since Late Antiquity, including also a non-Aristotelian work like Porphyry's *Isagoge*.

Διαφέρουσι δὲ ὅτι ἡ μὲν διαφορὰ περιέχει, οὐ περιέχεται δέ· περιέχει γὰρ τὸ λογικὸν τὸν ἄνθρωπον· τὰ δὲ συμβεβηκότα τρόπον μέν τινα περιέχει τῷ ἐν πλείοσιν εἶναι, τρόπον δέ τινα περιέχεται τῷ μὴ ἑνὸς συμβεβηκότος εἶναι δεκτικὰ τὰ ὑποκείμενα, άλλὰ πλειόνων. καὶ ἡ μὲν διαφορὰ ἀνεπίτατος καὶ ἀνάνετος, τὰ δὲ συμβεβηκότα τὸ μᾶλλον καὶ τὸ ἦττον ἐπιδέγεται. καὶ ἀμιγεῖς μὲν αἱ ἐναντίαι διαφοραί, μιγείη δ' ἂν τὰ ἐναντία συμβεβηκότα.27

ويفترقان بأنّ الفصل أعمّ من النوع وليس أخصّ منه فإنّ الناطق يعمّ الملك والإنسان؛ والعرض العامّ هو أعمّ من جهة لوجوده في الكثير وأخصّ من جهة أخرى، لأنّ موضوعاته لا يقبل عرضا واحدا فقط، بل أعراضا كثيرة؛ وبأنّ الفصل لا يقبل الشدّة والضعف والعرض العامّ بقيلهما؛ وبأنّ الفصول المتقابلة لا يمكن أن تختلط وقد يمكن ذلك للأعراض العامّة.

ترجمة أسعد.

The Arabic translation is clearly different from the one produced in the 'Abbasid period by Abū 'Utmān al-Dimašqī (d. after 302 H/914), which is preserved in ms. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Arabe 2346²⁸ and quoted in the *lemmata* of Ibn al-Tayyib's commentary on Porphyry's Isagoge.²⁹ Al-Yānyawī's translation is less literal and more inclined to provide an interpretative rendering, in order to attain a clearer understanding of the text. As an instance, the clause fa-inna al-nāţiq ya 'ummu al-malak wa-al-insān ("for 'rational' encompasses [both] the angel and the man") is actually an interpretative rendering of the Greek περιέγει γὰρ τὸ λογικὸν τὸν ἄνθρωπον ("rational contains man"), 30 where there is no explicit mention of the angel. It is, however, true that Porphyry considers 'rational' as a differentia specifica characterizing both the species of 'man' and that of the 'divine entity', 31 and the use

²⁷ "Common to differences and accidents is the fact that they are said of several items, Common in relation to inseparable accidents is the fact that they are present always and to every case: biped is always present to all ravens, and so similarly is black. They differ because differences contain and are not contained (rational contains man), whereas accidents in a way contain in so far as they are in several items, and in a way are contained in that their subjects are receptive not of one accident but of several. Differences are unaugmentable and undiminishable, whereas accidents admit the more and the less. Contrary differences do not mix whereas contrary accidents will mix," tr. BARNES, Porphyry, Introduction, p. 17-18.

²⁸ Edited in BADAWĪ 'Abd al-Raḥmān (1952), Manţiq Arisţū, 3 vol., Maţba at Dār al-Kutub al-miṣriyya, Cairo, vol. III. The translation preserved in ms. Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Arabe 2346 seemingly coincides with the one preserved in ms. Milano, Biblioteca Ambrosiana & 105 sup., edited by BAFFIONI Carmela (2011), "The Arabic Version of Porphyry's Isagoge in the Ambrosiana Library," Studi Filosofici 34, p. 37-72; see also BAFFIONI Carmela (2012), "Il manoscritto ambrosiano arabo & 105 sup. e la trasmissione delle opere di logica greca in arabo," Studia graeco-arabica 2, p. 245-254.

²⁹ Івп аl-Таууів Abū al-Farağ (1975), *Tafsīr Kitāb Īsāġūğī li-Furfūriyūs*, ed. Gyekye Kwame, Dar al-Mašriq, Beirut.

³⁰ Tr. Barnes, *Porphyry*, *Introduction*, p. 17.

³¹ See Poprhyrius, *Porphyrii Isagoge*, p. 11.21-12.1: "They also present them thus: a difference is that by which each type of thing differs. For man and horse do not differ in virtue of their genus —both we and the

of the Greek περιέχει ("contains") in this context points to the fact that the *differentia specifica* 'rational' has a greater extension of predication than the species 'man', since it is also predicated of the species 'angel'. The translation by al-Dimašqī, on the other hand, rendered the same clause in a much more literal way: $wa-d\bar{a}lika$ anna $al-n\bar{a}tiq$ $yahw\bar{\imath}$ $al-ins\bar{a}n$ ("and this because 'rational' includes 'man'").³²

This marginal note, as well as the others quoting excerpts of al-Yānyawī's translation of Porphyry's *Isagoge*, is obviously not an annotation directly composed in the margins of the manuscript. On the contrary, it seemingly reproduces a portion of a work already structured into chapters, as it is clear from the indication opening the marginal note, which points to the fact that the content of the note is part of an *eighth chapter*.

