

Course of Islamic paleography by Jan Just Witkam

Tasks for the student:

1. Read the bibliographical description of the manuscript.
2. Carefully compare the images of the manuscript with the proposed transliteration. Get accustomed with peculiarities of this hand.
3. Transcribe in the same way a considerable portion of that part of the manuscript which has not been transliterated. Start where the given transliteration ends. See how far you come.
4. Note remarkable or unusual ligatures and make a list of these.
5. Make an inventory of all signs and peculiarities which are different from modern practice.

MS Leiden Or. 14.545 b and Or. 14.545 c.

Qur'ān. Two sheaves containing fragments from one and the *Qur'ān* on parchment, written in Ḥiǧāzī or Ḥiǧāzī-like script.

Fragment b, consisting of 1 leaf, with text: *Qur'ān* 16:96 - 16:114. A sheaf containing one leaf of the same *Qur'ān* as Or. 14.545c. One leaf of parchment, measuring 40 x 32 cm (approximately the original measure of the parchment), beginning with the hair side, with damaged edges. 19 lines to the page. 34 cm from the base of line 1 till the base of line 19. Brownish ink. Upright, *mā'il*, script, clearly readable on the recto side and rather faded on the verso side. Diacritics realized by oblique dot-like strokes. No vowel dots. Prickings in the inner margin. The leaf bears a striking resemblance to MS Paris BnF Arabe 331 (see François Déroche, *Les manuscrits du Coran. Aux origines de la calligraphie coranique*. Paris 1983 (Bibliothèque Nationale. Département des Manuscrits. Catalogue des manuscrits arabes. Deuxième partie, Tome I, 1, p. 67 and plate IX), and has now been confirmed by Dr. Marie-Généviève Guesdon of the BnF as coming from that same *Qur'ān* and exactly filling in the lacuna in the Paris fragment. Déroche classifies the script of the Paris manuscript Arabe 331 as Ḥiǧāzī-like.

Dividers between the *āyāt*: oblique strokes, sometimes two, sometimes three. On either side of the leaf is also a divider between *āyāt* different from this, a sort of small figure drawn in blue-grey colour over the original strokes, clearly from a later date.

Kept in and attached to a paper sheaf bearing a registration number: 24536, apparently referring to an earlier collection.

Contents: *Sūra* 16:96 (first words: *mā 'indakum*) - 16:114 (last word: *ni'mata*).

Fragment c, consisting of 1 leaf, with text *Qur'ān* 63:1 - 64:4. A sheaf containing one leaf of the same *Qur'ān* as Or. 14.545b. One damaged and broken leaf of parchment, measuring 35 x 34 cm (not the original measures), beginning with the hair side, with damaged edges. In all, 18 lines are wholly or partly visible. 30.3 cm from the base of line 1 till the base of line 17. Presently bound with the verso side (flesh side) first. Brownish ink. Upright, *mā'il*, script, clearly readable on the recto side and rather faded on the verso side. Diacritics realized by oblique dot-like strokes. No vowel dots. Prickings in the inner margin of the fragment, but here the leaf is bound in a way that the prickings can be observed in the outer margin.

The leaf bears a striking resemblance to MS Paris BnF Arabe 331 (see François Déroche, *Les manuscrits du Coran. Aux origines de la calligraphie coranique*. Paris 1983 (Bibliothèque Nationale. Département des Manuscrits. Catalogue des manuscrits arabes. Deuxième partie, Tome I, 1, p. 67, plate IX), and has now been confirmed by Dr. Marie-Généviève Guesdon of the BnF as coming from that same *Qur'an*. Déroche classifies the script of the Paris manuscript as Higazi-like.

Dividers between the *āyāt*: oblique strokes, sometimes two, sometimes three, sometimes a conglomerate of smaller strokes, which are almost reduced to dots. On the verso side of the fragment is the division between *sūra* 63 and *sūra* 64. The last line of *sūra* 63 has not been filled out, and between the two *sūra*'s an extra blank line has been added. After the last word of *sūra* 63 is written in a smaller script almost without diacritics, possibly by the

copyist: *yā alif khatmat sūrat al-munāfiqīn*, meaning: 'yā alif (= 11 <āya>), end of *sūrat al-Munāfiqīn*'. This is in exact conformity with the *sūra* endings in MS Paris BnF Arabe 331, as described by François Déroche.

Kept in and attached to a paper sheaf bearing a registration number: 24071, apparently referring to an earlier collection.

Contents: Recto side: *Sūra* 63:1 (first word: *al-munāfiqūn*) - 63:7 (last words: *lā yaḥqahūna*). Verso side: *Sūra* 63:8 (first word: *al-munāfiqīn*) - 64:4 (last word: 'alīm).

