

He remained the head of the house of al-Walīd I during the events of 126/744. Invited to join the plot of his brother Yazīd b. al-Walīd (Yazīd III, reigned for six months in 126/744) against the incumbent al-Walīd b. Yazīd (al-Walīd II, r. 125-6/743-4), he demurred, counselling patience and quietism and fearing the destruction of the Umayyad house. When the revolt against al-Walīd did break out, and Yazīd was enthroned in Damascus as caliph, al-'Abbās continued to support al-Walīd, and rode from Ḥimş into the desert near Tadmur with his thirty sons and other retainers to try to protect the legitimate caliph. Wounded and captured by Yazīd's supporters, al-'Abbās gave his oath of allegiance to the new caliph, was pardoned, and became his adviser. Meanwhile, al-Walīd was killed, and the home of al-'Abbās in Ḥimş was destroyed by those who believed that he had betrayed al-Walīd.

According to some reports, al-'Abbās died shortly afterward from his wounds, but other traditions say that Marwān b. Muḥammad (Marwān II, r. 127-32/744-50) put him in prison in Ḥarrān, where he either died of the plague or was killed in 132/750.

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143, 149, 153; E. W. Brooks, The Arabs in Asia Minor 641-750, from Arabic sources, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 18 (1898), 182-208; Ralf-Johannes Lilie, *Die byzantinische Reaktion auf die Ausbreitung der Araber. Studien zur Strukturwandlung des byzantinischen Staates im 7. und 8. Jahrhundert*, Munich 1976; Andrew Palmer (ed. and trans.), *The seventh century in the West-Syrian chronicles* (Liverpool 1993), 64-5, 208-9.

KHALID YAHYA BLANKINSHIP

'Abbāsa bt. al-Mahdī

'Abbāsa bt. al-Mahdī, half-sister of Hārūn al-Rashīd (Ibn Qutayba, *Ma'ārif*, ed. Tharwat 'Ukāsha (Cairo 1960), 380; Ibn 'Abd Rabbihī, *al-'Iqd al-farīd*, ed. Aḥmad Amīn, Aḥmad al-Zayn, and Ibrāhīm al-Ibyārī (Cairo 1965), 5:115). Beginning with the history of al-Ṭabarī (d. 310/923), her name is linked in chronicles and *adab* to that of the minister Ja'far al-Barmakī, in a story told to explain his and his family's ruin. Hārūn, it is said, loved the company of both 'Abbāsa and Ja'far, and in order that Ja'far might join her at the caliphal pleasure parties, united them in a marriage that was to have no substance. In some reports, Ja'far's (al-Ṭabarī, 3:676-7) or the couple's (al-Dhahabī, *Siyar a'lām al-nubalā'*, ed. Kāmil al-Kharrāṭ (Beirut 1982), 9:66) befuddlement with wine accounts for the disaster that follows. 'Abbāsa bears a child who is placed in the care of a nurse in Mecca. A resentful maid denounces the couple to Hārūn. He tracks down the evidence and has Ja'far killed soon after. The child is spared.

A longer and more romantic telling of the story turns on 'Abbāsa's reckless passion for Ja'far (e.g., al-Mas'ūdī, *Murūj*, ed. C. Barbier de Meynard (Paris 1871) 6:387-93; Ibn Khallikān, *Wafayāt al-a'yān*,

Abbāse but. Mahdī
(Halife mahdīwīn kīn)

'ABBĀSAH al-, daughter of Caliph al-Mahdī*, sister of the Caliphs Hārūn al-Rashīd* and al-Hādī*, was married three times. All three of her husbands died before her. Popular version has it that she contracted a fourth marriage with Hārūn al-Rashīd's vizier* Ja'far ibn-Yahyā al-Barmakī* against the will of the caliph, who is said to have therefore put to death his vizier. This subject has been treated by various European and Oriental authors. Amongst the better known novels may be mentioned 'Abbasa', by Aimé Giron, 1753 and 'Les Nuits de Baghdad' by Albert Tozza, 1904.

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- Abbase bint Mahdi

5362 A'YAN AL-'ABBĀSĪ, 'ABD AL-WAHĪD
BĀSH. "In defense of al-'Abbāsa bint al-
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196-9. Al-Rashīd's sister had nothing to do
with the fall of the Barmakis.

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