The presence of this fragment in ms. A is extremely interesting: in fact, it should be identified as a quotation of an as of yet unstudied work by As'ad al-Yānyawī, namely a recently discovered Latin into Arabic translation of the Aristotelian logical corpus preserved in ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, H. Hüsnu Paşa 1238.³³ The entire series of marginal notes in ms. A, quoting al-Yānyawī's translation of Porphyry's *Isagoge* could be considered as an additional relevant witness for this newly discovered work.

(ii) Al-Yānyawī's Translation of Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics*

A marginal note in ms. A, fol. 241r, which ends with the clause "min tarğamat al-ustād li-al-ta'līm al-awwal" ("[taken] from the professor's translation of the First Teaching [i.e. Aristotle]"), preserves an excerpt of al-Yānyawī's translation of Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics* (T5).

non-rational items are mortal animals. But when rational is added it sets us apart from them. And both we and gods (θεοί) are rational. But when mortal is added it sets us apart from them," tr. Barnes, *Porphyry, Introduction*, p. 11. More precisely, Porphyry speaks of 'divine entities' (θεοί), but the later commentators often spoke of 'angels'; see Ammonius (1891), *In Porphyrii Isagogen sive V* voces, ed. Busse Adolf, (CAG IV.3) Reimer, Berlin, p. 70.13-20.

³² BADAWĪ, Manţiq Arisţū, vol. III, p. 1064.

³³ According to As ad al-Yanyawi's own statements in the incipit, the work consists in a translation realized on the basis of an unspecified Latin source. On the discovery of this work in ms. H. Hüsnu Paşa 1238, see Morel Teymour and Genequand Charles, "Al-Yanyawi's Account of Porphyry" in the present volume. I wish to thank the two authors of the paper for sharing with me some information concerning the manuscript and the work itself, and particularly I wish to thank Teymour Morel for helping me to compare the excerpts of the translation with the content of ms. H. Hüsnu Paşa 1238.

T5. A fragment of al-Yānyawī's translation of Aristotle's Posterior Analytics

Arist., An. Post., I 4, 73a 34-b4.

Καθ' αύτὰ δ' ὅσα ὑπάρχει τε ἐν τῷ τί ἐστιν, οἷον τριγώνω γραμμή καὶ γραμμή στιγμή (ή γὰρ οὐσία αὐτῶν ἐκ τούτων ἐστί, καὶ ἐν τῷ λόγῳ τῷ λέγοντι τί ἐστιν ἐνυπάρχει), καὶ ὄσοις τῶν ὑπαρχόντων αὐτοῖς αὐτὰ ἐν τῷ λόγω ἐνυπάρχουσι τῷ τί ἐστι δηλοῦντι, οἶον τὸ εὐθὸ ὑπάρχει γραμμῆ καὶ τὸ περιφερές, καὶ τὸ περιττὸν καὶ ἄρτιον ἀριθμῷ, καὶ τὸ πρῶτον καὶ σύνθετον, καὶ ἰσόπλευρον καὶ ἐτερόμηκες· καὶ πᾶσι τούτοις ἐνυπάρχουσιν ἐν τῷ λόγῳ τῷ τί ἐστι λέγοντι ἔνθα μὲν γραμμὴ ἔνθα δ' ἀριθμός. ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ ἐπὶ τῶν ἄλλων τὰ τοιαῦθ' ἐκάστοις καθ'αὑτὰ λέγω [...].34

Ms. A, margin of fol. 241r

وأسمى بالذات الأشياء التي توجد في الماهية، كما أنّ الخطِّ يوجد بالذات في المثلِّث والنقطة في الخطِّ، فإنّ ماهيتهما تكون منهما، ويوجدان في القول الشارح للماهية، والأشياء التي تحمل على الأشياء التي توجد في القول الشارح لماهية تلك الأشياء كما أنّ الاستقامة والانحناء توجدان بالذات في الخط، والفرد والزوج في العدد، والأوّل والمركب والمربّع والمسطح فيه؛ ويوجد موضوعها في تعريف كل واحد منها فيهما الخط وفيها العدد. وكذلك أسمى بالذات كلِّ شيء يكون كذلك. من ترجمة الأستاذ للتعليم الأوّل

The passage is a translation of Aristotle's definition of the senses of per se ($\kappa\alpha\theta$) αύτὸ) in *Posterior Analytics* I 4, reportedly accomplished by As ad al-Yānyawī, and copied in ms. A by one of his students, who designates him as a professor. This fragment as well has to be identified as a part of the aforementioned Latin into Arabic translation by As'ad al-Yānyawī preserved in ms. H. Hüsnu Paşa 1238.35

(B) Commentaries Translated by Al-Yānyawī

Ms. A also preserves some excerpts of As'ad al-Yanyawi's translations of a series of commentaries on the Aristotelian corpus. In particular, it is possible to identify quotations of his translations of commentaries on Porphyry's Isagoge, Aristotle's Posterior Analytics and Aristotle's Physics. In what follows, I will provide a sketchy presentation of some of these quotations found in the margins of ms. A.

