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*Seventh Edition of the PhD International Conference:*

*Editare, Interpretare, Commentare. Approcci multiformi al testo letterario.*

Saturday 17 July – Fourth Session

11.10 - 11.30 Jesús Gómez Puig (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

The invention of the Islamic prophet in the *Vita Mahometis* by Onofre Micó

Selected passages of the *Vita Mahometis* by Onofre Micó

**1. Onupherius Micó, *Lex evangelica contra Alcoranum*, “*Vita Mahometis*”, p. 1**

1. ANTEQUAM ad argumenta contra Alcoranum egrediar, opere praetium duxi Mahometis Pseudoprophetae vitam, qui auctor sedulscendae plebis extitit, paucis praelibare.

**1. Onofre Micó, *Lex evangelica contra Alcoranum*, “*Vita Mahometis*”, p. 1 (own translation)**

1. BEFORE starting with the arguments against the Qur'an, I have considered proper to briefly examine the life of the Pseudo-prophet Muhammad, who sets himself up as the one responsible for seducing the people.

**2. Onupherius Micó, *Lex evangelica contra Alcoranum*, “*Vita Mahometis*”, pp. 1-2**

2. Is puer parentes amisit utrosque puerilibus annis: captus a Saracenis, qui insignes habentur inter Arabes latrociniis Abdemonapli mercatori Ismaelitici generis viro claro et pecunioso venditus est. Qui eum primum, quoniam carebat liberis, ob formam et ingenium liberalius tractabat. Quare factum est, ut Abdemonaplis filius passim diceretur Mahomettus. Quo mortuo, viduam Abdemonaplis, quinquagenariam locupletem admodum uxorem duxit. [...] 3. Uxoris opibus elatus, ad immanissima queque flagitia animum adiecit, suo depravato ingenio alioqui ad audatiam omnem promptus ac paratus. Auxit autem Mahometti temeritatem Sergii Monachi flagisiosissimi perfidia, ut brevi apud Arabes omnes in tantam veniret existimationem, cum nunc Hebraeum, nunc

Christianum simularet, cum tamen nihil omnino sane saperet. Ut suam Sectam stabiliret Mahomettus abscondit se in quadam spelunca prope Mecam, ubi, ut Mahomettani DD. Abuatia, et Azamachxeri Alcorani glosatores scribunt, aliqua Alcorani capita a Gabriele Archangelo habuisse simulavit; et ab eodem humeris ductum fuisse in Coelum pervulgavit.

**2. Onofre Micó, Lex evangelica contra Alcoranum, “Vita Mahometis”, pp. 1-2 (own translation)**

2. This child lost both of his parents in his childish years; he was captured by the Saracens, who are considered famous among the Arabs because of their thefts, and he was sold to Abdimone, a merchant of the lineage of Ishmael, an illustrious and wealthy man. From the beginning, he treated him more generously because of his figure and his wit, since he was childless. For this reason, Muhammad was considered everywhere the son of Abdimone. With his death, Muhammad married the rich widow of Abdimone, who was in her fifties. [...] 3. Ennobled by the wealth of his wife, and inclined and willing to all audacity due to his depraved ingenuity, he filled her heart with the most cruel infamies. Furthermore, the perfidy of the very infamous Monk Sergius increased the audacity of Muhammad in such a way that in a short lapse of time he would had reached all the Arabs with great esteem, pretending to be either Hebrew and Christian, despite of not knowing anything at all. In order to establish his sect, Muhammad hid himself in a cave near the Mecca, where he pretended to have received from Archangel Gabriel the chapters of the Qur'an, as it is reported by Ibn 'Atiya and al-Zamakhsharī, glossators of Muhammad's Qur'an. In fact, he claimed that he had been carried to heaven on his own shoulder.

**3. Onupherius Micó, Lex evangelica contra Alcoranum, “Vita Mahometis”, p. 2**

5. [...] Morte violenta vitam finivit Mahomettus, aetatis suae 63. annis, nam demens, et vanitate plenus, fere semper gloriabatur, tertia die post suum obitum esse resurrecturum. 6. Quidam autem discipulus (Albunor nomine) desiderabat illum, mortuum, praegaudio videndi eum suscitatum, dedit illi in cibo, et potu venenum; bene quidem vidit mortuum, sed illum non vidit ad vitam restitutum. Corpus suum post 3 dies insepultum, invenerunt foetidum, et in arca ferrea clausurunt, quae usque in hodiernum diem Maecae servatur, et magna cum frequentia a Mauris, variis superstitionibus, et fabulosis ritibus colitur: cum

homines magnete lapide in Tholo Templi structo fallere cogitasset, ut videlicet eius simulachrum ferro pondere in aere videtur [...].

**3. Onofre Micó, *Lex evangelica contra Alcoranum*, “*Vita Mahometis*”, p. 2 (own translation)**

5. [...] Muhammad ended his life with a violent death, at the age of sixty-three years old, since, being insane and full of vanity, he frequently boasted that three days after his death he would come back to life. 6. However, a disciple, named Albunor, wished him dead because of the delight of seeing him resurrected, so he put poison in his food and drink. Successfully, he saw him dead, but he could not see him come back to life. After his body spent three days unburied, they found it stinking, so they closed it in an iron coffin. It is still preserved today in the Mecca, and it is frequently venerated by the Mauritians, with various superstitions and with fabulous rituals. Since Ptolemy had thought that men hid Muhammad in a temple in the shape of a tholos, built with lodestone, as if his figure was clearly seen to levitate in the air with the iron [...].