

the Murji'ites once again joined in a revolt, only this time without the general moral approval which they had in the time of Ibn Ash'ath: namely, when a certain Abū Ru'ba, who is described as a Murji'ite, together with a Khārijite named Samayda' al-Kindī from 'Umān allied himself with Yazīd b. al-Muhallab and fought near Wāsiṭ with over 300 men against the troops of the Umayyad authorities, i.e. already by now Yazīd II.³⁸ But we hear nothing more about 'Awn b. 'Abdallāh; one reckoned his death to be between 110/728 and 120/738.³⁹

Scholarship has always acted on the assumption that 'Awn recited his verses in the surroundings of Ibn al-Ash'ath, and then had to explain why he nevertheless fought against Ḥajjāj and twenty years later once again identified himself with the Murji'ites (von Kremer, *Streitzüge* 5, ft. 2; Goldziher, *Muh. Stud.* II, 90 f.; Brentjes 47; Madelung 232 ff.; van Ess in: *Arabica* 21/1974/50; for a summary Cook, *Dogma* 35 f.). However, this is not said even in the *K. al-Aghānī*, where both points are mentioned one after the other, and Ibn Ḥajar, who then does state it (TT VIII, 172, ll. 7 ff. from bot.), is not an independent witness. Among modern authors only Nu'mān al-Qāḍī (*Firaq islāmiyya*, 519) does not make this connection; but he also offers no alternative. In Jāḥiẓ, *Bayān* I, 185, l. 10, one finds the remark that with these verses 'Awn had gone over to the Shī'a. However, this generally does not make matters any clearer either.

2.1.1.3 Two Murji'ite Poems

But another well-known Murji'ite also had dealings with Yazīd b. al-Muhallab, although generally he belongs more to Khorāsān than to Kūfa:

Abū'l-'Alā' Thābit b. Ka'b al-'Atakī,

38 Ṭabarī II, 1399, ll. 2 ff. from bot.; 1404, ll. 10 ff.; 1407, ll. 10 ff.; on this Wellhausen, *Reich* 198; Brentjes 46; Madelung, *Qāsim* 234. That Samayda' was a Khārijite one will have concluded from the fact that Farazdaq described him as "a Ḥarūrī". The scholiast makes him into the head of "the Baṣran Murji'a" (Hell in: ZDMG 60/1906/28 f.). One could possibly think of an Ibādite; they came from 'Umān and in fact did support Ibn al-Muhallab. By contrast, there was resistance on the part of the Baṣran Qadarites (see below Chpts. B 2.2.2 and 2.2.3.3). – Ash'arī mentions among the theologians of the later Murji'a a certain 'Abd al-Raḥmān b. Abī Ru'ba (cf. Gimaret in: JA 273/1985/243). Was this a son or a descendant of our Abū Ru'ba?

39 Thus TT VIII, 171 ff., no. 310. On him cf. also Bukhārī IV, 13 f., no. 60; IAH, 384 f., no. 2138; Zirikī v, 280; Azmi, *Studies* 81; Caskel, *Jamhara* II, 213 b. That he was *qāḍī* in Kūfa as Caskel maintains (taken over in GAS 2/426) is probably based on a confusion with his grandson who bore the same name (d. 193/809; cf. Wakī', *Akhbār* III, 268, ll. 3 ff.).