

JA'FAR B. MUBASHSHIR

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RACHA EL OMARI

Ja'far b. Mubashshir

Abū Muḥammad **Ja'far b. Mubashshir** b. Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Thaqafî (d. 234/849) was an early Mu'tazilî theologian of Baghdad who hailed from the city of Tūs, in eastern Iran. A polymath, he was renowned for his knowledge of Prophetic traditions (*ḥadīth*) and jurisprudence, his eloquence, and his asceticism. He is also remembered as a disciple of Abū Mūsā l-Murdār (d. 226/841), a key figure among Mu'tazilî ascetics in Baghdad. The *nisba* "al-Qaşabî" ("the sugarcane seller") was used pejoratively and only by his opponents. His brother Ḥubaysh (d. 258/872) was also a scholar of jurisprudence and *ḥadīth* and held pro-'Alid Shī'î sentiments, but—in contrast to Ja'far—he tended toward anthropomorphic (*ḥashwî*) views and associated himself with the court through his work as a secretary (al-Jishumî, fols. 63b-64a; van Ess, *TG*, 4:56-7)

Of the twenty-three attested titles of works by Ja'far, none are extant (van Ess, *TG*, 6:274-5), but fragments of his thought are recorded in other sources, where they are often mentioned in conjunction with the doctrines of his close