

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to those who made this book possible. My first thoughts go to Prof. Guillaume Dye. I am sincerely grateful to him for having trained, followed, and encouraged me, not only during my PhD, but since the beginning of my studies at the Free University of Brussels. I hope that the rigour of his scholarship transpires through these pages. I also want to warmly thank Prof. Philip Booth who accompanied me during my masters at the University of Oxford and throughout the few years of research that led to the present book. His numerous recommendations and encouragements gave me the confidence to develop some of my most original arguments. My thank also goes to Prof. Jan M. F. Van Reeth, Prof. Jean-Charles Ducène, Prof. Christian Brouwer, and Prof. Anne-Sylvie Boisliveau for their precious comments and their positive feedback on my work.

I owe special gratitude to the Free University of Brussels (ULB) and the numerous colleagues with whom I had the opportunity to work there. The Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Letters, Translation, and Communication recently awarded the Marie-Antoinette Van Huele Prize to my PhD dissertation. It goes without saying that this honour was only made possible thanks to the thorough training in Oriental philology I have received from my numerous professors throughout the years at the Free University of Brussels. I think in the first place of Prof. Xavier Luffin who nourished my appetite for the Arabic language and literature throughout my studies. I am much obliged to him for the comments and advice he gave me at various points of the writing process. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Prof. Lambros Couloubaritsis for his numerous insights on the Greek philosophical tradition over the past few years. His encyclopaedic knowledge and his incomparable analytical power have been a real source of emulation for me. I have a special thought also for Prof. Michèle Broze and Prof. Philippe Talon. The memory of their teachings never ceases to stir up my passion for ancient semitic philology.

I would like to thank the Wiener-Anspach Foundation for their continuous support over the years, which not only gave me the opportunity to carry on my research at the University of Oxford, but also made possible the encounter with so many academics and friends overseas. I cannot mention here all the people who have contributed to feed my thoughts during my many visits to Oxford, but I take here the opportunity to particularly thank Prof. David Taylor, Prof. Sergey Minov, Bogdan Draghici, and Vladimir Olivero.

This work would not have been possible without the support of my family of course. My thank goes to my father, Baudouin Decharneux, for having passed down to me the taste of religious studies and the love for ancient thought and philosophy.

I am grateful to my grandfather, François Vogelee, who commented on my work at various points of the redaction. I would like to thank my mother, Anne Vogelee, and my brother, Alexandre Decharneux, for their encouragements. The meticulousity and perseverance that characterize them never ceases to inspire me. I am also grateful to my grandmothers Emiliana Garcia Garcia and Danielle Bonaventure for their continuous love and support throughout these years.

I would like to extend my thanks to the many friends in Belgium and elsewhere who supported me over the years: Henri Delautre-Drouillon for stimulating my intellect for more than a decade, Sarkis Geerts for his support in good times as much as in bad ones, and Thomas Meurisse for the time spent sharing our passion for philology and religions.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank Ombeline Eugène. Without doubt, her love, kindness, and encouragements gave me the necessary impulse to complete this work at the most hectic moment.

Julien Decharneux