

The Book of Conviviality in Exile (*Kitāb al-īnās bi-l-jalwa*)

Biblia Arabica

Editorial Board

Camilla Adang (*Tel Aviv University*)

Juan Pedro Monferrer Sala (*Universidad de Córdoba*)

Meira Polliack (*Tel Aviv University*)

Sabine Schmidtke (*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton*)

Alexander Treiger (*Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada*)

Ronny Vollandt (*Freie Universität Berlin*)

VOLUME 1

The titles published in this series are listed at brill.com/biar

The Book of Conviviality in Exile (*Kitāb al-īnās bi-ʾl-jalwa*)

*The Judaeo-Arabic Translation and Commentary
of Saadia Gaon on the Book of Esther*

Edited, Translated and Introduced by

Michael G. Wechsler



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Cover illustration: MS CUL T-S Ar.28.16o (MS 17 in the present volume), fol. 1^v. Courtesy of the Syndics of the Cambridge University Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Wechsler, Michael G., author.

The Book of conviviality in exile (Kitab al-inas bi-l-jalwa) : the Judaeo-Arabic translation and commentary of Saadia Gaon on the Book of Esther / by Michael G. Wechsler.

pages cm – (Biblia Arabica ; 1)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-90-04-27822-6 (hardback : alk. paper) – ISBN 978-90-04-28452-4 (e-book : alk. paper)

1. Sa'adia ben Joseph, 882-942. Kitab al-Inas bi-al-jalwah. English & Judeo-Arabic. 2. Bible.

Esther—Criticism, interpretation, etc., Jewish. I. Sa'adia ben Joseph, 882-942. Kitab al-Inas bi-al-jalwah.

English. II. Sa'adia ben Joseph, 882-942. Kitab al-Inas bi-al-jalwah. Judeo-Arabic. III. Title. IV. Title: Kitab al-inas bi-l-jalwa. V. Title: Kitab al-Inas bi-al-jalwah.

BS1375.52.W43 2015

222'.9049—dc23

2014049555

This publication has been typeset in the multilingual “Brill” typeface. With over 5,100 characters covering Latin, IPA, Greek, and Cyrillic, this typeface is especially suitable for use in the humanities. For more information, please see www.brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISSN 2213-6401

ISBN 978-90-04-27822-6 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-28452-4 (e-book)

Copyright 2015 by Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Koninklijke Brill NV incorporates the imprints Brill, Brill Hes & De Graaf, Brill Nijhoff, Brill Rodopi and Hotei Publishing.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher.

Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use is granted by Koninklijke Brill NV provided that the appropriate fees are paid directly to The Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Suite 910, Danvers, MA 01923, USA. Fees are subject to change.

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

*In loving memory of my maternal grandmother
Elsbeth Wolf (née Jakoby)*

אסתר אלה בת ר' אליעזר ז"ל

נולדה בעיר טריר (גרמניה), כ"ז בכסליו תרס"ח
הלכה לעולמה בעיר מיאמי (ארה"ב), י"ז באדר תשנ"ז

וְהֵן אִם נִעְלְמָה מִנִּי הַתּוֹכַל
הָיֹוֹת מַעֲיִן לְבָבִי נִעְלְמָה?

— טָדְרוֹס בֶּן יְהוּדָה אַבּוּלְעֶאפִיָּה
"בעודי מבלי שכל"

∴

Contents

Acknowledgments	XI
Transliteration Tables	XII

Introduction

Overview	3
----------	---

Methods and Themes in Saadia's Exegesis of Esther 6

1	The Methodological Framework: Balancing Reason and Tradition	6
2	Interaction with Rabbinic Tradition	11
3	Polemics	20
4	Exploring the Exigence of Dissimulation	25

Publication History 30

Written Witnesses Employed for the Present Edition 33

1	Primary Witnesses to Saadia's Commentary on Esther	33
2	Secondary Witnesses to Saadia's Commentary on Esther: Judaean-Arabic Reworkings, Précis, and Citations by Later Medieval Writers	70

