

THE OFFICE OF THE ḤIJĀBAH (CHAMBERLAIN) IN BAGHDAD DURING THE SELJUK PERIOD (447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE)

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Abstract:

This study examines one of the most significant administrative offices in the Abbasid Caliphate during the Seljuk period—the office of the $hij\bar{a}bah$ (Chamberlain). During this time, the position rose in prominence to the extent that the $h\bar{a}jib$ (Chamberlain) became the caliph's adviser in all major affairs. Moreover, the number of $hujj\bar{a}b$ within the Abbasid state increased in accordance with the various places in which they served and the domains over which they exercised supervision.

In this study, we shed light on those $hujj\bar{a}b$ whose duties were directly connected to the caliphal palace, such as the $h\bar{a}jib$ (Chamberlain) al- $hujj\bar{a}b$ and the $hujj\bar{a}b$ are responsible for the gates of the caliphal residence. These officials played an important and influential role in the course of political, administrative, and security affairs in Iraq during the Seljuk period.

The Abbasid caliph found in some of those who assumed this office the ability to bear the responsibility entrusted to them—namely, overseeing the protection of the gates of the caliphal palace and regulating those who entered through them. This competence was a factor in their appointment to the office and in the length of their tenure. As for the causes of dismissal from the position, there were numerous reasons. Among them was the appointment of unqualified individuals due to competition for the office, which led to disruptions in state affairs. Some resorted to bribery and the extortion of people; in other cases, dismissal was motivated by promotion to a higher office, or by inclination toward a particular sect. Thus, the reasons for appointment and dismissal in the office of the <code>hijābah</code> (Chamberlain) during this period were manifold and varied.

Keywords: The Office of the Ḥijābah (Chamberlain) in Baghdad During the Seljuk Period (447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE).

Introduction

The hijābah (Chamberlain) (1) was one of the important offices in the administrative system of the Islamic state. However, this office did not exist during the era of the Prophet or under the Rightly Guided Caliphs, for the caliphs at that time did not prevent anyone from entering upon them and would meet people in their assemblies without a *hijāb*. When the caliphate passed to the Umayyads, Mu'āwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān and his successors instituted the system of hijābah (Chamberlain) after the incident involving the Khawārij with Imām 'Alī ('a), Mu'āwiyah, and 'Amr ibn al-'Āṣ, motivated by fear of political assassinations. In addition, the Umayyads emulated the kings and the Sasanian monarchs (²). When the Abbasid state was established, its caliphs followed the example of the Umayyads and adopted the office of hijābah (Chamberlain). Over time, this office came to extend beyond its original function of guarding the caliph's gate and preventing entry without prior permission. The hājib (Chamberlain) began classifying people according to their rank and social standing as he deemed appropriate, which led to the emergence of separate halls for the elite and for the general public. As the Abbasid state grew weaker, the caliphs considered it advisable to appoint a second and even a third *ḥājib* (Chamberlain) to further shield the caliph from the public. In this way, the *ḥājib* (Chamberlain) surrounded himself with an aura of reverence, his influence and authority grew, and his status rose until he became an adviser to the caliph in all important affairs (³).



During the period under study, we observe a plurality of $hujj\bar{a}b$, as the $D\bar{\imath}w\bar{a}n$ al-' $Az\bar{\imath}z$ (4) had its own $h\bar{a}jib$ (Chamberlain). Likewise, there was a $h\bar{a}jib$ (Chamberlain) for the $B\bar{a}b$ al- $N\bar{u}b\bar{\imath}$ (5) and for the $B\bar{a}b$ al- $Mar\bar{a}tib$ (6). The office of the $h\bar{a}jib$ (Chamberlain) al- $hujj\bar{a}b$ (7) also emerged prominently, as we shall see. Among their responsibilities was serving as envoys between the caliphs, the sultans, and the governors (8).

The Office of the Ḥijābah (Chamberlain) in Baghdad during the Seljuk Period (447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE)

It is worth noting that the $hujj\bar{a}b$ of the Abbasid caliphs in Iraq during the Seljuk period (447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE) were subject to policies of appointment and dismissal, similar to other senior officials of the state. There were various reasons for both appointment and removal. For example, Caliph al-Muqtafī (530–555 AH / 1135–1160 CE) arrested Abū al-Fatḥ ibn al-Ṣayqal (9) and dismissed him from his office due to his acceptance of bribes and his extortion of people (). In other cases, dismissal was the result of promotion to a higher position. Thus, in 571 AH / 1175 CE, Caliph al-Mustaḍī (566–575 AH / 1170–1179 CE) appointed Ibn al-Ṣāḥib (10) to the office of $ust\bar{a}dh$ al- $d\bar{a}r$ (11) after he had previously served as ustrainly ustrainly ustrainly ustrainly during the reign of al-Mustaḍī bi-Amr Allāh because of his leaning toward Shi ism (14). Thus, the causes of appointment and dismissal in the office of the ustrainly ustrainly

The sources provide us with the names of some who held the office of $h\bar{a}jib$ (Chamberlain) alhujjāb during the period under study. Among those mentioned as occupying this position during the caliphate of al-Qā'im was Abū Turāb al-Athīrī, whom the caliph employed in matters of mediation and in attending official processions. He was granted the title $h\bar{a}jib$ (Chamberlain) alhujjāb in the year 453 AH / 1061 CE (15). The reason for al-Qā'im's favor toward him and his appointment to this office was that Abū Turāb al-Athīrī had served the caliph during his exile at the time of the Būyid commander al-Basāsīrī's movement (16).

Among those who occupied this office was 'Alī ibn Muḥammad, known as Ibn al-Wakīl (¹⁷), who belonged to a well-known family dating back to the time of al-Qā'im. He held this position during the caliphate of al-Mustarshid (512–529 AH / 1119–1134 CE), although the sources do not specify the year in which he assumed the office. He died in 518 AH / 1123 CE (¹⁸).

This office was also held during the caliphate of al-Muqtafī (530–555 AH / 1135–1160 CE) by Abū al-Futūḥ Aḥmad ibn al-Muḥsin ibn Jaʿfar al-Salmanī al-Baghdādī, who was dismissed from the position prior to his death in Dhū al-Qaʿdah 558 AH / 1162 CE (¹⁹). Aḥmad ibn ʿAlī ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Wakīl likewise assumed the office of hājib (Chamberlain) al-hujjāb, following in the footsteps of his father, who—as noted above—had earlier occupied this position. Aḥmad ibn al-Wakīl began his career as a hājib (Chamberlain) in the Dīwān al-ʿAzīz (²⁰), and it is most likely that his tenure as hājib (Chamberlain) al-hujjāb fell during the reign of Caliph al-Mustanjid, as his death is recorded in 564 AH / 1168 CE, and the caliphate of al-Mustanjid lasted from 555 AH / 1159 CE to 566 AH / 1170 CE. Alternatively, he may have assumed the position at a time more distant from his death, in which case his appointment would have occurred during the reign of al-Muqtafī (530–555 AH / 1135–1159 CE).

