# ȚABAQĂT AL-UMAM OF QĂDI SĂ'ID AL-ANDALUSĪ (1029-1070 A.D.)

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#### ABSTRACT

The paper gives a brief outline of the life and times of Qāḍi Sāid and contains a critical study of his *Tabaqāt al-Umam*. The work was written at Toledo in 1068 A.D. Different editions of the work are available but most of them are incomplete. However a summary of its contents is given with special reference to the chapter on Scienges in India. This book demonstrates the objectivity, impartiality and critical approach of the author. According to him there were only eight nations i.e. the Indians, the Persians, the Chaldeans, the Greeks, the Byzentines, the Egyptians, the Israelites, the Arabs and the Andalusians who had contributed to the development of sciences during his time and the author laid emphasis on mathematics, astronomy, medicine, human geography and other subjects. The *Tabaqāt* has been translated into French, Persian, Urdu and English. The value, importance, merits and demerits of the book are brought out showing that it has been used as a source book by several medieval and modern historians of science.

Key words: Țabaqāt al-Umam, Qādi Sāid al-Andalusi, Toledan tables, Canons, al-Fihrist, Rasālā of al-Fārābi, Brahmagupta, Ibn al-Haytham, Burning mirror.

The *Ṭabaqāt al-Umam* (Categories of Nations) by Qāḍī Ṣā'id al-Andalusī, is a work of importance, being the first world history of science.¹ The author has not received due attention he deserves either from the muslim biographers or from modern historians of science. The two well-known Arab authorities, al-Qift̄ī (d. 1248 A.D.) and Ibn Abi Uṣaybi'á (d. 1270 A.D.), who have drawn extensively from the *Ṭabaqāt*, have also failed to notice him.² Abúl-Qāsim Ṣā'id ibn Aḥmed ibn 'Abd'ur-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad ibn Ṣā'id al-Andalusī belonged to an Arab tribe called Banū Taghlīb or Banū Tha'laba³. The family settled in Cordoba. His grand-father Abu'l Muṭarrif 'Abd'ur-Raḥmān ibn Muḥmmad ibn Ṣā'id ibn Wāthiq was the Qāḍī (Judge) of Sidonia and his father Aḥmad ibn 'Abd'ur-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad ibn Ṣā'id held a post at Cordoba (Qurṭuba)⁴. He was born at al-Mrīya (Almeria) in 420/1029. Possibly he started his education in Cordoba and completed it in Toledo, capital of the <u>Dh</u>un-Nūn dynasty at that time. The names of his five teachers can be known from stray references found in the *Ṭabaqāt*⁵ and other sources. They were Ibn Ḥazm⁶ (d. 456/1064), Abu'l-Walīd Hishām ibn Ahmad ibn Hishām ibn Khālid al-Kin'ānī known as Ibn al-Waqāshī¹ (d.

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489/1085); Abū Muḥammad al-Qāsim ibn al-Fatḥ (d. 451/1059), Abū Ja'far Aḥmad ibn <u>Kh</u>amīs of Toledo (d. 454/1062), and Abū Isḥāq Ibrāhīm ibn Idrīs at-Tujībī (d. 454/1062).

Şā'id stated that he met Ibn al-Waqqāshī in 433/1046 at Toledo. Probably the same year, Ṣā'id travelled to Toledo. He was then about eighteen years old and he seems to have completed his higher education in Toledo under distinguished teachers such as Ibn Khamīs, Ibn al-Waqqāshī, al-Tujībī and others. He studied hadīth, logic, literature, philosophy, medicine, mathematics and astronomy. In particular, he specialized in Muslim jurisprudence, history, and astronomy, in all of which he soon achieved distinction and fame. It can safely be stated that after 438/1046, Ṣā'id lived mainly at Toledo.

In 399/1009, the usurping 'Āmirid 'Abdu'r-Raḥmān Sanchol died and the dismemberment of the Umayyad state of Andalusia began. After the fall of Cordoba in 423/1031, Arab Spain was divided into a number of petty states, established by Arab and Berber chiefs. Mention may be made of the states of Ishbīlīya (Seville), Gharnāṭa (Granada), Mursīya (Murcia), and Balansīya (Valencia). Of these the Abbadids of Seville and Banū Dhun-Nun of Toledo were the most inportant. The latter was founded by an old Berber family in 423/1032. It fell permanently to the Christians in the year 478/1085.

With the fall of the Umayyads of Andalusia, the process of cultural decentralisation started, and the capitals of the petty states became centres of intellectual and artistic activity. Toledo, to as the capital of the <u>Dh</u>un-Nūn dynasty, soon became the centre of scientific and literary culture. Its rulers patronized not only poets and literary men but also astronomers, astrologers, physicians and philosophers. This Court created a stimulating environment at that time for literary men like Ṣāʻid. His vast learning must have attracted the attention of Amīr Abu'l-Ḥusain Yahyā ibn Isrāʾīl ibn Amīr ibn Muṭarrif ibn Mūsā of the Dhun-Nūn dynasty<sup>11</sup> who appointed him a Mālikī Judge of Toledo.

It is evident that over and above his official duties he continued his study of astronomy and devoted his time to astronomical observations in collaboration with Jewish astronomers and also with the well-known Ibn az-Zarqalluh. Further details of his life are not known, but it is recorded that he died on the 4th Shawwal, 462/6th July, 1070 at the age of only forty-two, <sup>12</sup> while still a judge in Toledo. His funeral prayer was led by Yaḥya ibn Sā'id al-Ḥadīdī, a learned man of Toledo and the most illustrious dignitary of the court. <sup>13</sup>

A Jewish source, Jasod olani<sup>14</sup> speaks highly of Ṣā'ids's love of science, his patronage of scientists, his generosity and his keen interest in astronomy (Book IV,

Chap. 7) Abraham ben Seamuel ha-Levi ben Hasdai (1st half of the 13th century) leaves a short account of Ibn Sa'id's *History of Scholars* <sup>15</sup> in the introduction to his translation of *Kitāle al-Ustuqussāt* by Isac bin Salomo Israeli. (the Elder)

