

The Excellence of the Arabs

Extended Glossary

This glossary includes the names of the many Arab peoples mentioned in *The Excellence of the Arabs*. These groups have often been labeled “tribes,” and in Ibn Qutaybah’s day, many writers considered the tribal organization of Arab society to be a unique trait that distinguished Arabs from other peoples of the world. Arab tribalism, however, is not as straightforward as Ibn Qutaybah, his peers, and many subsequent commentators have assumed. The idea that all Arabs are members of one pan-Arabian family tree of interrelated tribes is almost certainly a fiction of Abbasid-era writers who forged elaborate explanations in order to fit Arab groups into cohesive Arab genealogies. The Arabic terms for “tribe” are also manifold and could be used to describe groups of variable size and social cohesion. Moreover, research into Arabian populations, ancient and modern, also demonstrates that tribal composition is fluid and that members of one tribe do not always act in concert. The size and effectiveness of tribal unity thus fluctuate over time, and dividing Arabia into fixed tribal divisions oversimplifies the contours of its society. “Tribe” also carries connotations of primitivism in English, and to label all Arabs as “tribesmen” might play into modern prejudices about tribes and Arabs. For these reasons, we have chosen to eschew “tribe” in the glossary, and refer instead to the name by which lineage groups were commonly known. Large lineage groups, such as the Tamīm, are composed of subgroups, such as the Bahdalah and the Dārim, and we have defined them as they were codified by Muslim genealogists in the third/ninth century.

The Arabic definite article “al-” as well as the Arabic letters *hamzah* and *‘ayn* have been disregarded in the ordering of entries. Often-used terms such as Mecca and Medina are not cross-referenced.

- ‘Abbād ibn al-Ḥuṣayn, Abū Jahdam* (d. early second/eighth century) famed horseman from the Tamīm (q.v.) lineage. He was head of the police in Basra and played a role in defeating al-Mukhtār (“the Calumniator”) (q.v.) in the period when the Zubayrids controlled Basra. A settlement near Basra was named after him.
- al-‘Abbās ibn Mirdās al-Sulamī* (d. between 18/639 and 35/656) poet of the Sulaym lineage group.
- Abbasids* dynasty of caliphs (132–656/750–1258), named after their ancestor al-‘Abbās ibn ‘Abd al-Muṭṭalib ibn Hāshim, an uncle of the Prophet.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn ‘Alī ibn Waththāb al-Madanī* unknown figure. The two manuscripts of *The Excellence of the Arabs* record his name differently: Kurd ‘Alī’s edition reads it ‘Abd Allāh ibn ‘Alī; the Cairo manuscript has ‘Alī ibn ‘Abd Allāh, also unknown.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Ḥārith* (d. after 80/699–700) Qurayshī hadith transmitter of the generation after Muḥammad; nephew, via his mother, of the Umayyad caliph Mu‘āwiyah.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn Jud‘ān* pre-Islamic Meccan trader of the Taym ibn Murrah clan of Quraysh; renowned in Arabian lore as one of Mecca’s richest men.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn Khāzim al-Sulamī* (d. 73/692–93) a widely remembered governor of Khurasan under the Umayyads.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn Mas‘ūd* see Ibn Mas‘ūd.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Mubārak* (d. 181/797) hadith transmitter, scholar, and merchant; studied with the most important jurists of his day, including Abū Ḥanīfah, Sufyān al-Thawrī, and Mālik ibn Anas.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn Rawāḥah* (d. 8/629) Medinese Companion of the Prophet Muḥammad; being literate, he was one of Muḥammad’s official secretaries, and, with Ḥassān ibn Thābit (q.v.) and Ka‘b ibn Mālik (q.v.), is counted among the three official poets of the Muslim community. Killed at the Battle of Mu’tah.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Zib‘arā* (fl. early first century/early-mid seventh century) leading poet of the Quraysh (q.v.) before Islam; antagonistic to Muḥammad and the early Muslim community. He fled to Najrān after the Muslim conquest of Mecca in 8/630, but converted to Islam shortly thereafter and made peace with Muḥammad.
- ‘Abd Allāh ibn Zuhayr* minor hadith transmitter of uncertain identity; Hadith scholars disagree on the form of his name (possibly Zuhayr ibn ‘Abd

Allāh). In the one hadith narrated by him, he appears as a Companion of the Prophet.

‘Abd al-‘Azīz ibn Abī Bakrah hadith transmitter from the generation after the Prophet’s lifetime. Son of Abū Bakrah (q.v.).

‘Abd al-‘Azīz ibn Marwān see Ibn Laylā.

‘Abd al-Ghaffār al-Khuzā‘ī author of a famous poem describing horses; a treatise entitled the *Book of Horses (Kitāb al-Khayl)* usually attributed to Abū ‘Ubaydah (q.v.) is sometimes ascribed to him or his son Muḥammad.

‘Abd al-Malik ibn Ḥamīd non-Arab client of the Arabian Bāhilah (q.v.); acquired high rank in the early Abbasid regime as secretary and confidant of the caliph al-Manṣūr (q.v.), who gave him control of the western quarter of Baghdad.

‘Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān (r. 65–86/685–705) fifth caliph of the Umayyad dynasty and key figure in the development of state structures, ideologies, and institutions for the caliphate.

