

# ‘Abdallāh ibn Buluqqīn

Abū Muḥammad ‘Abdallāh ibn Buluqqīn (ibn Buluggīn)  
ibn Bādīs ibn Ḥabūs al-Ṣinhāji

DATE OF BIRTH January 1056  
PLACE OF BIRTH Granada  
DATE OF DEATH 1095  
PLACE OF DEATH Agmāt (Maghreb)

## BIOGRAPHY

‘Abdallāh ibn Buluqqīn was the last Zīrid king of the taifa of Granada (1073-90), succeeding his grandfather Bādīs. His predecessors were of Berber origin, and arrived in al-Andalus during the period of the caliphate, taking power in Granada after its collapse.

During his reign, ‘Abdallāh and his vizier had to resist a number of threats to the kingdom and his own position. His own brother Tamīm opposed him, Alfonso VI demanded tribute after the conquest of Alcalá la Real, and the frontiers were attacked by the king of Seville, allied with the rulers of Castile and Almería.

After the Christian conquest of Toledo in 1085, the taifa of Granada asked the Almoravids for help, only to be taken by them soon afterwards. ‘Abdallāh was deposed and left al-Andalus for Marrakesh and Agmāt, where he died.

Some of his biographers portray ‘Abdallāh as a scholar, stressing his deep knowledge of rhetoric and poetry.

## MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION

### *Primary*

Ibn Buluqqīn, ‘Abd Allāh, *Kitāb al-tibyān li-l-amīr ‘Abd Allāh ibn Buluqqīn, akhīr umarā’ Banī Zīrī bi-Gharnāṭa*, ed. A.T. al-Ṭībī, Rabat, 1995

Ibn al-Khaṭīb, *Al-iḥāṭa fī akhbār Gharnāṭa*, ed. M.‘A.A. ‘Inān, 4 vols, Cairo, 1973-78, iii, pp. 379-82

Ibn Sa‘īd, *Al-mughrib fī ḥulā l-Maghrib*, ed. S. Ḍayf, 2 vols, Cairo, 1953-55, ii, pp. 108, 115, 154

*Secondary*

- J. Lirola Delgado, art. 'Ibn Buluqqīn, 'Abd Allāh', in *Enciclopedia de al-Andalus*
- J. Samsó, 'Sobre el horóscopo y la fecha de nacimiento de 'Abd Allāh, último rey zīrī de Granada', *Boletín de la Real Academia de la Historia* 187 (1990) 209-15
- E. Lévi-Provençal and E. García Gómez, *El siglo XI en 1ª persona. Las 'Memorias' de 'Abd Allāh, último rey zīrī de Granada, destronado por los almorávides (1090)*, Madrid, 1980, pp. 15-57
- 'A. Ibn Ibrāhīm, *Al-i'lām bi-man ḥalla Marrākush wa-Agmāt min al-a'lām*, ed. 'A.W. Ibn Manṣūr, 10 vols, Rabat, 1974-83, viii, pp. 184-86

## WORKS ON CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

*Kitāb al-tibyān 'an al-ḥāditha al-kā'ina bi-dawlat Banī Zīrī fī Gharnāṭa*, 'Explanation of the situation that prevailed under the Zīrid dynasty in Granada'

DATE 1094-95

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Arabic

## DESCRIPTION

This work was conceived as a history of the Zīrid dynasty of Granada. Even though it is partial, it gives detailed descriptions of how the Kingdom of Granada survived during the last quarter of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. As 'Abdallāh's own autobiography, it can be understood as a king's justification for the treaties he made with Christians, and particularly with Alfonso VI.

At the start of the work, 'Abdallāh reflects on the importance of religion and the realization that one's destiny is held by God. He says that polytheists and the People of the Book are mistaken in rejecting the Prophet of Islam, who was the successor and seal of their own prophets, and the renewer of their faith.

In justification of himself, he protests that, when the Almoravids were at the gates of Granada, he preferred that they should take the city rather than leaving it to the Christians, and affirms that they would find no Christians inside when they entered.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The work contains informative references about the political activities of Alfonso VI and his relationships with the taifa kings. More

importantly, though briefly, it tells about what appears to have been a Christian population in Granada as something that was used against ‘Abdallāh by the Almoravids when they took the city.

MANUSCRIPTS

MS Fes, Jāmi‘ Qarawiyyīn – 1886 (date unknown; incomplete)

EDITIONS & TRANSLATIONS

*Kitāb at-tibyān ‘an al-ḥāditha l-kā’ina bi-dawlat Banī-Zirī fi Gharnāṭa*, ed. A. ‘Umar, Cairo, 2006

‘Abd Allāh ibn Buluqqīn, *Kitāb al-tibyān li-l-amīr ‘Abd Allāh ibn Buluqqīn, ajr umarā’ Banī Zirī bi-Garnāṭa*, ed. A.T. al-Ṭībī, Rabat, 1995

A.T. al-Ṭībī, *The Tibyān. Memoirs of ‘Abd Allāh b. Bulluggīn last Zirīd amīr of Granada*, Leiden, 1986 (trans.).

Lévi-Provençal and García Gómez, *El siglo XI en 1ª persona* (Spanish trans.)

‘Abd Allāh ibn Buluqqīn, *Min mudhakkirāt al-amīr ‘Abd Allāh akhīr Banī Zirī bi-Garnāṭa al-musammā bi-Kitāb al-tibyān*, ed. E. Lévi-Provençal, Cairo, 1955

É. Lévi-Provençal, ‘Les “Mémoires” de ‘Abd Allāh, dernier roi zirīde de Grenade’, *Al-Andalus* 3 (1935) 233-344; *Al-Andalus* 4 (1936) 29-143; ‘Deux nouveaux fragments des “Mémoires” du roi zirīde ‘Abd Allāh de Grenade’, *Al-Andalus* 6 (1941) 1-63 (partial edition)

STUDIES

Al-Ṭībī, *The Tibyān*, pp. 1-30

Lévi-Provençal and García Gómez, *El siglo XI en 1ª persona*, 13-57

**Amalia Zomeño**