 $\S\bar{a}$ 'id made a number of astronomical observations at Cordoba and Toledo in collaboration with Muslim and Jewish astronomers. These observations and their ancillary studies were made by  $\S\bar{a}$ 'id in association with his younger contemporary Ibn az-Zarqalluh but  $\S\bar{a}$ 'id did not make any statement about it in this book. Their results later laid the foundation of the well-known Toledan Tables and Canons. In a study published recently, two new literary evidences, the "Paris Scribe" and Robert of Ketton – have been put forward attesting to  $\S\bar{a}$ 'id's contributions to the construction of the Toledan Table and canons and it is added that "We cannot avoid drawing the conclusion that work on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $\S\bar{a}$ 'id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $\S\bar{a}$ 'id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $\S\bar{a}$ 'id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $\S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $\S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $\S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t" on a comprehensive  $z\bar{z}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his  $S\bar{a}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his Tabaq $\bar{a}$ t had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his  $S\bar{a}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his  $S\bar{a}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his  $S\bar{a}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his  $S\bar{a}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  id completed his  $S\bar{a}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  in  $S\bar{a}$  had not yet began when  $S\bar{a}$  in  $S\bar{a}$  had n

A notable trait of his character was his broad outlook as has been attested by the Jewish sources mentioned above. He has devoted one full chapter on "Sciences Among Istaelites". Another proof of his catholicity of mind is that he has written a long and substantial chapter on the "Sciences in India" although he knew that the Indians were non-Muslims.

## Qādi Sāid's other Works

Three titles among his works are mentioned in the *Ṭabaqāt*. The first is the *Iṣlāh Ḥarakāt an-Nujūn* Corrections of kie Movement of Stars, presumably an assessment of the work of the former astronomers. The second book was the *Maqālāt ahl al-milal wan-Niḥal*<sup>17</sup> (the Discourses on People of Religions and Sects) which perhaps was influenced by the well-known work of Ibn Ḥazm on the same subject. The third is the Jawāmi 'Akhbār al-Uman min al-'Arab wa'l-'Ajamc Collection of Reports about Arab and non-Arab Peoples, which seems to have been a universal history. Casiri and al-Zir'ekli suggest that he was also the author of a *Tar'īkh al-Andalus* (*History of Audalusia*) in an abridged form. Except the *Ṭabaqāt*, which was written in 460/1068 no other work of Ṣā'id seems to be extant. <sup>18</sup> It is evident from his lost works that he specialised in history and astronomy.

### THE EDITIONS & TRANSLATION OF TABAQAT AND ITS POPULARITY

The *Ṭabaqāt al-Umam* is available in several editions. An incomplete edition was published by Louis Cheikho in *Mashriq* (Beirut) in 1911. He later published the complete text with French and Arabic introduction, notes, variants, and indexes in

1912. Both were based on an 18th century Ms. which Cheikho had acquired at Demascus. There are also two cheap Egyptian reprints, <sup>19</sup> neither of which bears the date of publication. They are, in fact, copies of Cheikho's edition with minor additions, alterations, corrections but there are some additional errors as well. In 1387/1967 the Haidarīyah press of Najaf, Iraq, published an inexpensive reprint. <sup>20</sup> An unsatisfactory edition has been published recently at Beirut<sup>21</sup>. There are good reasons to believe that the complete text of the book is not available in these editions. The present writer is at present engaged in preparing a complete and critical edition based on Cairo, Istanbul and Dublin Manuscripts. <sup>22</sup>

As a recognition of its importance, the *Ṭabaqāt* has been translated into several languages. Qāḍī Aḥmed Miyān Akhtar²³ translated it into Urdu which was published in 1928. Its French translation by Regis Blachere as Livre *des Catagories des Nations* was published in 1935.²⁴ Its Persian ²⁵ translation by Jalāluddīn Ṭehrānī was published in *Gāhnāma*. Joshua Finkel studied the chapter on science among the Israelites, "An Eleventh Century Source for the History of Jewish Scientists in Mohammedan Land ²⁶ (Ibn Ṣā'id)" in which an English translation of the chapter on the sciences in Israel has been published. The present writer has published four papers dealing with four chapters of this book on along with in Indian, Chaldean, Persian and Byzantine sciences, English translation²⁵.

The *Ṭabaqāt* was quite popular in Andalusia and its scholars were proud of it. They were in the habit of reading out this book to the scholars of the east (Mashriq). It is recorded that a learned man of Andalusia Abū Md. 'Abdullāh ibn Md. Marzūq al-Yashsūbī had stopped at Alexandria while on his way to Mecca for pilgrimage and he read out the *Ṭabaqāt* to the traditionist, Abū *Ṭahir as-Silafī*, the Egyptinan<sup>28</sup> (d. 576/1188). Al-Yahsūbī had read it with Ibn Barrāl who was a student of Ṣā'id himself. In Andalusia a student of Ibn Barral and his students copied information from the *Tabaqāt*.<sup>29</sup>

### Sā'id's Sources

Şā'id's sources are both verbal and written. The chapter on sciences in Andalusia contains much valuable information derived from verbal sources such as friends, students and acquantances whose names he has recoreded. Like other Arab writers and authors, Ṣā'id seldom gives information about his written sources. But he has mentioned Kitāb al-Iklīl and Kitāb Jazīrat al-'Arab by al-Hamdānī (d. 334/945), Kitāb al-Ma'ārif by Ibn Qutaybah ad-Dīnawarī (d. 276/889); Kitāb al-Ulūf; Kitāb al-Mudhākarāt by Abū Ma'ashar al-Balkhī (d. 272/886); Ta'rīkh ar-Rasul wa'l-Mulūk by aṭ-Ṭabarī (d.310/923); Ṣilah at-T'arīkh aṭ-Ṭabarī by Farghānī (d. 362/973); Nazm al-'Iqd or Zīj al-Kabīr by Ibn al-Ādamī (Completed by his pulil al-Madā'inī in (338/949), the Kitāb al-Anwā' of Abū Ḥanīfa ad-Dīnawarī (d. 282/895); Arabic translation of the Almagest of Ptolemy (Batlamīyus d.c.a. 170 A.D.) Akhbār Mist by al-Wasifī (not yet identified).

