

Orah Selulah (אורח סלולה, "The Paved Way") — Editorial footnotes (draft)

Isaac ben Solomon ibn al-Ahdab (יצחק בן שלמה אבן אלאחדב), c. 1350–c. 1429 (Castile → Sicily). Drafted editorial footnotes for review before publication. Each note is keyed to its anchor in the **manuscript-grade complete edition** — the collated output that retains the per-batch/page scaffolding the anchors reference (produced by ms). The reading in the main text is **preserved as printed/transcribed** and is not altered by these notes. The note text below is a **draft** — review and edit before publication.

The notes are classified as follows:

- **Category B — source compositor error.** A printing, compositor, or scribal error in the source itself (a wrong letter or digit, a dropped or doubled word, a non-resolving citation). The likely intended reading is noted, but the main text preserves exactly what is printed.
- **Category C — author/source anomaly.** An anomaly originating with the author or the source rather than the typesetting (a factual or geographic slip, a misattribution, an internal inconsistency, or a deliberate but unusual feature). Recorded as written.
- **Missing-source lacuna.** A point where source text is missing, damaged, or illegible. The note states what should stand at the gap and points to an alternate witness where one is known.

#	Anchor	Cat.	Item
1	batch_006 / p.11	B	Uncertain transmitted Arabic source-names in the preface (Ibn al-Raqqas, “treatise of מיטלס”, Ibn al-[מאיר])
2	batch_005 / p.9–10	C	Superseded older shelfmarks recorded on the guard leaves
3	batch_007 / p.13	C	Fifth-Gate purpose opening word ambiguous: שעת (“time”) vs שנת (“year”)
4	batch_009 / p.17	C	Mars (מאדים) paired with Greek transliteration אריס (Ares), not a Latin form

#	Anchor	Cat.	Item
5	batch_012 / p.23–24	C	Solar/lunar panel-identity tension: captions against group-rubric ירח לבנה
6	batch_013 / p.25–26	C	גרע/הוסף (subtract/add) head–foot polarity alternates across openings
7	batch_016 / p.31–34	C	Parallax-table companion latitudes (45°) מ"ה and (35°) לה are paired panels, not an error
8	batch_025 / p.49	C	Provenance name-cluster: six names legible but filiation, date, and place illegible; provenance unconfirmed
9	batch_009 / p.17	lacuna	Zodiac-wheel diagram: one lobe label (סרטן / Cancer) remains illegible on both witnesses

1. batch_006 / p.11 — *Category B — source compositor error*

DRAFT: In enumerating the authorities behind his tables the author names, alongside the securely-read al-Battānī and the Toledo tables, three figures whose names are not securely recoverable in the manuscript hand: בן אלרקס — read here as “Ibn al-Raqqas,” but very possibly “Ibn al-Raqqām,” the astronomer associated with the Toledo/Tunis tables; a “treatise of מיטלס” whose author/title is undeciphered; and a solar-equation table drawn from “Ibn al-[מאיר],” a partly illegible source-name. These readings are provisional; the identifications should be confirmed against a clearer witness before being pressed.

2. batch_005 / p.9–10 — *Category C — author/source anomaly*

DRAFT: The guard leaves preserve two shelfmarks older than the manuscript's current designation (BnF Hébreu 1086): “Cod. 247” (p.9) and “Heb. 459” (p.10). They record the codex's earlier cataloguing history.

3. batch_007 / p.13 — *Category C — author/source anomaly*

DRAFT: The opening word stating the purpose of the Fifth Gate can be read either as שעת (“time”) or שנת (“year”); the glyphs are not decisive. “Time of the

conjunction” has been adopted as better suited to the eclipse-timing context, but the alternative reading is possible. This is a reading ambiguity, not a scribal error.

4. batch_009 / p.17 — Category C — author/source anomaly

DRAFT: In the dignities/correspondence grid the planet Mars (מאדים) is glossed with the Greek name אריס (Ares) rather than a Latin Mars/Martis form. Recorded as written; an onomastic feature of the source, not an error.

5. batch_012 / p.23–24 — Category C — author/source anomaly

DRAFT: In the correction tables the panel captions name חמה (Sun) and לבנה (Moon) while the group-rubric band beneath reads ירח (moon). Whether a given panel is solar, lunar, or a combined solar-argument / lunar-time correction could not be resolved at the available resolution; both the caption and the rubric are transcribed verbatim, neither normalized.

6. batch_013 / p.25–26 — Category C — author/source anomaly

DRAFT: The add/subtract markers on the correction panels alternate polarity from opening to opening: at the p.23–24 opening גרע (subtract) heads and הוסף (add) foots each panel, whereas at pp.25–26 the order is reversed (הוסף at the head, גרע at the foot). This appears to be a genuine alternating add-table / subtract-table convention rather than a misreading; the markers are recorded as observed on each panel.

7. batch_016 / p.31–34 — Category C — author/source anomaly

DRAFT: The parallax (הבטה) tables carry title numerals (45°) מ"ה on one opening and (35°) לה on the next. These are not a discrepancy but paired companion-latitude panels of the same series, computed for the two reference latitudes; both readings are confirmed on the color and microfilm witnesses.

8. batch_025 / p.49 — Category C — author/source anomaly

DRAFT: Below the terminal tables a faded brown-ink cluster of personal names appears in two registers — top: Samuel ... Abraham ... with the honorific שתחיה (“may he live”); bottom: Azariah ... Isaac ... Eleazar. The connective filiation markers (בן, “son of”) are not legibly present, so the patronymic-versus-sibling structure is undetermined, and no date-word or place-name is legible; the suggested Sicilian/Italian-family provenance therefore remains unconfirmed. What an earlier reading took for “two Stars of David” is, on re-examination, pen flourishes plus paper-loss, not confirmed hexagrams. This is not a formal dated colophon (תם ונשלם no formula).

9. batch_009 / p.17 — *Missing-source lacuna*

DRAFT: The zodiac wheel carries twelve lobe labels; eleven have been recovered across the color scan and the B&W microfilm witness. The סרטן (Cancer) lobe label alone could not be read legibly on either witness and is left unrestored.