2020 has been a challenging year in many respects. The Covid-19 epidemic caused humanity to pause and contemplate modern life but it also directly affected the Gorgias team and their families. We therefore want to begin by sending our thoughts and prayers to all those affected, to wish a swift recovery where possible, and to remember the lost loved ones who will be missed.

As Gorgias Press is now embarking on its 20th year, our family had extra cause to reflect. We tried to seek out the small blessings that we have found during these difficult times. Lockdown has brought our own family closer as we invented a game we called slidepalooza to foster family bonding, and instituted a daily Kiraz reading hour. George hosted the largest virtual synchronous Syriac Summer course with 40+ students through Beth Mardutho. Christine discovered the pros and cons of teaching via WebEx and Zoom, and saw that her students were more engaged than ever.

As far as Gorgias is concerned, our team was already set up to work remotely. Our Senior Acquisitions Editor Melonie is in Cambridge (UK), our Acquisition Editors—Adam, Yael, Brice, and Dan—in Yorkshire (UK), New Jersey, Louisiana, and Princeton respectively. Our Production Editor Tuomas is in Canada. Our Marketing Associate Gemma is in France. Our Designer Melissa is in California. And we have a few assistants in India. Our authors span the globe from Australia to Ethiopia, and America to Jordan, and our readers are no different. This is because the Gorgias family welcomes members regardless of location – staff and authors alike. While we remain rooted in New Jersey, working alongside our talented Office Manager and Customer Service Supervisor extraordinaire Joan Shields, our reach has always been global, utilizing technology in creative ways.

As the global conversation is shifting towards dealing with race and gender discrimination, we remain committed to championing minority voices and minority academic fields by actively seeking out underrepresented scholars, and through awards such as our Peras Gorgias and Classical Islamic World book prizes.

Personally, the quarantine reminded George and Christine of their youth in Bethlehem and Istanbul respectively, where curfews were part of their childhood. In Bethlehem, when things heated up, schools would be closed. In Istanbul, Christine remembers her father risking military arrest because he had to bring a doctor for her mother who was ill after curfew. George would spend those days at home intent on reading and writing. Covid-19 provided George the opportunity to hunker down and finalize two projects he had been working on for many years. As a result, we are proud to announce the following new releases, which are just a small selection of the 20 plus volumes that went to print during lockdown:

- The *Syria-English New Testament* is now available (see pg 4 for details)
- The new *Gorgias Illustrated Learner’s Syria-English, English-Syria Dictionary* (see pg 4 for details)
- Antioch Bible Volumes: *Psalms and the Book of Women* (pg 10) are now in print and *1 Maccabees* (pg 10) is coming very soon
- “Who Knows What We’d Make of It, If We Ever Got Our Hands on It?” The Bible and Margaret Atwood (pg 11)
2020, while challenging on many fronts, allowed Gorgias to flex its creative muscle and continue to pursue the Gorgias motto and “publish for the sake of knowledge”. We spent more time reading and writing than ever before, and evolved from using Whatsapp or Skype to using Zoom and WebEx. Our Marketing Associate Gemma hosted our first ever virtual exhibit booth at ATLA and more creative plans to connect virtually with our authors and our readers are in the pipeline. Please join our Facebook group and check our website to keep up-to-date on forthcoming virtual book launches and author events.

As we are all striving to find our new normal, it gives us hope to see families connecting with each other more deeply. We know that humanity will emerge stronger from these difficult times. Our thoughts and prayers remain with anyone who lost a beloved one, relative, or friend to Covid-19. May they rest in the Heavenly Jerusalem.

George & Christine Kiraz

The Kiraz family's daily reading hour
 SYRIAC-ENGLISH NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament Peshitta Syriac text with the Antioch Bible English translation in a single volume

George Anton Kiraz, General Editor

Translated by Jeff W. Childers, J. Edward Walters, Daniel King, Robert A. Kitchen, Jerome Alan Lund & James Prather

After the success of the Antioch Bible, this publication is a new, historic edition of the Syriac-English New Testament in a single volume along with a meaningful English translation that strikes the right balance between a scholarly rendition and an allegorical text for Church use. The volume is adorned with colored Syriac paintings from the famous Rabbula Gospels and other Syriac decorative art with a lengthy and detailed introduction to the history of the Peshitta New Testament from ancient times until the production of this volume.