Although he has not acknowledged but there is no doubt that he has used the *Ṭabaqāt al-Aṭibbā' wa'l-Ḥukamā'* (Classes of Physicians and Philosophers) by Abū Dā'ūd Sulaymān al-Andalusī known as Ibn Juljul (d. after 384/994).

The two most important books which Sā'id acknowledges to have used are the *Kitāb at-Tanbīh wa'l-Ishrāf* of al-Mas'ūdī (d. 345/956) and the *Kitāb al-Fihrist* of Ibn an-Nadim (d. 380/990). He has mantioned Abu'l ibn al-Husayn al-Mas'ūdī only twice in the whole book in the chapter on sciences among the Greeks without recording the title of his book.

 $\S\bar{a}$  id mentions the *al-Fihrist* of Ibn an-Nadīm as one of his sources twice in the Chapter dealing with the science among Byzantines (people of  $R\bar{u}m$ ). In this case also  $\S\bar{a}$  id has drawn substantial information from the *Fihrist* much more than what he has actually acknowledged. A large part of both the *Fihrist* and the *Ṭabaqāt* are biobiolographical in character, and generally speaking both deal with the cultural history of the ancient and contemporary nations.

In the chapter on Indian sciences he mentions two source books only: a work by an Arab astronomer i.e. the  $Kit\bar{a}b$  al- $Ul\bar{u}f$  of  $Ab\bar{u}$  Ma'shar al- $Bal\underline{k}h\bar{\iota}$  and a book containing the astronomical tables ( $Z\bar{\iota}j$ ) entitled Nazm al-Iqd compiled by Ibn al- $\bar{A}dam\bar{\iota}$ . Most probably an Arabic translation of the  $Br\bar{a}hmasphutasiddh\bar{a}nta$  of Brahamagupta (Sindhind) was available to him but he had no knowledge of the Arabic translation of the  $Khandakh\bar{a}dyaka$  by the same author.

Şā'id has used the *Risala* <sup>32</sup> of al-Fārābī (d. 850 A.D.) in connection with the classification of works of Aristotle but with several modifications. He had also used the *Nawādir al-Falāsifah* of Ḥunayn ibn Isḥāq (809-873 A.D.) for giving an account of seven schools of Greek philosophy. Ṣā'id refers to a *Risāla* of the Arab philosopher al-Kindī (d. ca. 866 A.D.) without mentioning its title. It is actually the *Risāla fī Aghrāḍ Kitāb Uqūdaṣ* (*Treatise on the Aims and Objects of the Book of Euclid.*)<sup>33</sup>

The *Ṭabaqāt al-Atibbā'* wa'l-Hukamā' (Classes of Physicians and Philosophers) by Ibn Juljul, a compatriot of Ṣā'id, was written in 377/987<sup>34</sup>. Ṣā'id has mentioned him as a physician of Andalusia but has not acknowledged his book as his source. Without doubt, he has used it for writing the chapter on Science in Andalusia.

Certainly, all the relevant books written in the lands of the Eastern Caliphate  $(Ma\underline{shriq})$  upto 4th/10th century were not available to him. One of the centres through which the books filtered to Andalusia was certainly Egypt. For example, the Zij al-Hakimi of lbn Yūnus and Ibn al-Haytham's work on Burning Mirrors, did reach Andalusia quite early because, Egypt occupied the middle position in the route from Andalusia to Mecca and Medina, which were frequently visited by pilgrims and scholars.

It cannot be stated that Ṣā'id had read or used all the 165 books of the authors whose titles he has recorded. Even about the books which he claims to have used, it cannot be stated for certain that he had actually read them in original. It is probable that he could only read their extracts quoted in other books and he did not actually have direct access to them.

The Tabaqat has an important introduction together with chapters on India Persia Greece the Arabs of the East on Andulasia, and on Chaldea, Bryzantine and Egypts. In introduction Sā'id stated that humanity was originally composed of seven primitive mations which were divided into many nations covering the whole of the world. They were different from each other by character, physique and language. He further divides them into two categories. Those that have specially occupied themselves with the cultivation of sciences and made contributions to them so that they could be counted as cultured and those that have not done so. He considered the first group to have received the special favours and blessings of God. In this category he mentions the following eight ancient and medieval nations who had participated in the study and development of sciences: the Indians, the Persians, the Chaldeans, the Greeks, the people of Rum (Byzantines), the Egyptians, the Arabs including those of Andulusia (Spain) and the Israelites.<sup>36</sup> In the second group are included the Slavs, the Turks, the Chinese – whose manual skill is described more due to instinct than to intelligence<sup>37</sup>, the people of Africa excepting the Egyptians. They are not to be counted as cultured as the world could not derive any benefit from them. Sā'id takes up each of these eight nations, describes the geographical and physical features of their habitat, discusses the main principles of their religion and characteristics of their language, records their political history briefly, their contributions the the sciences and gives an account of their celebrated scientists and philosophers. The plan is clear nd identical in every chapter.

