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Muhammad b. Ḥabīb

Abū Ja'far **Muhammad b. Ḥabīb** al-Baghdādī (d. 245/860) was a famous philologist, historian, and genealogist, and an eager transmitter of poetry.

He was named Ḥabīb after his mother, and became, like her, a *mawlā* (client) of the Banū I-'Abbās b. Muḥammad. He studied genealogy under Hishām b. Muḥammad b. al-Kalbī (d. 204/819 or 206/821), and philology under Abū 'Ubayda (d. c.210/825), Quṭrub (d. 206/821), and Ibn al-A'rābī (d. 231/846). He became a respected scholar and had prominent disciples, including al-Sukkaṛī (d. 275/888) and Tha'lab (d. 291/904).

It is surprising that the biographers remain silent on further details of his life; the reasons for this silence are not at all clear. The only fact that is given and agreed upon is the date of his death, 23 Dhū l-Ḥijja 245/21 March 860, in Samarrā'.