

This analysis illustrates how al-Iṣfahānī asserts his perspectives in the *Aḡānī*, specifically, his partisanship for Iṣḥāq. By examining al-Iṣfahānī's repetition and juxtaposition of material, this study not only reveals the authorial voice and its impact upon the text, but also a new perspective into this *Dīwān al-'arab*.⁹ This approach - an examination of the compiler's editorial activities - can be used to explore different perspectives in the *Aḡānī*, which is a work of multi-valence and multi-vocality, as well as other Arabic compilations (Su 2016, 133–250; Kilpatrick 1997, 94–128). Given the importance of the *Aḡānī* as a source for Arabic literature and history, it is crucial to recognise al-Iṣfahānī's editorial concerns and principles, which need to be taken into consideration when we use it to reconstruct the past. Furthermore, a detailed investigation into how compilers in general represent and reconfigure the past as such will further our understanding of the nature of Islamic historiography and its development.

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⁹ To use Ibn Ḥaldūn's depiction: (Ibn Ḥaldūn 2004, vl.2, 377).