He also assumed the office of **Ḥājib** (Chamberlain) al-Ḥujjāb from the distinguished family of al-Wakīl, namely al-Ḥasan ibn Aḥmad ibn 'Alī ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Wakīl, during the caliphate of al-Mustaḍī' (566–575 AH / 1170–1179 CE). His tenure as **ḥijāba** continued into the caliphate



of al-Nāṣir (575-622 AH / 1180-1225 CE), and he remained in office until his death in the month of Rabī al-Awwal in the year 577 AH / 1181 CE, while still a young man (21). The office of **Ḥājib** (Chamberlain) al-Hujjāb was then held by Muhammad ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn al-Husayn ibn al-Mu'awwij, who had previously moved between various hijāba posts. He was transferred from the position of hijāba of the dīwān to that of Hājib (Chamberlain) al-Ḥujjāb, and subsequently occupied the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in the year 571 AH / 1175 CE, until his assassination in Dhū al-Qa'da, 573 AH / 1177 CE (22). The sources, however, do not specify the exact year in which Ibn al-Mu'awwij was appointed as Hājib (Chamberlain) al-Hujjāb; yet it appears that he assumed the office during the reign of al-Mustadī', for he was transferred from the position of Hājib (Chamberlain) al-Hujjāb to that of hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in the year 571 AH / 1175 CE (23). Among those also mentioned as having held the office of Hajib (Chamberlain) al-Hujjab was Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Bāqī ibn 'Abd al-'Azīz ibn al-Dārīj. He was described as intelligent and noble-minded. He first served as a hajib (Chamberlain) in the Dīwan al- 'Azīz, then assumed the office of Hajib (Chamberlain) al-Hujjab, before being transferred to other posts, the last of which was the deputyship of the vizierate (580-583 AH / 1184-1187 CE), from which he was dismissed. He then remained in his house without employment until he died in 586 AH / 1190 CE (24). In Among those also mentioned as having held the office of Hājib (Chamberlain) al-Ḥujjāb was Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Bāqī ibn 'Abd al-'Azīz ibn al-Dārīj. He was described as intelligent and noble-minded. He first served as a hajib (Chamberlain) in the Dīwan al- 'Azīz, then assumed the office of Hājib (Chamberlain) al-Hujjāb, before being transferred to other posts, the last of which was the deputyship of the vizierate (580-583 AH / 1184-1187 CE), from which he was dismissed. He then remained in his house without employment until he died in 586 AH / 1190 CE (25). In Safar of the year 589 AH / 1193 CE, the office of Hājib (Chamberlain) al-Hujjāb was assumed by 'Alam al-Dawla Abū al-Ma'ālī Hibat Allāh ibn al-Hasan ibn Hibat Allāh ibn al-Dawāmī al-Baghdādī. He was described as pious, devoted to the dīwāns of war and to literary works, and his residence was a gathering place for men of merit, according to the account of Ibn al-Fūtī. He was dismissed from his post in 600 AH / 1203 CE and remained in his home until his death in Jumādā al-Ūlā of the year 645 AH (²⁶).

As for the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī, it was associated with one of the gates of the 'Abbāsid Palace in Baghdad, the most renowned of them all. This gate served as the principal entrance to the palace and was the most directly connected to the political realities of the 'Abbāsid caliphate (27). The primary duty of the Ḥājib (Chamberlain) of Bāb al-Nūbī was to oversee the protection of the palace gate and to regulate those entering through it, for it was at this threshold that kings and princes arriving in Baghdad would perform the ritual of kissing the ground. The role of the Ḥājib (Chamberlain) of Bāb al-Nūbī was not confined to political functions alone; he also exercised administrative and security responsibilities. The holder of this office was entrusted with the security oversight of the entire district of Baghdad and was vested with wide-ranging powers, including supervision over the duties of the deputy of the police, the intelligence officer, the warden of the prison, and others (28).

Several ḥujjāb succeeded one another in holding the ḥijāba of this gate during the Seljuq period. They may be listed according to the order in which they assumed the office. Abū Manṣūr ibn Bikrān held the ḥijāba of the palace gate during the caliphate of al-Qā'im, having already served as his chamberlain since the Būyid era. When al-Qā'im (422–467 AH / 1031–1075 CE) ascended the caliphate, he confirmed Abū Manṣūr ibn Bikrān, who had previously served as chamberlain under his father, al-Qādir, in his post. Abū Manṣūr had inherited the office of ḥijāba from his



father, Abū al-Qāsim Bikrān (²⁹), and thus their family became known for this position, passing it down from father to son (³⁰). Abū Manṣūr ibn Bikrān was at one point dismissed from the office of chamberlain for reasons not mentioned by the historical sources, but he was later reinstated as **ḥājib** (**Chamberlain**) of Bāb al-Nūbī during the Seljuq era, and he continued in this office until he died in 457 AH / 1064 CE (³¹).

After him, the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī was assumed by Abū 'Abd Allāh al-Ḥusayn ibn 'Alī al-Mardūsī, who had served during the Būyid period. He continued in charge of the gate throughout the Seljuq era for more than twenty years, from 457 AH / 1064 CE until his death in 478 AH / 1085 CE, during the caliphate of al-Muqtaḍī (32). It was said of him: "He was the foremost man of his time, of perfect integrity, devoted only to noble deeds; frequent in prayer, fasting, charity, and devotion, and respected by caliphs and kings alike" (33). Ibn al-Jawzī also described him, stating: "His stature rose to the point that kings of distant realms wrote to him addressing him as their servant and vassal. He was a man of perfect integrity, devoted solely to virtuous deeds, abundant in charity, fasting, and night vigils" (34).

From these accounts, we may conclude that the stature of al-Mardūsī, the Ḥājib (Chamberlain) of Bāb al-Nūbī, greatly increased from the outset of the Seljuq period. This prompted kings and caliphs to honor him, elevate his standing, and retain him in his position as chamberlain of the gate from the time of al-Qā'im until that of al-Muqtaḍī, until his death in 478 AH / 1064 CE. He was ninety-five years old at the time of his passing and was buried in the Quraysh cemetery (35) (36). Among those who also held the ḥijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī was Abū Manṣūr Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn al-Sakan, known as Ibn al-Muʿawwij. He assumed the ḥijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī during the caliphate of al-Muqtaḍī, after having served in the Dīwān al-ʿAzīz. Caliph al-Muqtaḍī entrusted him not only with oversight of grievances (al-mazālim), the enforcement of legal punishments (iqāmat al-ḥudūd), and the police (al-shurṭa), but also with the ḥijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī. He remained in charge of the gate until his death in 501 AH / 1107 CE (37).

In 500 AH / 1106 CE, Abū Jaʿfar ʿAbd Allāh al-Dāmghānī (³⁸) assumed the ħijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī during the caliphate of al-Mustazhir. He was described as courteous in character and well-suited for leadership, descending from the distinguished al-Dāmghānī family. At the beginning of his career, he served as a judge but resigned from the judiciary to accept the position of ħājib (Chamberlain) of Bāb al-Nūbī in the ʿAbbāsid Palace. Al-Dāmghānī was dismissed from this office on two occasions: first under al-Mustazhir, and later under al-Mustarshid. The reasons for both dismissals are unknown and unclear. Al-Mustazhir dismissed him in 501 AH / 1107 CE from the ħijāba of the gate, appointing in his place Abū al-ʿIzz al-Muʾayyadī (³⁹) (⁴⁰). He was later reinstated to the ħijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī and continued in this role until the caliphate of al-Mustarshid. At the end of the year 512 AH / 1118 CE, however, al-Mustarshid dismissed him from the post, and he never returned to it until his death in 518 AH / 1124 CE (⁴¹). From the fact that Abū Jaʿfar al-Dāmghānī accepted the office of ħājib (Chamberlain) of Bāb al-Nūbī after resigning from the judiciary, we may conclude that the prestige of the office of ħijāba in the ʿAbbāsid state had increased significantly during this period.

In Dhū al-Ḥijja of the year 512 AH / 1118 CE, Abū Ghālib Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn al-Sakan, known as Ibn al-Muʿawwij, was appointed to the **ḥijāba of the gate**. His father had previously held this office, as mentioned above. He was known for his inclination toward good deeds, his love for people, and his reputation as a transmitter of reports. Al-Mustarshid, however, dismissed him in the same year, 512 AH / 1118 CE, appointing in his place Ḥamza ibn Ṭalḥa and designating him as his deputy (42). Ibn al-Muʿawwij later returned to assume



the $hij\bar{a}ba$ of $B\bar{a}b$ al- $N\bar{u}b\bar{i}$ in Dhū al-Hijja of 534 AH / 1139 CE, during the caliphate of al-Muqtafi, as will be seen (43).