The volume is now available in a beautiful gilded format as well as the standard edition. Bulk discounts are available for those who wish to obtain multiple copies for their libraries, friends and loved ones, or those who would like to gift copies to their Church organizations, Sunday schools, or Bible study groups.

Leather with gilded edges / 978-1-4632-4191-9 / 1093 pp. / $63.95
Leather with non-gilded edges / 978-1-4632-4160-5 / 1093 pp. / $49.00
Peshitta English New Testament (English only) / 978-1-4632-4213-8 / 736 pp. / $45.00
Peshitta English New Testament with gilded edges / 978-1-4632-4217-6 / 736 pp. / $59.95

Full details can be found on our website at https://www.gorgiaspress.com/new-testament-syriac-english-overview.
Please email gemma@gorgiaspress.com with any questions.

Gorgias Illustrated Learner’s
Syriac-English, English-Syriac Dictionary

By Sebastian P. Brock & George Anton Kiraz

The Gorgias Illustrated Learner’s Syriac English, English-Syriac Dictionary is both a convenient academic resource and a door into the world of Modern Literary Syriac. With 13,000 entries drawn from the major existing works, alongside dozens of explanatory boxes on biblical, historical, theological, liturgical, cultural, as well as grammatical topics, and over 80 colored illustrations, it is a practical tool for those that wish to access all but the most specialized Classical Syriac texts.

978-1-4632-4180-3 / Hb / 450 pp. / $48.00
The Antioch Bible is an easy-to-read translation of the Syriac Peshitta, a Middle Eastern version of Scripture that dates back to the early days of Christianity. As the work of an international, interfaith team of experts from both North America and Europe, the Antioch Bible combines scholarly rigor with a smart design, presenting the Syriac text and English translation on facing pages for optimal clarity. The language of the Peshitta, Syriac, is a dialect of Aramaic similar to the dialects used by Jesus and the Jewish exile communities. While the New Testament of the Peshitta can help uncover the original ideas behind the Greek text, the Old Testament of the Peshitta is full of variants that are not preserved in either Hebrew or Greek versions of the Bible but are connected to the ancient Jewish exegetical tradition.

::: Subscription Pricing :::
Institutions: $100/Volume | Individuals: $75/Volume
To subscribe, or for more information, visit
www.gorgiaspress.com/AntiochBible

Illuminating Variant Readings

Luke 6:35, Revised Standard Version:
But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.

Luke 6:35, Syriac Peshitta:
But love your enemies, do good to them, lend to them, and do not cut off any person’s hope.

Most witnesses have, “love your enemies, do good to them, and lend expecting nothing in return” (μηδὲν ἁπατῆσαι). However, a very few (e.g. W Ε sys) have a text that supplies a personal object for the verb (μηδὲνα), thereby requiring a different meaning for the verb, “to disappoint,” or more literally, “to cut off one’s hope.” The Peshitta and the Sinaitic manuscript of the Old Syriac clearly share this distinctive text.

Daniel 11:16, Revised Standard Version:
But he who comes against him shall take the actions he pleases, and no one shall withstand him. He shall take a position in the beautiful land, and all of it shall be in his power.

Daniel 11:16, Syriac Peshitta:
The one who comes against him will do whatever he pleases, and none will stand before him. He will arise in the land of Israel, and it will be delivered into his hands.

Where is “the beautiful land”? The apocalyptic prophecy of Daniel 11 is ambiguous in the original Hebrew, but the Syriac version of the text provides a clear answer.
The Antioch Bible Series provides both the text of the Syriac Bible (called the “Peshitta”) and an up-to-date English translation. The Syriac is fully vocalized and pointed so that readers at any level will be able to work with it—from beginners who are just starting to learn the language to experienced scholars who want a text to consult. See page 5 for subscription info.

