



## CHAPTER 9

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# THE MU<sup>ʿ</sup>TAZILITE MOVEMENT (III)

## *The Scholastic Phase*

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THE early phase of the Mu<sup>ʿ</sup>tazila was characterized by individual thinkers some of whom were primarily concerned with a select number of theological issues rather than attempting to formulate a comprehensive doctrinal system. Around the turn of the fourth/tenth century the movement entered a new ‘scholastic’ phase. Two principal school traditions evolved at this stage, the so-called ‘School of Basra’ and the ‘School of Baghdad’. The beginnings of this phase coincide with the lives of Abū ‘Alī al-Jubbā’ī (d. 303/915–16) as the leader of the School of Basra and Abū l-Qāsim al-Ka‘bī al-Balkhī (d. 319/931) as the head of the School of Baghdad. The scholastic phase was characterized by coherent doctrinal systems addressing the whole range of the Mu<sup>ʿ</sup>tazilite tenets, viz. divine unicity (*tawḥīd*) and justice (*‘adl*), which include discussions about God’s nature, His essence, and His attributes, God’s relation to the created world, the ontological status of ethical values (objectivism versus subjectivism) and related epistemological questions, the nature of created beings, man’s autonomy to act and his accountability for his actions, and the question of the origin of evil; eschatological issues such as promise and threat (*al-wa‘d wa-l-wa‘īd*) and the intermediate position of the grave sinner (*al-manzila bayn al-manzilatayn*); themes such as prophecy and the imamate; and the notion of commanding good and prohibiting what is reprehensible (*al-amr bi-l-ma‘rūf wa-l-nahy ‘an al-munkar*) which by now had lost much of its earlier prominence among the Mu<sup>ʿ</sup>tazilite tenets (Cook 2000). At the same time, ontology, cosmology, natural philosophy, and biology constituted important parts of the various doctrinal systems. Issues belonging to these fields were typically discussed under the rubric of ‘subtleties of *kalām*’ (*laṭā‘if al-kalām*) (Dhanani 1994). Apart from purely doctrinal issues, the majority of Mu<sup>ʿ</sup>tazilites of this period were also engaged in



exegesis (*tafsīr*) and legal theory (*uṣūl al-fiqh*) and, at times, *ḥadīth* transmission, and their works in these domains had often a far longer-lasting impact than was the case with their writings in *kalām*.<sup>1</sup>

## I THE EARLY GENERATION

Abū ‘Alī Muḥammad b. ‘Abd al-Wahhāb al-Jubbā’ī hailed from Jubbā’ in Khūzistān (for a detailed biography, see Gwynne 1982). As a youth he came to Basra where he studied with Abū Ya‘qūb Yūsuf b. ‘Abd Allāh al-Shaḥḥām who is singled out as his most significant teacher. Al-Shaḥḥām is stated to have been ‘the youngest and most perfect’ of the students of Abū l-Hudhayl al-‘Allāf (van Ess 1991–7: iii. 291, iv. 45–54). Abū ‘Alī left Basra sometime between 257/871 and 259/873 for Baghdad where he spent the next two decades. Sometime before 277/890, or possibly before 279/892, Abū ‘Alī left Baghdad and took up residence in ‘Askar Mukram in Khūzistān, where he remained until his death in 303/915–16. Since none of Abū ‘Alī’s numerous writings is extant (Gimaret 1976; 1984a; 1984b)<sup>2</sup> his doctrine can only be reconstructed through the scattered references in later works, particularly those by Mu‘tazilite authors as well as the *Maqālāt al-islāmiyyīn* of Abū ‘Alī’s former student Abū l-Ḥasan al-Ash‘arī (d. 324/935–6), the eponymous founder of the Ash‘ariyya who around the year 300/912–13 repented from Mu‘tazilite doctrines. Abū ‘Alī saw himself in the tradition of the thought of Abū l-Hudhayl whose doctrines he set out to revive and to refine, thereby formulating a comprehensive theological system (Frank 1978, 1982; Gimaret 1980: 3ff., 39ff.; Perler and Rudolph 2000: 41ff.), yet not without disagreeing with Abū l-Hudhayl’s view regarding a number of issues; he is known to have composed a treatise entitled *Masā’il al-khilāf ‘alā Abī l-Hudhayl* in which he presumably treated the issues with regard to which he disagreed with Abū l-Hudhayl (on Abū l-Hudhayl’s thought, see Frank 1966; 1969; van Ess 1991–7: iii. 209–96).

Among Abū ‘Alī’s students was his son, Abū Hāshim ‘Abd al-Salām b. Muḥammad b. ‘Abd al-Wahhāb al-Jubbā’ī (b. 247/861 or, more likely, 277/890; d. 321/933). He disagreed with his father on a number of doctrinal issues and when, following the death of his father and despite his young age,<sup>3</sup> Abū Hāshim claimed succession of the latter

<sup>1</sup> The extant fragments of exegetical works by Mu‘tazilite authors have been collected and edited by Khidr Muḥammad Nabhā in the series *Mawsū‘at tafāsīr al-Mu‘tazila* (Beirut: Dār al-kutub al-‘ilmiyya, 2007–). For legal theory, Ibn Khaldūn (d. 808/1406) lists four books that he considers to be ‘the basic works and pillars of this discipline’—among them two by Mu‘tazilite authors, viz. ‘Abd al-Jabbār al-Hamadānī’s (d. 415/1025) *K. al-‘Umad* and Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī’s (d. 436/1044) *Kitāb al-Mu‘tamad* (Ibn Khaldūn, *Muqaddima*, 3/28f.). For examples of *ḥadīth* transmission among Mu‘tazilites, see Ansari 2012.

<sup>2</sup> With the exception, however, of his *Kitāb al-Maqālāt*. See Ansari 2007. H. Ansari and W. Madelung are currently preparing a critical edition of the text.

<sup>3</sup> ‘Abd al-Jabbār apologizes for mentioning Abū Hashim as the first of the generation of Abū ‘Alī’s disciples. Considering his age, ‘Abd al-Jabbār admits, he should be dealt with later as he was younger than many of the persons mentioned in this generation (‘Abd al-Jabbār, *Faḍl*, 304).

as the leader of the Basran Mu‘tazila, he was opposed by fellow-students of his father. Muḥammad b. ‘Umar al-Ṣaymarī (d. 315/927) apparently led the group of adversaries of Abū Hāshim, a group which became later known as the Ikhshīdiyya, being named so after al-Ṣaymarī’s student, Abū Bakr Aḥmad b. ‘Alī b. Ma‘jūr al-Ikhshīd (or: al-Ikhshād) (d. 320/932 or 326/937).<sup>4</sup> This would explain Ibn al-Nadīm’s statement that ‘after the death of Abū ‘Alī, the leadership culminated with him [al-Ṣaymarī]’ (Dodge 1970: i. 427). Yet despite significant differences of opinion between Abū Hāshim and his father Abū ‘Alī which were systematically described by later authors, such as ‘Abd al-Jabbār al-Hamadānī (on him, see Section III) in his lost work *al-Khilāf bayn al-shaykhayn* (‘Uthmān 1968: 62;<sup>5</sup> Heemskerk 2000: 22 n. 32), both shaykhs were of utmost significance to the later followers of the Basran Mu‘tazila and are constantly referred to—much more frequently than is the case with other later representatives of the School.