³⁴ "I describe one thing as 'belonging per se' to another (i) if it is an element in the essential nature of the other, as, e.g., a line belongs to a triangle and a point to a line (for the line or point is a constituent of the being of the triangle or line, and is an element in the formula which describes its essence); (ii) if it is an attribute the formula of whose essence includes the subject to which the attribute itself belongs. E.g., 'straight' and 'curved' belong to 'line', 'odd' and 'even,' 'prime' and 'compound,' 'square' and 'oblong' belong to number; and the formula of the essence of each one of these includes line or number respectively. Similarly in all other cases I describe all terms of either of the kinds just described as belonging per se to their several subjects," Tredennick Hugh (tr.) (1966), Aristotle, Posterior Analytics, Harvard University Press, Cambridge (Mass.)/London, p. 43-45.

³⁵ I wish to thank Teymour Morel for the help he provided in the identification of this fragment too.

(iii) A Commentary on Porphyry's Isagoge

As to As ad al-Yānyawī's translation of a commentary on Porphyry's *Isagoge*, a fragment of it is quoted in a marginal note on fol. 25v, which ends with the clause: *min tarğamat al-ustād sallamahu Allāh li-šarḥ Risālat Pūrfuriyūs* ("[Taken] from the Professor's, may God protect him, translation of a commentary on Porphyry's treatise"). The passage is quoted in correspondence with the beginning of the *Kitāb al-Maqūlāt*; it states that the study of Porphyry's *Isagoge* (mentioned both in the fragment and at the end of it as *Risālat Pūrfuriyūs*) must precede the study of Aristotle's logic because of the use of the knowledge of the universals before the knowledge of the categories.

The fragment is, actually, a quotation from al-Yānyawī's *al-Šarḥ al-anwar fī al-manṭiq*, ³⁶ namely his translation of Ioannes Cottunius' commentary on the first four books of Aristotle's *Organon* and on Porphyry's *Isagoge* (the already mentioned *Compendiosa logica in usum scholarium*) (see T6). Such an identification also provides us with a *terminus post quem* for the copy of this quotation in the margins of ms. A, namely the date in which al-Yānyawī completed his translation of Cottunius' *Compendiosa logica* (21 of Ğumādā al-āhira 1134/ 8th of April 1722).³⁷

T6. Fol. 25v, incipit of the fragment

Ioannes Cottunius, *Compendiosa logica in usum scholarium*, p. 68

Primo rectissime ait [scil. Porphyry], speculationem Praedicabilium esse necessariam ad notitiam Praedicamentorum. Nam Praedicamentum nihil aliud est, quam coordinatio Praedicabilium, in qua superiora genera per differentias distribuuntur in suas species, ut infra patebit [...]. 38

Ms. A, fol. 25v

اعلم أنَّ معرفة الكلّيات ضروري لفهم المقولات، فإنَّ المقولات ليست إلّا ترتيب الكلّيات يبيّن فيه أنّ الأجناس العالية تنقسم إلى أقسامه بالفصول، كما سيظهر فيما بعد [...].

³⁶ This title is already mentioned among As ad al-Yānyawī's works in Tahir Mehmed B. (1914-1923), *Ösmanlı Müellifleri*, 3 vol., Matbaa-i Amire, Istanbul, vol. I, p. 235. For the manuscripts that preserve the work, see Özervarlı, "Yanyalı Esad Efendi's works," p. 464 n. 24.

³⁷ Cf. supra §I.1.1.

^{38 &}quot;Know that the knowledge of the predicables is necessary in order to understand the categories, since a category is nothing but an arrangement of predicables in which the summa genera are divided into their species by the differentiae specificae, as it will be clarified in what follows [...]." Noteworthy, the Arabic translation renders the Latin "praedicabilia" by kulliyyāt ("universals"), very likely to avoid a confusion with "praedicamenta," rendered as maqūlāt.

Besides the fragment whose incipit is reproduced in T6, ms. A preserves several other excerpts of the translation of the commentary on Porphyry's Isagoge: there are, for instance, three fragments commenting upon Porphyry's classification of differentia specifica on fol. 16v that are taken from a not better specified "commentary on Porphyry" (šarh Pūrfuriyūs), whose translation is not explicitly ascribed to As ad al-Yānyawī, but that are part of the same work.

(iv) A Commentary on Aristotle's Posterior Analytics

A folio added between fol. 243v and fol. 244r quotes two long excerpts of As'ad al-Yanyawi' translation of a commentary on Aristotle, which is arguably a commentary on *Posterior Analytics*. In fact, the first of the two quotations comments upon the notion of the predication "of all" (κατὰ παντός), ³⁹ whereas the other comments upon the universal (καθόλου) predication as a predication "of all" and "per se". 40 One of the two excerpts ends with the clause min tarğamat al-ustād li-šarh al-Ta'līm al-Awwal ("[taken] from the Professor's translation of a commentary on the First Teaching [i.e. Aristotle]"), whereas the other simply ends with the clause min tarğamat al-ustād sallamahu Allāh. These fragments are presented, respectively, as the second and the fourth sections of a chapter (al-qism al- $t\bar{a}n\bar{t}$ and al-qism al-rābi 'li-hādā al-faṣl) of the work they quote. At a closer inspection, they actually correspond to the secunda pars and quarta capitis pars at p. 267 and p. 274 of Ioannes Cottunius' Compendiosa logica in usum scholarium. Both excerpts in ms. A report the date of 29 Safar 1135 (= December 8th, 1722), written in red ink at the end of the quotation. Since it doesn't correspond with the date of composition of al-Yānyawī's translation of the Compendiosa logica, the date must refer to the time at which this quotation was inserted in ms. A, namely eight months after the end of al-Yānyawī's translation.