2 Maccabees According to the Syriac Peshitta Version with English Translation
English Translation by Philip Forness
Text Prepared by George A. Kiraz & Joseph Bali
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Submission in Written Sources and the Archaeological Record of the Ancient Near East
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Culture of Defeat is based on a 2017 conference focusing on conflicts from the Late Bronze and Iron Age Near East through the Babylonian period, exploring the cultural responses of defeated parties in war and conquest.

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By Allan Georgia

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Petition and Performance in the Apologies of Justin Martyr
By Brandon Cline

Cline advances a suggestive reading of Justin Martyr’s Apologies as a subjective appropriation of the forms and practices of the Roman system of petition and response. He offers an historical contextualization of the Apologies within both contemporary administrative culture and the wider literary environment, comparing the Apologies with extant Roman-era petitions, and using this comparison to shed light on Justin’s transformations of the genre and their communicative significance.

Universal Salvation and Freedom of Choice according to Origen of Alexandria
By Lee Sytsma

The 3rd century theologian Origen of Alexandria has traditionally been famous for his belief in universal salvation. Yet, Origen is also famous for his insistence on moral autonomy, the fact that God allows each creature to freely choose to move in the direction of good or evil. How can these two beliefs not result in a paradox or logical inconsistency in Origen’s theology, as many contemporary scholars suggest they do? This book explores the intersection between moral autonomy and God’s foreordained universal salvation in Origen’s writings. Origen was, in fact, aware of the apparent contradiction between these two ideas. He nevertheless stipulated that God can achieve universal salvation without violating a soul’s freedom of choice. God accomplishes this through his foreknowledge of future voluntary possibilities, which God then prearranges into a sequence leading to God’s desired outcome.

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By Hiruie Ermias

For students of Ge’ez, this book will function as a learning grammar and resource. It will also be of interest to scholars interested in the culture and religion of Ethiopia and Eritrea, non-western Christian intellectual traditions, and the Tawahedo Church.
FORTHCOMING

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By Dunja Rašić

Born in the late 9th century Baghdad, the ‘Abbāsid grammarian ‘Abū Bakr Muhammad b. Ṣaḥl Ibn al-Sarrāj came to be remembered as the Banisher of Madness and the virtuous scholar whose life has exemplified the culture of Arabs in its fullness. Lauded as the arch-enemy of Hellenistic sciences and, at the same time, as the main source of transmission of Aristotelian logic from the 10th century philosophers to the grammarians of Baghdad; Ibn al-Sarrāj nonetheless remains a shadowy figure in the history of Arabic grammar studies up until today. This book addresses this issue by examining the problematic relationship between language, logic and grammar in Ibn al-Sarrāj’s teachings.

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“From his side came blood and milk”
The Martyrdom of St Philotheus of Antioch in Coptic Egypt and Beyond
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and more specifically, the Martyrdom of St Philotheus of Antioch (Pierpont Morgan M583). This Martyrdom is a reflection of a once flourishing cult which is attested in Egypt by rich textual and material evidence. This text enjoyed great popularity not only in Egypt, but also in other countries of the Christian East, since his dossier includes texts in Coptic, Georgian, Ethiopic, and Arabic.

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By Arman Akopian

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By Yona Sabar

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The papers included in this volume address the theory and practice of the adaptation and appropriation of One Thousand and One Nights into any type of literary text and media (film and TV), while approaching a definition of our contemporary knowledge and understanding of the Nights.

*An Inventory of Syriac Texts Published from Manuscripts in the British Library*
By Sebastian P. Brock

The British Library possesses one of the most important collections of Syriac manuscripts in the world, with large numbers dating back to the second half of the first millennium CE. The publication of important Syriac texts from these manuscripts has been going on for some 180 years and still continues. The aim of the present volume is to provide a guide to these scattered publications: following the sequence of the shelf-marks (call numbers), for each manuscript indication is given of what texts have been published from it. For convenience, a concordance between Wright's Catalogue numbers and shelf-marks is provided, along with a list of palimpsests and of joins with manuscripts in other libraries, in particular with those still in the Library of Dayr al-Surian in Egypt, the monastery which was the source of over 500 manuscripts and fragments purchased by the British Museum in the mid nineteenth century.

