

ABU HULAYQAH (Rashid al-Din ^{Faris}) | 1 Abu al-Wahsh ibn al-Faris)

Rashid al-Din Abu al-Wahsh ibn al-Faris Abi al-Khayr ibn Abi Sulayman Dawud ibn Abi al-Muna ibn Abi Fana Abu Hulayqah; 1195-1277, physician. He spent his first seven or eight years in Edessa. One day his father introduced him to al-'Adil (r. 1200-1218) and to his son al-Kamil. The latter persuaded Rashid al-Din's father to send the boy to Damascus to study medicine instead of carrying out his original intention of training him for a [military](#) career. He spent a year in Damascus, during which time he learned the *Aphorisms* and the *Prognostics* of Hippocrates. He went to [Egypt](#) in 1203 to work for al-Kamil (1218-1238), and after his death, for his son al-Malik al-Salih Najm al-Din Ayyub (1240-1249) and subsequently for Najm al-Din's son al-Mu'azzam Turan Shah (1249-1250).

After al-Mu'azzam's death in 1250, Rashid al-Din worked as a physician for al-Malik al-Zahir Baybars (1260-1277). Toward the end of his life, Rashid al-Din retired to a monastery, where he died in 1277.

Ibn Abi Usaybi'ah, his contemporary, met him several times and speaks of his great skill in all [branches](#) of the medical art, of his qualities of compassion and piety, and of several outstanding cures that he effected through his treatment. He manufactured a remedy inherited from the Greeks and held in great esteem throughout the Arab period as an [antidote](#) to poisons and the bite of venomous beasts or reptiles. This medicine was considered so effective that the [sultan](#) ordered that he should be provided with his own supply.

Rashid al-Din composed poetry as well as medical works. The [manuscript](#) of his *Maqalah fi al-Ayarijat* (Treatise on Hieras) was found in 1944 in Cairo, together with the [manuscript](#) of a work on melancholia.

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