Editorial Method 76

1	The Basic Text	76
2	The Apparatuses	80

Some Methodological Remarks on the Annotated English Translation 82

Signs, Sigla, and Abbreviations 84

Translation

The Title and the Introduction	93
1 The First Section (<i>al-Qiṣṣat al-ūlā</i>)	114
1.1 <i>Ad</i> 1:1	114
1.2 <i>Ad</i> 1:2	125
1.3 <i>Ad</i> 1:3–4	133
1.4 <i>Ad</i> 1:5–8	144
1.5 <i>Ad</i> 1:9–12	154
1.6 <i>Ad</i> 1:13–22	163
2 The Second Section (<i>al-Qiṣṣat al-thāniya</i>)	179
2.1 <i>Ad</i> 2:1–4	179
2.2 <i>Ad</i> 2:5–7	181
2.3 <i>Ad</i> 2:8–11	187
2.4 <i>Ad</i> 2:12–15	193
2.5 <i>Ad</i> 2:16–20	201
2.6 <i>Ad</i> 2:21–23	207
2.7 <i>Ad</i> 3:1–5	211
3 The Third Section (<i>al-Qiṣṣat al-thālitha</i>)	228
<i>Ad</i> 3:6–15	228
4 The Fourth Section (<i>al-Qiṣṣat al-rābi'a</i>)	254
<i>Ad</i> 4:1–4	254
5 The Fifth Section (<i>al-Qiṣṣat al-khāmisa</i>)	265
5.1 <i>Ad</i> 4:5–17	265
5.2 <i>Ad</i> 5:1–14	289
6 The Sixth Section (<i>al-Qiṣṣat al-sādisa</i>)	306
6.1 <i>Ad</i> 6:1–12	306
6.2 <i>Ad</i> 6:13–7:10	317
6.3 <i>Ad</i> 8:1–14	334
6.4 <i>Ad</i> 8:15–17	351
6.5 <i>Ad</i> 9:1–19	362

CONTENTS

IX

7 The Seventh Section (*al-Qiṣṣat al-sābi'a*) 3847.1 *Ad* 9:20–28 3847.2 *Ad* 9:29–32 4057.3 *Ad* 10:1–3 411***Appendix, Bibliographical Abbreviations, Indices, and Plates*****Appendix: Secondary Judaeo-Arabic Witnesses to Saadia's Commentary on Esther: Edited Texts of the Reworkings and Précis 419**1 An Anonymous Condensed Reworking of *Kitāb al-inās* (أ) 4192 A Condensed Reworking of *Kitāb al-inās*, Encompassing the Commentary on 1:1–11 and the Introduction, in the Commentary of Isaac Gaon ben Israel on *Pārāshat Tērūmā* (Exod 25:1–27:19) (ب) 424

3 An Anonymous Précis of Saadia's Comment on Esther 3:1–4 (ت) 427

4 An Anonymous Abridged Reworking of Saadia's Comment on Esther 1:1 (ث) 427

Bibliographical Abbreviations 430

1 Libraries, Institutes, Organizations, and Manuscript Collections 430

2 Books, Articles, and Works in Manuscript 430

Indices**Manuscripts 473****Scriptural References 479**

1 Hebrew Bible 479

2 Qur'ān 488

Rabbinic Literature 489**Medieval Authors and Works 494****General Index 511****Plates 520**1 MS א (NLR Evr.-Arab. I 3866 [א], fol. 2^r) 5202 MS ב (CUL T-S Ar.23.44 [ב], fol. 3^v) 5213 MS א (BLO Heb.d.62 [א], fol. 118^r) 5224 MS א (BLO Heb.f.19 [א], fol. 1^r) 5235 MS א (CUL T-S Ar.25.91 [א], fol. 2^v) 5246 MS א (CUL T-S Ar.25.84 [א], fol. 2^r) 5257 MS א (CUL T-S Ar.27.51 [א], fol. 1^r) 526

8	MS ן (CUL T-S Ar.33.31 [2ן], <i>verso</i>)	527
9	MS ף (CUL T-S 8Ca1, fol. 3 ^v)	528
10	MS ץ (CUL T-S Ar.1b.94, fols. 10 ^v & 15 ^r)	529
11	MS ם (CUL T-S Ar.27.98, fol. 2 ^v)	529
12	MS ן (CUL T-S NS 285.30 [1ן], <i>recto</i>)	530
13	MS ן (CUL T-S NS 163.3, <i>verso</i>)	531
14	MS ן (CUL T-S NS 263.107, <i>recto</i>)	531
15	MS ן (CUL T-S NS 309.52 [1ן], <i>verso</i>)	532
16	MS ן (BAIU III.B.75 [1ן], <i>recto</i>)	533
17	MS ן (JTSL ENA 3148 [1ן], fol. 3 ^v + ENA 3371 [2ן], fol. 11 ^r)	534
18	MS ן (CUL T-S Misc.6.120, <i>verso</i>)	535
19	MS ן (CUL T-S AS 159.7, <i>recto</i>)	536
20	MS ן (JTSL ENA 3488, fol. 11 ^v)	536
21	MS ן (CUL T-S Ar.21.5, <i>verso</i>)	537
22	MS ן (BLO/CUL L-G Ar.2.100, <i>recto</i> & <i>verso</i>)	538
23	MS ן (JTSL ENA 3218, fol. 4 ^r)	539
24	MS ן (JTSL ENA 2638 [4ן], fol. 22 ^r)	540
25	MS ן (BLO Hunt. 241, fols. 24 ^v –25 ^r)	541
26	MS ן (JTSL ENA 3601, fol. 14 ^v)	542
27	MS ן (CUL T-S Misc.24.158, <i>verso</i>)	543