*The Quran: Word List*
*Adjectives, Nouns, Proper Nouns and Verbs*
By Elie Wardini

The aim with the present series, The Quran: Word List, is to present every word form in the Quran as raw data with as little interpretation as possible. The digital text used for this purpose is the Uthmani text of the Tanzil Quran Text. In volumes one and two each attested word form in the Quran is listed alphabetically with no parsing and no alteration. These are listed by word form < lemma < root. Volume three consists of two sections. In section one, the lemmas assigned to each attested word form are listed. In section two, the assigned roots are listed. In assigning each word a root and lemma, Classical dictionaries and Quran commentaries, as well as modern Quran dictionaries have been consulted.

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Aqueducts and Urbanism in Post-Roman Hispania
By Javier Martinez Jiménez
Our current knowledge of Roman aqueducts across the Empire is patchy and uneven. Even if the development of “aqueduct studies” (where engineering, archaeology, architecture, hydraulics, and other disciplines converge) in recent years has improved this situation, one of the aspects which has been generally left aside is the chronology of their late antique phases and of their abandonment. In the Iberian peninsula, there is to date, no general overview of the Roman aqueducts, and all the available information is distributed across various publications, which as expected, hardly mention the late phases. This publication tackles this issue by analysing and reassessing the available evidence for the late phases of the Hispanic aqueducts by looking at a wide range of sources of information, many times derived from the recent interest shown by archaeologists and researchers on late antique urbanism.

978-1-4632-3915-2 / Hb / $114.95

Calling Out to Isis
The Enduring Presence of Nubian Worshippers at Philae
By Solange Ashby
The expansion of the cult of the goddess Isis throughout the Mediterranean world demonstrates the widespread appeal of Egyptian religion in the Greco-Roman period. In this monograph, Ashby focuses on an oft-neglected population in studies of this phenomenon: Nubian worshippers. Through examination of prayer inscriptions and legal agreements engraved on temple walls, as well as Ptolemaic royal decrees and temple imagery, Ashby sheds new light on the involvement of Nubians in the Egyptian temples of Lower Nubia, and further draws comparisons between Nubian cultic practices and the Meroitic royal funerary cult.

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Histioriography and Hierotopy
Palestinian Hagiography in the Sixth Century A.D.
By Rod Stearn
Judean hagiographies are unusual. Some are unexpectedly structured: a saint’s life in the form of a history text. Others offer surprising content. Expected hagiographic stylizations, for example, often depict moments in which the saint is offered money for a miracle. In such cases the saint invariably refuses. Judean saints, however, accept gratitude willingly – often with cash amounts recorded. The peculiarities of these works have regularly been examined on literary and theological grounds. The monasteries that produced these texts were utterly dominated by the environment of Christian Jerusalem. Although often commented upon, the unmined implications of this reality hold the key to understanding these hagiographies. It is only by examining these monasteries’ ties to – and embeddedness within – their peculiar context that we can perceive the mindset that produced such baffling texts.

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A Mesopotamian Miscellany
By Karen Polinger Foster; Translation by Benjamin R. Foster
Drawn from Akkadian and Sumerian tablets in the Yale Babylonian Collection, many of them previously unpublished, this collection of readings brings to life the vibrancy of ancient Mesopotamian literature, beyond its better-known myths and epics. The book’s unique thematic structure presents a wide range of timeless subjects, while the individual selections open new perspectives, thanks to their vivid details. The texts include letters, poems, prayers, humorous sketches, dialogues, and proverbs. Each theme is introduced, followed by brief commentaries on the dozen or more illustrative texts. Suggestions for further reading are also provided, as well as a map, chronological outline, and general introduction.

978-1-4632-4052-3 / Hb / $65.00
A Place Between Two Places
The Quranic Barzakh
By George Archer
What happens after death but before the final resurrection? This is the intermediate state. For most Muslims, it is called the barzakh, and it is a fantastical and frightening time in the grave. Throughout history and today this belief has been discussed and expressed in many forms: from Sufi dreamscapes to theological tests of orthodoxy. But where does the barzakh come from first?
In A Place Between Two Places: The Quranic Barzakh, George Archer reconstructs the barzakh’s early history. Analyzing sixteen of the Qur’an’s suras in search of oral formulae, subtextual hints, and concentric parallelisms, the early barzakh is exposed as a response to the saint cults of late antiquity, and most especially, the cult of the divine Christ. From here, the Qur’anic vision of the barzakh is traced forward through later prophetic biographies, Islamic architecture, and the hadith literature in order to show how the barzakh developed into the distinctive eschatological claims of the Islamic Middle Ages. Winner of the 26th World Award for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2018).

