



‘ABDAK AL-ŞŪFĪ

‘ABDAK AL-ŞŪFĪ, an eccentric religious devotee of Kūfa, who also lived for periods at Baghdad, late 2nd/8th to early 3rd/9th centuries. He and the “Abdakites” who were named after him advanced the teaching that the acquisition and possession of worldly goods was permissible only under a righteous leader of the Muslim theocracy. Thus such activities were unlawful in their own time, and a person should acquire only what was absolutely necessary for survival (*qūt*). The manner of acquisition apparently was not dealt with by the ‘Abdakites. The sources do not specify that ‘Abdak practiced vegetarianism and hoped for the imminent coming of the Mahdī (as indicated in Massignon, *Essai*, p. 61), but such beliefs follow from his line of thought.

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