The Edited Text

Editorial Introduction (Abridged)	553
-----------------------------------	-----

The Judaeo-Arabic Text of <i>Kitāb al-īnās bi-'l-jalwa</i>	561
--	-----

Acknowledgments

In addition to expressing my general gratitude to the staff of all the manuscript and imaging departments of the institutions listed at the beginning of the bibliography, I wish to extend special thanks for the generous help given by Ben Outhwaite (Head of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit at Cambridge University Library), Yael Okun (Director of the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts at the National Library of Israel, Jerusalem), Rahel Fronda (Subject Specialist of Hebrew and Jewish Collections at the Bodleian Libraries), and Boris Zaykovsky (Curator in the Sector of Oriental Manuscripts at the National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg). I heartily thank all those who contributed any feedback to my work on *Kitāb al-inās* over the years: Meira Polliack, Joel L. Kraemer, James T. Robinson, Mordechai A. Friedman, Eliezer Schlossberg, Ronny Vollandt, Barry Dov Walfish, Marzena Zawadowska, Avi Tal, Nahem Ilan, Haggai Ben-Shammai, Daniel Lasker, Sabine Schmidtke, and Camilla Adang (if I've omitted anyone please forgive me—it's been many years). Thanks to the editorial board of *Biblia Arabica* for accepting this volume as the first in their series; and thanks to Franca de Kort, Renee Otto, and the rest of the staff at Brill for their helpfulness and expertise in working through all the challenging layout issues attending this volume. A special debt of gratitude is owed—in this as in so many of my other academic endeavors—to my Doktorvater Norman Golb, who introduced me to the language and literature of Judaeo-Arabic, and whose patient and precise tutelage both fanned and focused my interest therein. My very deep gratitude (words begin to fail) goes to my wife, Lydia Wechsler, for her unfailing patience and support, and for the many sacrifices she made so that this volume might see light; to my children, Elsie and Avi, for the sacrifices of time that they had no choice but to accept; to my father-in-law, Samuil Onbreyt, and mother-in-law, Lyubov Onbreyt, for always being there—selflessly, faithfully, unassumingly—to help keep things humming along at home; to my mother, Joan Wechsler, for her gentle encouragement and enthusiasm over this work, and for her unfailing love; and to my maternal grandmother, Elsbeth Wolf, the dedicatee of this volume, for showing me a quality of character to which I can only ever hope to aspire—had Saadia ever met you he would surely have said, “Now there, indeed, is an Esther of our time!”

Michael G. Wechsler
Chicago
Summer 2014

Transliteration Tables

Hebrew and Aramaic

Consonants

<i>p</i>	פ	<i>t</i>	ט	׳	א
<i>f</i>	פ	<i>y</i>	י	<i>b</i>	ב
<i>s</i>	צ	<i>k</i>	כ	<i>b̄</i>	ב
<i>q</i>	ק	<i>kh</i>	כ	<i>g</i>	ג/ג
<i>r</i>	ר	<i>l</i>	ל	<i>d</i>	ד/ד
<i>ś</i>	ש	<i>m</i>	מ	<i>h</i>	ה
<i>sh</i>	ש	<i>n</i>	נ	<i>ν</i>	ו
<i>t</i>	ת/ת	<i>s</i>	ס	<i>z</i>	ז
		׳	ע	<i>ḥ</i>	ח

- The sign ׳ is omitted when initial (e.g., *īsh* for אִישׁ).
- The doubling of letters prefixed by the definite article and in biblical “*vayyiqtol*” forms is generally not indicated (e.g., *ha-kātūb*, not *hak-kātūb*; *va-yōmer*, not *vay-yōmer*).