(v) A Commentary on Aristotle's *Physics*

The recto of the folio inserted between fol. 236v and 237r quotes al-Yānyawī's translation of a commentary on Aristotle, introduced by the clause: qāla al-ustād al-faylasūf sallamahu Allāh ta ʿālā fī tarğamatihi li-šarḥ al-Ta ʿlīm al-Awwal. Although it is not specified, this excerpt is seemingly another portion of the aforementioned translation of a commentary on Aristotle's Posterior Analytics (iv), dealing with the

³⁹ See Aristotle, *Prior and Posterior Analytics*, I 4, 73a28-34 (ed. Ross David W., Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1957).

⁴⁰ Ibid., I 4, 73b25-74a2.

principles of the demonstrative syllogism. The verso of the same folio, on the other hand, quotes al-Yānyawī's translation of a commentary on Aristotle's *Physics*, introduced by the clause: *qāla al-ustād al-faylasūf sallamahu Allāh ta ʿālā fī tarğamatihi li-šarḥ ṭabī ʿiyyāt al-Ta ʿlīm al-Awwal*. This marginal quotation is actually an excerpt of al-Yānyawī's *al-Ta ʿlīm al-ṯālit*, ⁴¹ namely his translation of Ioannes Cottunius' commentary on Aristotle's *Physics*. ⁴² Although al-Yānyawī's *al-Ta ʿlīm al-ṯālit* is still unedited, the identification of this fragment of the Arabic translation is possible by comparing it with the Latin text of Cottunius' commentary (see T7).

T7. Identification of the translation of Ioannes Cottunius' commentary on Aristotle's *Physics*

Ioannes Cottunius, Commentarii lucidissimi in octo libros Aristotelis De physico auditu (p. 93, § VI)

Ms. A, verso of the folio inserted between fol. 236v and 237r

Perpend. 3 circa tex. 9 quod θέσις, positio, inter alia significat etiam inopinabilem quandam opinionem, et quae suam ipsa secum praeseferat improbabilitatem, prolatam tamen ab aliquo praeclaro, ac celebrato Philosopho. Qua de re audi Philosophum in primo Topic. cap. 1 θέσις, positio, inquit, est existimatio extranea alicuius eorum, quorum in Philosophia illustris est et pervagata fama, veluti non posse contradici, ut placet Antistheni, vel moveri omnia, ut est sententia Heracliti, vel unum

esse omnia, quemadmodum ait Melissus. [...]⁴³

قال الأستاذ الفيلسوف سلّمه الله تعالى في ترجمته لشرح طبيعيات التعليم الأوّل:

ويستفاد من هذا المبيّن التاسع أنّ لفظ تَسِسْ أيْ الوضع يدلّ على رأي ظاهر الفساد وصادر عن حكم مشهور معتبر عن غفلة، ولتعرّف هذا الشيء اسمع ما قال المصنّف في الفصل الأوّل في أوّل الجدل إنّ ثسسْ أيْ الوضع هو ظنّ خارجي لأحد الحكماء من المعروفين المشهورين في الفلسفة، مثل ما قال آمِسْتَسيوسْ (sic) لا يمكن أن يقال قول مناقض لقول، أو كما قال هراقلتوس إنّ جميع الأشياء تتبدّل،

أو كما قال ملوس إنّ جميع الأشياء واحد [...].

⁴¹ For a description of the work and a list of the manuscripts preserving it, see ÖZERVARL1, "Yanyalı Esad Efendi's works," p. 464.

⁴² COTTUNIUS Ioannes (1648), Commentarii lucidissimi in octo libros Aristotelis De physico auditu, Impensis Pauli Frambotti, Venice.

^{43 &}quot;Thirdly it can be considered, with regard to text 9, that θέσις, i.e. 'thesis', among other [notions], also means a certain inconceivable opinion, which shows it itself its own improbability, but which is asserted by a well-known and admired philosopher. About this subject, I've learned from the Philosopher [i.e.

The excerpt quoted in ms. A is a fragment of al-Yanyawi's translation of a passage of Ioannes Cottunius' commentary, which comments on the use of the word θέσις in Aristotle, Phys. I 2, 185a 5-7,44 by recalling the Aristotelian explanation of the term in Top. I 1, 104b 19-22. Interestingly, the Arabic translation offers both a transliteration of the Greek term mentioned by Cottunius (tasis) and an Arabic translation of it (wad), corresponding to the Latin rendering provided by Cottunius (positio). The Arabic translation quoted in the excerpt seems to be a quite faithful rendering of the original Latin text.

The discovery of these excerpts of As ad al-Yanyawi's translations in ms. A is of the utmost interest for the study of his activity as a translator. The commentaries quoted in these marginalia (B) are excerpts of two already known —though still unedited—translations by As ad al-Yanyawi. More specifically, the excerpts (iii-iv) are quotations of al-Yānyawī's al-Šarh al-anwar fī al-mantiq, and the excerpt (v) is a quotation of al-Yānyawī's al-Ta 'līm al-tālit. A study of these excerpts preserved in ms. A could offer an interesting perspective on the circulation and reception of his works within his school.

