
The Castilian Jewish scholar Yitshaq Ibn Sahula wrote a Hebrew illuminated fable book called Meshal ha-Qadmoni in 1281. The fables are accompanied by illuminations with captions written by the author. None of the original manuscripts remain, however we do have five fully illuminated manuscripts from Germany and Italy, all made in the fifteenth century. Ibn Sahula calls upon his nation to repent, and among the many stories preaching about good behavior, there are a few fables which include immoral characters, most of them women. This paper examines one of these fables, about a Muslim man’s adulterous wife. While previous studies focused on the wife’s malicious behavior, the current study offers an in-depth look at the text and images, and reexamines the husband’s deeds within the context of polemical point of view, against the background of contemporary textual and artistic evidence.

2. שרה אופנברג. "צְדָקָה כַּשִּׁרְיָן וְכוֹבַּע يְשׁוּעָה בְרֹאשׁוֹ": משמעות כפולה של איורי לוחמים בכרזות ממעון ספריה בריטית Add. 14761 (2017), עמ' 21-75.