Vowels

<i>ă</i>	◌ֶ	<i>a</i>	◌ֹ (furtive: <i>ä</i>)	<i>ā</i>	◌ֶ/◌ֹ (<i>gādōl</i>)
<i>ě</i>	◌ֵ/◌ֶ (vocal)	<i>e</i>	◌ֵ	<i>ē</i>	◌ֵ/◌ֶ
<i>ō</i>	◌ֹ	<i>i</i>	◌ִ	<i>ī</i>	◌ִ
		<i>o</i>	◌ֹ (<i>qātān/ḥātūf</i>)	<i>ō</i>	◌ִ/◌ֹ
		<i>u</i>	◌ִ	<i>ū</i>	◌ִ

- The signs *ī* and *ū* are also generally used in cases of *scriptio defectiva* (e.g., *nāḥī* for נָחַי [= נָחִיָּא] and *qūm* for קָמ [= קוּם]).

TRANSLITERATION TABLES

XIII

Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic

Consonants

<i>q</i>	ق/ق	<i>z</i>	ز/ز	ʾ	ا/ء/ا
<i>k</i>	ك/ك	<i>s</i>	س/س	<i>b</i>	ب/ب
<i>l</i>	ل/ل	<i>sh</i>	ش/ش	<i>t</i>	ت/ت
<i>m</i>	م/م	<i>ṣ</i>	ص/ص	<i>th</i>	ث/ث
<i>n</i>	ن/ن	<i>d</i>	ض/ض	<i>j</i>	ج/ج
<i>h</i>	ه/ه	<i>ṭ</i>	ط/ط	<i>ḥ</i>	ح/ح
<i>w</i>	و/و	<i>ẓ</i>	ظ/ظ	<i>kh</i>	خ/خ
<i>y</i>	ي/ي	‘	ع/ع	<i>d</i>	د/د
		<i>gh</i>	غ/غ	<i>dh</i>	ذ/ذ
<i>a/at</i>	ا/ة/ة	<i>f</i>	ف/ف	<i>r</i>	ر/ر

- The sign ʾ is omitted when initial and followed by a vowel (i.e., without *waṣla*; thus: *iqtidār* for اقتدار, yet *ḥasaba ʿqtidār* for حسب اقتدار), as well as when final in plural verbs (i.e., when functioning as *al-alif al-fāṣila*; thus: *yaʿmalū* rather than *yaʿmalūʾ*).
- ة is represented by *at* when in construct or when the following word begins with *alif* (e.g., *al-qīṣṣat al-ūlā* for القصة الأولى).

Vowels

<i>ā</i>	اَ (and اِ <i>maqṣūra</i>)	<i>a</i>	اَ
<i>ī</i>	اِ (and final اِي; yet non-final: <i>īyy</i>)	<i>i</i>	اِ
<i>ū</i>	اُ (and final اُو; yet non-final: <i>uww</i>)	<i>u</i>	اُ

- Before *alif al-waṣl* the vowels اَ, اِ, and اُ are respectively represented by *a*, *i*, and *u* (thus: *ʿalayhuma ʿl-salām* for عليهما السلام, *fi ʿl-kalām* for في الكلام, and *abu ʿl-kadhib* for ابو الكاذب).
- *Tanwīn*, though generally not indicated, is represented by *un* (for اُن), *an* (for اِن), or, when denoting any of the previous, final ا), or *in* (for اِ or, when denoting the previous, final ا).
- The resolved diphthongs اِي (< اِي) and اُو (< اُو) are respectively represented by *ai* and *au*.

كِتَابُ الْإِنْيَاسِ بِالْجَلْوَةِ

وهو

تفسير سفر أسْتِير

تأليف

رأس المَثَبَةِ سَعِيد بن يُوسُف القَيُّومِي
المتوفى سنة ٣٣٠ هـ

حَقَّقَهُ وَتَرَجَّمَهُ وَعَلَّقَ عَلَيْهِ وَقَدَّمَ لَهُ
مِيخَائِيل فُكْسَلَر



بريل

الناشر

دار بريل للنشر في ليدن المحروسة وبوسطن

٢٠١٢

س

ספר החברות בגלות (כתאב אלאינאס באלגלוה)

תרגום ופירוש רב סעדיה גאון
למגילת אסתר

ההדיר, תירגם לאנגלית, והוסיף הערות ומבוא
מיכאל וקסלר



BRILL

ליידן תשע"ה
הוצאת בריל