

= Abd al @-@ Rahman ibn Muhammad ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath =

?Abd al @-@ Ra?m?n ibn Mu?ammad ibn al @-@ Ash?ath (Arabic : ??? ?????? ?? ????? ?? ?????) , commonly known as Ibn al @-@ Ash?ath after his grandfather , was a distinguished Arab nobleman and general under the early Umayyad Caliphate , most notable for leading a failed rebellion against the Umayyad viceroy of the east , al @-@ Hajjaj ibn Yusuf , in 700 ? 703 .

The scion of a distinguished family of the Kindaite tribal nobility , he played a minor role in the Second Fitna (680 ? 692) and then served as governor of Rayy . After the appointment of al @-@ Hajjaj as governor of Iraq and the eastern provinces of the Caliphate in 694 , relations between the haughty and overbearing al @-@ Hajjaj and the Iraqi nobility quickly became strained . Nevertheless , in 699 or 700 , al @-@ Hajjaj appointed Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath as commander of a huge Iraqi army , the so @-@ called " Peacock Army " , to subdue the troublesome principality of Zabulistan , whose ruler , the Zunb?l , vigorously resisted Arab expansion . During the campaign , al @-@ Hajjaj 's overbearing behaviour caused Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath and the army to rebel . After patching up an agreement with the Zunb?l , the army started on its march back to Iraq . On the way , a mutiny against al @-@ Hajjaj developed into a full @-@ fledged anti @-@ Umayyad rebellion .

Al @-@ Hajjaj initially retreated before the rebels ' superior numbers , but quickly defeated and drove them out of Basra . Nevertheless , the rebels seized Kufa , where supporters started flocking . The revolt gained widespread support among those who were discontented with the Umayyad regime , especially the religious scholars known as qurr?? (" Quran readers ") . Caliph Abd al @-@ Malik tried to negotiate terms , including the dismissal of al @-@ Hajjaj , but the hardliners among the rebel leadership pressured Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath into rejecting the Caliph 's terms . In the subsequent Battle of Dayr al @-@ Jamajim , the rebel army was decisively defeated by al @-@ Hajjaj 's Syrian troops . Al @-@ Hajjaj pursued the survivors , who under Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath fled to the east . Most of the rebels were captured by the governor of Khurasan , while Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath himself fled to Zabulistan . His fate is unclear , as some accounts hold that , after long pressure from al @-@ Hajjaj to surrender him , the Zunb?l executed him , while most sources claim that he committed suicide to avoid being handed over to his enemies .

The suppression of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's revolt signalled the end of the power of the tribal nobility of Iraq , which henceforth came under the direct control of the Umayyad regime 's staunchly loyal Syrian troops . Later revolts , under Yazid ibn al @-@ Muhallab and Zayd ibn Ali , also failed , and it was not until the success of the Abbasid Revolution that the Syrian dominance of Iraq was broken .

= = Life = =

= = = Origin and early career = = =

Abd al @-@ Rahman ibn Muhammad ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath was a descendant of a noble family from the Kinda tribe in the Hadramawt . His grandfather Ma 'dika'rib , better known by his nickname " al @-@ Ash 'ath " (" He with the dishevelled hair ") , was an important chieftain who submitted to Muhammad , but rebelled during the Ridda wars . Defeated , he was pardoned and married Caliph Abu Bakr 's sister . He went on to participate in the crucial battles of the early Muslim conquests , Yarmouk and Qadisiyya , as well as in the Battle of Siffin , where he was instrumental in forcing Ali to abandon his military advantage and submit to arbitration , and later led the Kindaite quarter in Kufa , where he died in 661 . His father Muhammad was far less distinguished , serving an unsuccessful tenure as governor of Tabaristan , and becoming involved in the Second Fitna as a supporter of Ibn al @-@ Zubayr , being killed in 686 / 7 in the campaign that overthrew al @-@ Mukhtar . Like his father at Siffin , he is denigrated by pro @-@ Alid sources for his ambiguous role in the Battle of Karbala in 680 , being held responsible for the arrests of Muslim ibn Aqil and Hani ibn Urwa . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's mother , Umm Amr , was the daughter of Sa 'id ibn Qays al @-@ Hamdani . He had four brothers , Ishaq , Qasim , Sabbah , and Isma 'il , of whom the first three also fought in the campaigns in Tabaristan .