It is possible that al-Mustarshid's dismissal of Abū Ghālib ibn al-Mu'awwij was due to his desire to appoint Ḥamza ibn Ṭalḥa to the ħijāba of the gate, for Ḥamza was close to al-Mustarshid, as his mother had nursed the caliph and he was raised with him in the palace. When al-Mustarshid assumed the caliphate, he entrusted him with the ħijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī at the end of the year 512 AH / 1118 CE. He was respected and held in awe by the leading men of the state. He remained in this post for a year, a month, and several days, after which al-Mustarshid appointed him as his agent and placed him in charge of his affairs, transferring him as well to the office of the makhzan (44). Al-Ṣafadī describes al-Mustarshid's favor toward Ibn Ṭalḥa as follows: "When he assumed the caliphate, he appointed him chamberlain at Bāb al-Nūbī, then entrusted him with his agency, made him head of the makhzan, and placed the oversight of his affairs in his hands. He elevated his position, delegated authority to him, until both elites and commoners submitted to him, and he was made equal to the viziers" (45).

After Caliph al-Mustarshid transferred Ibn Talha to the makhzan, he appointed Hibat Allāh ibn Muhammad ibn al-Hasan ibn al-Sāhib to the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in the month of Safar, 514 AH / 1120 CE. He continued in this office throughout the caliphate of al-Mustarshid and subsequently that of al-Rāshid (46). He presided, in the capacity of ustādh al-dār and ṣāḥib aldīwān, over the mourning ceremonies for Caliph al-Mustarshid. When al-Rāshid (529–530 AH / 1134 CE) assumed the caliphate, he ordered all the gates of his palace to be closed except for Bāb al-Nūbī, entrusting Ibn al-Sāhib with the protection of the caliphal residence (47). Hibat Allāh ibn al-Ṣāḥib was also devoted to the study of ḥadīth, transmitting it and having been educated in this discipline by a group of the most renowned scholars of Baghdad. This scholarly background rendered him qualified for high offices such as the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī (48). The tenure of Ibn al-Ṣāḥib in this office extended into the reign of Caliph al-Muqtafī (530-555 AH / 1136-1160 CE). In Ramadān of 534 AH / 1140 CE, however, he was dismissed from his post (49). The sources do not specify the reasons for his removal, though it is most likely attributable to his advanced age (50). Whatever the case, he had served in the position of hijāba for a considerable period (514– 534 AH / 1120-1139 CE), during which he accumulated valuable experience for himself and for those of the Ibn al-Sāhib family who would succeed him (51).

After the dismissal of Ibn al-Ṣāḥib, Caliph al-Muqtafī entrusted the office of ħijāba to Kāmal ibn Musāfīr, but dismissed him in Dhū al-Ḥijja of 534 AH / 1140 CE. The office was then assumed by Abū Ghālib ibn al-Muʿawwij, who had previously held the ħijāba under Caliph al-Mustarshid in 512 AH / 1118 CE, as mentioned earlier. He continued in office until his death in 542 AH / 1146 CE (52). After him, Abū al-Fatḥ Saʿīd ibn Hibat Allāh ibn al-Ṣayqal assumed the ħijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī, remaining in the position until his dismissal in 550 AH / 1154 CE (53). The reason for his removal was his misconduct toward the people and his appropriation of their wealth (54). Ibn al-Jawzī records: "The chamberlain of the gate, Abū al-Fatḥ ibn al-Ṣayqal al-Hāshimī, was arrested, brought before the dīwān under guard, and the people were summoned to confront him regarding what he had taken from them; his possessions were seized from his house" (55). He was succeeded by Abū al-Maʿālī ibn al-Kiyā al-Harrāsī, who enjoyed closeness to and favor with Caliph al-Muqtafī. For this reason, the caliph appointed him to the ħijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in 550 AH / 1155 CE. Yet his tenure was brief, lasting no more than forty days before he was dismissed in the same year (56). The sources do not state the reason that led al-Muqtafī to remove him. Ibn al-Harrāsī died in Rabīʿ al-Awwal of 567 AH / 1171 CE (57).



In the same year, 550 AH / 1155 CE, 'Alī ibn Hibat Allāh ibn al-Ṣāḥib was appointed to the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī, in addition to the office of overseeing grievances (al-mazālim) (58). His conduct was commendable, and he was known for generosity and charitable giving. His tenure as hājib (Chamberlain) extended through the reign of al-Muqtafi and part of the reign of Caliph al-Mustanjid bi-llāh, until his death in Jumādā al-Ūlā 564 AH / 1169 CE (59). After the death of Abū al-Qāsim ibn al-Sāhib, his son Abū al-Fadl Hibat Allāh ibn 'Alī assumed the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī, remaining in this office until his promotion to the position of *Ustād al-Dār* (Master of the Palace) in 571 AH / 1175 CE (60). His influence had grown to such an extent that he came to dominate the affairs of state, which led Caliph al-Nāṣir to remove him in 583 AH / 1187 CE (61). Al-Hasan ibn Abī Tālib (Ibn al-Nāqid) was appointed to the hijāba of the gate in 571 AH / 1175 CE, following the promotion of Ibn al-Ṣāḥib to the office of *Ustād al-Dār*. He was, however, dismissed in the same year. The reason for his dismissal, as reported by Sibt Ibn al-Jawzī, was that Ibn al-Nāqid leaned toward Shī'ism and wore an excessively long turban. The people of Bāb al-Azi nicknamed him "Qanbar"—a term both for the servant of 'Alī and for a sparrow. Thus, whenever he rode out, they would shout, "Qanbar!" As the 'Id approached, the caliph ordered him to lead the procession. The common people then gathered many sparrows $(qan\bar{a}b\bar{i}r)$ and planned to release them around him during the event. When the caliph was informed that, should this happen, the procession would be disgraced, he dismissed him (62). The hijāba was then entrusted to Abū Saʿīd Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd Allāh ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn al-Muʿawwij, who belonged to a family well known for service in the hijāba, as well as for transmitting and narrating traditions. He had first held the office of hijāba of the Dīwān al-'Azīz, then became Hājib (Chamberlain) al-Ḥujjāb, and was appointed to the ḥijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī on the 19th of Ramadān 571 AH / 1175 CE. He remained in this position until his assassination on the 6th of Dhū al-Qa'da 573 AH / 1177 CE, while accompanying the vizier Abū al-Faraj ibn Ra'īs al-Ru'asā', at the hands of a group of Bāṭinīs (63).

During the caliphate of al-Mustaḍīʾ, ʿAlī ibn Ḥamza ibn Ṭalḥa was appointed to the ħijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in 575 AH / 1179 CE. He was, however, dismissed in the same year for reasons unknown. Thereafter, he traveled to al-Shām, where he resided for a time, and then to Egypt, where he remained until his death in Shaʿbān 599 AH / 1202 CE. His father had previously held this office in 512 AH / 1120 CE, and enjoyed a distinguished position in the ʿAbbāsid Palace, as mentioned earlier (64).