There is an exphasis on the contributions of these nations to philosophy, mathematics, astronomy and medicine. Generally speaking, literary men, poets, jurists and theologians have not been considered. Said was particularly interested in the 'Ulūm al-Awā'il or 'Ulūm al-Qadīma or 'Ulūm Ajnabīyah or 'Ulūm al-Fasafīyah or Philosophical sciences which included philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, astrology, medicine and others.<sup>38</sup>

The first chapter of this work which deals with Indian sciencs covering five closely printed pages of <u>Cheikho</u>'s edition (Beirut, 1912; pp. 11-15). Sā'id stated that on account of the fact that Indians had made substantial contributions to sciences, they are a nation favoured by God. He added that in antiquity the Indian king was known as the king of wisdom, science and philosophy. India's contributions to mathematical sciences specially astronomy are discussed in some detail. About the usefulness of *Hsāb al-Ghubār* he writes "It is a very compendious and quick system of calculation,

easy to understand, simple to adopt and remarkable in its composition, bearing testimony to the sharp intelligence, creative power and remarkable faculty of invention of the indians". Their expertise in medical science is also acknowledged and the influence of Indian astronmy on the origin and development of Arab astronomy, before that of the Greek, is recorded. Ṣā'id regrets that he could not obtain much information about Indian sciences because of the distance between India and Andalusia. This chapter records information about an Indian book on music, the Arabic translation of the *Pancatantra* entitled *Kalīlah wa Dimnā* and the importance of chess or *Shaṭranj*. The information recorded in the chapter on the sciences and civilization of India are more or less accurate <sup>39</sup>

The lack of aptitude for knowledge in the nations of second category and their failure to make positive contributions to the sciences have been attributed partly to geographical and physical causes. However othe salient topics will be of interest.

### Ancient Sciences

This book also records how the scientific heritage of the ancient nations such as Greek, Indian and Persian passed on to the Arabs. It deals less with the history of science in this medieval world but with its roots in antiquity.<sup>40</sup>

# Human Geography

The *Tabaqāt* testifies to Ṣā'id's accurate knowledge of physical and human geography of the then world. He is particular in recording the geographical boundary of the eight nations precisely recording the influence of geographical and physical factors on the physical characteristics, character and language of each nation specially about the influence of the cold and hot zones of the world on their inhabitants which is quite scientific and modern. He states that the Slavs and Bulgars inhabit extreme northern and cold regions of the world while the Negroes, the Nubians and the Zanj are populated near the equator and southern regions which are very hot being situated in the close proximity to the Sun. The cold climate has made the nations white in colour, dull and unintelligent while the nations under the influence of heat are found to be of dark complexion, foolish and illiterate. Even those nations such as the Galicians and Berbers who live close to the temperate zone are cruel and ignorant. These and other nations did not use their mental faculties for the acquisition and development of science and philosophy.

# Natural History

Atleast in one place in the *Ṭabaqāt* in the chapter on science in Egypt Ṣā'id has discussed a theory of natural history. He correctly disagrees with the view that all

kinds of strange animals with peculiar constitution had appearance who inhabited the world before the advent of man were destroyed by him. Şā'id states that such statements contradict philosophy and science<sup>42</sup>. The legend constitutes the background of other ancient civilizations of the world also.

## Astronomy, Medicine and Mathematics

A perusal of the *Ṭabaqāt* makes it clear that Ṣā'id was an astronomer and he has displayed expert knowledge of astronomy by recording his ciritical appreciation of the well-known Muslim and non-Muslim astronomers. Speaking about Maslama al-Majrītī (d. 398/1007) of Cordoba, he writes that he revised the astronomical tables of al-Khwārizmī, converted the Persian dates into Hijrā dates and added some more tables. But he committed the same mistakes like al-Khwārizmī which Sā'id had corrected.<sup>43</sup>

The astronomer 'Abdullāh bin Aḥmad as-Saraqustī (d. 438/1046) had written a treatise addressed to Abū Muslim ibn <u>Kh</u>aldūn of Seville pointing out the defects of the Sindhind's method regarding planetary motions and equations but his arguments were refuted by Ṣā'id in his lost book on astronomy, <sup>44</sup> entitled *Kitāb Iṣlāh Ḥarakāt an-Nujūm* (Book on the Correction of the Movement of Stars).

Although Sā'id did not particularly study or practice medicine (*Tibb*) yet he gives a critical resume of the contributions of the Andalusians to medicine. He states that he cannot agree with the view of the illustrious physician Ibn Zuhr (d. ca. 470/1078) Moḥammad ibn Marwān of Seville when he forbade baths because if one has a proper bath it is a good physical exercise enumerating its other beneficial effects. <sup>45</sup>

### THE TABAQĂT IN LATER WORKS

Said's *Ṭabaqāt* is frequently quoted in the Jewish sources of the medieval and modern times: such as by Issac Ibn Josef Israeli, the younger Abraham ibn Samuel ha Levi ibn Hasdai Yoūsuf ibn al-Wakkār ibn Isḥāq ibn Mūsā (ca. 1358 A.D.), S. Fried, M. Steinschreider and other Jewish Arabists.<sup>46</sup>

Among the authors who used the *Ṭabaqāt* as their source are the following: Ibn al-Qiftī (d. 646/1246) in his *Ṭa'rīkh al-Ḥukamā'* and Ibn Abī Uṣaybi ah <sup>47</sup> (d. 668/1270) in his 'Uyīm al-Anbā' fī Ṭabaqāt at Aṭibbā' have copied several passages from this book. Ibn al-Qifti has acknowledged his indebtedness to it three times only but Ibn Abī Uṣaybi ah does not do so. Abu'l-Faraj ibn al-'Ibrī (Bar Hebraeus d. 1289 A.D.) copies two paragraphs from Ṣā'id's work in his *Mukhtaṣar ad-Duwal* on sciences among the Arabs Ibn Khalikān (d. 681/1283) in his *Wāfayāt al-A'yān* refers to this book for his biography of al-Fārābī and Mattā ibn Yūnus. Yaqūt al-Ḥamawī (d. 626/1228) copies two extacts in his Irshād as-Arih <sup>51</sup> from the *Kitāb* of Qāḍī Ṣā'id which

is none other than the Tabaqāt

The Andalusian polygraph Ibn Ṣā'id <sup>52</sup> (d. 685/1286) mentions at-T'arīf bi Akhbār Ḥukamā' al-Uman min al-'Arab wa'l-'Ajam which is another title of Ṣā'id's Ṭabaqāt. When Ibn Ṣā'id updated and supplemented the Faḍā'il al-Andalus wa'Ajā'ibuhā of Ibn Ḥazam, he mentioned Abu'l-Qāsim Ṣā'id ibn Aḥmed al-Ṭulaytulī as one of its historians along with Abū'Umar Abd al-Barr. <sup>53</sup>

Ib'n Bashkuwal (d. 578/1183), al-Ma $\bar{r}$ rākush $\bar{r}$ <sup>55</sup> (d. 620/1223) Ibn al-Abbā $\bar{r}$ <sup>56</sup> (d. ca. 658/1260), Ibn ad-Dawadā $\bar{r}$ <sup>57</sup> (d. 732/1331) and aṣ-Ṣafad $\bar{r}$  (d. ca. 797/1394) had also used the *Ṭabaqat* of Ṣā'id.