Or. 14.545c, recto side (Qur'ān 63:1-7):

““
المنفقون قالوا نشهد انك لرسو،،
والله يعلم انك لرسوله والله يشهد ان ا
لمنفقين لكذبون * اتخذوا ايمنهم جنة فصدو
ا عن سبيل الله انهم سا ما كانوا يعملون *
ذلك بانهم امنوا ثم كفروا فطبع على قلو
بهم فهم لا يفقهون * واذا رايتهم تعجبك ا
جسمهم وان يقولوا تسمع لقولهم كانهم
خشب مسندة يحسبون كل صيحة عليهم هم العد
و فاحذرهم قتلهم الله انى يوفكون *
واذا قيل لهم تعالوا يستغفر لكم رسو
ل الله لوو روسهم ورايتهم يصدو
ن وهم مستكبرون * سوا عليهم استغفرت
لهم ام لم تستغفر لهم لن يغفر الله لهم ان
الله لا يهدى القوم الفسقين * هم الذين
يقولون لا تنفقوا على ،،ل الله
حتى ينفضوا والله خزين الـ،،
ولكن المنفقون لا يفقهو،،
““

Or. 14.545c, verso side (Qur'ān 63:7-64:4):

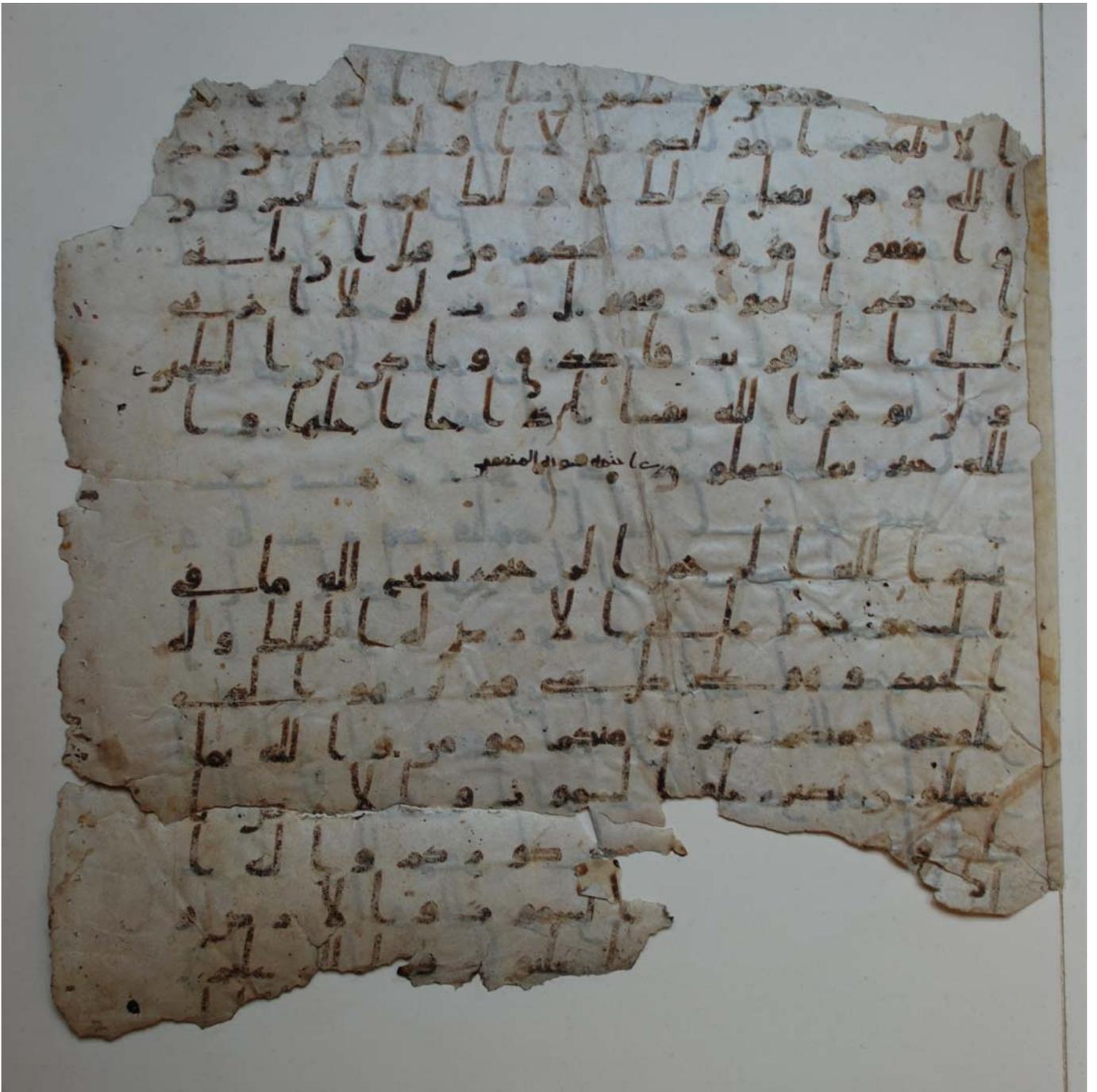
““
،، المنفقون لا يعلمون * ياايها الذين امنـ،،
لا تلهكم امولكم ولا اولدكم عن ذكر
الله ومن يفعل ذلك فاولئك هم الخسرون *
وانفقوا من ما رزقنكم من قبل ان ياتى
احدكم الموت فيقول رب لو لا اخرتتى
الى اجل قريب فاصدق واكن من الصالحين *
ولن يوخز الله نفسا اذا جا اجلها وا
لله خبير بما تعملون *

