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ABSTRACT

This research undertakes to discover the contributions of Kurdish scholars to the development of Islamic civilization. The thesis starts with an introduction identifying the Kurdish people and then casts light upon their contributions to theoretical sciences during the seventh and eighth centuries AH (7th-8th centuries CE). This period is considered one of the most critical eras experienced by the Muslim Ummah due to the invasions of the Mongols and the threat posed by the Crusades. The thesis attempts to determine the manner in which Kurdish scholars participated in [the knowledge enterprise], their numbers, the numbers of works they authored and the specializations in which they excelled. It also identifies the institutions of learning which Kurdish scholars had a role in establishing, administering and organizing. By these means the research is able to determine the creative accomplishments, areas of distinction and contributions of Kurdish scholars. The methodology of the research is qualitative, based upon primary published sources as well as relevant information extracted from biographical encyclopedias devoted to notable personalities of the period in question and the periods just before and after it. An effort has also been made to unearth any manuscripts composed by Kurdish scholars of the aforesaid era. The result of the research is that Kurdish scholars have indeed made significant contributions in all fields of knowledge, by their participation in developing educational institutions and in theoretical fields of knowledge. Their number reached around 400 Kurdish scholars, the majority of them being scholars of jurisprudence (*fiqh*) and the Prophetic Traditions (hadith). A number of scholars among them became famous, and they added a rich legacy to the corpus of Islamic heritage. They made an indispensable contribution to the Islamic library through their methodologies and their subjects, which reached 200 written works, treating a variety of aspects of theoretical knowledge. Other important results of the research are related to the participation of certain rulers and kings along with the scholars in the intellectual sphere and their concern for knowledge alongside their political participation in responding to external threats. Another important result of the research is bringing to light the participation of certain female Kurdish scholars in the development of Islamic civilization in a variety of fields, a noteworthy phenomenon deserving further attention.

APPROVAL PAGE

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

Trifa Ahmad Othman

Signature

Date

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(Philip G. Kreyenbroek) (

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¹ Kreyenbroek, Philip G & Stefan Sperl, *The Kurds A Contemporary Overview*, (London: Routledge, 1992).

² MacdDowall, David, *A Modern History of the Kurds*, (London: I. B. Tauris, 2000).

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