According to al @-@ Tabari , the young Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath accompanied his father and participated in his political activities : in 680 he revealed the hiding @-@ place of Muslim ibn Aqil to the authorities , and he fought in the campaign against al @-@ Mukhtar in which his father was killed , and reportedly executed (or persuaded Mu 'sab ibn al @-@ Zubayr to execute) al @-@ Mukhtar 's captured followers in revenge . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath disappears from the record during the next few years , but after Mu 'sab ibn al @-@ Zubayr was defeated and killed by the Umayyad caliph Abd al @-@ Malik ibn Marwan in October 691 , he , like other followers of Mu 'sab , apparently went over to the Umayyads . In early 692 , Abd al @-@ Malik 's brother Bishr put him in command of over 5 @, @ 000 Kufans for a campaign against the Kharijites threatening al @-@ Ahwaz . The Kharijites retreated before the far larger caliphal army , led by Khalid ibn Abdallah ibn Khalid ibn Asid , and Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath went on to take up the governorship of Rayy .

= = = Al @-@ Hajjaj 's appointment to Iraq = = =

In 694 , Abd al @-@ Malik appointed the trusted and capable al @-@ Hajjaj ibn Yusuf as the new governor of Iraq , a crucial post given the restiveness of the region towards Umayyad rule . In 697 , his remit was expanded to cover the entirety of the eastern Caliphate , including Khurasan and Sistan .

In 695 , al @-@ Hajjaj entrusted Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath with 6 @, @ 000 horsemen and the campaign against the Kharijite rebels under Shabib ibn Yazid ibn Nu 'aym al @-@ Shaybani . Although not large , this group benefited from Shabib 's tactical skill and inflicted a number of defeats on Umayyad forces . Advised by the general al @-@ Jazl Uthman ibn Sa 'id , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath pursued the Kharijites but displayed great caution in order to avoid falling into a trap . As a result , the governor of al @-@ Mada 'in , Uthman ibn Qatan , wrote to al @-@ Hajjaj criticizing Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's leadership . Al @-@ Hajjaj responded by giving command to Uthman , but when the latter attacked Shabib , the Umayyad army suffered a heavy defeat , losing around 900 men and fleeing to Kufa ; Uthman himself was killed , while Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath , who lost his horse , managed to escape with the help of a friend and reached Kufa after an eventful journey . There he remained in hiding until al @-@ Hajjaj granted him pardon .

Despite his setback , relations between Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath and al @-@ Hajjaj were friendly initially , and al @-@ Hajjaj 's son married one of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's sisters . Gradually , however , the two men became estranged . The sources attribute this to Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's overweening pride as one of the foremost of the ashraf , the tribal nobility , and his aspirations to leadership : al @-@ Mas 'udi records that he adopted the title of N??ir al @-@ mu?min?n (" Helper of the Faithful ") , an implicit challenge to the Umayyads , who were implied to be false believers . In addition , he claimed to be the Qa???n? , a messianic figure in South Arab (Yamani) tribal tradition who was expected to raise them to domination . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's pretensions irked al @-@ Hajjaj , whose hostile remarks ? such as " Look how he walks ! How I should like to cut off his head ! " ? were conveyed to Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath and served to deepen their hostility to outright mutual hatred . According to L. Veccia Vaglieri , however , these reports are more indicative of the Arabic sources ' tendency to " explain historical events by incidents relating to persons " , rather than the actual relationship between the two men , especially given the fact that Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath faithfully served al @-@ Hajjaj in a number of posts , culminating in his appointment to lead the " Peacock Army " . Nevertheless , it is clear that al @-@ Hajjaj quickly became unpopular among the Iraqis in general through a series of measures that , according to Hugh N. Kennedy , " [seem] almost to have goaded the Iraqis into rebellion " , such as the introduction of Syrian troops ? the mainstay of the Umayyad dynasty ? into Iraq , the use of Iraqi troops in the arduous and unrewarding campaigns against the Kharijites , and the reduction of the Iraqi troops ' pay to a level below that of the Syrian troops .

