

Keysaniyye

110951

Muhammed b. Hanafiyye

131790

THE WAṢIYYA OF ABŪ HĀSHIM:
THE IMPACT OF POLEMIC IN PREMODERN
MUSLIM HISTORIOGRAPHY

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In Rabī' I 66/October 686, Mukhtār b. Abī 'Ubayd al-Thaqafi led a revolt against the Umayyads to avenge the "blood of [the Prophet's] family" in the name of the prominent 'Alid, Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīyya.¹ The uprising was crushed in Ramaḍān 67/April 687 by an army composed of the Kūfan tribal elite (*ashrāf*) and Meccan supporters of 'Abdallāh b. Zubayr. The rebels who survived the defeat and maintained their belief in the imāmate of Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīyya were subsequently known as the Kaysāniyya.² After Mukhtār's death in 84/703, the Kaysānīs split into several factions, including a "small but well organized" group that confirmed the Imāmate of Ibn al-Ḥanafīyya's eldest son, Abū Hāshim.³ In time, a close friendship developed between the prominent (and childless) 'Alid and his cousin 'Alī b. 'Abdallāh b. al-'Abbās (d. 117/735). Some historians even reported that Abū Hāshim moved the entire 'Ḥanafīyya⁴ branch of the 'Alid family to the 'Abbāsīd estate in al-Ḥumayma by 91/710.⁵ Abū Hāshim died in 98/716–7, either in al-Ḥumayma or between al-Ḥumayma and Dāmascus. The next three decades witnessed successive 'Alid revolts and a period of clandestine propaganda (*da'wa*) in Khurāsān, culminating in Shawwāl 129/June 747 when Abū Muslim unfurled black banners and declared open rebellion against the Umayyads. In Jumādā II 130/ February 748, he decisively defeated the Umayyad governor

¹ Sharon, *Black Banners*, 105–6.

² al-Qāḍī (*al-Kaysāniyya fī l-ta'rikh wa-l-adab*) discusses the origins of the name "Kaysāniyya" and identifies the Hāshimiyya as its largest constituent group after the death of Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīyya. See also EI² art. "Kaysāniyya" (W. Madelung).

³ Sharon, *Black Banners*, 109, 125. Several studies of the 'Abbāsīd *da'wa* have discussed the origin of the name "Hāshimiyya." Some have argued that it derives from Abū Hāshim, while others maintain that it dates back to Hāshim, the ancestor of the 'Alid and 'Abbāsīd branches of Quraysh. See Madelung, "The Hāshimiyyāt of al-Kumayt."

⁴ The branch of the 'Alid family descended from Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīyya.

⁵ Sharon, *Black Banners*, 115, 125.