

Ibn Sūda family

The **Ibn Sūda family** is an important family of Mālikī *qāḍīs* (judges) and '*ulamā'*' (sing. '*ālim*'; religious scholars) from Morocco, also known as the Banū Sūda al-Murrī, with its origins in al-Andalus—its genealogy seems to be related to the Banū Murra b. 'Awf b. Sa'd of Elvira. Ibn al-Khaṭīb (d. 776/1374–5), a politician and polymath from Granada during the Naṣrid period (629–897/1232–1492), locates the family in the region of the Alpujarras and mentions two of its members, Abū 'Abdallāh Muḥammad b. Sūda b. Ibrāhīm b. Sūda (d. 637/1240) and Abū l-Qāsim Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. 'Alī b. Sūda (d. 807/1404). The latter was a doctor who crossed the Strait of Gibraltar to complete his training and then moved to Fez in 754/1353 and was a secretary (*kātib*) to the Marīnid sultan Abū Fāris Mūsā (r. 786–8/1384–6). He started the lineage of the Maghribī Banū Sūda, and for this reason he was known as *al-dākhil* ("the one who entered") or *al-qādim* ("the one who came"). Two of his grandsons, 'Alī and Abū l-Qāsim, started the two main family branches in Fez.

Most *qāḍīs* and '*ulamā'*' who have enjoyed prestige among the intellectual elites since the sixteenth century, and virtually until our days (Ḥawwāt), are descended from Abū l-Qāsim. The task of listing all of them would be too long and complex; for this reason, only some of them will be mentioned here:

1. Abū l-Qāsim b. Abī Muḥammad Qāsim b. Muḥammad b. Abī l-Qāsim Ibn Sūda al-Murrī al-Gharnāṭī (d. 1004/1596) was a *qāḍī* in several Moroccan cities—Tāza, Azammūr, Banū Ḥasan, Meknès, and Marrakech—under the rule of the Sa'dī sultan Aḥmad al-Manṣūr al-Dhahabī

(r. 986–1012/1578–1603). In Meknès, the judiciary (*qaḍā'*) was shared with another *faqīh* (legal scholar), Abū l-Qāsim Ibn Abī Nu'aym (d. 1032/1623). Similarly, after the death of the renowned scholar in law (*fiqh*) and religious sciences (*ulūm*, sing. *ilm*) Aḥmad al-Manjūr (d. 995/1587), he was among the ones who inherited his chair in Fez. His lessons there may have been attended by the prestigious Ṣūfī and '*ālim*' Abū l-Maḥāsin Yūsuf al-Fāṣī (d. 1013/1604).

2. Abū 'Abdallāh Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Abī l-Qāsim (d. 1076/1666) was a grandson of Abū l-Qāsim and a *qāḍī* and *muftī* of Fez. One of his disciples was 'Abd al-Raḥmān b. 'Abd al-Qādir al-Fāṣī (d. 1096/1685), author of *Ibtihāj al-qulūb* ("Delight of the hearts"). He died days before Mawlāy Rashīd al-'Alawī (r. 1076–82/1666–72) marched into Fez.

3. Abū 'Abdallāh Muḥammad al-Tāwūdī b. al-Ṭālib (d. 1209/1795) was possibly the most famous member of the Banū Sūda. With him, the *nisba* al-Tāwūdī was added to the family name, because when his mother was pregnant, she frequently visited the tomb of the saint Abū 'Abdallāh al-Tāwūdī (d. 580/1184) in the cemetery of Bāb al-Gīsa in Fez. He wrote a *fahrasa* (repertoire of the masters and the works studied) and many commentaries and glosses (*shurūḥ*; sing. *sharḥ*), and he also was a master of other important '*ulamā'*' and Ṣūfīs, such as Ibn 'Ajība (d. 1224/1809). During his pilgrimage to Mecca, he met Muḥammad Murtaḍā al-Zabīdī (d. 1205/1791), author of the *Tāj al-'arūs* dictionary.

4. Abū 'Isā Muḥammad al-Mahdī b. al-Ṭālib Muḥammad b. Muḥammad (d. 1294/1877) was a *faqīh*, philologist, and *qāḍī* of Meknès. He wrote several glosses, a work against the works of Muḥammad