= = = Sistan campaign and rebellion = = =

In 698 / 9 , the Umayyad governor of Sistan , Ubayd Allah ibn Abi Bakra , suffered a severe defeat

by the semi @-@ independent ruler of Zabulistan , known as the Zunb?l . The Zunb?l drew the Arabs deep into his country and cut them off , so that they managed to extricate themselves only with great difficulty and after suffering many losses , particularly among the Kufan contingent . In response , al @-@ Hajjaj sent an Iraqi army to the east against the Zunb?l . Whether due to the splendour of its equipment or as an allusion to the " proud and haughty manner of the Kufan soldiers and ashraf who composed it " (G. R. Hawting) , this army became known in history as the " Peacock Army " . Two different generals were appointed by al @-@ Hajjaj in succession to command it , before he appointed Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath instead . In view of their bad relations , the sources report , the appointment came as a surprise to many ; an uncle of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath even approached al @-@ Hajjaj and suggested that his nephew might revolt , but al @-@ Hajjaj did not rescind his appointment . Al @-@ Tabari suggests that al @-@ Hajjaj relied on the fear he inspired to keep Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath in check ; modern scholarship on the other hand holds that the portrayal of the great personal animosity between the two men is likely to be exaggerated .

It is unclear whether Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath himself had joined the army from the outset or whether , according to an alternative tradition , he had been sent to Kirman to punish a local leader who had refused to help the governors of Sistan and Sind . After taking up the leadership of the army , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath led it to Sistan , where he united the local troops with the " Peacock Army " . He rejected a peace offer from the Zunb?l and ? in marked contrast to his predecessor 's direct assault ? began a systematic campaign to first secure the lowlands surrounding the mountainous heart of the Zunb?l 's kingdom : slowly and methodically , he captured the villages and fortresses one by one , installing garrisons in them and linking them with messengers . After accomplishing this task , he withdrew to Bust to spend the winter of 699 / 700 . Once al @-@ Hajjaj received Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's messages informing him of the break in operations , however , he replied in what L. Veccia Vaglieri described as " a series of arrogant and offensive messages ordering him to penetrate into the heart of Zabulistan and there to fight the enemy to the death " . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath called an assembly of the army 's leadership , in which he informed them of al @-@ Hajjaj 's orders for an immediate advance and his decision to refuse to obey . He then went before the assembled troops and repeated al @-@ Hajjaj 's instructions , calling upon them to decide what should be done . The troops clearly resented " the prospect of a long and difficult campaign so far from Iraq " (G. R. Hawting) , denounced al @-@ Hajjaj , proclaiming him deposed , and swore allegiance to Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath instead . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's brothers , however , as well as the governor of Khurasan , al @-@ Muhallab ibn Abi Sufra , refused to join the rebellion . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath hastily concluded an agreement with the Zunb?l , whereby if he was victorious in the coming conflict with al @-@ Hajjaj , he would accord the Zunb?l generous treatment , while if he was defeated , the Zunb?l would provide refuge . With his rear secure , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath left representatives at Bust and Zaranj , and his army set out on the return journey to Iraq , picking up more soldiers from Kufa and Basra , who were stationed as garrisons , along the way . By the time the army reached Fars , it had become clear that deposing al @-@ Hajjaj could not be done without deposing Caliph Abd al @-@ Malik as well , and the revolt evolved from a mutiny into a full @-@ blown anti @-@ Umayyad uprising , with the troops renewing their oath to Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath .

