

A BIBLIOGRAPHY ABOUT THE BISHOP  
GRIGORIUS BOULOS BEHNAM AND HIS WRITINGS

by

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A GLANCE AT HIS BACKGROUND

He was born in the town of Karkoush-Mousel (Iraq) in the year 1916, and when he was old enough he joined the seminary of Mar Matta monastery. While he was studying there, he made a great effort to master the Syriac language his home language. In 1935, he was named a monk, in 1938 he joined the theological seminary of Mar Afram in Zahle when this school was shifted to Mousel and he was named its director in 1945.

In 1951, he was given the title of "Malfan" by the former Patriarch Afram Barsom the first. On the sixth of April he was appointed a Bishop for Mousel. In 1957, he was named a Bishop for Kudus (Jerusalem) for a period of one year.

In 1959, he received a scholarship from the united seminary in New York, by this scholarship he spent one year specializing in the old Aramaic.

In 1962, he was named a Bishop for Baghdad and Basra, and he stayed in this position until he died on wednesday Feb. 19, 1969. His holy body was buried on friday Feb. 21 in the presence of his HOLINESS Mar Ignatius Yacoub the third, patriarch of Antioch and all the east and in the presence of their GRACES the Syrian Bishops and monks.

His body was buried in the church of saint Peter and Paul in Baghdad.

The works he has left us may be divided into three categories :

- 1 — Printed books
- 2 — Manuscripts
- 3 — Printed articles

I. THE PRINTED BOOKS

- 1 — Directory to the Syriac language :

A Syriac book for teaching purposes; every lesson in it includes a translation of the difficult words, then the Syriac text, and then questions about grammar and practical applications.

The book consists of 64 pages, printed in Jounieh/Lebanon in 1945.

- 2 — Al-Banafsaga al-Zakia (The fragrant Violet)



A summary of catechismes for families and schools; the book is composed of 7 sections which deal with :

— The true nature of Christianity.

— God, angels, the human being, incarnation, redemption, the church and its sacraments, the prayers and their timing, the ten commandments and virtues and vices.

This book was printed in Mousel/Iraq twice in 1946 in Mahfouz and Al-Itihad al-Jadida press. It consists of 120 pages.

3 — The Aframian theological seminary

An article which deals with the stages of development of the seminary since its foundation in 1939 until its shift to Mousel.

The article was published in a special issue of the "Al-Nashra al-Halabia al-Souriania" in the year 1946.

4 — Principles of faith.

A booklet which includes stories from the bible, the author selected verses from the psalms for memorizing. This book was printed in Mousel.

5 — Khama'el al-rihan in the orthodoxy of mar Yacoub al-Souroji al-Malfan.

He subdivided his research into 3 sections :

A — The letters of mar Yacoub al-Souroji.

B — Mar Yacoub and the historians.

C — Mar Yacoub al-malfan; the true orthodox.

The book is composed of 164 pages plus a supplement of the Syriac texts mentioned in the book (34) pages, printed in Al-Itihad al-Jadida press in Mousel in 1949.

6 — The truth is the truth whether accepted or rejected;

Another documentation for history, a defending article which supports the orthodox faith of mar Yacoub al-Souroji, it consists of 18 pages printed in Mousel in 1949 by Al-Itihad al-Jadida press.

7 — Ibn Al-'Ibri the poet.

A special issue of the "Lissan al-Mashriq al-Mousalia" magazine. In the year 1950 issues No. 1, 2, 3 from pages 65 until 92.

8 — Ibn Al-'Ibri the poet.

The life of Ibn Al-'Ibri, then his famous poem on the divine wisdom in its Syriac version with its Arabic translation in poetry.

The book is composed of 113 pages published by Al-Shabab press in Kamishli SYRIA in the year 1965.

9 — The history of mar Barsom's monastery.

A detailed study of the monastery since its foundation in the 8th. century and until its end in the middle of the 17th. century. The study includes the financial situation of the monastery, its treasures, its monk's life, its heads, its discipline and order, its patriarchal see, its library, its school,



its famous directors, its graduates, the church councils held in it, and the entrance of Joslin the crusader to it, his collapse, failure and end.

This book was printed in Mousel by Al-Itihad al-Jadida press in March 1951. It consists of 56 pages. It was also published in series of articles in the magazine of Al-Mashriq al-Mousilia.

10 — Psychology by Mussa Ibn Kifa († 903).

This was the thesis on the basis of which he was named Malfan (Professor) by the great theologian patriarch Afram Barsom.

