A COMPARISON OF AN ISLAMIC CONTEMPORARY COMET REFERENCE AND THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE CONTEMPORARY COMET REFERENCE TO HALLEY’S COMET OF 1066 AD.

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Introduction: The following are two different contemporary written references to Halley’s Comet of 1066A.D. one from England and one from the Islamic world. Other comparisons between the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles records of cometary sightings give the substantiation that the ASC has historical veracity.

Textual References: “in the first tenth of Jumada I if this year a great comet with a long tail appeared in the east. Its width was around three yards and it stretched to the middle of the sky. It stayed until the twenty seventh and then disappeared. Then there appeared at the end of the same month at sunset a heavenly body with light that surrounded it like that of the moon. People were frightened. When the night fell, the heavenly body developed a tail pointing south. It stayed for ten days and then disappeared” Textual Contemporary Reference from the Islamic Medieval source Ibn al-Jawzi.[1]

Then was over all England such a token seen as no man ever saw before. Some men said that it was the comet-star, which others denominate the long-hair’d star. It appeared first on the eve called "Litania major", that is, on the eighth before the calends of May; and so shone all the week.” Textual Contemporary Reference from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.


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