<u>Sh</u>amsuddīn a<u>dh-Dh</u>ahabī (d. ca. 743/1343) has copied two passages from Ṣā'id bearing on the biography of Ibn Ḥazm, mentioning him as Ṣā'id ibn Aḥmad and Abu'd-Qāsim Ṣā'id.

The Maghrebī writer al-Maqqarī (d. 1041/1632) used the *Ṭabaqāt* as his source for the history of the scientific activities in Andalusia in the 5th /11th century<sup>60</sup> without acknowledgement.

Ḥājjī Khalīfah (d. 1067/1657) characterizes this book as a "slender volume of great utility" and copies a long passage from it on the development of Arab astronomy under Caliph al-Ma'mūn.

This book of Ṣā'id was also quoted by Tashykoprūzādeh  $^{62}$  (d. 968/1560), Nūrullāh al-Shustarī  $^{63}$  and Rashīd Raḍā. $^{64}$ 

The Amīr of Algeria 'Abdu'l-Qādir copied information about the development of science in the world from Ṣā'id in his book *Dhikrā al-Ghāfil* without acknowledgement.

Muḥammad Kurd 'Alī quoted three long passages from this book on the Muslim scientists of Spain in his book <u>Ghābir al-Andalus wa Ḥāḍiruha</u>.

Two extracts from the *Ṭabaqāt* are quoted by 'Umar Farrukh in his *Ta'rikh al-Fikr al-'Arabī ilā Ayyām Ibn Khaldīm* (1386/1966) regarding the subjects studied by the Arabs in pre-Islamic times.

A Critical and thorough study on this book is that of Martin Plassner, published in 1956.<sup>67</sup> A modern historian George Sarton states that the *Tabaqāt* is of considerable interest from his point of view because it "paid special attention to the history of science".<sup>68</sup> Regis Blachare has also published a critical appreciation of this book in *Hesperis*.<sup>69</sup> Lutz Richter-Bernburg has published a thorough study on Şā'id and his

contribution to the construction of *Toledian Tables* and his history of sciences in Andalusia.

Khairullāh the author of the Ḥaḍārat al-'arab fi'l-Andalus <sup>71</sup>(Baghdad, 1397/1977) mentions the Ṭabaqat as a source for the intellectual history of Andalusia.

Anwar G. Chejne in his *Muslim Spain*: *Its History and Culture* has not only used the *Ṭabaqāt* as a source for his book<sup>72</sup> but also gives a short but critical analysis of its contents.

### DEMERITS

The first five chapters of *Tabaqāt* are considerably bigger and are substantia while other chapters are brief and superficial. The quality and quantity of information about the eight nations were uneven which indicates that all eight chapters are not of equal value and importance.

Moreover, this book does not contain any account of the general development of science among the different nations specially when mathematics, astronomy and medicine were much developed at the time of  $S\bar{a}$  id's writing this book, but it may be stated that the development of philosophy and science is outlined in the chapter on Greece (al-'Ilm fi'l-Yūnān). 73

The appaling demerit of this book is its chronological errors and historical anachronisms which are most serious in the chapter on Greek Sciences and philosophy. §ā'id showed a complete ignorance of time sequence and committed serious errors. For example, his statement that Empedocles lived before Pythogoras is incorrect. Modern researches have established that Pythagoras died about 480 B.C. while Empedocles <sup>74</sup>died around 432 B.C. Similarly, the order of priority in which §ā'id mentions Euclid and Apollonius of Perga is incorrect. According to modern research Euclid flourished around 295 B.C. while Apollonius died in early second century B.C. <sup>75</sup> Another serious error is about the life and times of Galen. §ā'id stated that Galen lived six hundred years after Hippocrates and five hundred years after Alexander the Great. This is an error committed by al-Mas'ūdī which §ā'id copied from the *Tanbīh*. According to the results of modern research Hippocrates died in 380 B.C. and the date of Galen's death is 199 A.D. <sup>76</sup>

These errors of chronology are perhaps due to his sources. He had no opportunity of testing and verifying the accuracy or authenticity of his written sources. The errors found in the works of al-Mas'ūdī and Ibn an-Nadīm are also found in this chapter, and al-Qiftī <sup>77</sup> and others followed Ṣā'id.

Pythagoras could not have acquired philosophy from the disciple of Solomon, son of Prophet David as stated in the *Ṭabaqāt* because Solomon and David were the kings of Israel and lived centuries earlier. His statement that Socrates studied metaphysics is also incorrect<sup>78</sup>. Generally speaking, he was interested in man, nature and ethical philosophy and he did not discuss metaphysics. Plato and Aristotle concerned themselves with metaphysics.

Moreover, Ṣā'id stated that Aristotle was the son of Nicomachus of Gerasa which is incorrect. The name of Aristotle's father was Nicomachus, <sup>79</sup> no doubt, but Nicomachus of Gerasa was a different person.

## Sā'ID IMPARTIALITY AND OBJECTIVITY

One of the merits of this book is that its approach is objective and impartial above all kinds of prejudices. Seldom does Ṣā'id allow his personal beliefs and ideas cloud his judgement. He wrote the book when Catholic Christians of the north had started a counter-offensive against Andalusia attacking and conquering the Islamic States and massacaring the Muslims, after having conquered Cordoba<sup>50</sup> in 423/1031, like the killing of the Muslims in Iraq and Persia by the Mongols in the middle of the thirteenth century. Moreover, Ṣā'id included two chapters in his book dealing with the contributions of the Indians and Jewish (Israelite) scientists to the development of science.

