

## **Abstract**

The use of emotions by the authors of the literary sources in Visigothic Iberia is an essential issue if we want to understand how far reaches the political scope of the ideological propaganda that flows from the Church. The Lives of the Holy Fathers of Mérida, a hagiography that is the main source in this paper, is a huge example of that. This hagiography is set in the Mérida of the sixth century and is articulated on five opuscula. Its importance lies both in its theological content and in the historical events and places that it details; in fact, some of them have been contrasted by archaeological studies.

The main protagonists of the narrative are the bishops, who are treated as true examples of behavior. The Lives not only narrate conflicts in a religious sphere, but they transcend that plane and touch, even, issues related to politics, and social or economic structures. This kind of sources, as any hagiographical material, written for a man of the Church, should be interpreted with reservations, attending the words chosen to describe each of the processes that appear and, of course, paying special attention to the treatment of each character. The scope of emotions resides in the view of these characters. The hagiographers try to convince the audience and direct their minds, through the use of premeditated language and the introduction of episodes and anecdotes that underline the goodness and greatness of the protagonists of the narrative.