978-1-4632-4074-5 / Hb / $158.00
There has been a widespread and growing recognition over the past decade that the post-Avicennan history of Islamic theology (kalām) and philosophy (falāsifa) has been seriously misunderstood and should be the subject of much further research. Gutas (2002), in his influential paper, 'The heritage of Avicenna: the golden age of Arabic philosophy, 1000 - ca. 1350', has challenged the previously held assumption that al-Ghazali's high profile renunciation of Avicennan philosophy caused the tradition to cease to exist in the Islamic world. Not only did philosophy persist, but theology, its proponents having traditionally been in an antagonistic relationship with the philosophers, began to incorporate many philosophical methods and even doctrines. Sayf al-Dīn al-Āmidī (d.1233) is one Ashʿarī theologian whose work falls into the paradigm of this period. The present work aims to contextualise al-Āmidī's thought in terms of its relation to Avicennan philosophy on the one hand, and classical Ashʿarī theology on the other. The study is part of the response to the call of scholars like Gutas to reassess the many assumptions surrounding its output.
Rewriting Islamic Law
The Opinions of the ‘Ulama’ Towards Codification of Personal Status Law in Egypt
By Tarek Elgawhary
This book explores the process, effects, and results of codification of Egyptian personal status laws as seen through the eyes of the ‘ulamā’. The codification process began in the mid-1800s and continued until the abolishment of the Shari’a courts in 1955 with the absorption of personal status statutes into the newly drafted civil code and the national courts that administered them.

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Chinese Heirs to Muhammad
Writing Islamic History in Early Modern China
By Lilu Chen
This book tells the story of history as imagined by Hui Muslims in late nineteenth and early twentieth century China. Chen argues that this was an especially productive period for historical thought, bookended by the establishment of a robust Sino-Islamic knowledge base by Liu Zhi on one end and Republican China on the other end. Histories from this period unify a vast temporal and spatial expanse: from genesis to antiquity to the modern era, from Arabia to Central Asia to China. Hui historians string together places and times into a coherent, continuous narrative for the community.

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Linguistic Coherence in Biblical Hebrew Texts
Arrangement of information, participant reference devices, verb forms, and their contribution to textual segmentation and coherence
By Lénart de Regt
This monograph explores the distinct ways in which four discourse devices participate in establishing coherence in Biblical Hebrew texts. Bringing together linguistics, literary analysis, pragmatics, and translation methodology, de Regt demonstrates how a thorough understanding of the functions of linguistic coherence beyond the sentence level should be integrated into biblical translation methodology and Biblical Hebrew pedagogy.

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Rest in Mesopotamian and Israelite Literature
By Daniel E. Kim

The concept of rest in the Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature. Through close examination of Mesopotamian texts and selections from the Deuteronomistic History and Chronicles, Kim delineates a concept of rest for each body of literature, and employs a comparative approach to illuminate the rest motif in the Hebrew Bible in light of Mesopotamian literature.

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She Opens Her Hand to the Poor Gesture and Social Values in Proverbs
By Jordan W. Jones

While scholarship on nonverbal communication in the Hebrew Bible has traditionally focused on ritual dress, postures of worship, and related topics, there exist a number of non-ritual gestures in the text for which we have little understanding, such as occur in the book of Proverbs. As the premier source for moral pedagogy in the Hebrew Bible, Proverbs contains a number of gestures that, when properly interpreted, enhance an understanding of social values in ancient Israel. To aid in the process of decoding these literary features, Jones examines Ugaritic, Akkadian, Egyptian, and Sumerian texts, identifying similar gestures and anatomical idioms and how they are variously interpreted in their respective contexts. Though the particular religious and cultural systems of these neighboring entities are distinct, their ideology of social values—values imbedded in the fabric of daily life and indicative of the universally shared experience of all communities—comes to the fore through the medium of gesture.

