

some extent continue to be) at stake in this controversy touch on the righteousness of the actions of Abū Bakr, the rectitude of Khālid (who was accused by some of murdering Mālik and unlawfully appropriating his wife), and, on a more basic level, the criteria for being considered a Muslim, the punishment for apostasy, the justness of violently enforcing the payment of *zakāt* to the state (or the lack thereof), and—for the Shī'a—the legitimacy of the pre-ʿAlid caliphs. From a historical viewpoint, however, the affair had few immediate consequences: Abū Bakr pardoned Khālid, though his successor ʿUmar (r. 13–23/634–44) reportedly wanted to stone Khālid for his acts, and the incident may have played a role in his later decision, as one of the first acts of his reign, to relieve Khālid of command. The elegies Mālik's brother, the celebrated poet Mutammim, composed for him could also be seen as an important outcome of the affair, particularly if the political constraints on Mutammim's mourning can be understood to have influenced the development of the Arabic elegy in general.

Mālik was also a poet in his own right, but the few poems attributed to him are almost exclusively occasional in nature and of scant literary importance. Many authorities (including al-Aṣmaʿī, d. c.213/828) nevertheless attribute a fine elegy to him (*al-Mufaḍḍaliyyāt*, no. 9, 1:63–79, 2:20–4), although al-Mufaḍḍal al-Ḍabbī (d. after 163/780) ascribes it to his brother Mutammim.

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## Maritsa, Battle of

The **Battle of the Maritsa** River was a decisive encounter between forces of the crumbling Serbian Empire, led by Despot Jovan Uglješa (r. 1365–71/766–73) and his brother Kralj (“King”) Vukašin (r. 1365–71/766–73), and the Turks, who were most plausibly under the command of Lala Şahin Paşa (Lala Şāhīn, d. c.788/1386) and Evrenos Bey (d. 820/1417). The Ottoman Sultan Murad I (Murād, r. 763–91/1362–89) was occupied in Anatolia at the time and was not present. The action took place in eastern Thrace near Čirmen (contemporary