

THE PESHĪṬTA TEXT OF SONG OF SONGS IN
BARHEBRAEUS' AUŠAR RĀZĒ

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In the sample edition of the Peshiṭta Old Testament issued at the end of 1966 by the Peshiṭta Institute of Leiden University ¹⁾, for reasons stated in the General Preface ²⁾, the evidence from biblical quotations in Syriac patristic literature had to be left out. Biblical quotations in theological literature must always be used with great caution as due allowance has to be made for simple allusions or quotations made from memory. One of the more reliable sources in this respect is to be looked for in regular biblical commentaries ³⁾ and it is from that quarter that I would like to collect here some evidence for the Peshiṭta text of Song of Songs ⁴⁾ additional to that contained in the biblical MSS. For this purpose I have compared the Peshiṭta text ⁵⁾ in one of the better known ⁶⁾ Syriac commentaries on Song of

¹⁾ *The Old Testament in Syriac according to the Peshiṭta version*. Sample edition. Song of Songs-Tobit-4 Ezra. Leiden 1966.

²⁾ *O.c.*, p. [VI].

³⁾ No Syriac commentaries on the two other books issued in the sample edition (Tobit & 4 Ezra) are known to exist.

⁴⁾ *O.c.*, first part: [xxi] + [23] pp.; edition by J. A. EMERTON.

⁵⁾ The six quotations from the Syro Hexapla (ܥܘܪܘܫܐ) in Barhebraeus' commentary on Song of Songs do not greatly differ from the text of the Milan MS (Ambrosian Library, C. 313. Inf.; saec. VIII or IX) of the Syro Hexapla (facsimile-edition by A. CERIANI, *Codex Syro-Hexaplaris Ambrosianus photolithographice editus* [= Monumenta Sacra et Profana, Tom. VII], Milan 1874). They occur i 1, 2 (ܥܘܪܘܫܐ; C. 313. Inf. ܥܘܪܘܫܐ), 13 (ܥܘܫܐ; C. 313. Inf. ܥܘܫܐ); iv 16; vi 12 (ܥܘܪܘܫܐ; C. 313. Inf. *c. sey*); vii 2 (ܥܘܫܐ; C. 313. Inf. ܥܘܫܐ).

⁶⁾ Only one other original Syriac commentary on Song of Songs is available in print *viz.* that by the Nestorian bishop Ishodad of Merw, edited by C. VAN DEN EYNDE: *Commentaire d'Išo'dad de Merv sur l'Ancien Testament*. III. Livres des Sessions. [= CSCO 229] Louvain 1962, pp. 219-224. Its biblical text, though less extensive and coherent (most quotations being very short) than that of Barhebraeus, offers some interesting readings, *e.g.* iv 1 (v. D. EYNDE, p. 222, l. 13) ܥܘܪܘܫܐ] *pr* ܥܘܪܘܫܐ *cum* 9m1 or vii 3 (v. D. EYNDE, p. 223, l. 9) ܥܘܫܐ] *c. sey cum* 9h1 10c1 (v. D. EYNDE's emendation *l.c.*, note 1, seems therefore unwarranted).

Songs *viz.* that by Barhebraeus in his *Auṣar Rāzē* (ܐܘܨܪ ܪܐܙܐ¹), as edited by A. RAHLFS²), with the text printed in the sample edition. RAHLFS' edition of Barhebraeus' commentary on Song of Songs rests upon three—late—MSS, *viz.* Berlin, German State Library, Sachau 134, dated A.D. 1626 (= s); Berlin, German State Library, Petermann I 10, dated A.D. 1644/5 (= p) and Göttingen, State and University Library, Ms. Syr. 4, written between A.D. 1754/5 and 1757/8 (= g). As a control and supplement to RAHLFS' text I have also checked (from a microfilm) the readings of the oldest extant MS of the *Auṣar Rāzē*, *viz.* Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, Or. 230 (= f), dated A.D. 1278, *i.e.* written during the lifetime of Barhebraeus and perhaps including his own corrections³).

Omitting a number of purely erroneous readings from the reputedly bad MS s, I present the results of my comparison in the following way: text of the sample edition] biblical text of Barhebraeus' commentary according to RAHLFS' edition + f *cum* followed by the evidence supporting Barhebraeus' text, taken from the apparatus of the sample edition. Readings from Barhebraeus' commentary not supported by all of the four witnesses available for its text are enclosed between brackets, the MS(S) supporting a particular reading being duly recorded (with the *sigla* mentioned above) immediately after the variant reading in question.

When the lemma bracket] is replaced by /, the supporting evidence was collected from the Index Nominum or the Index Orthographicus of the sample edition.

¹) On this commentary, finished in 1278 (or 1272/3 as M. SPRENGLING & W. C. GRAHAM, *Barhebraeus' Scholia on the Old Testament*. Pt. I: Genesis-II Samuel [Chicago 1931], p. viii, suggest), cf. J. GÖTTBERGER's detailed study: *Barhebraeus und seine Scholien zur heiligen Schrift* [= *Biblische Studien*, V/4-5] Freiburg i. Br. 1900; cf. also A. BAUMSTARK, *Geschichte der syrischen Literatur* (Bonn 1922), p. 314.

²) A. RAHLFS, *Des Gregorius Abulfarag genant Bar Ebbroyo Anmerkungen zu den Salomonischen Schriften* (Diss. Göttingen), Leipzig 1887. This edition seems to be careful as far as it goes.

³) At least ten other MSS of the *Auṣar Rāzē* dating from before A.D. 1500 are known to exist, *viz.* Berlin, German State Library, Sachau 326 (A.D. 1297/8(?)); Woodbrooke, Selly Oak Colleges Library, Mingana Syr. 470 (XIVth c.); London, Br. Museum, Add. 7186 (XIVth c.); Rome, Vatican Library, Vat. sir. 282 (A.D. 1634/5 but copied from a MS A.D. 1353/4); Cambridge, Univ. Library, Add. 2009 (XVth c.; not A.D. 1833/4 as SPRENGLING & GRAHAM, *o.c.*, p. [xi], have it); Rome, Vatican Library, Vat. sir. 170 (XVth c.); London, Br. Museum, Or. 12957 (A.D. 1437); Jerusalem, Monastery of St. Mark 41 (A.D. 1474); London, Br. Museum, Add. 21580 (A.D. 1478); Oxford, Bodleian Library, Hunt. 1 (A.D. 1491).