



## EBN ŠĀHAWAYH

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**EBN ŠĀHAWAYH (Šāhūya), ABŪ BAKR MOḤAMMAD b. ‘Alī**, a leader and envoy of the [Carmatians](#). In Šawwāl 366/May-June 977 he occupied Kūfa at the head of 1,000 Carmatians supporting the claim of the Buyid Aẓod-al-Dawla to the rule of Iraq against that of his cousin ‘Ezz-al-Dawla. Later he became the permanent representative of the Bahrain Qarmaṭīs to the court of [Aẓod-al-Dawla](#). In 369/979-80 he was sent by ‘Aẓod-al-Dawla from Hamadān on a mission to Baṣra but soon returned to his court. No doubt for political reasons, Aẓod-al-Dawla maintained close relations with him. Ebn Šāhawayh is described as a friend of Aẓod-al-Dawla’s vizier ‘Abd-al-‘Azīz b. Yūsuf, of the Qāzī Abū ‘Alī Tanūḳī, and of Šāḥeb b. ‘Abbād, then vizier of ‘Aẓod-al-Dawla’s brother Mo’ayyed-al-Dawla in Ray. After the death of ‘Aẓod-al-Dawla in 372/983, Ebn Šāhawayh became the representative of the Carmatians at the court of Šamšām-al-Dawla in Baghdad. He had close ties with Ebn Sa’dān, appointed vizier by Šamšām-al-Dawla in 373/983. In 374/984 he was in Oman and persuaded its governor to change his allegiance from Šaraf-al-Dawla to his brother and rival, Šamšām-al-Dawla. Later in the year, Ebn Sa’dān and his friends, including Ebn Šāhawayh, were arrested; Ebn Sa’dān’s close relations with the Carmatians may have contributed to his fall, since the latter apparently were shifting their support at this time to Šaraf-al-Dawla, who had also quickly regained control over Oman. When Ebn Sa’dān and his companions were executed in 375/985, Ebn Šāhawayh was overlooked. He was soon released and restored to a position of honor by the vizier Abu’l-Rayyān. The same year the Carmatians of Bahrain occupied Kūfa and proclaimed Šaraf-al-Dawla the ruler, giving the imprisonment of their representative as a



pretext. Abu'l-Rayyān now employed Ebn Šāhawayh as his intermediary with the invaders. Shortly afterward the Carmatians suffered a disastrous defeat which broke their power in Iraq permanently. Ebn Šāhawayh evidently also lost his influence, and there is no more mention of him thereafter in the sources.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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