Abū Hāshim seems to have spent most of his life in ‘Askar Mukram and in Basra. In 314/926–7 or 317/928–9, he took up residence in Baghdad where he died in 321/933. He is known to have authored numerous works, none of which have survived. As is the case with his father, the most detailed information about his writings is provided by the numerous scattered references in later Mu‘tazilite works. These also testify to a significant development of his thought throughout his lifetime, especially concerning issues belonging to the subtleties of *kalām*. Among his independent works, the principal ones were *al-Abwāb* (or: *Naqḍ al-abwāb*), *al-Jāmi‘* (or: *al-Jāmi‘ al-kabīr*), and *al-Jāmi‘ al-ṣaghīr*. He further authored numerous tracts that were concerned with specific doctrinal issues, and he composed responsa as well as refutations that were partly directed against opponents in theology as well as against philosophers, such as *al-Naqḍ ‘alā Aristūṭālīs fī l-kawn wa-l-fasād* (Gimaret 1976; 1984a).

Abū l-Qāsim al-Ka‘bī al-Balkhī hailed from Balkh in Khurāsān in the north-east of Iran (on him, see van Ess 1985; el Omari 2006). His teacher in *kalām* was Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Khayyāt (d. c.300/913), author of the *Kitāb al-Intiṣār*, with whom he studied in Baghdad and whose doctrinal views he continued to develop following his return to Khurāsān. Although he was highly regarded in his homeland as the leading theologian, there is no indication that al-Ka‘bī’s school played any significant role after his lifetime. The most renowned Mu‘tazilī theologian to have been raised in the tradition of al-Ka‘bī’s doctrines was Abū Rashīd al-Nisābūrī, who moved at some stage of his life to Rayy, where he became the most prominent student and follower of ‘Abd al-Jabbār. Abū Rashīd’s work on the differences between the views of the Basrans and the Baghdadians, *Kitāb al-Masā’il fī l-khilāf bayn al-Baṣriyyīn wa-l-Baghdādiyyīn* (see Section III), constituted a major source for the reconstruction of al-Ka‘bī’s thought. Beyond (Sunnī) Mu‘tazilism, al-Ka‘bī’s views had a major impact on Transoxanian

<sup>4</sup> Next to nothing is known about the doctrinal views of al-Ṣaymarī and Ibn al-Ikhshīd; see Mourad 2007; Thomas 2010. Another follower of Ibn al-Ikhshīd was ‘Alī b. ‘Īsā al-Rummānī (d. 384/994) who composed a Qur’ān commentary as well as several tracts on the miraculous character of the Qur’ān (all extant); cf. Kulinich 2012.

<sup>5</sup> ‘Uthmān’s identification of Ms. Vatican ar. 1100 as containing a manuscript of the text is erroneous.



Ḥanafism and specifically on Abū Manṣūr al-Māturīdī (d. 333/944) who considered al-Kaʿbī's Muʿtazilite teachings as an important challenge and at the same time a source of inspiration (Rudolph 2015; see also Chapter 17). Moreover, al-Kaʿbī's doctrines also significantly influenced Imami and Zaydi theologians, such as al-Shaykh al-Mufīd (d. 413/1022) and al-Hādī ilā l-ḥaqq Yaḥyā b. al-Ḥusayn (d. 298/911) (see Chapters 11 and 27). Their writings constitute another important source for the reconstruction of al-Kaʿbī's doctrines, whose works, with the exception of his *Kitāb al-Maqālāt* (van Ess 2011: i. 328–75), have not come down to us.

## II THE TEACHINGS OF THE BAHSHAMIYYA

Abū Hāshim is primarily known for his notion of 'states' (*aḥwāl*) which he developed in an attempt to formulate a conceptual framework for analysing the ontology of God and created beings within the established Muʿtazilite view of divine attributes (Gimaret 1970; Frank 1971a, 1971b, 1978, 1980; Alami 2001; Thiele 2013). For the Muʿtazilites, God's attributes cannot be entities distinct from Him without violating the idea of His oneness. On the other hand, they considered that God can neither be identical with His attributes without undermining His absolute transcendence. For this purpose, Abū Hāshim adapted the concept of 'state' (*ḥāl*, pl. *aḥwāl*) employed by the grammarians for a complement in the case of the accusative occurring in a sentence which consists of a subject and a form of *kāna* (to be) as a complete verb. In this case, the accusative cannot simply be taken as a predicate to *kāna* as it would be if *kāna* were incomplete and transitive; it must rather be understood as a *ḥāl*. On this foundation, Abū Hāshim elaborated a system of five different categories of 'states'. These categories are distinguished by the respective ontological basis which brings forth their actuality. According to Abū Hāshim, a 'state' is not an entity or a thing (*dhāt, shayʿ*) and can thus neither be said to be 'existent' (*mawjūd*) nor 'non-existent' (*maʿdūm*). Not being entities themselves, the 'states' can likewise not be known in isolation. Rather, things are known by virtue of their being qualified by a state. Thus, Abū Hāshim speaks of the 'actuality' (*ḥuṣūl*) of the 'states' and their 'initiation' (*tajaddud*) while he refrains from asserting for them a 'coming to be' (*ḥudūth*) which would imply their coming into existence. The first category is the attribute of essence (*ṣifa dhātiyya/ ṣifat al-dhāt/ ṣifat al-nafs*) through which things (*dhawāt*) differ from each other. The atom (*jawhar*), for instance, is described as an atom by virtue of its very being; predicating that an atom is an atom consequently defines it as it is in itself. The same applies to God, who is described by His attribute of essence as what He really is, and who differs from other entities that are not described as such. The second category of 'states' are the essential attributes (*ṣifāt muqtaḍāt ʿan ṣifat al-dhāt*) which are by necessity entailed by the attribute of essence as soon as things become existent. The attribute of essence of being an atom, which is attached to an essence, entails the occupying of space (*taḥayyuz*) of the atom whenever it exists. Thus, occupying a space is an essential attribute of an atom. With regard to God, the specific

divine attribute of essence entails His essential attributes. These are His being powerful, knowing, living, and existing. Thus, God must necessarily and eternally be described by these attributes which cannot cease as long as His eternal attribute of essence lasts. Man's attributes of being powerful, knowing, and living differ in their quality from the corresponding attributes in God. They belong to the third category of 'states' which gain actuality by virtue of an 'entitative determinant' (*ma'nā*) or 'cause' (*'illa*) in the subject. Since man's 'states' are caused by entitative determinants, which are by definition created, he cannot be described as permanently or necessarily powerful, knowing, etc. Moreover, since these determinants inhere in parts of man's body, he needs his limbs as tools for his actions and his heart in order to know. The determinant itself is therefore not sufficient to actualize man's being capable and knowing. Further conditions like the health of heart and limbs have to be fulfilled for them to serve as tools in carrying out actions or to acquire knowledge. Thus, the realms of man's capability and knowledge are limited by the natural deficiencies of his body. God, by contrast, is unconditionally powerful and knowing since His attributes of being powerful and knowing are essential attributes which do not inhere in any locus and, thus, do not require any limbs. Yet, Abū Hāshim applied this category to God when he reportedly asserted that God is willing or disapproving by virtue of a determinant which is His will or His disapproval. Since it is impossible that a determinant may inhere in God, he maintained that God's will and aversion do not inhere in a substrate (*lā fi mahall*). The fourth category of 'states' are those which are actualized by the action of an agent (*bi-l-fā'il*), in particular the existence of a temporal thing which is founded in its producer's capability. This category is inadmissible in God. While the existence of all created beings is considered as belonging to this category, God's existence is counted as an essential attribute entailed by His attribute of essence. The fifth category are 'states' which gain actuality neither by virtue of the essence nor by an entitative determinant (*lā li-l-dhāt wa-lā li-ma'nā*). To this category belongs the attribute of 'being perceiving' (*kawnuhu mudrikan*) which is entailed by the perceiver's being living. In regard to God, it gains actuality when the condition (*shart*) of the presence of the perceptible is fulfilled. Man, in order to perceive, must possess healthy senses in addition to the existence of the perceptible. This is not required for God, whose being alive is an essential attribute. Thus, He perceives without senses.