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم يسبح الله ما فى
السموت وما فى الارض له الملك وله

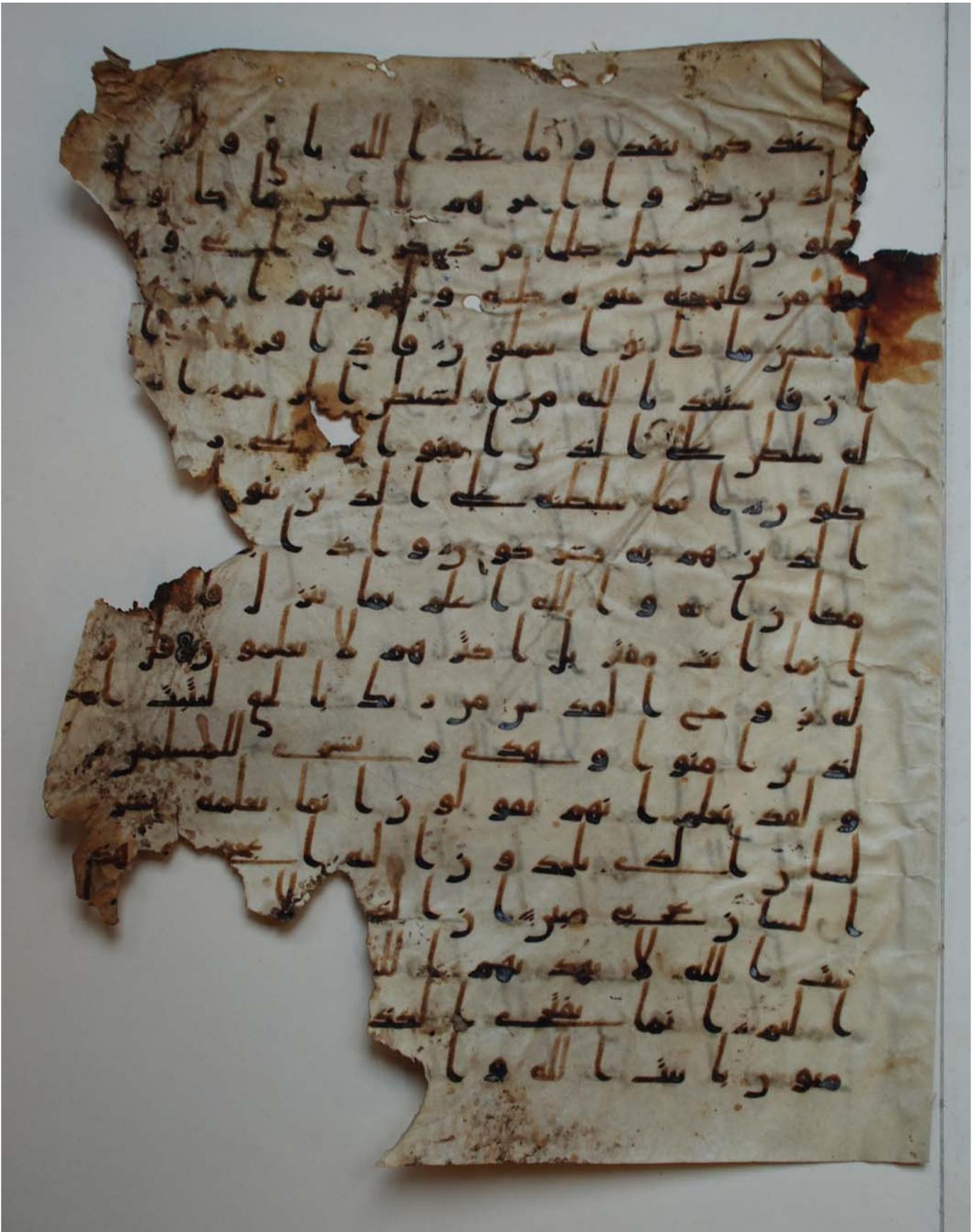
الحمد وهو على كل شيء قدير * هو الذى
 خلقكم فمنكم كافر ومنكم مومن والله بما
 تعملون بصير * خلق السموت والارض با
 لحق وصد،، بن صوركم واليه ا
 ل،، السموت والارض و
 ،، ا تعلنون والله عليم
 ،،



