



**HAL**  
open science

## Ibn Masal

David Bramoullé

► **To cite this version:**

| David Bramoullé. Ibn Masal. The Encyclopaedia of Islam. Third Edition, 2018. hal-01867019

**HAL Id: hal-01867019**

**<https://hal.science/hal-01867019v1>**

Submitted on 22 Sep 2018

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

## Ibn Maṣāl

Najm al-Dīn Abū l-Faṭḥ Sulaymān (Salīm) b. Muḥammad **Ibn Maṣāl** al-Lukkī al-Maghribī (d. 19 Shawwāl 544/19 February 1150) was *wazīr* to the Fāṭimid caliph al-Zāfir (r. 544–9/1149–54) for a few months in 544/1149. He belonged to the line of Fāṭimid generals who, since Badr al-Jamālī (d. 487/1094), had been appointed to the highest offices of the state. His double *nisba*, al-Lukkī al-Maghribī, informs us only of his place of origin, Lukku, a small port approximately ninety kilometres east of Tobruk.

Although he was considered one of the best generals in the Fāṭimid army and was granted the honorific *laqabs* Amīr al-Juyūsh (General of the armies) and Saʿad al-Mulk Layth al-Dawla (Good fortune of the kingship and lion of the dynasty), his military career remains largely unknown, except that he owed the beginnings of his military career to his mastery of falconry and training in horsemanship, which he received from his father, Maḥmūd b. Maṣāl al-Lukkī. It was undoubtedly his father who, motivated by the promise of Nizār b. al-Mustanṣir (d. 488/1095, elder son of the Fāṭimid caliph al-Mustanṣir (r. 427–87/1036–94), who claimed the caliphate when his father died) to make him his *wazīr* and commanding general, participated in the 488/1095 uprising of Nizār and Nāṣir al-Dawla Alptakīn (Alptegin) al-Turkī (d. 488/1095), one of Badr al-Jamālī's freedmen, against al-Afdal b. Badr al-Jamālī (d. 515/1121) and his creature, the caliph al-Mustaʿlī (r. 487–95/1094–1101). Maḥmūd sought refuge in Lukku until he was pardoned and then returned to Cairo. No other Ibn Maṣāl appears in the sources from 488/1095 until 538/1144, when the name Najm al-Dīn Abū l-Faṭḥ Sulaymān Ibn Maṣāl

appears, denoting the right-hand man of the caliph al-Ḥāfiẓ (r. 525–44/1131–49). His contemporaries, Usāma b. Munqidh (d. 584/1188) and Ibn al-Ṭuwayr (d. 617/1220), describe him more as a man of experience, sociable and humble, and a great scholar of theology (*shaykh kabīr*, *ʿālim bi-uṣūl al-dīn*, *shaykh layyin mutawādiʿ*) than as a soldier.

Ibn Maṣāl managed the affairs of the state with some success, and al-Ḥāfiẓ advised his son and successor, al-Zāfir, to appoint him *wazīr*. The sources suggest that the formal designation took place the day after the new caliph came to power, in Ṣafar 544/June 1149. His time as *wazīr* thus perhaps lasted somewhat longer than the fifty or sixty days with which he is customarily credited. Ibn Maṣāl then settled in the former residence of the *wazīr* al-Maʿmūn al-Baṭāʾihī (d. 522/1128). This appointment and the strong measures taken by Ibn Maṣāl to stop misappropriations by certain members of the armed forces, to the detriment of the state, displeased Ibn Sallār (d. 548/1153), the powerful governor of Alexandria. In Shaʿbān 544/December 1149, Ibn Sallār and his son-in-law, ʿAbbās Rukn al-Dīn the Zīrid, also governor of one of the districts in the Delta, attempted to overthrow the *wazīr*. Despite initial success, Ibn Maṣāl could not prevent the rebels from entering Cairo on 15 Shaʿbān 544/18 December 1149. With significant funding from the caliph, Ibn Maṣāl reached the Ṣaʿīd ready to recruit men, yet al-Zāfir had no choice but to allow Ibn Sallār to take the post of *wazīr* by force. Ibn Maṣāl succeeded in recruiting a large army of Arabs, Sudanese, and Lawāta Berbers but he failed in trying to use them to fight back against the troops led by ʿAbbās and Ṭalāʿī b. Ruzzīk (d. 556/1161). On 19 Shawwāl 544/19 February 1150, Ibn Maṣāl was

decapitated during the battle of Dalās, in the district of Bahnasā.

His son, Najm al-Dīn Abū Muḥammad b. Maṣāl (d. 574/1178), remained in the service of the Fāṭimids. He was appointed governor of Alexandria in about 561/1166 and then entered the service of Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn (Saladin, r. 564–89/1169–93).