Abū Hāshim reportedly further differed from Abū 'Alī on the issue of how God knows things in their state of non-existence and existence. Abū 'Alī taught that things are not things prior to their being existent since 'existence' (*kawn*) means 'being found' (*wujūd*). However, a thing may be called a thing and may be known prior to its existence insofar as it is possible to make a statement about it (Ash'arī, *Maqālāt*, 161f.). Owing to his notion of 'states', Abū Hāshim was not confronted with the issue of whether a thing may be known prior to its existence. The attribute of essence through which it is what it is always attached to it, regardless of whether the thing exists or not.

Abū Hāshim is further reported to have disagreed with his father who had maintained that God may inflict pain upon man for the sake of mere compensation. For Abū Hāshim and his followers, the pain itself must result in a facilitating favour (*lutf*) either



for the sufferer himself or for a morally obliged person (*mukallaf*), in addition to compensation (‘Abd al-Jabbār, *Mughnī*, 13/390).

In regard to whether God may inflict illnesses or other calamities upon men because they are deserved, Abū ‘Alī held that illnesses inflicted upon infidels and sinners may serve either as a punishment or a trial. This punishment could, in his view, be appropriate insofar as God would render to man there and then some of the punishment he deserves in the hereafter. Abū Hāshim, by contrast, maintained that every illness inflicted by God on men, regardless of whether they are morally obliged or not, can only have the purpose of a trial and never of a deserved punishment. He supported this view by pointing to the principal difference between undeserved pains and deserved punishment: men must be content with their illnesses and bear them patiently and they are not allowed to be distressed about them just as in regard to favours which God bestows on them. This is, however, not necessary in regard to pains which are a deserved punishment. Owing to these different characteristics, man would therefore be unable to recognize whether a specific illness or calamity is inflicted upon him as a trial or as a deserved punishment. Thus, Abū Hāshim concluded, illnesses can be inflicted by God only for the purpose of trial (*Mughnī*, 13/431ff.).

Abū ‘Alī is further reported to have maintained that God may inflict pain upon man for the sake of mere compensation. In arguing against his father’s position, Abū Hāshim had reportedly admitted that pain ceases to be unjust when it is compensated. Even with compensation, however, it would by itself still be futile (*‘abath*) and thus evil and inadmissible for God. Pain inflicted by God thus must result in some kind of benefit (*maṣlaḥa*) in addition to compensation (*Mughnī*, 13/390–2; Mānkdim, *Ta’līq*, 493).

On the issue of the nature of passing away and restoration (*fanā’ wa-i‘āda*) Abū Hāshim had to assert the possibility of passing away without infringing two other vital notions of his teachings. One of these was that all atoms (*jawāhir*) and most accidents (*a‘rāḍ*) endure by themselves. The second notion which he had to take into consideration was that an agent may effect only production (*ijād*) but not annihilation (*i‘dām*). This also applies to God. Thus, He can undo something only through the creation of its opposite. The solution of Abū Hāshim, therefore, was that God causes the passing away of the atoms through the creation of a single accident of passing away (*fanā’*). This accident is the opposite of all atoms and, thus, is capable of annihilating any atom. It must itself be existent (*mawjūd*), but it cannot inhere in a substrate (*lā fi maḥall*). Furthermore it does not endure. Most of the points of this concept had been introduced already by Abū ‘Alī. However, Abū Hāshim disagreed with his father on a number of details. In his earlier works, Abū ‘Alī is reported to have maintained that there are different types of passing away, each of which causes the annihilation of only the corresponding type of atoms. In a later version of his *Naqḍ al-tāj*, he is reported to have revised his position, stating that only one passing away is required for all atoms. Abū ‘Alī further maintained that it is reason which indicates that the atoms will in fact pass away. Abū Hāshim and his followers disagreed. If it were not for scriptural evidence, there would be no indication that the passing away will actually occur. Abū ‘Alī further rejected on principle that anything which does not subsist in a substrate may be defined as an accident. Thus



he refrained from classifying passing away as an accident. Abū Hāshim and his school admitted a category of accidents which do not inhere in a substrate (Ibn Mattawayh, *Tadhkira*, 212ff.; ‘Abd al-Jabbār, *Mughnī*, 11/441ff.).

On the issue of mutual cancellation (*tahābut*) of man’s acts of obedience and disobedience upon which a person’s fate in the hereafter is founded, Abū Hāshim disagreed with Abū ‘Alī about how this cancellation works. While the latter maintained that the smaller amount of reward or punishment will simply be cancelled by the larger amount, Abū Hāshim adhered to the principle of *muwāzana* which means that the smaller amount will be deducted from the larger (Mānkdim, *Ta‘īq*, 627ff.).

Abū Hāshim furthermore disagreed with his father whether, and on what grounds, repentance is incumbent upon man for all his sins. Abū ‘Alī reportedly held that a sinner is always, by virtue of reason and scriptural evidence, obliged to repent for major and minor sins (Mānkdim, *Ta‘īq*, 789; ‘Abd al-Jabbār, *Mughnī*, 14/393). Abū Hāshim, on the other hand, considered repentance as obligatory only for the grave sinner (*ṣāhib al-kabīra*). In respect to minor sins, he denied that repentance is rationally obligatory and held that scriptural authority also does not definitely indicate this obligation (‘Abd al-Jabbār, *Mughnī*, 14/394). He compared repentance for a minor sin with a supererogatory act (*nāfila*) which is not obligatory in itself. It is, however, good to perform it since it helps man to perform his duties or, in this case, to repent for his major sins.

Abū Hāshim is further reported to have held that it is impossible to repent of some sins while still carrying on with others when the penitent is aware of the evil nature of the acts he is persisting in. He reportedly argued that man repents because of the evil nature of the major sin in question. Since the characteristic of evil is shared by all major sins it would be inadmissible that one repents only of some major sins because of their evil while carrying on with others which are of the same gravity. With this position, Abū Hāshim disagreed with Abū ‘Alī, who admitted the possibility of repenting of some sins while carrying on with others. The only condition Abū ‘Alī made was that the sin repented and that which was continued must not be of the same kind (*jins*). It would, therefore, be impossible to repent of drinking wine from one pot while continuing to drink from another, whereas it would be possible to repent of drinking wine while at the same time carrying on with adultery (Mānkdim, *Ta‘īq*, 794f.).

