Abstract:

Göran Larsson: *Ibn García's shuᶜūbiyya Letter. Group Identity and Rulership Ideology in Medieval al-Andalus.* Department of Religious Studies, University of Göteborg, 2000. ISBN 91-88348-24-5. ISSN 1102-9773

The relationship between Arab and non-Arab Muslims shows in many cases that, like other communities, the Muslim community has often been divided by political, religious and ethnic issues. This dissertation seeks to demonstrate such tensions by analysing the non-Arab Andalusī writer Ibn García's *shuᶜūbiyya* letter written in the mid 5th/11th century. By focusing on political and religious tensions in al-Andalus from 92/711 to 422/1031 a complex picture emerges of the power constellations and processes concerning the interpretation and legitimising of a non-Arab Muslim ideology of rule. The definition of orthodoxy and heresy are reinterpreted in such a way that they are seen as parts of processes concerning power struggles rather than as fixed, unchangeable entities. The examples and illustrations mentioned and used in Ibn García's argument shows that the aim of his text is to legitimise non-Arab Muslim rule. Tensions between ethnic and social groups are discussed and analysed in relation to Ibn García's letter. The articulations of power are illustrated by, for example, the adoption of the title of Caliph and the architectural language exemplified by the Great Mosque of Córdoba. Ibn García's text is also analysed in relation to its Iberian context, especially the period of the *Mulūk al-Ṭawaʾīf*, and its eastern background (Persian and Byzantine). By the 5th/11th century non-Arab Muslims in both the east and al-Andalus had begun to question the Arab Muslim domination and hegemony, and the political instability made it possible to formulate alternative models for non-Arab rule. Ibn García's letter is an example of this development in medieval al-Andalus.

Keywords: *shuᶜūbiyya*, Ibn García, al-Andalus, Islam, non-Arabs, Arabs, ideology of rule, legitimacy, Taifa period, power structures, ethnic tensions, boundary markers.