The reasons for the rebellion have been the source of much discussion and theories among modern scholars . Moving away from the personal relationship between al @-@ Hajjaj and Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath , Alfred von Kremer suggested that the rebellion was linked with the efforts of the non @-@ Arab converts to Islam (the maw?l?) to secure equal rights with the Arab Muslims . Julius Wellhausen rejected this view as the main source of the revolt , seeing it instead as a reaction of the Iraqis in general and the ashraf in particular against the Syrian regime of the Umayyads as represented by the overbearing (and notably low @-@ born) al @-@ Hajjaj . Other scholars have seen in it a manifestation of the tribal factionalism between the northern Arab and southern Arab (" Yamani ") tribal groups prevalent at the time . Thus a poem by a certain A 'sha Hamdan in celebration of the rebellion shows not only a religious but also a tribal motivation of the rebel troops : al @-@ Hajjaj is denounced as an apostate and a " friend of the devil " , while Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath is portrayed as the champion of the Yamani Qahtani and Hamdani tribes against the northern Arab Ma 'addis and Thaqafis . On the other hand , as G. R. Hawting points out , this is insufficient

evidence to ascribe purely tribal motivations to the revolt : if Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's movement was indeed led largely by Yamanis , this simply reflects the fact that they were the dominant element in Kufa , and while al @-@ Hajjaj himself was a northerner , his main commander was a southerner . Wellhausen 's analysis , however , rejected the evident religious dimension of the revolt , especially the participation of the fanatical zealots known as qurr?? (" Quran readers ") . While the " religious polemic used by both sides [..] is stereotyped , unspecific and to be found in other contexts " (C.G. Hawting) , there do appear to have been specific religious grievances , notably the accusation that the Umayyads were neglecting the ritual prayer . It seems clear that the revolt began as a simple mutiny against an overbearing governor who made impossible demands of the troops , but , at least by the time the army reached Fars , a religious element emerged , represented by the qurr?? . Given the close " interaction of religion and politics in early Muslim society " , as G. R. Hawting points out , the religious element quickly became dominant , as seen by the difference between the oath of allegiance (bay?a) sworn at the beginning of the revolt and that exchanged between the army and Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath at Istakhr in Fars . While in the first Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath declared as his intention to " depose al @-@ Hajjaj , the enemy of God " , in the latter , he exhorted his men to " [defend] the Book of God and the Sunna of His Prophet , to depose the im?ms of error , to fight against those who regard [the blood of the Prophet ? s kin] as licit " . Although Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath remained as the head of the uprising , Veccia Vaglieri writes that after this point " one has the impression that [...] the control of the revolt slipped from his hands " , or that , as Wellhausen comments , " he was urged on in spite of himself , and even if he would , could not have banished the spirits which he had called up . It was as if an avalanche came rushing down sweeping every thing before it " .

This interpretation is corroborated by the different rhetoric and actions of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath and his followers , as reported in the sources : the former was ready and willing to compromise with the Umayyads , and continued to fight only because he had no alternative , while the great mass of his followers , motivated by discontent against the Umayyad regime couched in religious terms , were far more uncompromising and willing to carry on the struggle until death . Al @-@ Hajjaj himself seems to have been aware of the distinction : in suppressing the revolt , he pardoned the Quraysh , the Syrians , and many of the other Arab clans , but executed tens of thousands among the maw?l? and the Zutt of the Mesopotamian Marshes , who had sided with the rebels .

= = = Fight for control of Iraq = = =

Informed of the revolt , al @-@ Hajjaj requested reinforcements from the Caliph , but was unable to stop the advance of the rebel army , which is reported to have numbered 33 @,@ 000 cavalry and 120 @,@ 000 infantry . On 24 or 25 January 701 , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath overwhelmed al @-@ Hajjaj 's advance guard at Tustar . At the news of this defeat , al @-@ Hajjaj withdrew to Basra and then , as he could not possibly hold the city , left Basra as well for nearby al @-@ Zawiya . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath entered Basra on 13 February 701 . Over the next month , a series of skirmishes were fought between the forces of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath and al @-@ Hajjaj , in which the former generally held the upper hand . Finally , in early March , the two armies met for a pitched battle . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath initially prevailed , but in the end al @-@ Hajjaj 's Syrians , under Sufyan ibn Abrad , carried off a victory . Many rebels fell , especially among the qurr?? , forcing Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath to withdraw to Kufa , taking with him the Kufan troops and the élite of the Basran cavalry . At Kufa , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath found the citadel occupied by Matar ibn Najiya , an officer from al @-@ Mada 'in , and was forced to take it by assault .