On the issue of *al-amr bi-l-ma‘rūf wa-l-nahy ‘an al-munkar*, Abū Hāshim disagreed with his father regarding the sources of the obligation. While Abū ‘Alī maintained it to be both reason and revelation, Abū Hāshim held it to be revelation only, the only exception being that the mental anguish (*maḍaḍ wa-ḥarad*) of the spectator provides a reason for him to act in his own interest (Cook 2000: 199–201).

### III THE LATER BAHSHAMIYYA

The most renowned students of Abū Hāshim were Abū ‘Alī Muḥammad b. Khallād (d. 350/961?), Abū ‘Abd Allāh al-Ḥusayn b. ‘Alī al-Baṣrī (d. 369/980) (Anvari 2008; Schwarb 2011b),



and Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm b. ‘Ayyāsh al-Baṣrī. While the latter two did not apparently compose any substantial works, Ibn Khallād wrote a *Kitāb al-Uṣūl*, to which he added a commentary, *Sharḥ al-Uṣūl*. The *Kitāb al-Uṣūl/Sharḥ al-Uṣūl* have reached us embedded in two works by later Mu‘tazilī authors, viz. the *Kitāb Ziyādāt Sharḥ al-uṣūl* by the Zaydī Imam al-Nāṭiq bi-l-ḥaqq Abū Ṭālib Yaḥyā b. al-Ḥusayn al-Buṭḥānī (d. 424/1033) in the recension of Abū l-Qāsim Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Mahdī al-Ḥasanī, which is completely preserved (Adang, Madelung, and Schmidtke 2011), and a second supercommentary or *ta‘liq* on Ibn Khallād’s work by the Zaydī author ‘Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. Muḥammad Siyāh [Shāh] Sarjān [Sarbījān] which is only partially extant (Ansari and Schmidtke 2010b). Both commentaries convey an impression of the original structure of Ibn Khallād’s work, the earliest systematic Mu‘tazilite *summa* that has come down to us albeit indirectly.

It is not entirely clear who succeeded Abū Hāshim as leader of the Basran school. ‘Abd al-Jabbār states that a group of well-advanced disciples (*mutaqaddimūn*) transmitted Mu‘tazilite knowledge received from Abū Hāshim, mentioning only two persons by name, namely Ibn Khallād and Abū ‘Abd Allāh al-Baṣrī (‘Abd al-Jabbār, *Faḍl*, 164). Others, such as Abū Sa‘d al-Muḥassin b. Muḥammad b. Karrāma (or: Kirāma) al-Bayhaqī al-Barawqanī (‘al-Ḥākīm al-Jishumī’, d. 494/1101) (Ms. Leiden OR 2584A, fols 119bf.) and Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Farrazādhi (cf. Mānkdim, *Ta‘liq*, 24 n. 1; ‘Imāra 1988: i. 87) mention Ibn Khallād as his successor. Be that as it may, Abū ‘Abd Allāh eventually became the leader of the Bahshamiyya and he was succeeded by ‘Abd al-Jabbār al-Hamadānī (d. 415/1025), the author of the comprehensive theological *summa* *Kitāb al-Mughnī fi abwāb al-tawḥīd wa-l-‘adl* which is for the most part preserved, as well as other comprehensive doctrinal works (‘Uthmān 1968; Peters 1976). Originally an Ash‘arite theologian (he remained a Shāfi‘ī throughout his life while the majority of his fellow Mu‘tazilites of the fourth/tenth and fifth/eleventh centuries were Ḥanafīs), ‘Abd al-Jabbār had joined the Mu‘tazila as a young man and eventually become a pupil of Abū ‘Abd Allāh al-Baṣrī in Baghdad. After the latter’s death in 369/980, ‘Abd al-Jabbār soon came to be recognized as the new head of the Bahshamiyya. It was during his lifetime that the Mu‘tazilite movement blossomed in an unprecedented manner. The Būyid vizier Abū l-Qāsim Ismā‘il b. ‘Abbād (‘al-Ṣāḥib b. ‘Abbād’, b. 326/938, d. 385/995), a former student of Abū ‘Abd Allāh al-Baṣrī and an important representative of the Mu‘tazila in his own right,<sup>6</sup> was instrumental in promoting the teachings of the Mu‘tazila throughout Būyid territories and beyond, with Rayy as its intellectual centre. Especially since Muḥarram 367/August–September 977 when Ibn ‘Abbād appointed ‘Abd al-Jabbār chief judge in Būyid territories, the latter attracted a large number of students and followers, Mu‘tazilites as well as Zaydīs, to Rayy, turning it into the leading intellectual centre of the movement (Reynolds 2004, 2005; Pomerantz 2010: 74ff.).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> For an edition of the extant fragments of his comprehensive *summa* *Kitāb Nahj al-sabil fi l-uṣūl*, see Madelung and Schmidtke forthcoming.

<sup>7</sup> Apart from works on theology, ‘Abd al-Jabbār also wrote on legal matters (e.g. his *Risāla fi dhanb al-ghība*) (see Ansari 2012: 268 n. 3) and he transmitted *ḥadīth*. His *Amālī* is preserved in manuscript; cf. Ansari 2012: 270.



‘Abd al-Jabbār’s successor as head of the Bahshamiyya was Abū Rashīd al-Nīsābūrī, who in turn was followed by Ibn Mattawayh, one of the younger students of ‘Abd al-Jabbār. Originally a follower of the doctrines of the School of Baghdad, Abū Rashīd turned towards the doctrines of the Bahshamiyya under ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s influence. Among his extant works, mention should be made of his *Kitāb al-Masāʾil fī l-khilāf bayn al-Baṣriyyīn wa-l-Baghdādiyyīn*, a systematic comparison between the doctrines of the Basrans and the Baghdadis (Gimaret 2011), as well as his *Kitāb Masāʾil al-khilāf fī l-uṣūl*, a systematic theological summa which is heavily based on ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s *Kitāb al-Mughnī* (Ansari and Schmidtke 2010a).<sup>8</sup> Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan b. Aḥmad Ibn Mattawayh (Matūya) joined ‘Abd al-Jabbār as a student when the latter was already advanced in age and his discipleship with the *qāḍī l-quḍāt* may have been short. This seems to be corroborated by chains of transmission in which Ibn Mattawayh is depicted as a student of Abū Rashīd, with whom Ibn Mattawayh apparently continued his studies after ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s death. Ibn Mattawayh’s most influential independent work is a book on natural philosophy, *al-Tadhkira fī aḥkām al-jawāhir wa-l-aʿrāḍ*, the most comprehensive of its kind among the preserved Mu‘tazilite literature. The book contains a detailed chapter on atoms (*jawāhir*), followed by sections devoted to physics (*al-juzʿ wa-furūʿihi*) and detailed discussions of the various accidents. A paraphrastic commentary on the *Tadhkira* was apparently written by Ibn Mattawayh’s student Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ‘Alī [b.] Mazdak (Gimaret 2008; Schmidtke 2008). Ibn Mattawayh also wrote an explicative, independent, and at times critical commentary on ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s *al-Muḥīṭ bi-l-taklīf*, titled *al-Majmūʿ fī l-Muḥīṭ bi-l-taklīf*. The exact relation between ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s *al-Muḥīṭ* and Ibn Mattawayh’s *al-Majmūʿ* which was disputed (cf. Gimaret’s introduction to vol. 2 of *al-Majmūʿ*) can be established on the basis of the numerous fragments of the *Muḥīṭ* that are preserved in the various Genizah collections which need to be critically edited (Ben-Shammai 1974).<sup>9</sup> Ibn Mattawayh also composed paraphrastic commentaries (*taʿlīq*) on ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s *al-Jumal wa-l-ʿuqūd* and his *al-ʿUmad fī uṣūl al-fiqh* which are lost (Schmidtke 2012; Thiele 2014).

