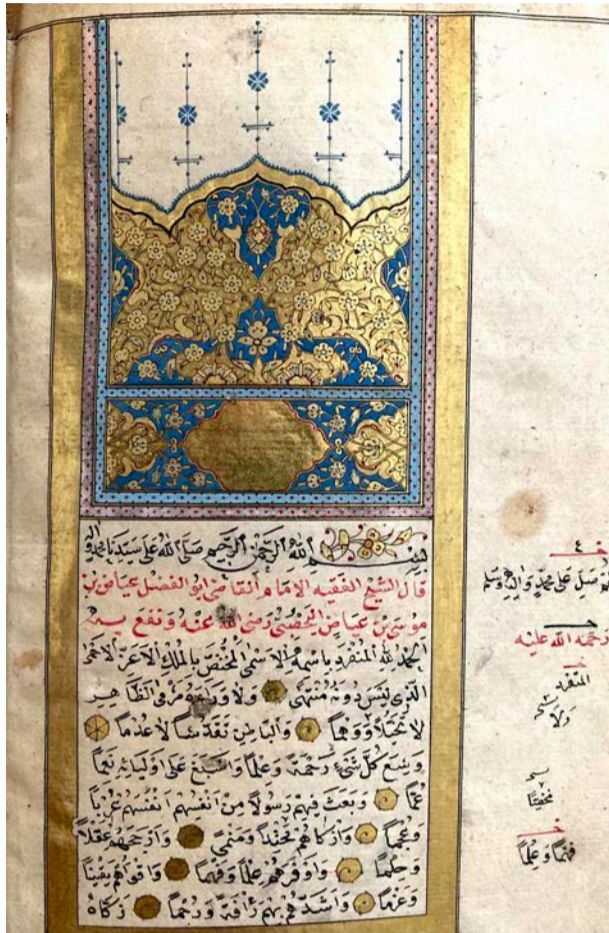


MSS\_153



al-Qāḍī Abū l-Faḍl ‘Iyād

aš-Šifā’ bi-ta’rīf al-Muṣṭafā

Richly illuminated manuscript in Arabic

Collated and commented text. Reference to well-known commentaries in the margins (mostly ‘Alī al-Qārī)

315 leaves at 17 lines

18.3 x 12 cm, paper binding

Famous, important and controversial book about the physiognomy, personality and infallibility of the prophet Muḥammad. Kitāb aš-Šifā’ is perhaps the most frequently used handbook about Muhammad's life. Generally known by its short title, aš-Šifā’, this work was so highly admired throughout the Muslim world that it soon acquired a sanctity of its own for it is said: *“If aš-Šifā’ is found in a house, this house will not suffer any harm ... when a sick person reads it or it is recited to him, Allah will restore his health.”*

Copyist: Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad al-Marzifūnī (Merzifonī) al-Istanbūlī [the first, that is “Merzifonī”, probably refers to the father and the second to father and son as well]. Copied at the madrasa Fayḍīyah (Feyzīye Medresesi) in Istanbul, mid-Şafar 1176 h / 1762 AD.

Important manuscript of a widely spread text giving insight in the book culture and scholarship in 18th century Istanbul.

Detailed information about the collation. According to the colophon the manuscript is copied and collated from two reliable manuscripts, which in turn are themselves collated. The first was copied by a certain ‘Alī b. Aqbarş [?] and is now kept in the Taşköprüzade library, the second copy claims to be collated with a manuscript copied from the author’s copy.

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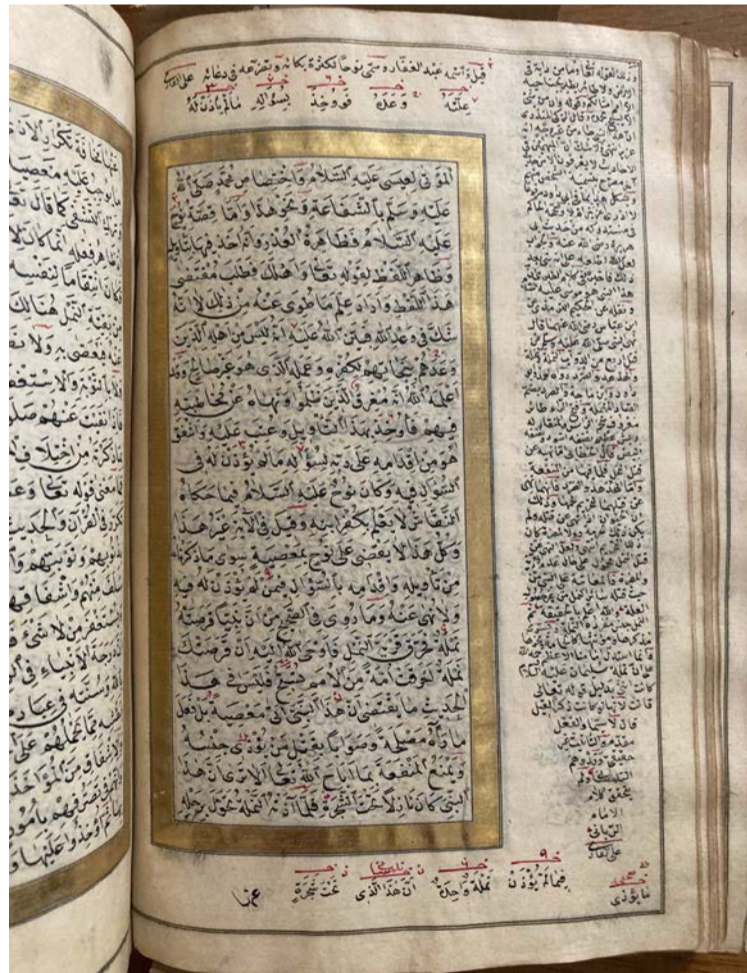


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