His lieutenant at Basra , the Hashimi Abd al @-@ Rahman ibn Abbas , tried but was unable to hold the city , as the populace opened the gates in exchange for a pardon after a few days . Abd al @-@ Rahman too withdrew with as many Basrans as would follow him to Kufa , where Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's forces swelled further with the arrival of large numbers of anti @-@ Umayyad volunteers . After taking control of Basra ? and executing some 11 @,@ 000 of its people , despite his pledge of pardon ? al @-@ Hajjaj marched on Kufa in April 701 . His army was harassed by Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's cavalry , but reached the environs of the city and set up camp at Dayr Qurra , on the right

bank of the Euphrates so as to secure his lines of communication with Syria . In response Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath left Kufa and with an army reportedly 200 @,@ 000 strong approached al @-@ Hajjaj 's army and set up camp at Dayr al @-@ Jamajim . Both armies fortified their camps by digging trenches and , as before , engaged in skirmishes . Whatever the true numbers of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's force , al @-@ Hajjaj was in a difficult position : his army was considerably outnumbered by the rebels , although reinforcements from Syria were constantly arriving , and his position was difficult to resupply with provisions .

In the meantime , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's progress had sufficiently alarmed the Umayyad court that they sought a negotiated settlement , despite the contrary advice of al @-@ Hajjaj . Caliph Abd al @-@ Malik sent his brother Muhammad and son Abdallah as envoys , proposing the dismissal of al @-@ Hajjaj , the appointment of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath as governor over one of the Iraqi towns , and a raise in the Iraqis ' pay so that they received the same amount as the Syrians . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath was inclined to accept , but the more radical of his followers , especially the qurr?? , refused , believing that the offered terms revealed the government 's weakness , and pushed for outright victory . With the negotiations failing , the two armies continued to skirmish ? the sources report that the skirmishing lasted for 100 days with 48 engagements . This lasted until September , when the two armies met in battle . Again Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath initially held the upper hand , but the Syrians prevailed in the end : shortly before the sun set , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's men broke and scattered . Failing to rally his troops , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath with a handful of followers fled to Kufa , where he took farewell of his family . As Hawting comments , the contrast " between the discipline and organisation of the Umayyads and their largely Syrian support and the lack of these qualities among their opponents in spite of , or perhaps rather because of , the more righteous and religious flavour of the opposition " is a recurring pattern in the civil wars of the period .

Victorious , al @-@ Hajjaj entered Kufa , where he tried and executed many rebels , but also pardoned those who submitted after admitting that through revolt they had become infidels . In the meantime , however , one of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's supporters , Ubayd Allah ibn Samura , had recaptured Basra , to where Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath now headed ; and another , Muhammad ibn Sa 'd ibn Abi Waqqas , had captured al @-@ Mada 'in . Al @-@ Hajjaj remained for a month in Kufa , before setting out to meet Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath . The two armies met at Maskin on the river Dujayl . After two weeks of skirmishing , al @-@ Hajjaj delivered the final blow by launching a simultaneous attack on the rebel camp from two sides : while he with the main part of his army attacked from one side , a portion of his army , guided by a shepherd , crossed the marshes and launched itself on the camp from the rear . Caught by surprise , the rebel army was nearly annihilated , with many rebels drowning in the river in their attempt to flee .