One of the last prominent representatives of the Bahshamite school was Abū Saʿd al-Muḥassin b. Muḥammad b. Karrāma al-Bayhaqī al-Barawqanī (‘al-Ḥākim al-Jishumī, b. 413/1022, d. 494/1101), a Ḥanafī in law and Mu‘tazilī in theology who embraced Zaydism towards the end of his life (van Ess 2011: ii. 761–75; Thiele 2012), a student of Abū Ḥāmid al-Najjār al-Nīsābūrī (d. 433/1042) who in turn had studied with ‘Abd al-Jabbār (al-Ḥākim al-Jishumī, *Ṭabaqāt*, 367). Among his numerous voluminous writings, his *Sharḥ ʿUyūn al-masāʾil*, an autocommentary on his *ʿUyūn al-masāʾil*, is of particular significance.<sup>10</sup> Arranged in ten parts (*aqsām*, sing. *qism*), the work is an encyclopedia of

<sup>8</sup> A critical edition of Abū Rashīd al-Nīsābūrī’s *Kitāb Masāʾil al-khilāf fī l-uṣūl* is currently being prepared by H. Ansari and S. Schmidtke.

<sup>9</sup> A critical edition of ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s *al-Muḥīṭ* is currently being prepared by O. Hamdan and G. Schwarb.

<sup>10</sup> A critical edition of *ʿUyūn al-masāʾil* and *Sharḥ ʿUyūn al-masāʾil* is currently being prepared by H. Ansari and S. Schmidtke.



Muʿtazilite theology replete with information on and quotations from earlier Muʿtazilite writings, many of which are otherwise lost, and it contains extensive parts devoted to the history of the various theological schools, especially the Muʿtazila, as well as a part dealing with legal theory.<sup>11</sup>

The doctrines of the Bahshamiyya proved very influential among a number of groups outside Sunnite Islam, namely the Zaydiyya, the Imāmiyya, and the Karaites. Numerous Zaydī scholars were students of representatives of the Bahshamiyya, such as the Buḥḥānī brothers al-Muʿayyad bi-llāh (d. 411/1020) and al-Nāṭiq bi-l-ḥaqq (d. c.424/1033), who studied with Abū ʿAbd Allāh al-Baṣrī and, in the case of al-Muʿayyad bi-llāh, also with ʿAbd al-Jabbār, as well as Abū l-Ḥusayn Aḥmad b. Abū Hāshim Muḥammad al-Ḥusaynī al-Qazwīnī, known as Mānkdim Shashdīw (d. c.425/1034), who was a student of al-Muʿayyad bi-llāh, and possibly also of ʿAbd al-Jabbār (see also Chapter 10). During the sixth/twelfth century, the literary heritage of the Caspian Zaydis, including numerous Muʿtazilite works by ʿAbd al-Jabbār and his students, reached the Zaydis in Yemen. In addition to the many private libraries of Yemen, particular mention should be made of the library of the Great Mosque in Ṣanʿāʾ which originated with Imam al-Manṣūr bi-llāh ʿAbd Allāh b. Ḥamza (d. 614/1217), who founded a library in Ḍafār for which he had numerous Zaydī and non-Zaydī works from Northern Iran copied, including many Muʿtazilite works. It was from this library that the Egyptian scientific expedition, headed by Khalīl Yaḥyā Nāmī, in 1951 procured microfilms of numerous theological texts of adherents of the Bahshamiyya such as fourteen out of twenty volumes of ʿAbd al-Jabbār’s *Mughnī*, Mānkdim’s critical paraphrase (*taʿlīq*) of ʿAbd al-Jabbār’s *Sharḥ al-Uṣūl al-khamsa*, several works by Abū Rashīd al-Nisābūrī, Ibn Mattawayh’s critical paraphrase of ʿAbd al-Jabbār’s *al-Muḥiṭ bi-l-taklīf*, *al-Majmūʿ fī l-Muḥiṭ bi-l-taklīf*, and his *Kitāb al-Tadhkira*, many of which were published in Egypt during the 1960s, thus initiating an upsurge in scholarship on the Muʿtazila (Sayyid 1974: 417–77).

Specifically Muʿtazilite Islamic ideas, such as theodicy and human free will, as well as the stress on God’s oneness (*tawḥīd*) also resonated among Jewish thinkers, many of whom eventually adopted the entire doctrinal system of the Muʿtazila. The earliest attested Jewish compendium of Muʿtazilite thought is the *Kitāb al-Niʿma*, *The Book of Blessing*, of the Karaite Levi ben Yefet, in Arabic Abū Saʿīd Lāwī b. Ḥasan al-Baṣrī (late fourth/tenth to early fifth/eleventh century), the son of the prominent Karaite Bible exegete and legal scholar Yefet ben Eli ha-Levi (whose Arabic name was Abū ʿAlī Ḥasan b. ʿAlī al-Lāwī al-Baṣrī) (d. after 396/1006). Levi wrote the book at the request of his father as a vindication of Judaism on the basis of Muʿtazilite rational theology, but unlike his father, who disapproved of *Islamic* Muʿtazilite theology, Levi adopted the doctrines of the Muʿtazila and implicitly recognized Muḥammad as a friend of God endowed with

<sup>11</sup> The structure of the work is as follows: Part 1: *fī dhikr al-firaq al-khārija ʿan al-islām*; Part 2: *fī firaq ahl al-qibla wa-kayfa hādḥā l-khilāf fihā*; Part 3: *al-kalām fī dhikr al-Muʿtazila wa-rijālihim*; Part 4: *al-kalām fī l-tawḥīd*; Part 5: *al-kalām fī l-ʿadl*; Part 6: *al-kalām fī l-nubuwwāt*; Part 7: *al-kalām fī adillat al-sharʿ*; Part 8: *al-kalām fī l-waʿd wa-l-manzila bayn al-manzilatayn wa-l-asmāʾ wa-l-aḥkām*; Part 9: *al-kalām fī l-imāma*; Part 10: *al-kalām fī l-laṭīf*.

