

Selected Writings by Prince Fakhreddine al-Ma^cni II

(Chronological Order)

Welcoming the Prince and Description of the Two Palaces¹

Landing in Marjana

They left Piza and landed in the house of Marjana, a great house of the Duke with water and gardens. They then went to a house near Florence complying with the wish of the Emir to enter at night during dinner time.

The Duke's uncle received Emir Fakhreddine in Florence

When the uncle of the Duke, prince Ifrancia met the Emir and the nobles, he took the Emir to his chariot as a sign of respect and they walked together until they reached a secret door in the house of bliss. The secret door was new with a ditch under it, and above it was a ferry placed and removed as needed.

The reception of Emir Fakhreddine in the Duke's palace

On entering the house in the great palace they greeted the Duke, his statesmen, his spouse, and his high ranking associates. It was the custom that the less important person stretches his hand to the ground, then returns it to his mouth and bends to salute. When they greeted, welcomed and comforted them they asked them to disembark in the old palace.

The Old and the New Palace

There were arches over the houses of the city and a bridge between the old and the new palace with a cracked and lined road two miles long between the two palaces. There were also glass windows on the right and left sides above the road to give light, and a great river dividing the

¹ The following subjects are mentioned in the original publication: Landing in Mirjana, The duke's uncle receiving the Emir in Florence, the duke receiving Emir Fakhreddine in his palace; The old palace and the new palace.

city between the old and the new palaces. There were three bridges on that river inside the city. This river is connected to Piza and it flows in the sea.

Prince Fakhreddine al Ma^cnī II

In *Rihlat al Emir Fakhreddine ilā Italia* [The Trip of Fakhreddine to Italy] (1613-1618), ed. By Qasem Wahab, Beirut, al Mu'asasah al 'Arabiyyah lid-Dirasāt wan-Nashr. Abu Dhabi, Dar as-Suwaidi lin-Nashr wat-Tawzi^c. 1st Edition, 2007, pp. 42-43.

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Printing

As it is in their country, they print books in both their language and in Arabic. Printing has squared blocks and the letter is on top of the block. Each letter has several blocks. They form a wooden board with a frame corresponding to the size of the block containing the letters. They can also form a book placing the letters on all the words in the page.

After copying the page they paint it with ink placed in a vessel, and on the blocks a piece of wood with a screw. They place the blank paper on the blocks and on pressing the wood with the screw, the paper prints on the letters they signed. They then remove the paper and put another, thus placing papers successively and pressing them to be printed in this manner; so if they wanted a thousand books they would print a thousand papers in the same words. After printing thousands of papers according to the numbers of books they want, the blocks are distorted and ranged on the letters of the opposite page respectively until the book they are copying from is completed. They then adjust the printed books, one by one, edit it and then sell it.

This is why books are cheap in their country. For example, Avicena's book in Medicine, law, and its greatness, in one volume, is sold for seven or eight piasters. People think that printing each paper needs a block, but each letter needs a number of blocks, so that when a letter is needed it is put in its place. The line is controlled in this manner by several numbered-letters and each number corresponds to a specific letters (A, B, C etc.)

Prince Fakhreddine al Ma^cni,

In *Rihlat al Emir Fakhreddine ila Italia* [The Trip of Fakhreddine to Italy] (1613-1618), ed. by Qasim Wahab, Beirut: al-Mu'assasah al-^cArabiyyah lid-Dirasāt wan-Nashr, Abu-Dhabi, Dar as-Suwaidi lin-Nashr wat-Tawzi^c, first Edition, 2007, pp.66-67.

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Fakhreddine in Palermo

From the lands of the Greeks the Emir reached adjacent Palermo. He saluted the Duke who welcomed him and asked about his family and country. He told him what had happened, what he saw and heard. This is what concerned Hulay. As for al Emir Fakhreddine, we mentioned how he headed for Ghlayīn, his return to his family and people, and his safe arrival in Palermo. We would like to focus in detail now on the greatness of this country and on his Excellency the Emir.

Description of the City and what he saw

The city of Palermo is a great city in images. It has four gates, each gate facing the other, and a market between the gates with each gate overlooking the other without curvature. At the middle of the church is a dome where they toll the bell.

The water is found in abundance inside the city; its lodgings are respectful, its orchards and fruits are numerous and so are its products. There is also plenty of meat, which is the cheapest in that country. They saw Moslem families living there and few men from Hafs lineage, kings of Tunis. Their arrival in the palace of the Sultan of Spain is known and mentioned in detail in history.

In this city big Tatan fish is fished. They arrange it in a rope net, eat it while tender, preserve it in its water and sell it in the rest of the country.

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In *Rihlat al-Emir Fakhreddine ilā Italia* [The Trip of Fakhreddine to Italy] (1613-1618), ed. By Qasem wahab, Beirut, al-Mu'assasah al-^cArabiyyah lid-Dirasāt wan-Nashr, Abu Dhabi, Dar as-Suwaydi lin-Nashr wat-Tawzi^c, first edition, 2007, pp.84-85.

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