The study of the *marginalia* in ms. A can also provide a brand-new contribution to the knowledge of his production. In support of this claim, I shall mention the discovery of the excerpts quoting al-Yānyawī's translations of Porphyry's *Isagoge* (i) and of Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics* (ii). In fact, this is worth of the utmost interest, since all these excerpts turned out to be quotations from a unique work, the newly discovered and still unedited translation of Aristotle's logical corpus preserved in ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, H. Hüsnu Paşa 1238. In the prospect of providing a critical edition of the work preserved in ms. H. Hüsnu Paşa 1238, ms. A could be an additional witness to take into account, given the great number of quotations preserved in there and given that the quotations were copied by some direct disciples of the author, very likely under his supervision, which makes ms. A a valuable witness for the text.

Aristotle] in the first [book] of the *Topics*, chap. 1 [104b19-22]: " $\theta \epsilon \sigma \iota \varsigma$, i.e. 'thesis'," he says, "is a strange opinion held by someone of those who are famous and who are widely known in the domain of philosophy, like 'contradiction is impossible,' as Antisthenes claims, or 'everything changes,' as it is claimed by Heraclitus, or 'all the things are one,' as Melissus says"[...]."

⁴⁴ "So to enquire whether being is this sort of unity is no different from addressing any other thesis (gr. θέσις) of the kind which is advanced just for the sake of argument —the Heraclitean thesis, for instance, or the idea that being is a single person, or such a thesis as that Being is one man," tr. WATERFIELD Robin (tr.) (1996), Aristotle, Physics, Oxford University Press, Oxford/ New York, p. 10.

II. Mss. P and A Within the Manuscript Tradition of Avicenna's $\check{S}_{IF\bar{A}}$ '

II.1. Mss. P and A as Witnesses of the "Razian Branch" of Avicenna's Šifā'

As it has been shown so far, mss. P and A are precious sources for the study of As'ad al-Yānyawī's exegetical activity. In what follows, I will argue that they are also relevant witnesses of an earlier exegetical activity concerning Avicenna's $\check{S}if\bar{a}$.

Both manuscripts preserve a set of anonymous *marginalia* that are also preserved in three thirteenth-century manuscripts of Avicenna's $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ ' which are stemmatically related to mss. P and A, ⁴⁵ and in a later undated manuscript (ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Ragıp Paşa 910) which is not stemmatically related to the others, but on the margins of which a second handwriting imported the *marginalia* by collation. Interestingly, this latter manuscript preserves, at the end of each of the marginal notes, a certificate of transmission ascribing them to the theologian and philosopher Faḥr al-Dīn al-Rāzī (d. 606/1210). ⁴⁶

Generally speaking, these *marginalia* denote a scholastic exegetical activity. In fact, the marginal notes to the $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ ascribed to Faḥr al-Dīn al-Rāzī are evidently meant to be a tool to facilitate the understanding of the main text, though without being a commentary in the same sense in which, for instance, Faḥr al-Dīn al-Rāzī's $\check{S}arh$ al- $I\check{s}\bar{a}r\bar{a}t$ is. A clear evidence of the difference between the two kinds of exegeses is the fact that the author of the marginal notes abstains from any sort of verification $(tahq\bar{i}q)$ and criticism of Avicenna's statements, 47 confining himself to a plain and didactic clarification of the text, contrary to what happens in the commentary on Avicenna's $I\check{s}\bar{a}r\bar{a}t$.

As a case study, I shall mention two *marginalia*, which are a plain paraphrase of *K. al-Madḥal* I 5 (p. 30,18-32,3), concerning the relationship of the notion of "essential" $(\underline{d\bar{a}t\bar{\imath}})$ to the notion of "signifying the quiddity" $(\underline{d\bar{a}ll}$ ' $al\bar{a}$ $al-m\bar{a}hiyya)$.

⁴⁵ Namely ms. Istanbul, Nuruosmaniye Kütüphanesi, 2710 (dat. 25 Rabī al-Awwal 666 – 25 Šawwāl 666/ December 21st 1267 – July 15th 1268); ms. Cairo, Maktabat al-Azhar al-Šarīf, Beḥīt 331 falsafa (huṣūṣiyya), 44988 (hunūmiyya) (dat. 7th /13th century); ms. Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Carullah 1424 (dat. 693/1293-4). On these manuscripts and their relation to mss. P and A, see DI VINCENZO, "Early Exegetical Practice on Avicenna's Šifā."

⁴⁶ The certificate of transmission is introduced by the clause min hatt ("from the copy/from the writing of..."), or nuqila min hatt ("it was copied from the copy/writing of..."); see Di Vincenzo, "Early Exegetical Practice on Avicenna's Šifā"."

⁴⁷ On the features of the practice of taḥq̄q, see WISNOVKY Robert (2013), "Avicennism and Exegetical Practice in the Early Commentaries on the Ishārāt," Oriens 41, p. 349-378, esp. p. 354-357.

Avicenna's claim, in this regard, is that the notion of "essential" is more general than the notion of "signifying the quiddity," for the first one can be comprehensive of the latter. Avicenna aims at demonstrating, against the doubts raised by some philosophers, that what signifies the quiddity can be enumerated among the essentials, although "essential" is not simply equivalent to "signifying the quiddity," but is rather a notion with a broader extension.

