

# Ibn Bashkuwāl

Abū l-Qāsim Khalaf ibn ‘Abd al-Malik ibn Mas‘ūd ibn  
Mūsā ibn Bashkuwāl al-Anṣārī l-Khazrajī

DATE OF BIRTH 29 September 1101  
PLACE OF BIRTH Cordova  
DATE OF DEATH 5 January 1183  
PLACE OF DEATH Cordova

## BIOGRAPHY

An Andalusī traditionist, historian and jurist, Ibn Bashkuwāl is known mainly for his biographical dictionary *Kitāb al-ṣila fī ta’rikh a’immat al-Andalus* (‘The continuation on the history of the sages of al-Andalus’).

Ibn Bashkuwāl was the son of the Cordovan jurist Abū Marwān ‘Abd al-Malik (d. 1139), by whom he was taught Islamic law. His family came from the locality known as Shurriyūn, in the *vega* of Valencia, but Ibn Bashkuwāl’s entire life and professional activity was situated in Cordova and Seville. In Cordova he worked for a time drafting contracts, while in Seville he became a member of the judiciary as a subordinate of the chief *qāḍī* Abū Bakr ibn al-‘Arabī (d. 1148). However, he soon gave up public office completely in order to devote himself exclusively to studying and teaching, dedicating himself to the composition of ascetic works and biographical dictionaries.

With regard to his academic background, we know that he did not travel east to carry out his studies, as was usual among Andalusī ‘ulamā’. But this did not prevent him from being acquainted with the knowledge of the day. His biographers insist on how numerous his teachers and disciples were, his most outstanding teacher being the Cordovan traditionist Abū Muḥammad ibn ‘Attāb (d. 1126), along with Ibn al-‘Arabī, as well as the Qāḍī ‘Iyāḍ (d. 1149) from Ceuta, and Abū ‘Alī al-Ṣadaḥī (d. 1120).

The biographers set the total number of works composed by Ibn Bashkuwāl at 50, although the titles they actually cite are far fewer. The literary creation of this author centred on Hadith and *akhbār*, as well as biographies of those who transmitted them. The greater part

of his written legacy consists of the compilation of pious tales and biographies of important figures known for their devotion.

### MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### *Primary*

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- Ibn al-Abbār, *Al-takmila li-Kitāb al-ṣila*, ed. F. Codera, Madrid, 1886, pp. 54-58, no. 179
- Ibn Khallikān, *Wafayāt al-aʿyān*, ii, pp. 240-41, no. 217
- Al-Dhahabī, *Kitāb tadhkirat al-huffāz*, 4 vols, Hyderabad, 1958, iv, pp. 1339-41, no. 1097
- Al-Dhahabī, *Siyar aʿlām al-nubalāʾ*, 24 vols, Beirut, 1985, xxi, pp. 139-43, no. 71
- Al-ʿUmārī, *Masālik al-abṣār fi mamālik al-amṣār*, 24 vols, Frankfurt, 1988, v, pp. 238-39
- Al-Ṣafadī, *Al-wāfi bi-l-wafayāt*, 30 vols, Wiesbaden, 1962-2004, xiii, p. 369, no. 463
- Ibn Kathīr, *Al-bidāya wa-l-nihāya fi l-taʾriḫ*, 14 vols, Cairo, 1932, xii, p. 312
- Ibn Farḥūn, *Al-dībāj al-mudhhab fi maʿrifat aʿyān ʿulamāʾ al-madhab*, ed. M. Abū l-Nūr, 2 vols, Cairo, 1972, i, pp. 353-54

#### *Secondary*

- M. Ben Cheneb and A. Huici Miranda, art. 'Ibn Bashkuwāl', in *El2*
- B.M. Majlūf, *Shajarat al-nūr al-zakiyya fi ṭabaqāt al-mālikiyya*, 2 vols, Cairo, 1931, i, pp. 154-55
- C. de la Puente, art. 'Ibn Baškuwāl', in *Enciclopedia de al-Andalus*.
- Ibn Bashkuwāl, *Kitāb al-qurba ilā Rabb al-ʿālamīn (El acercamiento a Dios)*, ed. C. de la Puente, Madrid, 1995, pp. 19-29
- C. de la Puente, 'La transmisión de hadiz y de tradiciones ascéticas en al-Andalus en el s. VI/XII a través de la biografía de Ibn Baškuwāl', in M. Marín and H. de Felipe (eds), *Estudios onomástico-biográficos de al-Andalus VII*, Madrid, 1995, pp. 231-84
- F. Pons Boigues, *Ensayo bio-bibliográfico sobre los historiadores y geógrafos árabe-españoles*, Madrid, 1993, pp. 246-47, no. 200
- Ibn Bashkuwāl, *Kitāb al-mustaghīthīn bi-llāh (En busca del socorro divino)*, ed. M. Marín, Madrid, 1991, pp. 15-22
- D. Urvoy, *Pensers d'al-Andalus. La vie intellectuelle à Cordoue et Seville au temps des empires berbères (fin XI<sup>e</sup> siècle-début XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle)*, Paris, 1990, p. 103

D. Urvoy, *Le monde des ulémas andalous du V/XIe au VII/XIIIe siècle*, Geneva, 1978, p. 13

#### WORKS ON CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

*Kitāb al-ṣila fī ta'riḫ a'immat al-Andalus*, 'The continuation of the history of the sages of al-Andalus', 'The continuation'

DATE 1139

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Arabic

#### DESCRIPTION

The *Ṣila* is Ibn Bashkuwāl's best-known work, being the continuation of the biographical dictionary compiled by Ibn al-Faradī (d. 1013), *Ta'riḫ 'ulamā' al-Andalus*. The *Ṣila* was continued by other authors: Ibn al-Abbār in his *Takmila* ('The complement') and Ibn al-Zubayr in *Ṣilat al-ṣila* ('The continuation of The continuation').

Ibn Bashkuwāl's *Ṣila* is a collection of 1400 biographies of 'ulamā' from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. The personalities whose lives are featured are grouped alphabetically by name and, under each name, are ordered chronologically in accordance with the date of their death. The length of the biographies depends on the intellectual relevance of the person. Almost all of them have the same structure: the person's complete name, place of birth, profession, his teachers and the works he learnt with them, description of his qualities as a scholar and an enumeration of his works where appropriate, his disciples and the works he taught them, and finally his date of death. Sometimes the date of birth or the scholar's age are also added.

#### SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to its historiographical value, one of the main interests of this work lies in what it says about activities on the frontier between al-Andalus and the Christian kingdoms of the north of the peninsula. Furthermore, the *Ṣila* includes isolated but interesting references to Andalusī figures who took part in the jihad against the Christians, and others who carried out *ribāt* on the Christian-Muslim frontier. From a social and demographic viewpoint, it is also possible to locate names, originally Christian, that were later arabized (as Ibn Bashkuwāl's own name, for instance). The *Ṣila* also presents valuable information of social interest by including pejorative expressions against Christians.

## MANUSCRIPTS

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MS El Escorial, Real Biblioteca de El Escorial – 1672 (1212)

## EDITIONS &amp; TRANSLATIONS

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## STUDIES

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Urvoy, *Pensers d’al-Andalus*, pp. 103-4

H. de Felipe and N. Torres, ‘Fuentes y método historiográfico en el *Kitāb al-Ṣila* de Ibn Baškuwāl’, in M.L. Ávila (ed.), *Estudios onomástico-biográficos de al-Andalus III*, Granada, 1989, pp. 308-34

Urvoy, *Le monde des ulémas andalous du V/XI<sup>e</sup> au VII/XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, pp. 11, 13-14

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