During the caliphate of al-Nāṣir, no fewer than thirteen individuals held the office of ħijābat Bāb al-Nūbī, as the sources record (65). Among them was Abū Ṭālib Yaḥyā ibn Saʿīd ibn Ziyāda al-Wāsiṭī, who was appointed in 575 AH / 1179 CE. He was distinguished for his expertise in various sciences and disciplines, including jurisprudence, uṣūl, kalām, grammar, and poetry. He was also known for his piety and upright conduct. His career advanced steadily: he held the ḥijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī from 575 AH / 1179 CE until his dismissal in 577 AH / 1181 CE, after which he was appointed ustādh al-dār, and later entrusted with the dīwān al-inshāʾ (chancery) towards the end of his life. He died in Dhū al-Ḥijja 594 AH / 1198 CE (66). He was succeeded by Abū al-Fatḥ Ṣadaqa ibn Muḥammad ibn Ṣadaqa (d. 597 AH / 1200 CE), who belonged to a family distinguished by high office and vizierial rank. He remained in the ḥijāba until he was dismissed, having been appointed deputy vizier in 581 AH / 1185 CE following the death of the deputy vizier Hibat Allāh ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Bukhārī in that same year (67)

Thereafter, Abū al-Fatḥ Aḥmad ibn Zafar ibn Yaḥyā ibn Muḥammad ibn Hubayra assumed the ḥijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī. He belonged to a family renowned for its distinction in high office,



vizierate, scholarship, and literary achievement. He held the office in 580 AH / 1183 CE, but was dismissed in 582 AH / 1186 CE (⁶⁸). The hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī then passed once again to Yaḥyā ibn Ziyāda, who was reappointed in Jumādā al-Ākhira 582 AH / 1186 CE and remained in office until 583 AH / 1187 CE, when he was promoted to the rank of ustādh al-dār, following the assassination of the ustādh al-dār, Majd al-Dīn Hibat Allāh ibn ʿAlī ibn al-Ṣāḥib (⁶⁹). Subsequently, the office of hijāba was entrusted to Kamāl al-Dīn Abū Shujāʿ Muḥammad ibn Saʿīd ibn al-Muẓaffar ibn al-Ṭuharī in 583 AH / 1187 CE. He continued in this position until his dismissal in 585 AH / 1188 CE, and was counted among the most prominent of the ḥujjāb. In 602 AH / 1205 CE, Ibn al-Ṭuharī was appointed to the ḥijāba of Bāb al-Marātib, and he died in 615 AH / 1218 CE (⁷⁰).

In 586 AH / 1189 CE, the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī was entrusted to **Abū al-Qāsim al-Ḥasan ibn Naṣr ibn** 'Alī ibn Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Nāqid (d. 604 AH / 1207 CE). He continued in this office until the death of his father in 592 AH / 1195 CE, at which point he was transferred to the supervision of the **makhzan** (treasury and storage administration) in his father's stead. He remained in charge of the makhzan and its affairs until his dismissal in 598 AH / 1201 CE (⁷¹). It should also be noted that there existed the office of **nā** ib al-ḥājib (Chamberlain) (deputy chamberlain). For example, **Abū** Ghālib ibn al-Muʿawwij served as deputy to Ḥamza ibn Ṭalḥa in the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in 521 AH / 1127 CE (⁷²), and likewise **Abū al-ʿIzz al-Muʾayyadī** was appointed deputy in the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī following the dismissal of **Abū Jaʿfar al-Dāmghānī** from the office in 501 AH / 1107 CE (⁷³).

Among the other functions of the hijāba was the hijāba of Bāb al-Marātib, one of the gates of the Abbasid palace in Baghdad, whose chamberlain was regarded as a figure of great distinction and exercised wide-reaching authority (74). Among those who held this office was **Gharas al-Dīn Abū al-Faraj Hibat Allāh ibn Abī Ḥāmid ibn ʿAlī ibn ʿUmar al-Baghdādī**, who assumed the hijāba of Bāb al-Marātib for only a day or two before being dismissed. The sources do not indicate the reason for his rapid removal by the caliph al-Mustaḍīʾ. He died in Rabīʿ al-Awwal 575 AH / 1179 CE (75).

The hijāba of Bāb al-Marātib was also held by **Abū Naṣr** '**Ubayd Allāh ibn Ḥamza ibn Ṭalḥa ibn** '**Alī al-Rāzī**, who was appointed during the reign of the caliph al-Mustaḍī'. As he was counted among the notables, the caliph drew him near and entrusted him with this office. He remained in his position until his death in Ramadān 575 AH / 1179 CE, at the age of over forty (⁷⁶).

Among the functions of the <code>hijāba</code> were also the <code>hujjāb</code> of the districts, by which is meant the various quarters of Baghdad, particularly its well-known gates. The chamberlains of the districts enjoyed broad powers that fell within the jurisdiction of the police (⁷⁷). One such figure was <code>Abū</code> al-Fatḥ Muḥammad ibn al-Dārīj, who first served as a chamberlain of the districts before being promoted to the office of <code>hājib</code> (Chamberlain) of the Dīwān al-ʿAzīz, and thereafter to <code>hājib</code> (Chamberlain) al-ḥujjāb. He was subsequently transferred to other posts, the last of which was the deputy vizierate in 580 AH / 1184 CE. He was dismissed in 583 AH / 1187 CE and remained without office until he died in 586 AH / 1190 CE (⁷⁸). Another of the chamberlains of the districts was <code>Abū</code> al-Fatḥ Muḥammad ibn al-Dāriʿ, who served in this capacity for a time before being promoted to the position of <code>ḥājib</code> (Chamberlain) al-ḥujjāb in 575 AH / 1179 CE (⁷⁹).

Another of the functions of the hijāba was that of the hājib (Chamberlain) of the Dīwān al-ʿAzīz. Among those who held this office was Hibat Allāh ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn al-Ṣāḥib, who occupied the position before being dismissed; he died in 538 AH / 1143 CE (80). The sources, however, do not record either the circumstances of his dismissal or the exact year in



which it occurred. Another chamberlain of the Dīwān al-'Azīz was Abū al-Futūḥ Aḥmad ibn al-Muḥsin ibn Ja'far al-Salmasī, who served as one of its chamberlains before being promoted to the office of hājib (Chamberlain) al-hujjāb during the caliphate of al-Muqtafī, as noted earlier. He was later dismissed from his post and remained without office until his death in Dhū al-Qa'da 558 AH / 1162 CE (81). The position was also held by Abū Shujā' Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn Ahmad al-Mādhara'ī, though the sources do not specify the year of his appointment to the hijāba of the Dīwān al-'Azīz. He died in Şafar 569 AH / 1173 CE (82). The office of hājib (Chamberlain) of the Dīwān al- 'Azīz was also held by a member of the well-known Āl al-Wakīl family, namely Abū al-Fadl Muhammad ibn 'Alī ibn Muhammad, known as Ibn al-Wakīl. The sources suffice only to record his birth in 499 AH / 1105 CE and his death in Jumādā al-Ākhira 591 AH / 1194 CE, without providing any further information concerning his appointment to the hijāba (83). The office was also held by **Muhammad ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn al-Husavn**, known as Ibn al-Mu'awwij. He was later transferred to other functions within the hijāba, the last of which was the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in 571 AH / 1175 CE, a position he retained until his death in 573 AH / 1177 CE (84). Among the chamberlains of this dīwān was also Abū al-'Abbās Aḥmad ibn Yūsuf ibn Muhammad al-Hāshimī, known as Ibn al-Zawāl, who held the office during the reign of the caliph al-Mustadī'. He was subsequently promoted to the post of naqīb al-nuqabā' of the **Abbasids** and to the **khutba** in Dhū al-Hijja 568 AH / 1172 CE, from which he was dismissed. He was reinstated to his former office on the second day of the bay'a of the caliph al-Nāṣir in Dhū al-Qa'da 575 AH / 1179 CE, but was dismissed once again by al-Nāsir in 583 AH / 1187 CE (85). Among those who also served in this dīwān was Abū al-Fath Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Bāqī ibn 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Shahriyādī, known as Ibn al-Dārīj. At the outset of his career, he was one of the chamberlains of the Dīwān al-'Azīz, after which he was promoted to a number of senior posts, including that of hajib (Chamberlain) al-hujjab and later the deputy vizierate, as noted above. He was dismissed from office in 583 AH / 1187 CE and remained without appointment until his death in 586 AH / 1190 CE (86). Abū Shujā' Muḥammad ibn Sa'īd ibn al-Muzaffar ibn al-Husavn ibn al-Zuharī was among the chamberlains of the Dīwān al-'Azīz, before being promoted to other offices of the hijāba, such as the hijāba of **Bāb al-Nūbī**, which he held from 583 AH / 1187 CE until 584 AH / 1188 CE, when he was dismissed, as noted above. He later assumed the hijāba of **Bāb al-Marātib** in 602 AH / 1205 CE, a position he retained until his death in 615 AH / 1218 CE (87). Also serving in the hijāba of the Dīwān al- 'Azīz was **Abū Tammām Muhammad** ibn Yūsuf ibn Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad, known as Ibn al-Zawāl. We have already mentioned his brother, Ahmad ibn al-Zawāl, who likewise held the hijāba of the Dīwān al-'Azīz. Abū Tammām Muḥammad ibn al-Zawāl died in Dhū al-Ḥijja 603 AH / 1206 CE (88). It may be observed that a clear pattern of progression within the offices of the hijāba existed