This was published in the al-Mashriq magazine in Mousel during the year 1951 in August and September issues.

The thesis is made up of 80 pages.

11 — The art of letter writing by the Syriac.

Published in a series of articles in Al-Salam magazine (Peace) whose owner was the reverend father Suleiman Daoud, in Basra/Iraq in the year 1951 (issues No. 2 until No. 7).

12 — A flower among the snow "Zahra bein al-thoulouge".

An Arabic poem composed of 60 lines printed in Zahle/Lebanon in March 1943.

13 — Syriac Nation; its language, culture, and philosophy.

Published in a series of articles in Beirut in the tongue of the nation newspaper (Lissan al-Umma).

It was also referred to by Vicount Phillipe de Trazi in his book: The full truth about the history of Lebanon and some news about the Syrians (volume I page 441).

14 — Historical and linguistic investigations in the field of Semitic languages.

This is a linguistic, scientific, historical and critical research about "Semitic-Arabic dictionaries" written by rev. father A. S. Marmergi printed in Homs in 1953 in 108 pages.

15 — Theodora.

A historical and religious play made up of 10 scenes relating the story of courage, sacrifice, and faith. It deals with the history of the Syrian church in the first half of the 6th century. The play is preceeded by an introduction made up of 20 pages about the life of Theodora, her effort in spreading the words of the bible, building churches and how the Syrian history looks upon Theodora.

This was printed in the Orient press Aleppo in the year 1956 in 156 pages.

16 — Al-falsafa al-musha'ia fi turasina al-fikri.

It includes 6 philosophical, historical, litteral, and sociological articles, which was printed in Al-Hassan press in Mousel in 1958.

The book consists of 132 pages divided into 6 articles which are :



- 1 — A look at the Iraqi philosophical heritage (pages 7-23)
- 2 — Politics in the Syrian philosophy (pages 26-52)
- 3 — Yanabi' al-ma'rifa 'ind Ibn Sina or the sources of knowledge of Avicenne.

An article prepared and read in Baghdad 1952, during the one thousand year festival of Ibn Sina (985-1037).

This article was well received by the scientific society. It was also published in the arabic scientific council magazine (Al-majalla al-'ilmia) in Damascus on April 1/1958 pages 213-237 and then published in the above mentioned book pages 56-75

4 — Chemistry as understood by the oriental scientists (pages 78-88)  
A lecture delivered in the cultural season organized in 1955-1956 by the teachers' syndicate in Mousel. It was also published in the booklet which included the lectures delivered pages 17-35.

5 — Ibn Sina in the Syrian literatures (pages 92-113)  
Delivered in the one thousand year festival of Ibn Sina which was held in Baghdad in the period 20 to 28 th. March 1952.

It was also published in the "book" Al-Kitab the Egyptian magazine in its special issue about Ibn Sina. It was also mentioned on page 361 of the golden book published specially for the mentioned festival.

6 — The knowledge theory by the philosopher mar Grigorious Ibn al-'Ibri pages 116-131 published in Al-Mashriq al-Mousilia magazine in its first year (issues 11 until 15).

17 — The basic relationships between the Aramaic "Syriac" and the Arabic language.

A research in 5 articles, which deals with the historical, technical, linguistic, and literal aspects of the two languages.

It was published in Damascus by Al-Majma' al-'ilmi al-'arabi magazine (The Arabic scientific council magazine), vol. 33 (1958) - 34 (1959).

18 — The life of patriarch Afram or Nafahat al-khuzam.

A book on the life of mar Ignatius Afram Barsom the first; the patriarch of Antioch and all the east who died in 1957.

The introduction which is made up of 17 pages was written by Nazir Zeytoun the well known writer. The book is subdivided into 4 sections:

I — The life of patriarch Afram, his studies, works, excursions, his election as a bishop and then as a patriarch, his effort in the foundation of the theological seminary, his pastoral visits, the councils he held, and then how he found the belt of the virgin Mary.

II — His scientific personality. This section includes his linguistic scientific and historical background, his artistic prose writing, his scientific criticism, his linguistic papers, the translations he did from Syriac into



Arabic, his great care in publishing the work of his predecessors, his interest in the church's celebrations, his library with its precious books, and his printed written books.

III — His patriotic personality.

IV — The patriarch in the eternal abode. Composed of 275 pages of the large size printed in Mousel by "Al-Hassan" press in the year 1959.

19 — Marc's house in Jerusalem or the Syrian monastery of st. Marc.

