

only serves to emphasise their fellowship even more. Abū Nu‘aym, too, named all of them one after the other at the very beginning of the third volume.<sup>7</sup>

2.2.7.1.1 *Ayyūb al-Sakhtiyānī*

We have comparatively good information on Abū Bakr Ayyūb b. Abī Tamīma Kaysān al-Sakhtiyānī.<sup>1</sup> Still, his very fame, coupled with the desire of knowing as much as possible about him, has led to inconsistencies, starting with the actual dates of his life. Several sources are in agreement that he was a victim of the “pestilence” in 131.<sup>2</sup> This claim is supported by Ibn Ḥanbal narrowing it to the month of Ramadan (= April/May 749);<sup>3</sup> at that time the “pestilence” was at its peak, as Aṣma‘ī and Madā‘inī recorded in their well-known catalogues of epidemics.<sup>4</sup> It is consequently self-evident that Ayyūb died in Basra, as emphasised by Ibn Qutayba.<sup>5</sup> Even so, ‘Umar b. Shabba, himself a Basran by birth, claimed that he was buried in the Yamāma, in the same place as the poet Jarīr and the Basran ascetic Mālik b. Dīnār.<sup>6</sup>

The report might have originated in ‘Umar b. Shabba’s *Ta’rikh al-Basra* in which case it would carry considerably more weight, not least due to the author’s own early date. Abū I-Faraj al-Iṣfahānī, however, who quoted it (*Agh.* XXI 387, 14f.), had reason to doubt it in a certain point, albeit not the one relevant to us. Muqaddasī would later note that Ayyūb’s as well as Mālik b. Dīnār’s grave were worshipped in Basra (*Aḥsan al-taqāsīm* 130, 6f.). Dating his death to 132 rather than 131, reported rather isolated in Khalīfa b. Khayyāṭ (*Tab.* 552, 12f.; later also Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr in his *Tamhūd*, cf. Conrad 66), was probably merely an oversight, especially as the pestilence is mentioned in the context. Abū Zur‘a’s note of “141, of the pestilence” is, of course, also an error (475, apu. f.). – We should probably not

7 Cf. also Massignon, *Essai* 168.

1 Regarding his full name cf. e.g. Ibn Qutayba, *Ma‘ārif* 471, 5ff., or Fasawī III 71, 7. Abū Nu‘aym (*Hilya* III 8, 4) mentions his son Bakr, to whom his *kunya* referred, he also bore the name Abū Yahyā.

2 Ibn al-Madīnī, *Ilal* 79, 2; Khalīfa, *Ta’rikh* 603, 14; IS VIII<sub>2</sub> 17, 21; Hārūn b. Ḥātim al-Tamīmī, *Ta’rikh*, in: RAAD 53, 1978/129, pu. f.; also many secondary sources.

3 *Ilal* 88 no. 513.

4 Cf. Aṣma‘ī in Ibn Qutayba, *Ma‘ārif* 602, 1f., and Madā‘inī in Mubarrad, *Ta‘āzī* 209, 6ff.; regarding both see Conrad in: SI 54/1981/55ff. and 61ff. Aṣma‘ī even mentions Ayyūb’s death in this context without, however, stating the month definitively.

5 *Ma‘ārif* 471, 13.

6 Regarding him see p. 106ff. above.