It may be observed that a clear pattern of progression within the offices of the hijāba existed during this period. A chamberlain was seldom confined to a single post; rather, he would often advance from the hijāba of the districts, to that of Bāb al-Marātib, then to the Dīwān al-ʿAzīz, subsequently to Bāb al-Nūbī, and ultimately to the office of hājib (Chamberlain) al-hujjāb. Nevertheless, this progression did not constitute a fixed rule, for some chamberlains held only one or two of these posts. For example, Muḥammad ibn ʿAlī ibn Muḥammad, known as Ibn al-Wakīl, limited his service in the hijāba exclusively to the Dīwān al-ʿAzīz (89). It is also necessary to note the existence of the office of nāʾib al-ḥājib (Chamberlain) (deputy chamberlain). For instance, Abū Ghālib ibn al-Muʿawwij served as deputy to Ḥamza ibn Ṭalḥa in the hijāba of Bāb al-Nūbī in 521 AH (90), while Abū al-ʿIzz al-Muʾayyadī was appointed deputy in the hijāba



of Bāb al-Nūbī following the dismissal of **Abū Jaʿfar al-Dāmghānī** from that office in 501 AH / 1107 CE (91).

Table: The Chamberlains of the Abbasid Caliphs

No.	Name of the Chamberlain	Contemporary Caliph	Duration of Office
1	Abū Turāb al-Athīrī	al-Qāʾim	453 AH / 1061 CE (⁹²)
2	ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. al- Wakīl	al-Mustarshid	The sources do not provide details concerning his tenure (93)
3	Abū al-Futūḥ Aḥmad b. al-Muḥsin b. Jaʿfar al-Salmānī	al-Muqtafī	Dismissed in 558 AH / 1162 CE (⁹⁴)
4	Aḥmad b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad Abū al-Wakīl	al-Mustanjid	Died in 564 AH / 1168 CE, with no further details recorded about his tenure (95)
5	al-Ḥasan b. Aḥmad b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. al-Wakīl	al-Mustaḍī' / al- Nāṣir	Died in 577 AH / 1181 CE, with no further details recorded about his tenure (96)
6	Muhammad b. 'Abd Allāh b. al-Ḥusayn b. al-Mu'awwij	al-Mustaḍīʾ	Dismissed in 571 AH / 1175 CE (⁹⁷)
7	Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Bāqī b. al-Dārīj	al-Nāṣir	The duration of his tenure is not mentioned in the sources (⁹⁸)
8	al-Ḥasan b. Hibat Allāh b. al- Dawwāmī	al-Nāṣir	583–590 AH / 1187–1193 CE (⁹⁹)

List of Chamberlains of the Gate of the Caliphal Palace (Bāb al-Nūbī) Covering the period 447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE

No.	Name of the Chamberlain	Contemporary Caliph	Duration of Office
1	Abū Manṣūr b. Bakrān	al-Qāʾim	Died in 457 AH / 1064 CE; the sources do not provide details regarding his tenure (100)
2	al-Ḥusayn b. ʿAlī Abū ʿAbd Allāh al-Mardūsī	al-Qāʾim / al-Muqtadī	457–478 AH / 1064–1085 CE (¹⁰¹)
3	Abū Manṣūr b. al- Muʿawwij	al-Muqtadī	Died in 501 AH / 1107 CE; the sources do not provide details regarding his tenure (102)
4	Abū Jaʿfar ʿAbd Allāh al- Dāmghānī	al-Mustazhir / al- Mustarshid	500–501 AH / 1106–1107 CE ¹⁰³ ; also mentioned in 512 AH / 1118 CE (¹⁰⁴)
5	Abū Ghālib b. al- Muʿawwij	al-Mustarshid	512 AH / 1118 CE (¹⁰⁵)
6	Ḥamza b. Ṭalḥa	al-Mustarshid	512 AH / 1118 CE (¹⁰⁶)
7	Hibat Allāh b. Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. al-Ṣāḥib	al-Mustarshid / al- Rāshid / al-Muqtafī	514–534 AH / 1120–1140 CE (¹⁰⁷)
8	Kāmal b. Musāfir	al-Muqtafī	534 AH / 1140 CE (¹⁰⁸)



9	Abū Ghālib b. al- Muʻawwij	al-Muqtafī	534–542 AH / 1140–1146 CE (¹⁰⁹)
10	Abū al-Fatḥ Muʿīd b. Hibat Allāh b. al-Ṣayqal	al-Muqtafī	542–550 AH / 1146–1154 CE (¹¹⁰)
11	Abū al-Maʿālī b. al-Kiyā al-Harāsī	al-Muqtafī	550 AH / 1155 CE (¹¹¹)
12	'Alī b. Hibat Allāh b. al- Ṣāḥib	al-Muqtafī / al- Mustaḍīʾ	550–564 AH / 1155–1169 CE (¹¹²)
13	Abū al-Faḍl Hibat Allāh b. ʿAlī	al-Muqtafī / al- Mustaḍīʾ	564–571 AH / 1169–1175 CE (¹¹³)
14	al-Ḥasan b. Abī Ṭālib b. al-Nāqid	al-Mustaḍīʾ	571 AH / 1175 CE (¹¹⁴)
15	Abū Ṭālib Yaḥyā b. Saʿīd b. Ziyāda al-Wāsiṭī	al-Nāṣir	575–577 AH / 1179–1181 CE (¹¹⁵)
16	Şadaqa b. Muḥammad b. Şadaqa	al-Nāṣir	577–580 AH / 1181–1184 CE (¹¹⁶)
17	Abū al-Fatḥ Aḥmad b. Zafar b. Hubayra	al-Nāṣir	580–582 AH / 1184–1186 CE (¹¹⁷)
18	Yaḥyā b. Ziyāda al-Wāsiṭī	al-Nāṣir	582–583 AH / 1186–1187 CE (¹¹⁸)
19	Abū al-Shujāʿ Muḥammad b. Saʿīd b. al- Zuhairī	al-Nāṣir	583–585 AH / 1187–1189 CE (¹¹⁹)
20	al-Ḥasan b. al-Naṣr b. al- Nāqid	al-Nāṣir	586–592 AH / 1190–1195 CE (¹²⁰)

List of Chamberlains of the Gate of the Caliphal Palace (al-Dīwān al-ʿAzīz) For the period 447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE

No.	Name of the Chamberlain	Contemporary Caliph	Duration of Office
1	Hibat Allāh b. Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn b. al-Ṣāḥib	al-Muqtafī	Died in 538 AH / 1143 CE; the sources provide no details regarding his tenure (121)
2	Abū al-Futūḥ Aḥmad b. al- Muḥsin b. Jaʿfar al-Salmāsī	al-Muqtafī	Died in 558 AH / 1162 CE; the sources provide no details regarding his tenure (122)
3	Abū al-Shujāʿ Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn b. Aḥmad al- Mādharaʾī	_	Died in 569 AH / 1173 CE; the sources provide no details regarding his tenure (123)
4	Abū al-Faḍl Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. al-Wakīl	_	Died in 591 AH / 1194 CE; the sources provide no details regarding his tenure (124)
5	Muḥammad b. ʿAbd Allāh b. al-Ḥusayn	al-Mustaḍīʾ	Served until 571 AH / 1175 CE (¹²⁵)
6	Abū al-ʿAbbās Aḥmad b. Yūsuf b.	al-Mustaḍīʾ al-Nāṣir	Mentioned in 568 AH / 1172 CE ¹²⁶ ;



	Muḥammad al-Hāshimī b. al- Zawwāl		continued in office during the reign of al-Nāṣir, 575–583 AH / 1179–1187 CE (127)
7	Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Bāqī al-	•	The sources do not mention the
	Shahriyārī		duration of his tenure (128)