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

##### SOURCES

Abū Shāma, *Kitāb rawḍatayn fī akhbār al-dawlatayn*, vol. 2, ed. Muḥammad ʿAlī Bayḍūn (Beirut 2002), 64, 65, 66, 186, 195, 253; Ibn al-Athīr, *al-Kāmil fī l-taʾrīkh*, ed. Carl Johan Tornberg (Leiden 1868), 11:142; Ibn al-Dawādārī, *Kanz al-durar wa jāmiʿ al-ghurar*, vol. 6, ed. Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn al-Munajjid (Cairo 1961), 507, 540, 541, 552; Ibn al-Furāt, *Taʾrīkh al-duwal wa-l-mulūk*, ed. Ḥasan Muḥammad al-Shamma (Bassora 1967–9), 5:20; Ibn Khallikān, *Kitāb waḥyāt al-aʿyān*, ed. Iḥsān ʿAbbās (Beirut 1968), 3:416–7; Ibn Munqidh, *Kitāb al-iʿtibār*, ed. Philip K. Hitti, *Usamah's memoirs* (Princeton 1930), 7–8; Ibn Muyassar, *al-Muntaqā min akhbār Miṣr*, ed. Ayman Fuʿād Sayyid (Cairo 1981), 60, 62, 63, 142; Ibn Taghribirdī, *al-Nujūm al-zāhira fī mulūk Miṣr wa-l-Qāhira* (Cairo 1935), 5:245, 295; Ibn al-Qalānisi, *Dhayl Taʾrīkh Dimashq*, ed. Henry Frederick Amedroz (Leiden 1908), 308; Ibn al-Ṭuwayr, *Nuzhat al-muqlatayn fī akhbār al-dawlatayn*, ed. Ayman Fuʿād Sayyid (Beirut 1992), 55; Iṣfahānī, *al-Barq al-Shāmī*, ed. Fāliḥ Ṣāliḥ Ḥusayn (Amman 1987), 3:167; al-Maqrīzī, *Itiʿāz al-ḥunafāʾ bi-akhbār al-aʿimma al-Fāṭimīyyīn al-khulafāʾ*, ed. Muḥammad Ḥilmī Muḥammad Aḥmad (Cairo 1973), 3:12, 13, 14, 182, 193, 197, 198; al-Qalqashandī, *Subḥ al-aʿshā fī ṣināʿa al-īnshāʾ*, ed. Muḥammad Ḥusayn Shams al-Dīn (Beirut 1987), 10:382.

##### STUDY

Claude Cahen (ed.), Une chronique syrienne du VI<sup>e</sup>/XII<sup>e</sup> siècle. Le *Bustān al-Jāmiʿ*, *BEO* 7–8 (1937–8), 113–58.

DAVID BRAMOUILLÉ

## Ibn al-Qaṭṭāʿ, al-Yaḥṣubī

ʿIsā b. Saʿīd **al-Yaḥṣubī Ibn al-Qaṭṭāʿ** (d. 397/1006) was a secretary and Andalusī *wazīr* during the reign of the Umayyad Hishām II al-Muʿayyad bi-llāh (r. 366–99/976–1009 and 400–3/1010–3), when al-Manṣūr (Almanzor, d. 392/1002) and then his son al-Muzaffar (r. 392–9/1002–8) served as *ḥājibs* (chamberlains) and held actual power.

Ibn al-Qaṭṭāʿ had no distinguished ancestors, nor did he belong to a renowned family. He was an Arab from al-Najjār, belonging to a clan known as Banū l-Jazīrī from the region (*kūra*) of Priego, in the present-day province of Córdoba. His father was a teacher (*muʿallim*). Ibn al-Qaṭṭāʿ was a secretary (*kātib*) to Muḥammad b. Abī ʿĀmir (d. 392/1002) before the latter became a powerful *ḥājib*. Under his aegis, Ibn al-Qaṭṭāʿ joined the bureaucracy and followed him on his rise during the reign of al-Ḥakam II (350–66/961–76). He was particularly favoured by al-Manṣūr, who called him “the fortunate one” (*yumn al-naqība*). Alongside al-Manṣūr, Ibn al-Qaṭṭāʿ rose through the bureaucracy, ultimately receiving the title of *wazīr*, under which he played various roles. He was even sent to North Africa in charge of troops in order to prevent Zūr b. ʿAṭīyya (d. 391/1001), Berber chief of the Maghrib, from throwing off the Umayyad tutelage over his territory.

After the death of al-Manṣūr, his son ʿAbd al-Malik confirmed Ibn al-Qaṭṭāʿ as his *wazīr* and charged him with the administration of the state. Under him, he obtained great power and many rural and urban properties throughout al-Andalus. He also took advantage of his standing to place acquaintances in every important position and even married his son Abū ʿĀmir to al-Muzaffar’s youngest sister.