In order to do so, he proceeds with a diairetical argument: (1) first of all (K. al-Madhal I 5, p. 30,18-31,16), he rules out the possibility that what signifies the quiddity of a species (for instance, "man") can be essential in relation to the species' quiddity itself, since it would be equivalent to state that "man" is essential to "man," which is absurd. A second possibility (2) is that what signifies the quiddity signifies an individual's quiddity: employing the example of man (insān) in relation to individual (šahs), Avicenna tries to prove (K. al-Madhal I 5, p. 31, 6-14) that "man" is essential to individuals. In such a case, then, "man" should either be essential (2.1) because it is essential to the individuals' quiddity (which is, again, "man," but this case must be rejected for the same reasons the hypothesis that "man" could be essential for itself was rejected) or (2.2) because it is a part of the complex of features that make them individuals, which could entail that the accidental features characterizing the individual would be essential as well, but this would be an awkward and undesired conclusion. To avoid such a conclusion, Avicenna provides in the subsequent passage (K. al-Madhal I 5, p. 31,17-32,3) a definition of "essential" that prevents the inclusion of the accidental features of the individual among its essential characteristics. The two marginalia on the Šifā' are just a summary and a paraphrase of this argument in K. al-Madhal I 5, p. 31,6-14, without any further comment.

Interestingly enough, the study of this passage of the $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ served Fahr al-Dīn al-Rāzī when he commented upon a parallel passage of the *Išārāt* (p. 204-5 ed. Dunyā). 48 In that passage, Avicenna deals with the same matter, stating that the species signifies the quiddity of its individuals and is, at the same time, essential for them, though without discussing it in detail. It is quite evident that al-Rāzī must have had in mind the passage from K. al-Madhal I 5 when commenting on the passage of the Išārāt, for he recalls exactly the aforementioned argument. Moreover, when al-Rāzī reports (Šarḥ al-Išārāt, p. 62, 3-13) Avicenna's definition of the "essential" as the universal notion whose remotion from its subject causes the remotion of the subject itself, he is evidently referring to the immediately-following passage in *K. al-Madhal* I 5 (p. 31,17-32,3).

⁴⁸ IBN SĪNĀ (1960), al-Išārāt wa-al-tanbīhāt ma'a Šarh Nasīr al-Dīn al-Tūsī, ed. Dunyā Sulaymān. Dār al-Ma'ārif, Cairo.

Noteworthy, Avicenna's argument, which is reported in a neutral way in the marginalia on the Šifā', is sharply criticized in the Šarh al-Išārāt, 49 where al-Rāzī claims that one thing, in relation to something else, cannot be, at one and the same time, essential and signifying the quiddity. For instance, (1) humanity represents, in relation to humanity, the totality of its quiddity, though without being essential to it, because of the impossibility for anything to be in relation to itself. Then, (2) humanity can also be in relation to its particulars, but in this case, it doesn't represent their quiddity in its totality. In fact, the quiddity of an individual is made by both shared and distinctive properties, whereas humanity is only the shared feature, being, therefore, just a part of the individual's guiddity. Hence, humanity does not actually signify the quiddity of the things it is essential for, which allows al-Rāzī to draw the conclusion that, if humanity, for instance, represents the complete quiddity of something (tamām māhiyyatihi), it isn't, however, essential for that something; if, on the contrary, humanity is not the entire quiddity of something, but rather a part of it, then it is essential for it, but it doesn't signify its quiddity.⁵⁰ Hence the impossibility for something of being, at the same time, both signifying the quiddity and essential for the same thing, which contrasts Avicenna's claim of K. al-Madhal I 5 that "essential" is a more general notion that can encompass the more specific notion of "signifying the quiddity."51 Al-Rāzī's objection to Avicenna basically exploits the same

⁴⁹ AL-Rāzī Faḥr al-Dīn (1964), Šarḥ al-Išārāt wa-al-tanbīhāt, ed. Najafzadeh Ali Reza, Anjuman-i Āthār va Mafākhir-i Farhangī, Tehran, p. 63.3-12: "My own verification [of the subject] (al-taḥqīq) is that it is not so, because "man" is essential for "man" either [(i)] in relation to the extent that is shared (al-qadr al-muštarak) among the individuals, [i.e.] humanity, so that the idea becomes that "man" is essential for "man". Or [(ii)] it is essential in relation to the particulars that are under it, but the quiddity of that particular doesn't arise from the humanity that is something abstract by which there is sharing, but it arises from it and from that by means of which there is differentiation (al-imtiyāz) from what is shared in humanity. If it is so, then, humanity is not the complete quiddity (tamām al-māhiyya) of that particular, but rather a part (ğuz') of that quiddity. The result is that it is impossible for humanity to be essential for [the things] for which humanity represents the complete quiddity, in virtue of the impossibility for anything to be related to itself. [On the contrary,] humanity is not signifying the quiddity, in relation to that for which humanity is not the complete quiddity. Therefore, it is impossible for the same one thing in relation to the same one thing to be essential and, at the same time, to signify [its] quiddity."