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Jehoiachin and his Oracle
A Jeremianic Scribal Framework for the End of the Deuteronomistic History
By Melvin L. Sensenig

King Jehoiachin, the last Judahite king exiled to Babylon, became the focus of conflicting hopes and fears about a revived Davidic kingship after the exile. As Sensenig demonstrates, this conflict stemmed from a drastic oracle from Jeremiah that seemed to categorically reject Jehoiachin, while the canon records that he not only survived but thrived in exile.

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Jerusalem’s Survival, Sennacherib’s Departure, and the Kushite Role in 701 BCE
An Examination of Henry Aubin’s Rescue of Jerusalem
Edited by Alice Ogden Bellis

In 2002 Henry T. Aubin published The Rescue of Jerusalem: The Alliance Between Hebrews and Africans in 701 BC. Aubin, an award-winning Canadian journalist, explores Jerusalem’s survival in 701 BCE in the face of an Assyrian invasion of the Levant. It is unusual for a book in biblical studies to be reconsidered fifteen to twenty years later. The rationale for a book-length collection devoted to Aubin’s The Rescue of Jerusalem is, first of all, the importance of the issues it raises for the academy and beyond. This volume brings together excellent scholars from several fields to consider certain issues that are raised by The Rescue of Jerusalem’s thesis that an army of Egypt’s Twenty-fifth Dynasty was influential in saving Jerusalem from destruction; the dynasty was composed of Kushites, who came from present-day Sudan. This volume is important for another reason. Not only does The Rescue of Jerusalem raise issues regarding what may have happened in 701 BCE; it also probes Western biblical scholarly attitudes regarding the Twenty-fifth Dynasty’s involvement in those events. Aubin’s approach raises important concerns about scholarly attitudes, not only from the past, but also about the ways in which past attitudes have a way of continuing to color later academic discourse when they are not challenged.

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Singer of the Word of God
Ephrem the Syrian and his Significance in Late Antiquity
By Sebastian P. Brock

As the first volume of the Sebastianyotho series, this book collects Sebastian P. Brock’s articles related to Ephrem the Syrian. Many of the articles have been updated and some are published in English for the first time alongside a number of previously published works. The articles cover a wide array of topics, including a biographical overview of the saint, an exposition of St. Ephrem’s importance for Christianity today and his relevance as a theologian, an analysis of some of his works, and a bibliographic guide to editions of these works.

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Sebastianyotho was launched in 2018 on the occasion of Sebastian P. Brock’s 80th birthday to celebrate his prolific contributions to the field of Syriac studies for over half a century. Each volume in the series collects his works on a specific theme and includes new material. Covering a wide range of topics, the series becomes an indispensable encyclopedia on Syriac Christianity.

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Edited and Translated by Edward G. Mathews Jr

In this fifth installment of the long Homily 71, On the Six Days of Creation, Jacob treats of the events of the fifth day, the creation from the waters of the various species of fish and reptiles, as well as the assorted types of birds and other winged creatures. God created them all in wisdom and in love, prepared everything that they would need and endowed them with the natural characteristics required for their particular type of life. Jacob highlights the fact that the creation of these animals on the fifth day to inhabit the land and water separated on the third day is a symbol of the Resurrection of Christ.

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Edited and Translated by Amir Harrak

The Law Code of Simeon of Rev-Ardashir, originally written in Persian, was translated into Syriac by a monk of Bēt-Qatrāyē. The Code’s author, possibly to be identified with a rebellious metropolitan mentioned in the letters of Patriarch Isō-yahb III, aims to clarify theoretical scriptural law, and to address specific cases of inheritance law.

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The Syriac Dot
A Short History
By George Anton Kiraz

The dot is used for everything in Syriac from tense to gender, number, and pronunciation, and unsurprisingly represents one of the biggest obstacles to learning the language. Using inscriptions, early grammars, and experiments with modern scribes, Dr. Kiraz peels back the evolution of the dot layer by layer to explain each of its uses in detail and to show how it adopted the wide range of uses it has today.

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