

Contents

Dag Herbjørnsrud

Preface — IX

Maps and Figures — XV

Simplified Spellings of Ge'ez Words — XIX

Abbreviations — XXIII

Chronology of Events regarding the *Hatata Inquiries* — XXV

Wendy Laura Belcher

Introduction to the *Hatata Inquiries* — 1

Wendy Laura Belcher and Jeremy Brown

Manuscripts of the Texts — 9

Wendy Laura Belcher

The Authorship of the *Hatata Inquiries* — 17

Wendy Laura Belcher and Ralph Lee

Translation Principles — 55

Ralph Lee with Mehari Worku and Wendy Laura Belcher

Translation of the *Hatata Zara Yaqob* — 61

Part I: My Life (1600–1632) — 61

Introduction — 61

Chapter 1: My Birth — 61

Chapter 2: My Schooling — 63

Chapter 3: My Days of Persecution — 64

Chapter 4: My Fleeing into the Wilderness — 66

Part II: My Inquiries — 67

Chapter 5: My Inquiry regarding Wickedness — 67

Chapter 6: My Inquiry regarding the Existence of a Creator — 69

Chapter 7: My Inquiry regarding the Truth of Different Religions — 70

Chapter 8: My Inquiry regarding Falsehood — 73

Chapter 9: My Inquiry regarding Jewish, Islamic, and Christian Laws about Sexuality and Bodies — 75

Chapter 10: My Inquiry regarding Jewish, Islamic, and Christian Laws about Food —	79
Chapter 11: My Inquiry regarding Religious Agreement —	81
Chapter 12: My Inquiry regarding False Doctrine and God's Established Order —	83
Chapter 13: My Inquiry regarding Death —	85
Chapter 14: My Inquiry regarding Intelligence and the Truth of the Bible —	87
Chapter 15: My Inquiry regarding the Efficacy of Prayer Against Sin and Enemies —	90
Chapter 16: My Inquiry regarding Work and Happiness —	94
Chapter 17: My Inquiry regarding Nature and the Feebleness of the Human —	95
Part III: My Life (1632–1693) —	97
Chapter 18: My Becoming a Scribe after the Return of the Orthodox Faith —	97
Chapter 19: My Getting Married and Starting a Family —	99
Chapter 20: My Surviving Wicked Enemies, War, and Famine —	101
Chapter 21: My Patron Dying and My Teaching His Sons —	105
Chapter 22: My Son, His Wife, and Their Children —	106
Chapter 23: My Writing This Book —	107
Coda: The Completion of the Book —	108

Ralph Lee with Mehari Worku and Wendy Laura Belcher

Translation of the *Hatata Walda Heywat* — 111

Prologue by the Scribe — 111

Part I: Inquiries — 111

Chapter 1: On the Importance of Performing Inquiries —	111
Chapter 2: My Inquiry regarding the Risks and Benefits of Inquiry —	113
Chapter 3: My Inquiry regarding the Goodness of Creation —	114
Chapter 4: My Inquiry regarding the Nature of Spirits and Souls —	115
Chapter 5: My Inquiry regarding Religious Faith —	117
Chapter 6: My Inquiry regarding Questions of Faith and God's Care —	119
Chapter 7: My Inquiry regarding Loving One Another and Cooperation —	121
Chapter 8: My Inquiry regarding Humanity as the Ruler of Creation —	122
Chapter 9: My Inquiry regarding the Consequences of Violating the Established Order of the Creator —	124
Chapter 10: My Inquiry regarding the Suffering of the Innocent and Reincarnation —	125
Chapter 11: My Inquiry and Prayer regarding Temptation and the Testing of the Faithful —	127
Chapter 12: My Inquiry regarding Prayer and the Prayerless Human Soul —	129
Chapter 13: My Inquiry regarding Justice, Self-Preservation, and Neighbours —	130

Part II: Advice — **132**

Chapter 14: Loving Your Neighbour — **132**

Chapter 15: Accepting Other Cultures — **134**

Chapter 16: Honouring One's Parents and Elders — **135**

Chapter 17: On the Importance of Learning — **136**

Chapter 18: Hard Work and Its Fruits — **137**

Chapter 19: The Management of Wealth and Drinking — **138**

Chapter 20: Food and Fasting — **139**

Chapter 21: Cleanliness, Clothes, and Homes — **140**

Chapter 22: Charity and the Lazy — **141**

Chapter 23: Slander, Adultery, and Theft — **142**

Chapter 24: Celibacy, Marriage, and Sex — **144**

Chapter 25: Divorce and Remarrying — **148**

Chapter 26: Winning Your Spouse's Love — **149**

Chapter 27: Children and Abortion — **151**

Chapter 28: Raising Good Children — **151**

Chapter 29: Living with the Customs of Your Time — **153**

Chapter 30: Trust and Caution — **155**

Chapter 31: Pride and Anger — **156**

Chapter 32: The Abuse of Authority — **156**

Chapter 33: Rewards for Good Deeds — **157**

Chapter 34: Embracing Death Joyfully — **158**

Coda: Some Final Words — **159**

Jeremy R. Brown, Ralph Lee, and Mehari Worku

Appendix 1: Chart of Differences between Abb 215 and Abb 234 of *Hatata Zara Yaqob* — 161

Jeremy R. Brown and Wendy Laura Belcher

Appendix 2: Scribal Intervention in Abb 215 and Abb 234 — 189

Contributors — 193

Bibliography — 195

Index — 205

