Umar’s Assurance of Safety Aman to the People of Aelia (Islamic Jerusalem): A Critical Analytical Study of the Historical Sources

Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi

The arrival of Umar Ibn al-Khattab during the early summer of year 16 AH/ 637 CE in Aelia marked the beginning of a new and distinguished era in the relations between followers of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The foundations for future relations between the three faiths were laid down during that historical visit in the form of what is known in history as Al-Uhda al-Umariyya or Umar's Assurance Aman of Safety to the people of Aelia.

This book is a critical, analytical study of the assurance Aman that Umar Ibn al-Khattab gave to the people of Aelia. It aims to examine and compare most of the available versions of Umar's Assurance, hoping to identify the version which could be argued to be the most authentic as Umar’s original text. It focuses on the longest and most famous ones, namely the text given by al-Tabari and that published by the Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem in 1953.

Professor Abd al-Fattah El-Awaisi is the founder of the new field of inquiry of Islamic Jerusalem Studies with interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches. He is also the first Chair in Islamic Jerusalem Studies and the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Al-Maktoum Institute.


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