

Physician and Theologian: An Analysis of Ibn Rabban's Approach on Sira Nabawiyya

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Abstract : The non-Muslim communities' reactions to the denials of the prophethood of Muḥammad in the ninth century created an impact on the development of Islamic prophetology. Vigorous refutations from non-Muslim community, specifically the Jews, Christians and Brahmins urged Muslims to develop a solid mechanism in defense of the status of their beloved prophet. One of the works that has been recognized as an apparatus to defend the Prophet Muḥammad veracity is al-Dīn wa al-Dawla composed by Ibn Rabban, a physician of the Caliph's court. This study analyses the novelty of his approaches in exploring Sira Nabawiyya and defending the prophethood of Muḥammad. The study employed a descriptive, comparative and critical approach where it analyses and extracts the author original approach in explaining the legitimacy of Muḥammad's prophethood and enlightening the Prophet's biography. The study in its finding argues that most of Ibn Rabban arguments in this work are actually developed from the foundations of Biblical scripture. His style of interpreting Biblical passages indicates a possible dependence on Ibn al-Layth's letter. However, the way in which he presents Qur'ānic references seems not to be in accordance with Ibn al-Layth's perspective. This is where the novelty of his approach is distinguished. As a result, the study also affirms that Ibn Rabban imposes his own standards of selection and interpretation of Qur'ānic verses when he applies it as reference to the Prophet life.

Keywords : Sira Nabawiyya, Ibn Rabban, al-Dīn wa al-Dawla, Christian, Dalā'il Nubuwwa

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