List of Chamberlains of the Gate of the Caliphal Palace (Bāb al-Marātib) For the period 447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE

No.	Name of the Chamberlain	Contemporary Caliph	Duration of Office
1	Gharas al-Dīn al-Faraj Hibat Allāh b. Abī Ḥāmid b. ʿAlī	al-Mustaḍīʾ	The sources do not specify the duration of his tenure (¹²⁹)
2	Abū Naṣr 'Ubayd Allāh b. Ḥamza b. Ṭalḥa b. 'Alī al-Rāzī	al-Mustaḍīʾ	Remained in office until his death in 575 AH / 1179 CE (¹³⁰)
3	Abū al-Fatḥ Muḥammad b. al- Dārīj	al-Nāṣir	Dismissed in 580 AH / 1184 CE (131)
4	Abū al-Fatḥ Muḥammad b. al- Dirāʻ	al-Mustaḍīʾ	Dismissed in 575 AH / 1179 CE (132)

List of Chamberlains of the Provinces For the period 447–590 AH / 1055–1193 CE

No.	Name of the Chamberlain	Contemporary Caliph	Duration of Office
1	Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Bāqī b. al-Dārīj	al-Mustaḍīʾ	The sources do not specify the duration of his tenure
2	Abū al-Fatḥ Muḥammad b. al-Dirā'	al-Mustaḍīʾ	The sources do not specify the duration of his tenure.

Conclusion

- 1. It has been observed that the hierarchy of the *hijāba* offices was clearly evident during the Seljuk era. A chamberlain (*hājib* (Chamberlain)) would not remain confined to a single post; rather, he was promoted gradually, moving from provincial chamberlain (*hijābat almanāṭiq*) to chamberlain of ranks (*ḥijābat al-marāṭib*), then to the chamberlain of the *Dīwān al-ʿAzīz*, followed by the chamberlain of *Bāb al-Nūbī*, and finally attaining the position of chief chamberlain (*ḥājib* (Chamberlain) al-ḥujjāb).
- 2. However, this hierarchical progression was not applied as a fixed rule throughout the period. Some chamberlains held only one or two posts. For instance, the chamberlainship of Muḥammad b. 'Alī b. Muḥammad, known as Ibn al-Wakīl, was confined solely to the office of the *Dīwān al-'Azīz*.
- 3. The reasons for appointment to the office of chamberlain were varied. They included the competence and administrative experience demonstrated by certain individuals, social prominence as members of notable families, or closeness to the Abbasid caliph. Such qualifications often led to promotion to the chamberlainship or to other senior offices.
- 4. The reasons for dismissal from the office of chamberlain were, in some cases, obscure and not mentioned by the sources. In other cases, they were clearly documented, such as



promotion to a higher rank, adherence to a sectarian affiliation contrary to that of the ruling authority, incompetence, or misconduct.

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¹ Al-Ḥijāba: Linguistically, it denotes "concealment" or "veiling." Ḥajaba al-shay' means "to cover or conceal it," while ḥijāb signifies "a covering" or "a barrier." The term ḥājib (literally, "doorkeeper") became a predominant designation; its plural forms are ḥujjab and ḥijāb. To "ḥajaba someone" also means "to prevent him from entering." Technically, the office of ḥijāba referred to the individual who screened the ruler from the public, closing the door before them or granting them access at his discretion and according to prescribed times. See: Ibn al-Mawṣilāyā, Rasāʾil Amīn al-Dawla Ibn al-Mawṣilāyā, p. 169; Ibn Manzūr, Lisān al-ʿArab, vol. 1, p. 298; Ibn Khaldūn, Tārīkh Ibn Khaldūn, vol. 1, p. 240.

² Ḥasan, al-Nuẓum al-Islāmiyya, p. 146; al-Madanī, al-Shakwā min al-Ḥijāb fī al-Shiʻr al-ʿArabī ḥattā Nihāyat al-ʿAṣr al-ʿAbbāsī, p. 168.



³ Ḥasan, al-Nuẓum al-Islāmiyya, p. 147; al-Madanī, al-Shakwā min al-Ḥijāb fī al-Shiʻr al-ʿArabī ḥattā Nihāyat al-ʿAṣr al-ʿAbbāsī, p. 168.

⁴ **al-Dīwān al-ʿAzīz**: This was the bureau annexed to the caliphal palace, known also as *al-Dīwān al-ʿAzīz al-Nabawī*. It was originally the bureau of correspondence (*dīwān al-rasāʾil*). The chamberlain of *al-Dīwān al-ʿAzīz* was regarded as a highly significant office within the administrative system of the state, as he served in effect as the custodian of its secrets and was privy to its confidential affairs. Among his principal duties was the transmission of the caliph's orders concerning the dismissal of senior state officials. See: al-Sayyid al-Shūrā, *Wazāʾif Dār al-Khilāfa al-ʿAbbāsiyya*, pp. 1138–1139.

⁵ **Bāb al-Nūbī**: This was one of the most prominent gates of the 'Abbāsid caliphal palace in Baghdad. Its name derived from Saʿīd al-Nūbī, the chamberlain regarded as the earliest and first gatekeeper to be associated with it. He died in Şafar 314 AH. See: Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntazam*, vol. 13, p. 247; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 23, p. 477.

⁶ **Bāb al-Marātib**: Another of the principal gates of the caliphal palace in Baghdad, it was considered one of the most important and prestigious entrances. Its chamberlain held great distinction. Behind the gate lay a large quarter inhabited by notables, merchants, dignitaries, and families of established lineage. See: Yāqūt al-Ḥamawī, *Muʻjam al-Buldān*, vol. 1, p. 312; Ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq, *Marāṣid al-Iṭṭilāʿ*, vol. 1, p. 146.

⁷ The office of Ḥājib al-Ḥujjāb (chief chamberlain) functioned as the caliph's advisor in all state affairs, granting him significant influence over the administration of the caliphate. The title Ḥājib al-Ḥujjāb was used to distinguish him from the other chamberlains of the caliphal palace. According to some sources, the office was first mentioned during the caliphate of 'Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān, whose chamberlain's duty was to screen the caliph from the public, closing or opening access to him at appointed times. However, Ibn Taghrībirdī states that the position of Ḥājib al-Ḥujjāb first appeared in the reign of al-Muttaqī, when he conferred the robe of honor on Badr al-Khurshanī and appointed him as chief of the chamberlains. See: al-Qalqashandī, Ṣubḥ al-A'shā, vol. 4, p. 20; al-Nujūm al-Zāhira, vol. 3, p. 272.

⁸ Ibn al-Mawşilāyā, *Rasā'il Amīn al-Dawla Ibn al-Mawşilāyā*, p. 169.

⁹ This will be discussed in the following pages.

¹⁰ Ibn al-Jawzī, al-Muntazam, vol. 8, p. 101; Mustāf, al-Ra'y al-ʿĀmm fī al-ʿIrāq fī ʿAsr al-Saytara al-Saljūqiyya, p. 120.

¹¹ This was among the important offices that emerged in Baghdad from the mid-fourth century AH onward. Its holder was a prominent figure, serving as the personal attendant of the caliph, the overseer of the 'Abbāsid household, and the supervisor of all employees within the caliphal palace. He was also responsible for the maintenance and reconstruction of the palace complex. See: Ibn al-Mawṣilāyā, *Rasā'il Amīn al-Dawla Ibn al-Mawṣilāyā*, p. 168; al-Kāzarūnī, *Maqāmah fī Qawā'id Baghdād*, p. 434; al-Qadhaḥāt, *Manṣib Ustād al-Dār fī al-Khilāfa al-'Abbāsiyya*, p. 2.

¹² Sibt Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 21, p. 235

¹³ This will be discussed in the following pages

¹⁴ Sibt Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 21, p. 235.



