



## EBN AL-JE'ĀBĪ, ABŪ BAKR MOḤAMMAD

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**EBN AL-JE'ĀBĪ, ABŪ BAKR MOḤAMMAD** b. 'Omar Tamīmī Ḥāfeẓ, traditionist with Shi'ite leanings (b. Baghdad 23 or 24 Šafar 284/1 or 2 April 897, d. Baghdad 15 Rajab 355/7 July 966). A student of Ebn 'Oqda (d. 332/943; q.v.), the foremost Kufan traditionist of his time, he transmitted from a large number of other traditionists and traveled to Egypt, Syria, and Persia to study and teach. For some time he was associated with the Buyid vizier Ebn al-'Amīd. Ebn al-Je'ābī had a prodigious memory, even by the standards of traditionists (Tanūkī, IV, p. 255), and was also an expert on the defects (*'elal*) of Hadith and on their transmitters. Among those who heard traditions from him were the most famous Sunni traditionists of the following generation, including 'Alī Dāraçoṭnī, Ḥākem Naysābūrī, and Abū No'aym Ešfahānī. Among the Imamis, the Shaikh Mofīd transmitted from him. His pro-Shi'ite attitude was well-known, but most likely he represented, like his teacher Ebn 'Oqda, a general pro-'Alid tendency, closer to the Zaydī than the Imami tradition, without any specific sectarian affiliation. The poet Ebn Sokkara derided him in a poem for his hypocrisy, charging that he supported the rights of 'Alī in the presence of Imamis and the authority of the Companions in the presence of Sunnis. Before his death he either personally burned all his books or ordered their burning in his will, and in fact none are extant, though some are occasionally quoted in *Ta'rīk Baġdād*. Among the titles mentioned are *Ketāb aḵbār Baġdād*, *Ketāb ṭabaqāt ašḥāb al-ḥadīṭ*, *Ketāb al-mawālī*, a large *Ketāb al-Šī'a men ašḥāb al-ḥadīṭ wa ṭabaqātehem*, *Ketāb aḵbār Āl Abī Ṭāleb*, and *Ketāb al-mosnad*.



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