### CRITICAL APPROACH

Ṣā'id's approach is generally critical and he was particular in pointing out where he differed from the theories and views of the philosophers and scientists recorded by him in which he did not spare even his teacher ibn Hazm. He criticized ar-Rāzī for his belief in dualism, his rejection of Prophethood like the Brahmins and his faith in matempsycosis like the Sabeans. Being a follower of Aristotle, Sā'id took ar-Rāzī to task for his criticism of Aristotle. 81 He criticized al-Kindī, 82 pointing out the complete absence of analysis in his logic, which he considered necessary, and put forward arguments in its favour. While admitting that Ibn Hazm was a great authority on Jurisprudence, he stated that his book on logic is full of obvious errors.<sup>83</sup> He criticized his compatriot al-Majrītī for not correcting the errors when he reconstructed the astronomical tables of al-Khwārizm.84 Sā'id claimed that the errors of the astronomers which corrected by him in his Kitāb Iṣlāh Harkāt an-Najūm (Book-Concerning the Corrections of the Movements of Stars) which is not extant.85 He had also corrected in this book the errors committed by Abū 'Abjullāh ibn Ahmad of Saragossa in his Risāla which discussed the errors of the Indian system of astronomy called Sindhind.86 It suggests that he agreed with the astronomical theories of Brahmagupta<sup>87</sup> contained in his Brāhmasahutasiddhānta.

#### Conclusion

It may be asked: for whom did Ṣā'id write this book and what kind of readers were in his mind? His main object was to broaden the intellectual horizon of his readers. It would not be incorrect to state that Ṣā'id wrote this book for general readers as well as for scientists and historians, because generally and normally, he maintained in a low key all discussions of purely scientific subjects in every chapter.

Like Ṣā'id al-Bīrūnī was also a scientist and historian of science and the latter wrote a substantial book on chronology and eras but it is almost certain that none of the works of al-Bīrūnī was available to Ṣā'id at Toledo. A comparison between Ṣā'id and al-Bīrūnī will establish that the latter far surpasses the former in scientific knowledge and accuracy. It is a fact that a large number of books were available to al-Bīrūnī in the East, but Ṣā'id always faced the serious problem of dearth of books at Toledo. As a result, the *Tabaqāt* is not as thorough and complete as the works of al-Bīrūnī.

A critical and correct edition of the *Ṭabaqāt* is still a long-felt necessity. Moreover, the full text of the book has not been found yet. Several passages, in the works written and compiled after Ṣā'id which quoted from the *Ṭabaqāt*, are not found in any of the printed texts or the manuscripts extant now. For example a passage denying the burning of the library of Alexandria by the order of 'Umar, the second Caliph, has been recorded by at least two authors, quoting the *Ṭabaqāt* but this passage is not found in the present printed texts and manuscripts. For this reason, a more comprehensive and correct assessment about this book can be offered only when a full text is discovered and published.

Like al-Mas'ūdī, Ṣā'id was also a humanist and a rationalist. Both had genuine scholarly and human interest in the civilization of the ancient nations specially the Greeks and Indians. They provide knowledge about non-Muslims to the Muslims as was done by al-Bīrūnī (d. ca. 442/1050) in the case of India. Al-Mas'ūdī and Ṣā'id gave information about the Hebrews, the Indians, and Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Egyptians and the Arabs as al-Bīrūnī, in his *Kitāb al-Hind*, gave a detailed account of the society, culture and civilization of India. All three attempted to record the history of the civilization and culture of non-Muslims. Al-Mas'ūdī, al-Bīrūnī and Ṣā'id represent the best tradition of muslim humanism which contributed substantially to the birth of European humanism.

I am obliged to Professor Paul Kunitzsch of Munchen, Germany for all possible help in writing of this paper. Thanks are also due to Professor Gregg de Young of the American University Cairo for his valuable suggestions.

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- 3. Ibn bashkuwal prefers "Taghlab". See Aş Şilah fi Ta'rīkh A'immat al-Andalus edited by I.A. al-Ḥusainī, (Cairo, 1955). Vol I, p. 232. No. 539.
- Ibn al-Farādī, Ţa'rīkhal-Ulamā bīl-Andalus edited by I.A. al-Ḥusainī (Cairo, 1954) I, p. 43 and Aḍ-Dabbī, Bughyat al-Multamis ed. by F. Codera and Julian Ribera (Madrid, 1884) p. 343 (No. 980).
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- 8. CTU, p. 74.
- 9. David Wassarstein, The Rise and Fall of Party Kings politics and Society in Islamic Spain 1002-1086 (Princeton University, 1985) pp. 338; see 'Abdu'r-Raḥmān 'Alī al-Ḥājjī, At-Ta'rīkh al-Andalusī (Beirut: Dar al-Salam, 1396/1976) pp.605;-----, At-Ta'rīkh al-Andalusī min al-Fath al-Islāmī Ḥattā Suqūt Gharnātā (Andalusian History from the beginning until the Fall of Granada) (in Arabic), (Damascus, 1396/1976) pp. 330-332 and 367-369; they were called Mulūk at-Tawā'if, Los Reyes de Taifas, belonging to the three ethnic Muslim groups the native Spaniards, Arabs and Berbers
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- 16. Lutz Richter-Bernburg, "Şā'id the Toledan Tables and Andalusī Science" In From Deferent to Equant: A Volume so Studies in the History of Science in th Ancient and Medieval Near East in Honour of E.S. Kennedy ed. by David A. King and George Saliba (New York, Academy of Sciences, 1987) pp. 373-402.