¹⁵ See: al-Iṣfahānī, *Tārīkh Dawlat Āl Saljūq*, p. 196; Ibn al-Athīr, *al-Kāmil fī al-Tārīkh*, vol. 10, p. 14; al-Nuwayrī, *Nihāyat al-Arab fī Funūn al-Adab*, vol. 23, p. 234.

In the year 450 AH, the khutba in the name of Caliph al-Qā'im was discontinued in Baghdad, as al-Basāsīrī insisted on expelling the caliph from the city. Al-Qā'im was handed over to Mahārish al-'Uqaylī, the ruler of Ḥadītha 'Ānah on the Euphrates. Mahārish, known for his piety and generosity, received the caliph in his fortress and treated him with full honor. Among those who served him in exile was Abū Turāb al-Athīrī. During his forced stay in Ḥadītha 'Ānah, al-Qā'im composed a petition complaining of the injustice he suffered at the hands of al-Basāsīrī, which he sent to be hung upon the Ka'ba. The caliph's exile lasted for an entire year. After Sultan Ṭughril Beg had suppressed the rebellion of his brother Ibrāhīm Ināl, he summoned the caliph and restored him to Baghdad. Ṭughril then marched to confront al-Basāsīrī, who was killed in 451 AH. See: Ibn al-'Imrānī, al-Anbā' fī Tārīkh al-Khulafā', pp. 195—196; Ibn al-Jawzī, al-Muntazam, vol. 16, pp. 34—36; al-Işfahānī, Tārīkh Dawlat Āl Saljūq, p. 196.

¹⁷ 'Alī ibn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn 'Alī ibn Aḥmad ibn 'Āmir, Abū al-Ḥasan, known as Ibn al-Wakīl. He was the father of Abū al-Faḍl Muḥammad and Abū al-Faṭḥ Aḥmad. The al-Wakīl family belonged to an old lineage, and they were given this name because one of their ancestors served as an agent (*wakīl*) for the caliph al-Qā'im bi-Amr Allāh. See: Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, p. 288.

¹⁸ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, p. 288; Ibn al-Najjār, *Dhayl Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 4, p. 56.

¹⁹ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 2, p. 404.

²⁰ Ibid., vol. 2, p. 301.

²¹ Ibid., vol. 3, p. 79.

²² Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 378; al-Dhahabī, *al-Mukhtaṣar min Tārīkh Ibn al-Dubaythī*, p. 33.

²³ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 378.

²⁴ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 441; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 12, p. 473.

²⁵ Ibn al-Fuwaţī, *Majma* 'al-Ādāb, vol. 3, pp. 5–6.

²⁶ Ibid., vol. 1, p. 560.

²⁷ Sibţ Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 21, p. 268; Jawād wa-Sūsa, *Dalīl Khāriţat Baghdād*, p. 158; al-Khaḍr and Ṣāliḥ, *al-Jawānib al-Wazīfiyya li-Bāb al-Nūbī fī Baghdād*, pp. 356–357.

²⁸ Ghāzī, al-Adwār al-Wazīfiyya li-Abwāb Sūr Ḥarīm Dār al-Khilāfa, pp. 6–7.

²⁹ Abū al-Qāsim Bakrān: he was Bakrān ibn 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Baghdādī, who served as chamberlain (ḥājib) during the caliphate of al-Qādir bi-'Ilāh. His son, Abū Manṣūr, later assumed the same office during the reign of al-Qā'im. See: al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī, *Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 7, p. 136; Ibn al-Kāzarūnī, *Mukhtaṣar al-Tārīkh*, p. 201; al-Nuwayrī, *Nihāyat al-Arab*, vol. 23, p. 219.

³⁰ al-Nuwayrī, *Nihāyat al-Arab fī Funūn al-Adab*, pp. 23, 219.

³¹ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 16, p. 91; Ibn al-Mawṣilāyā, *Rasāʾil Amīn al-Dawla Ibn al-Mawṣilāyā*, p. 169.



- ³² Sibţ Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 19, pp. 396–397; al-Bākhirzī, *Dumyat al-Qaşr wa-ʿUṣrat Ahl al-ʿAṣr*, vol. 1, p. 350.
- ³³ Sibţ Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 19, pp. 396–397.
- ³⁴ al-Muntazam, vol. 16, pp. 243–244.
- ³⁵ Maqbarat Quraysh: also known as Maqbarat Bāb al-Tabn, after the district of Bāb al-Tabn. Initially, it served as a cemetery for the Banū Hāshim. Among the most notable figures buried there are Imām Mūsā ibn Jaʿfar al-Kāzim, his grandson Muḥammad al-Jawād (peace be upon them), Lady Zubayda (wife of Caliph Hārūn al-Rashīd), along with many other scholars and jurists. See: al-Baghdādī, *Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 9, p. 82; al-Iṣfahānī, *Kharīdat al-Qaṣr*, vol. 4, p. 284.
- ³⁶ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 16, pp. 243–244.
- ³⁷ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 16, p. 166; al-Ṣafadī, *al-Wāfī bi-al-Wafayāt*, vol. 1, p. 135.
- ³⁸ 'Abd Allāh ibn Muḥammad ibn 'Alī ibn Muḥammad, Abū Jaʿfar al-Dāmghānī. His father, Abū 'Abd Allāh al-Dāmghānī, was *Qāḍī al-Quḍāt* (Chief Judge), as was his brother Abū al-Ḥasan al-Dāmghānī. When Abū Jaʿfar decided to resign from his judicial position, his brother Abū al-Ḥasan was deeply troubled by his departure from the office. Abū Jaʿfar passed away on the night of Tuesday, Jumādā I, in the year 518 AH. See: Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaṣam*, vol. 17, p. 226; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 11, p. 291.
- ³⁹ Abū al-'lzz al-Mu'ayyadī: no biographical entry was found for him.
- ⁴⁰ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 17, pp. 109, 226; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 11, p. 191.
- ⁴¹ Ibn al-Jawzī, al-Muntazam, vol. 17, p. 164; Ayyūb, Ākhir Ayyām al-'Abbāsiyyīn, pp. 129–130.
- ⁴² Ibn al-Jawzī, al-Muntazam, vol. 17, p. 164; al-Dhahabī, Tārīkh al-Islām, vol. 11, p. 814.
- ⁴³ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 5.
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- ⁴⁵ al-Wāfī bi-al-Wafayāt, vol. 13, p. 179.
- ⁴⁶ Ibn al-'Imrānī, *al-Abnā' fī Tārīkh al-Khulafā'*, p. 211; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 36, p. 490; al-'Ashmāwī, *Āl Ibn al-Şāhib wa-Dawruhum fī al-Khilāfa al-'Abbāsiyya*, p. 146.
- ⁴⁷ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 17, pp. 236, 299.
- ⁴⁸ al-ʿAshmāwī, Āl Ibn al-Ṣāḥib wa-Dawruhum fī al-Khilāfa al-ʿAbbāsiyya, p. 146.
- ⁴⁹ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 5.
- ⁵⁰ Hibat Allāh ibn al-Ṣāḥib was born in the year 453 AH and lived until 538 AH, passing away in Rabīʻ al-Ākhir of that year. He was therefore 81 years old at the time of his dismissal. See: Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaṭam*, vol. 18, p. 5; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 36, p. 491; al-ʿAshmāwī, *Āl Ibn al-Ṣāḥib wa-Dawruhum fī al-Khilāfa al-ʿAbbāsiyya*, pp. 147–148.