A historical summary about st. Marc's monastery decorated with pictures of the famous transcripts found in Al-Kudus safe; and here is a list of some of the pictures found in the book :

St. Paul's letters written on the serf's skin in the 7th. century; a picture of the Herkelian version of the new testament written in the year 728 (1039), Greek; a picture for responses of st. Sewerious of Antioch written on the serf's skin in 1211 (1521), Greek. A transcript from the 9th. century of how to sanctify the church, the big fasting in accordance to the Antioch rite, and some other pictures of the ancient monastery and its pots and dishes. The book is made up of 50 pages printed in Jerusalem in April 1962.

20 — The history of Tor 'Abdin;

Written in the year 1924 in the Syriac language by Patriarch Ignatius Afram Barsom the first († 1957), it was then translated into Arabic and was published with its Syriac original plus an introduction in Arabic and Syriac. The book consists of 374 pages and was printed in Jounieh/Lebanon in the year 1964.

21 — Al-Ithicon, in the philosophy of morals and manners.

Written by Ibn Al-'Ibri, who translated it into Arabic with a vigorous introduction of 95 pages about the sufism in the Syriac society.

The book is made up of 442 pages, and was printed in Kamishli/Syria 1967 by Al-Shabab press.

22 — Ahikar al-Hakim (The wise Ahikar).

A book made up of 8 chapters which includes the wisdom in the middle Assyrian era, the appearance of Ahikar's proverbs, how the European orientalist showed great interest in the Aramaic wisdom of Ahikar and its affection by the old art of wisdom, the aramaic wisdom with its translation into Arabic, the translation of the new Aramaic (Syriac) texts, a comparison between the two texts (the old and the new one), and the influence of Ahikar's wisdom on the world's art of wisdom and on the old poetry.

The book is composed of 180 pages and was printed in Baghdad in Al-Saab press in 1976 by the Syriac language council.

23 — Physics and Chemistry in Syriac works.

A study of natural science or physiology, the paths leading to natural sciences, the concept of the old scientists of the material world and the



idea of the syrian scientists, subject of the natural sciences, chemistry, matter, synthesis, analysis, mixing, the four elements: fire, air, water, earth, the arrangement of elements according to scientists and how they write, the melting of bodies, metals, atom physics, gravity, speed and motion.

Printed by the Syriac language council magazine, volume I (1975) in Al-Ma'aref press Baghdad, pages (5-46).

## II. THE MANUSCRIPTS

1 — The Pope Dioscoros in front of the history.

A detailed study about the pope Dioscorous of Alexandria.

2 — The saint Ashmony and her seven children — the death for faith.

A historical novel of four scenes taken from Sifr al-Makabin.

3 — Defending the true faith by an orthodox, pages 56 (1947).

4 — The Arab Palestine in the Koran and the holy Bible and history, 58 pages (1946).

5 — The science of logic and metaphysics, 84 pages (1946).

6 — The literal philosophy or psychology, 40 pages.

7 — A letter about the ingenuity in litterature and its causes (1950).

— How the idea was started — the effect of the events — the causes of the ingenuity — the literal ingenuity — the excentric ingenuity — the factors of ingenuity, 20 pages.

8 — From the science of psychology (1950).

The levels of feeling — the value of the unconscious life-categorizing the psychological incidents — Descartes — the reactive life-defining some terms, 13 pages.

9 — The fiery Guitar (Al-Kithara al-Naria).

A fictious social poem written in Arabic in 1950, it includes Hymns of fire, love, inspiration, confusion, precaution, tragedies, the spring departure. 11 pages.

## III. ARTICLES

Moreover he published many articles on different subjects in the following magazines :

1 — "Al-Dad" Magazine of Aleppo (1943-1945).

2 — His magazine "Al-Mašriq" 1 (1946); 2 (1947).

3 — His magazine "Lissan al-Mašriq", 1 (1948); 2 (1949/50); 3 (1950/51); 4 (1951/52).



- 4 — "Al-Nashra al-Souryania al-Halabia" 1 (1944); 2 (1945/46); 5 (1948/49).
- 5 — "Al-Salam" Magazine, Basra/Iraq 2 (1953).
- 6 — The Patriarchal Magazine, Damascus/Syria 1 (1962); 2 (1963); 5 (1966).
- 7 — The Syrian University Magazine, Buenos Aires/Argentina 27 (1968).
- 8 — The Syrian Language Council Magazine, Baghdad 1 (1975).
- 9 — Bulletin of the Syriac Academy, Baghdad 2 (1976).