

## U

## Umar b. Hubayra

**Umar b. Hubayra** (d. between 105/724 and 107/726) was an Umayyad military leader who served as governor of Iraq during the reign of the Umayyad caliph Yazīd b. ‘Abd al-Malik (r. 101–5/720–24). He is generally described as a fierce partisan of the Qays tribal bloc, though his initial success as a military leader came during the reign of ‘Umar b. ‘Abd al-‘Azīz (r. 99–101/717–20), whom modern historians consider to be pro-Yemeni. Feuds between these two vaguely-defined tribal blocs often serve as explanations for conflicts in early Islamic history.

He first appears in the sources as leader of a naval expedition against Constantinople in 97/715–6 (al-Ṭabarī, 2:1306, 1316; Khalīfa, 201). In the following year, Maslama b. ‘Abd al-Malik (d. 120/737–8) sent him as an envoy to the Byzantine emperor Leo III. ‘Umar b. ‘Abd al-‘Azīz appointed him as governor of al-Jazīra in 100/717. He remained there until the new caliph, Yazīd b. ‘Abd al-Malik, made him governor of Iraq; there he replaced Maslama b. ‘Abd al-Malik. His reign over

Iraq was tumultuous, mostly because of the instability and occasional revolts in Khurāsān. Ibn Hubayra followed the caliph’s instructions and appointed Sa‘īd b. ‘Amr al-Ḥarashī (d. after 117/735) to govern Khurāsān. Al-Ḥarashī struck fear in the neighbouring Soghdians, but was too harsh for Ibn Hubayra’s taste: he even killed prisoners whose safety the governor had guaranteed. Ibn Hubayra eventually replaced al-Ḥarashī with Muslim b. Sa‘īd b. Ḥasām, whom he advised to rule with greater moderation.

When Hishām b. ‘Abd al-Malik acceded to the caliphate in 105/724, he assigned the governorship of Iraq to Khālīd al-Qasrī (d. 126/743), who promptly imprisoned his predecessor. It is not clear why Hishām removed Ibn Hubayra, or why Khālīd imprisoned him. Ibn Hubayra’s followers quickly orchestrated his escape from prison and flight to Syria, where he sought refuge with Maslama b. ‘Abd al-Malik and was ultimately protected by the caliph himself. He died sometime between 105/724 and 107/726.

Ibn Hubayra is typically described as a staunch, brutal partisan of the Qays tribal bloc against rival Yemenis. Kennedy even