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- M. Casiri, Biblitheca arabico-hispana Escurialensis, 2 vols. (Madrid, 1760-1770). II, 142, See also C. Brockelmann GAL I (1943) pp. 418-419, SI (1937) pp. 558-586.
- One Published by Maḥmūd 'Alī Ṣubayḥ of Cairo, pp. 120 and the other by the Sa'ādaḥ Press of Cairo. Both are not dated.
- 20. See Tabaqār al-Umam with an Introduction by Syed Md. Bahr al 'Ulōōm (Najaf, 1387/1967) pp. 117.
- 21. Edited bny Ḥayāt Bū'Alwān of the American University of Beirut (Beirut: Dar at Tali'Ah lit-tabā'at wan-Nashr, Febr 1985) pp. 216 (full of errors)
- 22. See M.S. Khan, Proposal for a new edition of Qāḍī Ṣā'id the Islamic Quarterly Vol. XII/3 (London, July-sept, 1967) pp. 125-139. The Chester Beaty Library, MS bears the No. 3950: National Libirary, Cairo, Ta'rīkh Ṭalat No. 1821, and Sulaymaniye Kutuphanesi, Ra'īs al Kuttāb no. 668.
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- 24. French translation with an Introduction, notes and indices (Paris, 1935) p. 192. For a review of this translation see *Islamic Culture* (Hyderabad, 1929) III, pp 157-58.
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- David Pingree, "Brahmagupta" in DSB Vol. II (1981) pp. 416-418. Ibn al-Abbar, op. cit. no. 1334.
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- 29. See Ţabaqāt cd. by Bu Alwan (Beirut, 1985) Introduction pp. 29-30. Where references to primary Sources are given in the foot-notes.
- 30. There seems to be a difference between Ibn an-Nadīm and Ṣā'id in that the former was interested in scientific books while the latter's interest lav in several fundamental sciences and scientists.
- 31. See M.S. Khan's paper mentioned in note 27 above.
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- 34. Edited by Fe'ād Sayyid (Les Generations De Medecins Et les Sages) (Cairo, 1955) with Arabic and French Introductions pp. 10+138; see Juan Vernet; "Los Medicos Andaluses En El Libro de Las generacione Madicos De Ibn Yulyul" in Anuario de estidios Medievales No. 5 (Barcelona, 1968) pp. 445-462; Ibn al-Qifţī, op. cit. p. 190.
- 35. CTU, pp. 58-60; For Ibn Yūnus (d.388/100) see Fu'āt Sezgin, GAS, Vol. VI (Leiden, 1978) pp. 228-231, For Ibn al-Haytham (d. Cairo, 432/1041) See Fu'āt Sezgin, op. cir. pp. 251-261. David A. King, "Ibn Yūnus", in DSB Vol. XIV (New York, 1981) pp. 574-580, A.I. Şabra, "Ibn al-Haytham" in DSB, Vol. VI, (New York, 1981) 189-210. See the other monumental works of A.I. Sabra on Ibn al-Haytham m DSB, vol vi (New York, 1981), 189-210.
- CTU, pp. 10-11 under the caption al-'Uman al-Latī 'Unīyat bi'l-'Ulōōm, on Nations who Cultivated Sciences. Among those who did not cultivate sciences the Gog, Magog, Bulgars, Russians, Chineese Berbers, Sudanese, Nubians, Ghanians and others are mentioned.
- 37. CTU, p.8
- 38. See the introduction to the Beirut (1985) edition of the Tahaqāt, p. 26.
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- 40. See CTU, pp. 50-51; M.S. Khan's forthcoming paper "Ṣā'id's Account of the Introduction of Greek Sciences anong the Arabs" based on the *Tabaqāt*.
- 41. See CTU, pp. 5-11.
- 42. CTU, pp. 38-39.
- 43. CUT p. 69 Said records that he made those corrections in his book Kitāb fī Işlāḥ Ḥarkāt an-Nujūm wa't-Ta'rīf bi Khaṭā'ar-Rāṣidīn (Book on the Corrections of the Movements of Stars and an Account of the Errors Committed by the Astronomers Making Observations).
- 44. CTU, PP. 72-73.
- 45. See M.S. Khan, "Qādī Ṣā'id on the Practice of Greco-Arab Medicine in Medieval Andalusia" in *Hamdard Medicus* (Karachi, Oct-Dec., 1993) Vol. XXXVI/i, pp. 101-115.
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- 47. "Ibn Abī Uṣaibi a his great work called 'Unyūn al-Anbā' fi Ṭabaqāt al-Aṭibbā' has reproduced several biographies of physicians, the text of which has been taken from Ṣā id's work". See R. Blachere, "al-Ṭalaitilī" in the First Enc. of Islam (Brill Reprint, 1987) p. 831.
- 48. See edition cited pp. 272, 280 and 282 where references to Şā'id's work have been given. R. Blachere states "Ibn al-Quftī borrowed largely from the *Tabaqāt al-Umam* and it can be estimated that the parts taken from this work form a good quarter of his *Ta'rīkh al-Ḥukamā*.' See "al-Ṭulaitilī" in loc. cit.
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- 51. Edited by D.S. Margoliouth, 7 Vols. (London, 1923-1926); Fuat Sezgin, GAS VI, Vol. V, p. 84; Vol. VI, p. 82. At both places, Ya'qūb calls him Qāḍī Ṣā'id al≈Jayyānī or hailing from Jaem which is not correct.
- 52. See his al-Mughrib Fī Hula al-Maghrib ed. by Shawqī Daib (Cairo, 1943) 2 Vol. Vo. 1, p. 120; Ch. Pellat, "Ibn Sā id al-Mughribi," Ef (N) Vol. III (1971) p. 926.
- 53. In his Tadhyīl to Ibn Ḥazm, ibn Sa'īd refers to this work of Ṣā'id. See al-Maqqarī, *Nafḥ aṭ-ṭib* (Leiden, 1855-1860), Vol. II, p. 123. See *Faḍā'il al-Andalus wa Ahluha* by Ibn Ḥazm, Ibn Sa'īd and others edited by Salāhuddīn al-Munajjid (Beirut, 1387/1868) p. 24.
- 54. Loc. cit. in note 3 avove.
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- 56. See his Kirāb at-Takmilah li Ķitāb aṣ-Ṣilah ed. by F. Codera, Alfred Bel and M. Ben Cheneb, (Algeria, 1920) pp. 164, 246, 247 and passim (notes).
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- 59. Kitāb Tadhikirat al-Ḥuffāş (Hyderahad, 1376/1957) Vol. III, pp. 1147-48. The biography of Ibn Ḥazm copied, but reference to the Tabaqāt not given
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- 61. Kashf aş-Zunun, Flügel ed. Vol. II, p. 318, No. 3091 where he is mentioned as al-Mâliqī belonging to Malaqa which is incorrect
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- 63. Majālis al-Mu'minīn, Asiatic Society, Calcutta Ms No. 276 (E. 172) p. 387, see W. Ivanow, Concise Descriptive Catalogue of the Persian Msş in the Collection of the Asiatic Society of Bengal (Calcutta, 1924) p. 116.
- 64. Ta rīkh Shaikh Md. 'Abduhū 1st ed. (Cairo, al-Manār Press, 1350/1931) Vol. I, p. 353.
- 65. See R. Blachere, "Introduction" to the French Translation p. 24 note 8.
- 66. R. Blachere, *loc. cit.* note 9. Thorough study of the Chapter on Greek Sciences and philosophy will be published soon
- 67. See note 15 supra.
- 68. See Sarton, George. Introduction to the History of Science (Baltimore, 1927), Vol. i, pp. 776-777.
- 69. See his "Une Source de 1' history de sciences chez les Arabes, les *Tabakāt al-Umam* de Said al-Andalusi" in *Hesperis* Vol. VIII (1928) pp. 357-61.
- 70. See note 16 supra.
- 71. (Baghdād, Dar al-Hurrīyah, 1397/1977) p. 144.
- 72. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1974) pp. 176-179 and 269. Juan G. Vernet (Barcelona) has used the *Tabaqāt* as a source for his *La Cultura Hispanoarabe En Oriente Y Occidente* (Barcelona: Ariel, 1978) pp. 395 at pp. 27-78 and passim.

