

al-Lālakā'ī, Abū l-Qāsim

Abū l-Qāsim Hibatallāh b. al-Ḥasan b. Maṣṣūr al-Rāzī al-Ṭabarī **al-Lālakā'ī** (d. Tuesday 6 Ramaḍān 418/10 October 1027) was an expert in *ḥadīth* and the Shāfi'ī school of Islamic law. His *nisba*, al-Lālakā'ī (the variants al-Lālikā'ī, al-Alka'ī, and al-Alkāyī are also mentioned in the biographical sources), means "the cobbler." This name derives from the Persian *lālak* or *lālakā*, meaning "slippers" or "one-sized footwear" (Dozy, 2:516). As there is a dearth of details about al-Lālakā'ī's biography, it is unknown whether he ever made his living from shoemaking. The only contemporary source on al-Lālakā'ī's life is a terse entry authored by his direct disciple, the renowned historian and *ḥadīth* expert al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī (d. 463/1071, 16:108–9). This entry was duplicated by historians of later generations, who did not contribute any additional information to al-Lālakā'ī's biography.

Al-Lālakā'ī was born in Ṭabaristān and studied *ḥadīth* in the city of Rayy (located near present-day Tehran). To complete his studies, he moved to Baghdad, where he spent most of his professional career. He studied with prominent *muhaddithūn* (*ḥadīth* scholars and teachers). One of his teachers was Abū Mas'ūd al-Dimashqī (d. 401/1010–1), who specialised in teaching the *Ṣaḥīḥān* ("the two *ṣaḥīḥs*," collections of authentic *ḥadīth* transmitted by the most reliable sources) of al-Bukhārī (d. 256/870) and Muslim (d. 261/875). Al-Lālakā'ī studied Shāfi'ī law with Abū Ḥāmid al-Isfārāyīnī (d. 406/1016), who formulated the methodology of Shāfi'ī jurisprudence that prevailed in Baghdad. One of al-Lālakā'ī's *ḥadīth* teachers, 'Isā b. 'Alī al-Wazīr (d. 391/1001) was also an expert on logic. Al-Wazīr's name as a

muhaddith was tainted by his attraction to "the method of the philosophers" (*madhhab al-falāsifa*). On the basis of his extant writings, however, it seems highly unlikely that al-Lālakā'ī ever learned philosophy with al-Wazīr (al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī, 7:112–13, 12:515–16; al-Dhahabī, 17:193–7).

Al-Lālakā'ī did not achieve academic fame in his lifetime because of his sudden death in 418/1027. He had some business to attend to in Dīnawar, in present-day western Iran, where he died "in his prime" (*wa-māta kahlan*) before making any significant accomplishments (al-Dhahabī, 17:419). He is one of the 123 *Ḥadīth* teachers who taught and trained the illustrious expert on *ḥadīth* and Shāfi'ī law Abū Bakr al-Bayhaqī (d. 458/1066; al-A'zamī, 47). His son Abū Bakr al-Lālakā'ī (d. 472/1079) became a well-respected *muhaddith* (Ibn al-Athīr, 1:401).

Of those works of al-Lālakā'ī mentioned in the biographical sources, two—*al-Sunan* (a collection of legal traditions and opinions) and *Asmā' rijāl al-Ṣaḥīḥayn* ("The names of the *ḥadīth* transmitters of *al-Ṣaḥīḥān*")—are no longer extant. The biographical sources do not mention *Shurūṭ ahl al-dhimma* ("The stipulated conditions of the protected peoples"), which is also not extant, but it is extensively quoted in later works on the obligations and rights of non-Muslims under Muslim rule, such as Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyya's (d. 751/1350) *Aḥkām ahl al-dhimma*. Two other works by al-Lālakā'ī exist as manuscripts in the Zāhiriyya library, Damascus: (1) *al-Majālis* ("The sessions") introduces seven sessions of *ḥadīth* dictation that al-Lālakā'ī conducted, one of which has been published (al-Rumḥ and al-Ḥadārī); (2) a fragment containing the useful lessons (*fawā'id*) from the Ḥanbalī expert of law Abū l-Qāsim al-Khiraqī (d. c.334/945–6).