

Ibn al-Shāṭir

Ibn al-Shāṭir (b. probably 705/1306, d. 777/1375–6) was one of the most important astronomers of pre-modern Islam, writing on a variety of topics and producing one of the most innovative astronomical systems prior to the advances of early modern Europe. His full name is ‘Alā’ al-Dīn Abū l-Ḥasan ‘Alī b. Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. al-Humām Abī Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Ḥassān b. ‘Abd al-Raḥmān b. Thābit al-Anṣārī al-Awsī. Sources do not agree about his birth date, but the one reported by al-Ṣafadī (15 Sha‘bān 705/2 March 1306), who met Ibn al-Shāṭir, seems the most reliable (al-Ṣafadī, 20:302).

Ibn al-Shāṭir was born in Damascus. His father died when he was six, after which he was raised by a cousin on his father’s side, who was married to Ibn al-Shāṭir’s