prophethood, though ranking below Moses (Sklare 2007; Madelung 2014a). Further evidence as to when (and why) Jewish thinkers began to adopt Mu‘tazilite thinking can be gleaned from the extant Jewish copies of Mu‘tazilite works of Muslim representatives of the movement, as preserved in the various Genizah collections, most specifically the Abraham Firkovitch Collection of literary texts of Near Eastern Jewish communities in the National Library of Russia in St Petersburg, a collection of manuscripts of Jewish provenance most of which originally belonged to the library of the Karaite Rav Simḥa Synagogue in Cairo. Although a full inventory of the relevant collections and its Mu‘tazilite materials is still a major desideratum, it seems that the writings of the Būyid vizier and patron of the Mu‘tazila, al-Şāḥib b. ‘Abbād, constitute the earliest Muslim Mu‘tazilite works, copies of which can be traced in the various Jewish collections. This suggests that the major turn towards Mu‘tazilism occurred during the later decades of the tenth century (Madelung and Schmidtke forthcoming). Levi ben Yefet’s *summa* was soon eclipsed by the theological writings of the Rabbanite Samuel ben Ḥofni Gaon (d. 1013 CE) (Sklare 1996) and his Karaite opponent and younger contemporary Abū Ya‘qūb Yūsuf al-Baṣīr (d. between 1037 and 1039 CE), whose *kalām* works gained an almost canonical status among the Karaites (Vajda 1985; Sklare 1995; Schwarb 2010a, 2010b, 2011a). Literary evidence suggests that Mu‘tazilite ideas constituted the central doctrinal foundation of the Rabbanite community until the middle of the twelfth century. For the Karaites Mu‘tazilism continued to provide a significant doctrinal framework at least through the seventeenth century, an observation that also applies to the Byzantine Karaite milieu where many of the works originally composed in Arabic were transmitted in Hebrew translation.

#### IV ABŪ L-ḤUSAYN AL-BAŞRĪ AND HIS SCHOOL

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A major revision of some of the central Bahshamite notions was initiated by Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī (d. 436/1044), one of the disciples of ‘Abd al-Jabbār who is reported to have challenged some of the views of his teacher during his lectures and eventually founded his own school (on him, Madelung 2007; Ansari and Schmidtke forthcoming).

Abū l-Ḥusayn Muḥammad b. ‘Alī b. al-Ṭayyib al-Baṣrī was born around the year 370/980 and raised as a Ḥanafī in law and a Mu‘tazilī in doctrine. As is suggested by his *nisba*, he hailed from Basra. To pursue an education in medicine, Abū l-Ḥusayn had moved at some point to Baghdad, and it was in the course of his formation as a physician that he also embarked on the study of philosophy: he is known to have studied medicine and physics with Abū ‘Alī b. al-Samḥ (d. 418/1027) and Abū l-Faraj Ibn al-Ṭayyib (d. 435/1043), the leading representatives of the Baghdad School of Aristotelian philosophers.

In addition to his formation in medicine and philosophy, Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī embarked at some point on studying dialectic theology (*kalām*) with ‘Abd al-Jabbār



al-Hamadānī. Although there is no indication that Abū l-Ḥusayn had ever spent a considerable length of time outside Baghdad, he may temporarily have moved to Rayy for this purpose where ʿAbd al-Jabbār was based since 367/977. Following his return to Baghdad Abū l-Ḥusayn had revised central positions of Bahshamite *kalām* that were problematic in his view. He set these forth in his theological writings, none of which survived in Muslim circles: his *opus magnum* in this discipline is the *K. Taṣaffuḥ al-adilla*, a comprehensive work of two volumes in its final stage which he had evidently repeatedly revised over his lifetime and which had never reached completion—Abū l-Ḥusayn did not go beyond the chapter on beatific vision. The *Taṣaffuḥ* was apparently the first theological work Abū l-Ḥusayn had started to compose, critically reviewing the proofs and arguments employed in *kalām* theology. Parts of his book were published before its completion and aroused charges of heresy and even unbelief (*kufr*) as Abū l-Ḥusayn's views seemed to undermine the standard Muʿtazilite proof for the existence of God. Rather than completing the *Taṣaffuḥ*, the author now wrote a book on what he considered as the best proofs, *Ghurur al-adilla*, as evidence that he upheld the basic tenets of the Muʿtazilite creed. The work, a complete theological *summa*, eventually became his most popular work in this discipline, as is indicated by lengthy quotations from the work in a large variety of later sources (Adang 2007; Schmidtke 2013; Ansari and Schmidtke forthcoming). Abū l-Ḥusayn also composed a commentary on the *Uṣūl al-khamsa* (or *Sharḥ al-Uṣūl al-khamsa*) of his teacher ʿAbd al-Jabbār. In contrast to the *Ghurur* and the *Taṣaffuḥ*, which are regularly cited by later authors, the *Sharḥ* is rarely mentioned and no later author is known to have quoted from the work. This may suggest that the *Sharḥ*, possibly a rather succinct book, was primarily intended as a teaching manual. An extract from the work containing the section on the imamate has been preserved in a manuscript of Yemeni provenance. His most popular book was a work on legal theory, *al-Muʿtamad fī uṣūl al-fiqh* (Ansari and Schmidtke 2013).

Abū l-Ḥusayn denied the Bahshamite doctrine that accidents (*aʿrāḍ*) were entitative beings (*maʿānī* or *dhawāt*) inhering in the bodies and producing their qualities. For him, accidents constitute mere descriptive attributes (*ṣifāt*), characteristics (*aḥkām*), or 'states' (*aḥwāl*) of the body, a position that was clearly influenced by his earlier study of Aristotelian philosophy. This led him to negate the well-known Bahshamite notion of 'states', a conceptual framework to rationalize the ontological foundations of the attributes of the Divine and of created beings, as well as the related doctrine that essences (*dhawāt*, sing. *dhāt*) are 'real' or 'actual' (*thābit*) in the state of non-existence, that the 'non-existent' (*maʿdūm*) therefore is a 'thing' (*shayʿ*). In his view, the existence of a thing is rather identical with its essence, both with respect to God and created beings. Abū l-Ḥusayn also rejected the Bahshamites' position that accidents may exist without a substrate, as is the case, for example, with the divine act of will, an accident according to Bahshamite doctrine that does not inhere in God. For Abū l-Ḥusayn God's being willing is rather to be reduced to His motive (*dāʿi*) that is based on His knowledge. He also negated the Bahshamite proof for the oneness of God that is based on the argument of an assumed mutual prevention (*tamānuʿ*) of two gods. Abū l-Ḥusayn maintained that

two assumed gods would have the same motives and would thus act jointly rather than preventing each other.

The notion of the reality of accidents was central for the Bahshamites' proof for the existence of God: they reasoned that knowledge of the temporality of bodies—which implied an eternal Creator—was based on the temporality of accidents. Abū l-Ḥusayn's denial of the reality of accidents led him to reject the traditional Mu‘tazilite proof for the existence of God and to formulate a revised proof for the temporality of the world. It was evidently Abū l-Ḥusayn's rejection of the traditional *kalām* proof for the existence of God that scandalized his Bahshamite fellow-students of ‘Abd al-Jabbār and evoked their sharp rejection of his theological thought, rather than any of the other points of conflict between Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī and the Bahshamites (Madelung 2006; Madelung and Schmidtke 2006, 2007; Ansari, Madelung, and Schmidtke 2015).