The same argument is provided in AL-RĀZĪ Faḥr al-Dīn (2002-2003), *Manţiq al-Mulaḥḥaṣ*, ed. QARĀMALIKĪ Farāmarz A. and AṣĠaRīNIZHĀDĀdīna, Intišārāt-i Dānišgāh-i Imām Ṣādiq, Tehran, p. 38.6-10: "It is impossible to call what signifies the quiddity "essential," because the essential is [(i)] either essential for itself, but this is absurd, since the essential is related to the essence and it is impossible for anything to be in relation to itself; or [(ii)] [it is essential] for something else, but this is vain, because that with respect of which it is essential is, inescapably, composed by it and by something else, hence it [i.e. the essential feature] is [just] one of its parts, so that it doesn't signify its quiddity, because one of the parts of the composite doesn't signify the complete quiddity (tamām al-māhiyya)."

⁵¹ In Manţiq al-Mulaḥḥaş, p. 44, 2-15, Faḥr al-Dīn al-Rāzī describes five definitions of "essential" provided by philosophers. Avicenna's definition of "essential" presented in K. al-Madḥal I 5 seems to match with the position held by the third group of philosophers, defining the "essential" as "what cannot be removed from the quiddity". In the same passage, al-Rāzī explicitly endorses the position of the fifth group of

diairetical scheme employed in Avicenna's argument, though with a completely different assumption concerning the quiddity of the individual. In fact, Avicenna made it coincide with the specific quiddity, to which other features that are proper to each individual occur.⁵² In al-Rāzī's own view, on the other hand, the individual's quiddity as a whole is composed by a shared factor (al-qadr al-muštarak), which is common to all the individuals of the same species (i.e. the specific quiddity), and a distinguishing factor (al-qadr al-mumayyiz) that allows the distinction of an individual from the others (i.e. the proper distinguishing features of each individual).⁵³ As a consequence, the essential constituents of the individual form are, actually, a part of its quiddity (the shared one), rather than the whole of it. This kind of analysis is quite peculiar of al-Rāzī's thought, and was later rejected by Nasīr al-Dīn al-Tūsī in his own commentary on Avicenna's *Išārāt*, where he basically reassessed Avicenna's view on the subject.54

To sum up, supposing that al-Rāzī is the author of the *marginalia* to the $\dot{S}ifa$, the comparison between the marginalia on K. al-Madhal and the commentary on the *Išārāt* showed that, even if he didn't agree with Avicenna's claim in *K. al-Madhal* I 5, in his marginalia he confined himself to a plain paraphrase of the passage.

Given the apparently "impersonal" style of these *marginalia*, it is difficult to tell with certainty on a philosophical basis whether the authorial ascription preserved in the manuscript tradition is reliable or not.

As to their possible dating, these *marginalia* are copied in the thirteenth-century manuscripts in the same handwriting that is responsible for the copy of the main text, which means that they were copied, together with the main text, from an earlier antigraph. Hence, it can be concluded that this corpus of marginalia is, at least, surely earlier than the second half of the thirteenth century (given that the earliest of the three manuscripts dates to 666/1267-8). An ascription to Fahr al-Dīn al-Rāzī, therefore, cannot be easily ruled out, neither on a philosophical basis nor on a chronological one. However it might be, the discovery of this set of marginalia is worthy of attention, because it provides a clue to the existence of an early exegetical

philosophers, claiming that the "essential" is "what is a part of the quiddity (ğuz' al-māhiyya)," which excludes what signifies the entire quiddity of something from the essential features.

⁵² Avicenna (K. al-Madhal I 5, p. 29.2-13 Cairo ed.) clearly identifies the quiddity of an individual with that of the species (the example is that of the individual man, whose quiddity is determined by his humanity).

⁵³ On these two "factors" and their role in the definition, see also Івканім Bilal (2013), "Faḥr ad-Dīn ar-Rāzī, Ibn al-Haytam and Aristotelian Science: Essentialism versus Phenomenalism in Post-Classical Islamic Thought," Oriens 41, p. 379-431.

⁵⁴ In fact, al-Ṭūsī's commentary on the same passage of Avicenna's *Išārāt* (see IBN Sīnā, *al-Išārāt wa-al-*Tanbīhāt, ed. DUNYĀ, p. 205 n. 9) is a defence of Avicenna's claim that the specific nature, such as "humanity," does signify the quiddity of an individual, since it is the entire quiddity of that individual (wa-tilka al-tabī 'atu innamā hiya tamāmu māhiyyati tilka al-ašhāsi).

practice concerning Avicenna's *Šifā*, in spite of an apparently poor production of commentaries on the text between the eleventh and the sixteenth century. Mss. P and A, which both preserve these *marginalia*, well represent the transmission of a thirteenth-century cultural heritage up to the eighteenth century.

II.2. THE EXEMPLAR OF MSS. P AND A

Besides having been produced within the same scholastic *milieu*, mss. P and A also derive from the same exemplar (that I shall name, for the sake of simplicity, ms. δ).⁵⁶ In what follows, I shall try to argue for this claim on two different bases: (i) on the basis of Lachmann's criterion of the presence of shared mistakes in the text of both witnesses; (ii) on the basis of the presence in both witnesses of the aforementioned set of *marginalia* ascribed to Faḥr al-Dīn al-Rāzī, copied together with the main text and affected, on their turn, by shared mistakes.