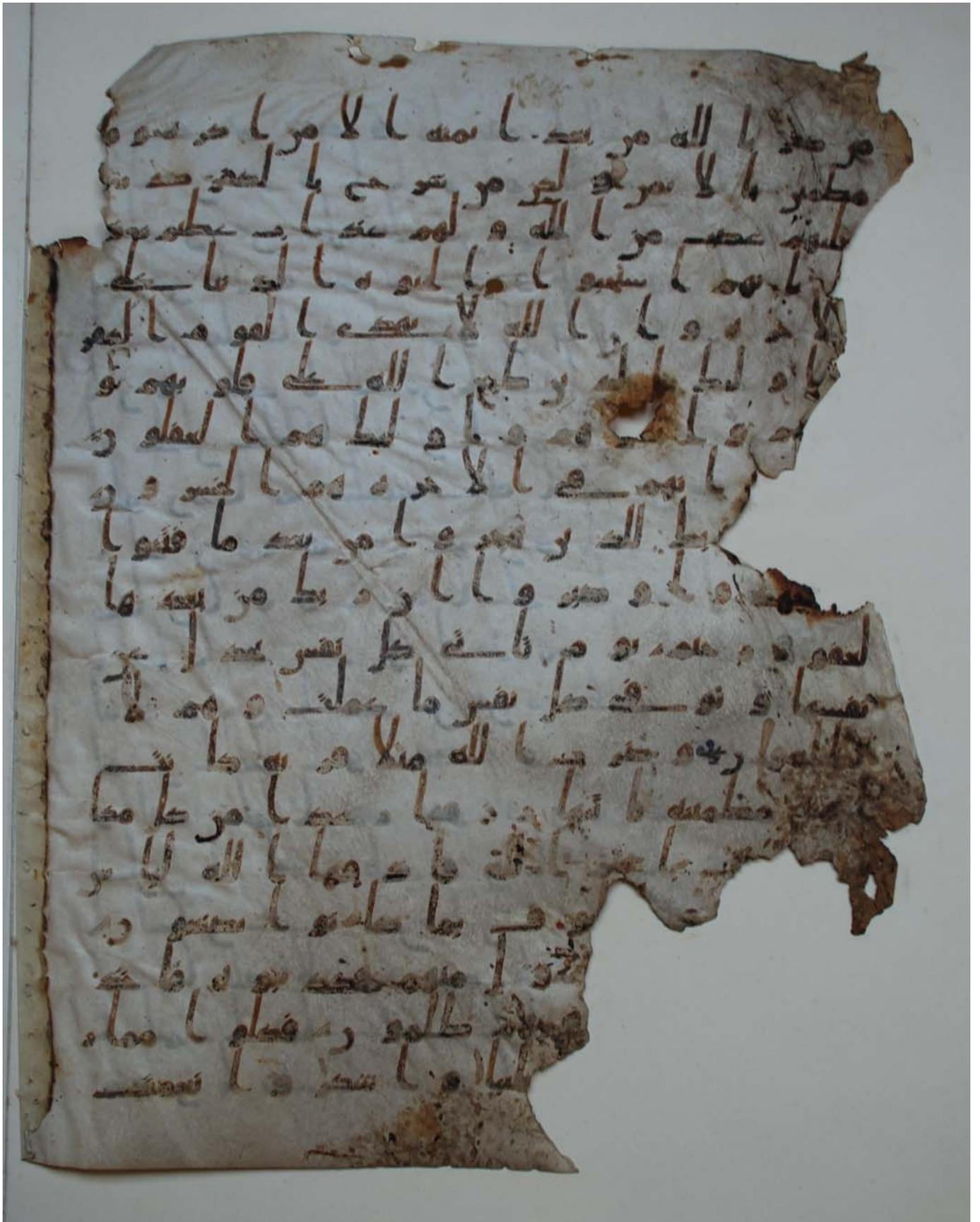
Leaf of a Qur'ān manuscript in Ḥiǧāzī-like script on parchment.
 MS Leiden Or. 14.545c, recto side (Qur'ān 63:1-7).



Leaf of a Qur'ān manuscript in Ḥiǧāzī-like script on parchment.
MS Leiden Or. 14.545c, verso side (Qur'ān 63:7-64:4).



Leaf of a Qur'ān manuscript in Ḥiǧāzī-like script on parchment.
MS Leiden Or. 14.545b, recto side (Qur'ān 16:96-105).



Leaf of a Qur'ān manuscript in Ḥiǧāzī-like script on parchment.
MS Leiden Or. 14.545b, verso side (Qur'ān 16:106-114).