Abū l-Ḥusayn disagreed with the Bahshamiyya on other doctrinal questions as well. He maintained that the knowledge of man being the author of his actions is compulsory (*ḍarūri*) rather than acquired (*muktasab*). For men know compulsorily that it is good to blame and to praise others for their actions. This, however, has as premiss the knowledge that they are the producers of their actions which is therefore likewise known compulsorily. The Bahshamites had argued that it is known compulsorily that man acts in accordance with his intention and motives. As a result of this it is known through derived knowledge that if an action were not to occur on the part of the agent whose intention the act reflects, it would have no connection with him.

This difference of opinion was rooted in Abū l-Ḥusayn's divergence from the Bahshamite notion of actions. According to his understanding, an action cannot occur but for a motive (*dāʿi*) conjoined by power. Abū l-Ḥusayn and his followers distinguish therefore between two meanings of efficacy (*ṣiḥḥa*) for capacity. Power without a motive attached to it is potentially efficacious either to produce or not to produce an act. As such, it is defined as the mere denial of the impossibility either to produce or not to produce. The actuality of the efficacy to produce a specific act requires the motive attached to it as a further condition (*sharṭ*). The function of the motive is described as that of a preponderator (*murajjih*)—because of this motive a certain act preponderates over another. Abū l-Ḥusayn regarded this principle as valid with regard to both man and God. The Bahshamiyya maintained with respect to man's actions that power is the efficacy to act and that it is sufficient as such to produce an act even without a motive. Examples for this are the category of unconscious acts, such as the movement of the sleeper or the action of an inattentive agent (*sāhi*) who acts without apparent motive. Abū l-Ḥusayn is reported to have argued that even in such cases there is a motive even if the agent fails to realize it. Although they asserted that motives have an effect upon man's actions, the Bahshamites denied any causal relation between motive and the occurrence of actions. Having a motive for an action rather means that man has a better reason to perform it rather than its opposite. There is no need for a motive in their view, and contrary to what was maintained by Abū l-Ḥusayn, to turn power from potential into actual efficacy to produce a specific action (Madelung 1991).



Although Abū l-Ḥusayn was virtually ostracized by his Muslim fellow-students and later Bahshamite Mu‘tazilis because of his criticism of ‘Abd al-Jabbār, his thought left a major impact on the later development of Muslim *kalām*, well beyond the confines of the Mu‘tazila.<sup>12</sup> Despite the increasing repression of Mu‘tazilite thought during the late Būyid period and even more so under the Saljuqs, Abū l-Ḥusayn had actively engaged in teaching *kalām* during his lifetime. Ibn ‘Imād al-Ḥanbalī (d. 1089/1679) reports in his *Shadharāt al-dhahab* that Abū l-Ḥusayn regularly taught Mu‘tazilite doctrine in Baghdad and that he had a large circle of regular students (Ibn ‘Imād, *Shadharāt*, 5: 172). The biographical sources mention numerous scholars to have studied with Abū l-Ḥusayn, including the following (for further details, see Ansari and Schmidtke forthcoming):

- Abū ‘Alī Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. ‘Abd Allāh b. Aḥmad b. al-Walīd al-Karkhī *al-mutakallim* al-Mu‘tazilī (‘Ibn al-Walīd’, b. 396/1005–6, d. 478/1086) (Makdisi 1963: 4, 18, 19, 20, 50, 407–9). He was Abū l-Ḥusayn’s foremost pupil in *kalām* who later taught the prolific Ḥanbalī jurist and theologian Abū l-Wafā’ ‘Alī b. ‘Aqīl (d. 477/1119). Following his teacher’s death, Ibn al-Walīd became the leading figure of the Mu‘tazilite movement in Baghdad. His home was located in Karkh which he hardly left over the last five decades of his life and where he is reported to have secretly taught Mu‘tazilite doctrine, logic, and philosophy. Only twice, in 456/1063 and 460/1067, is he reported to have publicly taught Mu‘tazilite doctrines, and on both occasions he was persecuted (Makdisi 1963: 332ff., 337ff., 408).
- Abū l-Qāsim Ibn Tabbān al-Mu‘tazilī (*fl.* 461/1068), possibly the son of Abū ‘Abd Allāh b. al-Tabbān al-Mutakallim (d. 419/1028) (Makdisi 1963: 409).
- Abū l-Qāsim ‘Abd al-Wāḥid b. ‘Alī b. Barhān al-‘Ukbarī al-Asadī (‘Ibn Barhān’, d. 456/1064), a literate and renowned grammarian who came to Baghdad, where he studied theology with Abū l-Ḥusayn (Makdisi 1963: 331, 392–4). Following Abū l-Ḥusayn’s death he is reported to have continued studying *kalām* with his younger contemporary Ibn al-Walīd. Ibn Barhān is said to have been inclined towards the ‘*Murji’at al-Mu‘tazila*’ as he maintained, against the majority view among the Mu‘tazila, that the grave sinners are not exposed to eternal punishment.
- al-Qāḍī Abū ‘Abd Allāh al-Ṣaymarī (d. 436/1045), a Ḥanafī scholar of Baghdad, who led the prayer for Abū l-Ḥusayn when the latter had died and who had also studied with him (Makdisi 1963: 170–1).

Abū l-Ḥusayn’s influence continued in Baghdad into the seventh/thirteenth century, when the man of letters Ibn Abī l-Ḥadīd (b. 586/1190, d. 656/1258) mentioned both the *Ghurar* and the *Taṣaffuḥ* in his commentary on the *Nahj al-balāgha*, and he composed a commentary on the *Ghurar* that is lost. Ibn Abī l-Ḥadīd, who died either immediately before or immediately after the capture of Baghdad by the Mongols (20 Muḥarram 656/

<sup>12</sup> The reception of his doctrinal thought among the Zaydis and Imamis is discussed in detail in Chapters 11, 26, and 27.



28 January 1258), was a contemporary of al-Mukhtār b. Muḥammad, another follower of Abū l-Ḥusayn’s doctrines in Khwārazm.

It was apparently the grammarian, physician, and man of letters Abū Muḍar Maḥmūd b. Jarīr al-Ḍabbī al-Iṣfahānī (d. 508/1115) who had introduced the doctrine of Abū l-Ḥusayn to Khwārazm, where it was accepted and spread by Rukn al-Dīn Maḥmūd b. Muḥammad al-Malāḥimī al-Khwārazmī (d. 536/1141), a Ḥanafī and leading Mu‘tazilī scholar of his time. Abū Muḍar may well have been Ibn al-Malāḥimī’s teacher in *kalām*—other than that, the names of the latter’s teachers are not attested in the available sources. The principal source for the spread of Mu‘tazilism in Khwārazm during the sixth/twelfth century can be gleaned from an incompletely preserved and still unedited biographical dictionary by the Khwārazmī author Abū l-Karam ‘Abd al-Salām al-Andarabānī (d. second half of the sixth/twelfth century), himself a follower of the Mu‘tazila, that the author began to compile after 569/1173 (Khalidov 1974; Prozorov 1999; Prozorov 2007).