(i) As to the first criterion, that is to determine a stemmatic relation between the two manuscripts, both manuscripts share the same accidental omission affecting the text of K. al-' $lb\bar{a}ra$ II 2, p. 93, 9-11⁵⁷ (the underlined clause in T8).

T8. IBN SĪNĀ, al-Šifā', al-Manṭiq, al-ʿ $lb\bar{a}ra$, II.2, p. 93.9-11 and the omission shared by mss. P and A

فإن لم يعتبر ذلك كانت السوالب تلزم الموجبات،
$$لأنّ السوالب تصدق على ما هو معدوم من الموضوعات ولا يمتنع.$$

So that, if this is not taken into account, the negative statements necessarily follow the affirmative ones, since the negative statements give assent to the subjects that do not exist without being impossible.

(ii) As to the second criterion, in the margins of the same folio both mss. P and A preserve one of the *marginalia* ascribed to Faḥr al-Dīn al-Rāzī, commenting on a slightly preceding passage (*K. al- 'Ibāra* II 2, p. 93, 2). What is more, in both manuscripts the clause accidentally omitted in *K. al- 'Ibāra* II 2, p. 93, 9-11 is integrated in the margin, but it is wrongly included as a part of the marginal note commenting on *K. al- 'Ibāra* II 2, p. 93, 2 (see T9).

⁵⁵ On this point, see WISNOVSKY Robert (2013), "Avicenna's Islamic reception," in ADAMSON Peter (ed.), Interpreting Avicenna, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, p. 190-213, esp. p. 194.

⁵⁶ The two manuscripts are seemingly not derived from each other, for each of them has mistakes that are not shared with the other.

⁵⁷ Quoted from the edition: IBN SīNĀ (1970), al-Šifā', al-Manțiq, 3. al-'Ibāra, ed. MADKŪR Ibrāhīm and AL-Ḥudayrī Maḥmūd, al-Hay'a al-miṣriyya al-'āmma li-al-kitāb, Cairo.

T9. A shared mistake in a marginal note in mss. P and A

other manuscripts أى بعد أن يكون الموضوع الذي هو الإنسان موجودا أي بعد أن يكون الموضوع الذي هو الإنسان موجودا غير غير معدوم لأنّ السوالب تصدق على ما هو معدوم من معدوم.

The marginal note in mss. P and A

"I.e. provided the fact that the subject that is the man is existent [and] not non-existent."58

The marginal note as it is preserved in the

As to the genesis of this phenomenon, it can be supposed that the addition of the omitted portion of text in the margin of an ancestor of mss. P and A was mistaken for a part of the marginal note written slightly above it, and therefore included in the marginal note in the copies derived from it. It is possible to figure out that this peculiar mistake was already there in the common antigraph of the two manuscripts (ms. δ): in fact, the presence of the same graphic confusion in both mss. P and A suggests that the two manuscripts are accurate reproductions of ms. δ .

To sum up, on the basis of both the aforementioned criteria (i) and (ii), it can be argued that mss. P and A are copies of the same exemplar. The results provided by the analysis of the stemmatic relations between the two manuscripts are consistent with the data of the historical reconstruction conducted so far: the two manuscripts were copied in the same context (i.e. within the school of As'ad al-Yānyawī) and from the same copy (i.e. ms. δ). Arguably, ms. δ was a manuscript that preserved at least the section on logic of Avicenna's Šifā' and descended, in its turn, from a copy related to the three aforementioned thirteenth-century manuscripts. These manuscripts altogether form a branch of the manuscript tradition of Avicenna's Šifā' that could be named "Razian branch," since it is characterized by the presence of a set of exegetical marginal notes ascribed to Fahr al-Dīn al-Rāzī, that were evidently transmitted at least up to the eighteenth century.

^{*} The underlined part exactly corresponds to the clause omitted in mss. P and A in K. al-'Ibāra II 2, p. 93, 9-11.

⁵⁸ The purpose of this marginal note is to clarify, with regard to K. al- Ibāra II 2, p. 93, 2: "... provided the aforementioned condition (ba'd al-šart al-madkūr)," what is the "aforementioned condition" to which Avicenna refers.

CONCLUSIONS

As the present inquiry tried to show, a careful study of mss. P and A is able to provide new insights into the intellectual activity within the circle of As ad al-Yānyawī, and even some new textual evidence of As ad al-Yānyawī's own production concerning the Aristotelian logic. In addition to that, both manuscripts revealed themselves as precious witnesses of a stratified exegetical activity on Avicenna's $\check{S}if\bar{a}$, collecting several philosophical marginalia produced between the thirteenth and the eighteenth century. In sum, it can be stated that mss. P and A are outstanding witnesses attesting a continuity of the exegetical tradition concerning Avicenna's $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ between the period which was defined as the "golden age of Arabic philosophy" (1000-1350 ca.)⁵⁹ and that moment of cultural vibrancy for the Ottoman history that is represented by the beginning of the eighteenth century. One should expect a more systematic study of this sort of marginalia to be able to cast a new light on the exegetical activity concerning Avicenna's $\check{S}if\bar{a}$ throughout the centuries.

⁵⁹ GUTAS, "The Heritage of Avicenna: The Golden Age of Arabic Philosophy, 1000 – ca. 1350," p. 81-97.