

The Torture and Killing of Muslim Philosophers by State/Fundamentalists (Part-1)

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a) Al-Kindi:

Abū-Yūsuf Ya'qūb ibn Ishāq al-Kindī (c. 801–873CE) also known by the Latinized version of his name **Alkindus** to the Western world, was a first Muslim Arab philosopher. He was a master of many different areas of thought. He was an expert in music, philosophy, astronomy, medicine, geography, mathematics. During his lifetime (and for about a century afterwards) he was held to be the greatest Islamic philosopher, eventually being eclipsed only by such great names as al-Fārābi and Avicenna. He is still held to be greatest philosopher of Arab descent, though; indeed, he was often referred to simply as "the Arab philosopher". His philosophical approach wasn't original, but incorporated Aristotelian and (especially) neo-Platonist thought. Nevertheless his work was of great importance in that it introduced and popularized Greek philosophy in the Muslim intellectual world

Al-Kindī was born in Kufa, a centre of world learning at the time. His education took place first in Kufa, then in Basra, and finally in Baghdad. Knowledge of his great learning soon spread, and the Caliph al-Ma'mun appointed him to the House of Wisdom in Baghdad, which was a recently established centre for the translation of Greek philosophical and scientific texts. When al-Ma'mun died, his brother (al-Mu'tasim) became Caliph, and al-Kindī continued in his post, as well as tutoring al-Mu'tasim's son. However, *on the accession of al-Wathiq, and especially of al-Mutawakkil, al-Kindī's star waned. In fact, al-Kindī was beaten and his library temporarily confiscated*. He died in 873 CE during the reign of Al-Mu'tamid.

Reference:

- Robert L. Arrington [ed.] *A Companion to the Philosophers* (2001: Oxford, Blackwell) ISBN 0-631-22967-1
- Peter J. King *One Hundred Philosophers* (2004: New York, Barron's) ISBN 0-7641-2791-8

b) Ibn Bajjah

Ibn Bajjah بن أبي يحيى بن دمحم ركب وبأ Abu Bakr Muhammad Ibn Yahya Ibn al-Sayegh was an Andalusian Muslim philosopher, poet and physician who was known in the West using his latinized name, Avempace. He was born in Saragossa in what is today Spain and died in Fez in 1138. He was the teacher of Ibn al-Imam and Ibn Rushd (Averroes). His prominence was the result of his being the first in the West to show deep understanding of the views of some of his predecessors, such as Plato, Aristotle, al-Farabi, Ibn Sina (though Ibn Bajja never directly mentions him) and al-Ghazali. Thus he served as a link between the East and the

West. Most of his writings and book were not completed (or well organized) because of his early death. In Akhbar al-hukama' (Information about Wise People), al-Qifti mentions that ***Ibn Bajja died from being poisoned by rivals in the field of medicine.***

References:

- "A Biographical Note on Ibn Bajjah (Avempace) and an English Translation of his Annotations to al-Farabi's Isagoge.", M. Ismail Marcinkowski in Iqbal Review (Lahore, Pakistan), vol. 43, no. 2 (April 2002), pp. 83-99.
- al-Qifti, A. (c.1172) Akhbar al-hukama' (Information About Wise People), ed. J. Lippert, Leipzig: Maktabat al-Mutanabbi, 1903. (Includes a section on Ibn Bajja's life and works.)

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To be continued: