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NAHYAN FANCY

Ibn al-Qāsim

Abū 'Abdallāh 'Abd al-Raḥmān **Ibn al-Qāsim** b. Khālid b. Junāda al-'Utaqī (d. 191/806 in Egypt) was one of the most important legal authorities of his era. He was probably born in 132/749, but little is known about his family: they are said to be from Ramla, in Palestine, and one

source states that Ibn al-Qāsim's father was listed in the *dīwān* (possibly the army register, but more likely the chancery), leaving an inheritance that Ibn al-Qāsim used for his studies. The moniker al-'Utaqī ("the emancipated") does not refer to a tribe but to prisoners who were taken by the Muslims when they captured the city of al-Ṭā'if but were subsequently set free by the prophet Muḥammad.

Ibn al-Qāsim began his studies in Egypt with the jurist and historian al-Layth b. Sa'd (d. 175/791) among others; he then spent twenty years with Mālik b. Anas (d. 179/795)—the eponym of the Mālikī legal school—in Medina. According to Ibn al-Qāsim's own account, preserved in the biographical dictionaries, he studied written versions of Mālik's juristic dicta long before meeting him in person. Those sources also record several dreams that suggest the collaboration between these two scholars was divinely foreordained. However, Ibn al-Qāsim also studied with 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Mājishūn (d. 164/780–1), and Muslim b. Khālid al-Zanjī (d. 179/795), who were not part of any Mālikī legal school, but simply Mālik's contemporaries in the Ḥijāz. Ibn al-Qāsim was renowned for his careful attention to detail in his transmissions, and his version of Mālik's *al-Muwattā'* is said to be the most accurate. The Andalusī scholar Muḥammad b. Waddāh (d. 288/900) said Ibn al-Qāsim was especially known for his expertise on the law of business transactions (*buyū'*).

Al-Mudawwana, by Saḥnūn b. Sa'īd (d. 240/854), is perhaps the most influential book of Mālikī scholarship after *al-Muwattā'* and is sometimes wrongly attributed to Ibn al-Qāsim. Ibn al-Qāsim is certainly Saḥnūn's main source, and the book is structured around questions posed to Ibn al-Qāsim, but *al-Mudawwana*