= = = Flight east and death = = =

Following this renewed defeat , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath fled east , towards Sistan , with a few survivors . Al @-@ Hajjaj sent troops under Umara ibn al @-@ Tamim al @-@ Lakhmi to intercept them . Umara caught up with them twice , at Sus and Sabur , but Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath and his men managed to fight through to Kirman and thence to Sistan . There he was refused entry into Zaranj by his own agent (??mil) , and was then arrested by the ??mil of Bust . The Zunb?l however , true to his word , came to Bust and forced Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's release , taking him with him to Zabulistan and treating him with much honour . There , Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath assumed command of some 60 @,@ 000 supporters who had assembled there in the meantime . With their support , he seized Zaranj , where he punished the ??mil . Faced with the approach of the Umayyad troops under Umara ibn al @-@ Tamim , however , most of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's followers urged him to go to Khurasan , where they would be hopefully able to recruit more followers , and sit out the Umayyad attacks until either al @-@ Hajjaj or Caliph Abd al @-@ Malik died and the political situation changed . Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath bowed to their pressure , but after a group of 2 @,@ 000 men defected , he returned to Zabulistan with those who would follow him there . Most of the rebels remained in Khurasan , choosing Abd al @-@ Rahman ibn Abbas as their leader . They were soon confronted and defeated by the local governor , Yazid ibn al @-@ Muhallab . Yazid released those

who belonged to the Yamani tribes related to his own , and sent the rest to al @-@ Hajjaj , who executed most of them . In the meantime , Umara quickly effected the surrender of Sistan , by offering lenient terms to the garrisons if they surrendered without struggle .

Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath remained safe under the protection of the Zunb?l , but al @-@ Hajjaj , fearing that he might raise another revolt , sent letters to the Zunb?l , mixing threats and promises , to secure his surrender . Finally , in 704 the Zunb?l gave in , in exchange for lifting the annual tribute for 7 or 10 years . Accounts of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's end differ : one version holds that he was executed by the Zunb?l himself , or that he died of illness , and that his head was cut off and sent to al @-@ Hajjaj . The more widespread account , however , holds that he was confined to a remote castle at Rukhkhaj in anticipation of his extradition to al @-@ Hajjaj , and chained to his warden , but that he threw himself from the top of the castle (along with his warden) to his death .

= = Aftermath = =

The failure of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's revolt led to the tightening of Umayyad control over Iraq . Al @-@ Hajjaj founded a permanent garrison for the Syrian troops at Wasit , situated between Basra and Kufa , and the Iraqis , regardless of social status , were deprived of any real power in the governance of the region . This was coupled with a reform of the salary (?a???) system by al @-@ Hajjaj : whereas hitherto the salary had been calculated based on the role of one 's ancestors in the early Muslim conquests , it now became limited to those actively participating in campaigns . As most of the army was now composed of Syrians , this measure gravely injured the interests of the Iraqis , who regarded this as another impious attack on hallowed institutions . In addition , extensive land reclamation and irrigation works were undertaken in lower Iraq (the Sawad) , but this was limited mostly to around Wasit , and the proceeds went to the Umayyads and their clients , not the Iraqi nobility . As a result , the political power of the once mighty Kufan élites was soon broken .

It was not until 720 that the Iraqis rebelled once again , under Yazid ibn al @-@ Muhallab , " the last of the old @-@ style Iraqi champions " (Hugh Kennedy) , and even then , support was ambivalent , and the revolt was defeated . Two of Ibn al @-@ Ash 'ath 's nephews , Muhammad ibn Ishaq and Uthman ibn Ishaq , supported the rebellion , but most remained quiescent and content with their role as local dignitaries . A few held posts in Kufa under the early Abbasids . Perhaps the most famous of the family 's later members is the philosopher al @-@ Kindi . Another uprising , that of Zayd ibn Ali , broke out in 740 , again promising to right injustices (restoration of the ?a??? , distribution of the revenue from the Sawad , an end to distant campaigns) and to restore rule according to the Quran and the Sunna . Once more , however , the Kufans deserted it at the critical moment , and it was defeated by the Umayyads . Discontent with the Umayyad government continued to simmer , however , and during the Abbasid Revolution , Iraq rose up in support of the rebellion . Kufa overthrew Umayyad rule and welcomed the Abbasid army in October 749 , followed immediately by the proclamation of as @-@ Saffah as the first Abbasid caliph there .