Ibn al-Malāḥimī had summarized Abū l-Ḥusayn’s *Taṣaffuḥ al-adilla* in his voluminous *K. al-Mu‘tamad fī uṣūl al-dīn*. In the introduction Ibn al-Malāḥimī states that he intends to complete his own work in the spirit of Abū l-Ḥusayn, but his *Mu‘tamad* is only partly preserved. Following the request of his students and friends, Ibn al-Malāḥimī composed an abridgement of the *Mu‘tamad*, entitled *al-Fā’iq fī uṣūl al-dīn* (completed in 532/1137), which is completely preserved. He further wrote a refutation of philosophical doctrines, entitled *Tuḥfat al-mutakallimīn fī l-radd ‘alā l-falāsifa*, completed between 532/1137 and 536/1141, which contains numerous references to Abū l-Ḥusayn and his *Taṣaffuḥ* (Madelung 2007b; Madelung 2012). In the field of legal theory, Ibn al-Malāḥimī wrote the *K. Tajrīd al-Mu‘tamad*, a work that can aptly be described as a summary of Abū l-Ḥusayn’s *Mu‘tamad fī uṣūl al-fiqh*, with occasional critical remarks (Ansari and Schmidtke 2013). There is no doubt that the popularity of Ibn al-Malāḥimī’s theological works made Abū l-Ḥusayn’s writings in this domain appear to be redundant, this certainly being the main reason why they were no longer transmitted in the Islamic world.

Ibn al-Malāḥimī in turn taught *kalām* to his colleague Jār Allāh al-Zamakhsharī (d. 538/1144) (Madelung 1986; Lane 2006, 2012; Ullah 2013; Zamakhsharī, *Minhāj*), as well as most probably to a certain Abū l-Ma‘ālī Ṣā‘id b. Aḥmad al-Uṣūlī, author of a *K. al-Kāmil fī uṣūl al-dīn* in which the doctrines of Abū l-Ḥusayn are systematically compared with those of the Bahshamiyya.<sup>13</sup> Ṣā‘id hailed most likely from Khurāsān where one of the two extant manuscripts of his *K. al-Kāmil* had originated. During the fourth/tenth to sixth/twelfth centuries, the famous Āl Ṣā‘id, a Ḥanafī family, resided in Nishābūr, and it is possible that Ṣā‘id b. Aḥmad originated within this family, many of whose members were called Ṣā‘id. Ṣā‘id b. Aḥmad’s *K. al-Kāmil* circulated among later Imami

<sup>13</sup> The work has been partly edited on the basis of Ms. Leiden OR 487, by E. Elshahed (al-Shahīd) (Elshahed 1983). Cf. the critical review by W. Madelung (Madelung 1985). Al-Shahīd has meanwhile published a full edition of the text (‘Najrānī, *Kāmil*), again on the basis of the Leiden manuscript only. As is the case with Elshahed 1983, his introduction and edition is marred by glaring errors and misidentifications, including the author’s *nisba* ‘al-Najrānī’.



theologians and it was later on extensively quoted in the *K. al-Muġtabā fi uṣūl al-dīn* of the Ḥanafī scholar Najm al-Dīn Mukhtār b. Maḥmūd al-Zāhidī al-Ghazmīnī (d. 658/1260), a later follower and supporter of the doctrines of Abū l-Ḥusayn in Khwārazm (Ibn al-Malāḥimī, *Mu'tamad*, editor's introduction; Madelung 1985). Mukhtār b. Maḥmūd had studied Mu'tazilite *kalām* with Yūsuf b. Abī Bakr al-Sakkākī (d. 626/1229), who is otherwise mostly renowned for his *K. Miftāḥ al-'ulūm*, a work covering all linguistic disciplines.

Abū l-Ḥusayn's thought also left a major impact on Ash'arite theologians. It was due to his influence that Imam al-Ḥaramayn Abū l-Ma'ālī al-Juwaynī (d. 479/1085) formulated a proof for the existence of God that relied on the philosophical notion of contingency (Madelung 2006). By the turn of the seventh/thirteenth century, Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī (d. 606/1209) states that in his time the school of Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī and the Bahshamiyya are the last active of the Mu'tazilite schools—Fakhr al-Dīn had visited Khwārazm, c.560/1164–570/1174, where he had debated with some of the local Mu'tazilī scholars. These were most probably followers of the doctrines of Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī. Moreover, it is in view of the theological thought of Abū l-Ḥusayn that Fakhr al-Dīn thoroughly revised the Ash'arite doctrines (Schmidtke 1991: *passim*). In doing so, he served as a model for later Ash'arite theologians. Another telling indication of Abū l-Ḥusayn's lasting influence on Sunnī thinkers is Ibn Taymiyya (d. 728/1328). In several of his writings, most importantly his *Dar' ta'āruḍ al-'aql wa-l-naql*, Ibn Taymiyya repeatedly refers to Abū l-Ḥusayn and his writings and he quotes extensively from the latter's *Ghurur al-adilla* (cf. Michot 2003: 162 and *passim*). Among later neo-Ḥanbalite theologians references to Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī and his notions are likewise common.

It was still during his lifetime that Abū l-Ḥusayn al-Baṣrī's doctrines also came to the attention of Karaite Jews, among whom they soon found many followers. The earliest indication for this is the refutation of Abū l-Ḥusayn's innovative proof for the existence of the Creator by the leading Karaite theologian of his time, Abū Ya'qūb Yūsuf al-Baṣīr. In this text, Yūsuf al-Baṣīr shows himself to be a staunch supporter of the Bahshamite school of 'Abd al-Jabbār and his circle. Yūsuf al-Baṣīr also related critically to the doctrine of Abū l-Ḥusayn in another work of his that is incompletely preserved and may perhaps be identified with his *Aḥwāl al-fā'il* (Madelung and Schmidtke 2006, 2007; Ansari, Madelung, and Schmidtke 2015).

Moreover, during the latter third of the fifth/eleventh century the authoritative Karaite theologian in Egypt, Sahl b. al-Faḍl (Yāshār b. Ḥesed) al-Tustarī, fully endorsed Abū l-Ḥusayn's criticism of the principles of the school of 'Abd al-Jabbār and encouraged the study of his theology in the Karaite community of Egypt. Three large fragments of Abū l-Ḥusayn's most extensive work on rational theology, *Taṣaffuḥ al-adilla*, are preserved in the Firkovitch collection, presumably coming from the *genizah* of the library of the Karaite Dār Ibn Sumayḥ synagogue in Cairo. One of the fragments contains a dedication to a pious endowment to Yāshār, the son of the nobleman Ḥesed (al-Faḍl) al-Tustarī (on him, cf. Madelung and Schmidtke 2006; Schwarb 2006) and to his

descendants. It is likely that the manuscript was copied during Sahl b. al-Faḍl al-Tustarī's lifetime. The copyist of another *Taşaffuḥ* manuscript among the three is to be identified as the renowned Karaite theologian of the fifth/eleventh century, Abū l-Ḥasan ‘Alī b. Sulaymān al-Muqaddasī, who hailed from Jerusalem. Later on he became closely associated with Sahl b. al-Faḍl al-Tustarī, whom he adopted as his teacher (Madelung and Schmidtke 2006).

Although Yūsuf al-Başīr refers on one occasion to Abū l-Ḥusayn's other major book on theology, *K. Ghurar al-adilla*, no fragment of this work has so far surfaced in any of the Jewish *genizah* repositories. The work is known to have contained a detailed polemical section directed against the Jews on the question of the abrogation of the Pentateuch and the Hebrew Bible (Schmidtke 2008), which may explain why it was less popular among Jewish readers than his *Taşaffuḥ*.

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