- ⁵¹ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 5; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 36, p. 491; al-ʿAshmāwī, *Āl Ibn al-Ṣāḥib* wa-Dawruhum fī al-Khilāfa al-ʿAbbāsiyya, pp. 147–148.
- ⁵² Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 5; Ibn al-Kāzarūnī, *Mukhtaṣar al-Tārīkh*, p. 232; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 38, p. 172.
- ⁵³ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntazam*, vol. 18, pp. 50, 101; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 38, p. 172.
- ⁵⁴ Ibn al-Jawzī records that Ibn al-Ṣayqal spent large sums of money in hopes of being appointed naqīb of the Abbasids. However, he was later arrested and compelled to repay the funds, which amounted to twelve thousand. He was forced to sell all of his possessions. See: *al-Muntazam*, vol. 18, p. 142.
- ⁵⁵ *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 101.
- ⁵⁶ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntazam*, vol. 18, p. 101; Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, pp. 98–99.
- ⁵⁷ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, p. 100.
- ⁵⁸ Ibn al-Najjār, *Dhayl Tārīkh Baqhdād*, vol. 4, p. 178.
- ⁵⁹ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, p. 558; Ibn al-Najjār, *Dhayl Tārīkh Baqhdād*, vol. 4, p. 178.
- 60 Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 218; Sibṭ Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mirʾāt al-Zamān*, vol. 21, p. 235.
- ⁶¹ Ibn al-Fuwaţī, *Majmaʿ al-Ādāb*, vol. 4, p. 546; al-Nuwayrī, *Nihāyat al-Arab*, vol. 23, pp. 309–310.
- ⁶² Mir'āt al-Zamān, vol. 21, p. 235; see also: Ibn al-Jawzī, al-Muntaẓam, vol. 18, p. 221.
- ⁶³ He threw himself upon the vizier 'Aḍud al-Dīn Abū al-Faraj to shield him, but he was wounded and died a few days later, on the 6th of Dhū al-Qa'da, 573 AH. See: Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 378; al-Dhahabī, *al-Mukhtaṣar min Tārīkh Ibn al-Dubaythī*, p. 33.
- ⁶⁴ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, pp. 439–440; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 12, p. 472.
- 65 Ibn al-Kāzarūnī, *Mukhtaṣar al-Tārīkh*, pp. 252, 280.
- 66 Sibţ Ibn al-Jawzī, Mir'āt al-Zamān, vol. 22, p. 62; al-Dhahabī, al-'Ibar fī Khabar man Ghabar, vol. 4, pp. 284–285.
- ⁶⁷ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 3, p. 406.
- 68 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 2, p. 264; Ibn al-Kāzarūnī, *Mukhtaṣar al-Tārīkh*, pp. 252–253.
- 69 Ibn Khallikān, Wafayāt al-A'yān, vol. 6, pp. 244–245; Ibn al-Kāzarūnī, Mukhtaşar al-Tārīkh, pp. 252–253.
- ⁷⁰ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 344; Ibn al-Fuwaṭī, *Majmaʿ al-Ādāb*, vol. 4, p. 228; vol. 5, p. 656.
- ⁷¹ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 3, p. 140; Ibn al-Sā'ī, *al-Jāmi* '*al-Mukhtaṣar*, vol. 9, p. 250.
- ⁷² Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaṣam*, vol. 17, p. 164.
- ⁷³ Ibid., vol. 17, pp. 109–226.
- ⁷⁴ Yāqūt al-Ḥamawī, *Muʻjam al-Buldān*, vol. 1, p. 146.
- ⁷⁵ Ibn al-Fuwatī, *Majma* 'al-Ādāb, vol. 2, pp. 421–422.
- ⁷⁶ Ibn al-Najjār, *Dhayl Tārīkh Baqhdād*, vol. 2, p. 33.



- ⁷⁷ al-Amīn, *Mustadrakāt al-Shīʿa*, vol. 5, p. 75; al-Sūdānī, *al-Waẓāʾif al-Idāriyya fī Dawlat al-Nāṣir li-Dīn Allāh al-ʿAbbāsī*, p. 96.
- ⁷⁸ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 441.
- ⁷⁹ al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 40, p. 34.
- ⁸⁰ al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 36, pp. 490–491.
- 81 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 2, p. 404.
- 82 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, pp. 297–298
- 83 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 485; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 12, p. 266.
- 84 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 378
- 85 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 2, p. 424; Ibn al-Fuwaţī, *Majmaʿ al-Ādāb*, vol. 4, p. 122.
- ⁸⁶ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 441; see also: al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 12, p. 473.
- ⁸⁷ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 344; Ibn al-Fuwatī, *Majmaʿ al-Ādāb*, vol. 4, p. 228.
- ⁸⁸ Ibn al-Fuwaţī, *Majmaʿ al-Ādāb*, vol. 1, p. 14; al-Dhahabī, *Siyar Aʿlām al-Nubalāʾ* , vol. 19, p. 145.
- 89 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 485; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 12, p. 266.
- 90 Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 17, p. 164.
- ⁹¹ Ibid., vol. 17, pp. 109–226.
- 92 al-Işfahānī, Tārīkh Dawlat Āl Saljūq, p. 196; Ibn al-Athīr, al-Kāmil fī al-Tārīkh, vol. 10, p. 14.
- 93 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhayl Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, p. 288.
- ⁹⁴ Ibid., vol. 2, p. 404.
- ⁹⁵ Ibid., vol. 2, p. 301.
- ⁹⁶ Ibid., vol. 2, p. 404.
- ⁹⁷ Ibid., vol. 1, p. 378.
- ⁹⁸ Ibid., vol. 1, p. 441.
- 99 Ibn al-Fuwaţī, *Majma' al-Ādāb*, vol. 3, p. 605.
- ¹⁰⁰ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 16, p. 91.
- ¹⁰¹ Sibt Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 19, pp. 396–397.
- ¹⁰² Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 16, p. 166.
- ¹⁰³ Ibid., vol. 17, p. 164.
- ¹⁰⁴ Ibid., vol. 17, p. 164.
- ¹⁰⁵ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 17.
- ¹⁰⁶ al-Şafadī, *al-Wāfī bi-al-Wafayāt*, vol. 13, p. 179.
- ¹⁰⁷ Ibn al-'Umrānī, *al-Abnā' fī Tārīkh al-Khulafā'*, p. 211; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 36, p. 490.
- ¹⁰⁸ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 5; Ibn al-Kāzarūnī, *Mukhtaṣar al-Tārīkh*, p. 232.
- ¹⁰⁹ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntαẓam*, vol. 18, p. 5; al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 36, p. 491.



- ¹¹⁰ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, pp. 50, 101.
- ¹¹¹ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 101; Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhail Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 4, pp. 98–99.
- ¹¹² Ibn al-Najjār, *Dhail Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 4, p. 178.
- ¹¹³ Sibt Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 21, p. 235.
- ¹¹⁴ Ibn al-Jawzī, *al-Muntaẓam*, vol. 18, p. 221; Sibt Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mirʾāt al-Zamān*, vol. 21, p. 235.
- ¹¹⁵ Sibt Ibn al-Jawzī, *Mir'āt al-Zamān*, vol. 22, p. 62; al-Dhahabī, *al-'Ibar fī Khabar man Ghabar*, vol. 4, pp. 284–285.
- ¹¹⁶ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhail Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 3, p. 406.
- ¹¹⁷ Ibid., vol. 2, p. 264.
- ¹¹⁸ Ibn al-Kāzarūnī, *Mukhtaşar al-Tārīkh*, p. 253.
- ¹¹⁹ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhail Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 344.
- ¹²⁰ Ibid., vol. 3, p. 140.
- ¹²¹ al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 36, pp. 490–491.
- ¹²² Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhail Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 2, p. 404.
- ¹²³ Ibid., vol. 1, pp. 297-298.
- ¹²⁴ Ibid., vol. 1, p. 485.
- ¹²⁵ Ibid., vol. 1, p. 378.
- 126 Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhail Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 2, p. 424; Ibn al-Fūṭī, *Majmaʿ al-Ādāb*, vol. 4, p. 122.
- ¹²⁷ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhail Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 2, p. 424.
- ¹²⁸ Ibid., vol. 1, p. 441.
- ¹²⁹ Ibn al-Fūtī, *Majma* '*al-Ādāb*, vol. 2, pp. 421–422
- ¹³⁰ Ibn al-Najjār, *Dhail Tārīkh Baghdād*, vol. 2, p. 33.
- ¹³¹ Ibn al-Dubaythī, *Dhail Tārīkh Madīnat al-Salām*, vol. 1, p. 441.
- ¹³² al-Dhahabī, *Tārīkh al-Islām*, vol. 40, p. 34.