- 73. CTU, pp. 19-33; Ḥayāt Bū'Alwān edition, pp. 70-96.
- 74. It has been stated in a paper by S.M. Stern that the book *al-Abad'ala al-Amad* by Abu'l-Ḥasan al-'Āmiri was the only source of Ṣā'id's (died ca 432 B.C.) by Alexander P.D. Morelatos, in *DSB*, Vol. IV (1981) pp. 367-369.
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- 77. See above for the errors of al-Mas'ūdī and Ibn an-Nadīm found in Sa'īd and al-Qiftī.
- 78. Socrates not included in the DSB. See "Sugrat" in the 1st edition of the Enc. of Islam.
- 79. For this Nicomachus who flourished around 100 A.D. see Leonard Taran in DSB, Vol. V (1981) pp. 112-114. Fuat Sezgin, GAS, Vol. V (1974) pp. 164-166.
- 80. The last Caliph of Cordova was Hishām (III) bin Muḥamad bin 'Abdu'l-Mlik bin 'Abdu'l-Raḥmān III called al-Mutaḍid 420-422/102 -1030. See the works of 'Abdu'l-Raḥmān al-Ḥājjī on the history of Andalusia, mentioned in note of Mahmoud Makki, "The Political History of al-Abdalus" In *The Legacy of Muslim Spain* ed. by Salma Khadrā Jayyūshī (Leiden; Brill, 1992) pp. 3-87.
- 81. CTU, p. 33; Şā'id does not mention ar-Razi's works in which he cirticized Aristotle. It is not known whether his at-Tibb ar-Rūḥānī and al-Hm al-Hāhī were available to him at Toledo or not
- 82. CTU p. 52, a reply was given by Ibn Abī Uṣaybi'a, op.cit. p. 208. On al-Kindī see 'Abdu'r-Raḥmān Shāh Wali, Al-Kindi wa Ārā'uh al-Falsafiyah, Islamic Research Institute, (Islamabad, 1394/1974), pp. 485. George N. 'Atīyah, al-Kindī The Philosopher of the Arabs (Rawalpindi, 1966) pp. 272.
- 83. CTU, p. 76, Şā id atacks Ibn Ḥazm because in his Kitāb al-Taqrīb li Ḥudūb al-Manṭiq he criticized certain parts of the Aristotlelian logic. See Franz Rosenthal, The Technique and Approach of Muslim Scholarship, Analecta Orientalia, XXIV (Rome, 1947) pp. 54-55.
- 84. CTU, p. 68, for al-Majrīţī, see Fu'āt Sezgin, GAS, Vol. VI (1978) pp. 226, 226 Juan Vernet, "Al-Majrīţti," DSB, Vol. IX (New york, 1981) pp. 37-40. See E.S. Kennedy, op. cir. No. 21, pp. 128, 148-150 (The Zīj of al-Khwārizmī): "al-Khwārizmī" by Fu'āt Sezgin, GAS Vol. VI pp. 140-143; J. Vernet, "Al-Khwārazmī in the El (N), Vol. IV (1978) pp. 1070-1071; G.K. Toomer, "Al-Khwārizmī" in DSB, Vol. VII 1981, pp. 358-365.
- 85. CTU, pp. 58, 69, This book of Sā'id has been mentioned by Hājjī Khalīfah and al-Magqarī
- 86. CTU, pp. 72-73. The Sindhind was nost probably the Arabic form of the Brāhmasphuţasiddhānta of Brahmagupta and this name was given to his school of astronomy. it was edited by Ram Swarup Sharma, 4 Vols. (New Delhi, 1966). See also M.S. Khān, "Al-Bīrūnī's Knowledge of Indian Astronomy" in History of Oriental Astronomy, edited by G. Swarup and others (Cambridge, 1987) pp. 139-145, Note 1.
- 87. On Brahmagupta see D.M. Bose, Chief Editor, A Concise History of Science in India (New Delhi, 1971) pp. 95-97.