‘Abd al-Mun‘im grandson of Wāhib ibn Munabbih (q.v.), and a commonly cited transmitter of his grandfather’s lore.

‘Abd al-Muṭṭalib ibn Hāshim paternal grandfather of the Prophet Muḥammad; when Muḥammad was orphaned as a child, ‘Abd al-Muṭṭalib cared for him.

‘Abd al-Qays large Arabian lineage group, settled in al-Baḥrayn (q.v.) in pre-Islamic times.

‘Abd al-Raḥmān son of ‘Abd al-Mun‘im (q.v.) and great-grandson of Wāhib ibn Munabbih (q.v.).

‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Abān son of, and hadith transmitter from, Abān, who was a jurist of Medina.

‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn al-Azhar Companion of the Prophet from whom al-Zuhrī (q.v.) transmitted hadiths.

‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Khālīd possibly the hadith transmitter ‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Khālīd ibn Yazīd al-Qaṭān, from Wāsiṭ, who died in 251/865–66.

‘Abd al-Wārith ibn Sa‘īd (d. 180/796–97) minor Basran hadith transmitter of the early Abbasid period.

‘Abdah ibn al-Ṭabīb pre-Islamic “brigand poet” (Ar. *ṣu‘lūk*), remembered in the lore both for thieving and for singing fine poetry; survived into the Islamic period, converted to Islam, and reportedly participated in early Muslim campaigns in Iraq.

- Abjar ibn Jābir* see Abū Ḥajjār Abjar ibn Jābir.
- Abrahah* Christian king of Ethiopian origin in south Arabia in the middle of the sixth century AD; in Islamic literature he is named as the leader of a Yemeni expedition against Mecca in the year of Muḥammad's birth, ca. AD 570.
- Abraham* (Ar. Ibrāhīm) the Abraham of the Bible, who in Islamic sacred history founds or reforms the monotheistic cult of the Kaaba in Mecca. Father to Isaac (through his wife Sarah) and Ishmael (through his concubine Hagar).
- ʿAbs* prominent lineage group of the Ghaṭafān (q.v.); in the pre-Islamic era they lived in central Arabian Najd and they feature in the lore of numerous pre-Islamic Arabian battles.
- Abū Amāmah al-Bāhili* [*Ṣudayy ibn ʿAjlān*] (d. 81/700–1 or 86/705–6) Companion of the Prophet who settled in Ḥimṣ and is said to have transmitted hadith from the Prophet and other early scholars.
- Abū ʿAmr ibn al-ʿAlāʾ* (d. 154/771 or 157/774) famous early lexicographer, grammarian, Qurʾan reader, and expert on poetry; active in Basra, he taught most of the scholars of the subsequent generation.
- Abū l-ʿAtāhiyah* (d. 210/825 or 211/826) poet best known for his ascetic poetry and acclaimed as one of the leading “modern poets” (*muḥdathūn*) of the Abbasid era. His given name was Abū Ishāq Ismāʿīl ibn al-Qāsim ibn Suwayd ibn Kaysān.
- Abū ʿAttāb Hasakah ibn ʿAttāb* (fl. mid-first/mid-seventh century) warrior of the “Puffy Tummies” clan of the Tamīm (q.v.), who settled in Basra, but left following the First Civil War to adventure as a brigand in eastern Iran where he captured the city of Zaranj, and later defeated an army sent against him by ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.).
- Abū Bakr* (r. 11–13/632–34) Muḥammad's father-in-law and Islam's first caliph. A wealthy Qurayshī merchant before Islam; reported to be the first convert to Islam, or one of the first.
- Abū Bakrah* [*Nufayʾ ibn Masrūḥ*] Companion of the Prophet, and hadith transmitter; enslaved in pre-Islam and manumitted by the Prophet. He reportedly died in the same year as al-Ḥasan, the son of ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.), ca. 49/669–70 (al-Ḥasan's death date is variously reported).
- Abū Dhuʾayb* [*al-Hudhalī*] (d. ca. 30–35/650–55) pre-Islamic poet of the Arabian Hudhayl (q.v.); survived into the Islamic period and participated in

- several Muslim conquests; some report that he died on campaign during the caliphate of ‘Uthmān (q.v.), either in North Africa or Turkey.
- Abū Dulaf* [*al-Qāsim ibn ‘Īsā l-‘Ijlī*] (d. between 225/840 and 228/843) poet, musician, litterateur, military commander under the caliph al-Amīn (r. 193–98/809–13), and governor under the caliph al-Mu‘taṣim (r. 218–27/833–42).
- Abū Ghāḍīr* (fl. first/seventh century) likely a sobriquet of ‘Urwah al-Fuqaymī (also known as Abū Ghāḍīrah), a member of the Tamīm lineage group (q.v.) and a contemporary of the Prophet.
- Abū Ghassān* possibly Yazīd ibn Ziyād (fl. mid second/eighth century), member of the early Abbasid movement and the chamberlain of the first Abbasid caliph, al-Saffāḥ (r. 132–37/750–54).
- Abū Ḥajjār Abjar ibn Jābir* [*al-‘Ijlī*] (d. early first/seventh century) a Christian of the northeastern Arabian ‘Ijl ibn Lujaym (q.v.) who lived into the early Islamic period. He did not convert to Islam, but his son Ḥajjār did; Abjar is remembered in Arabic lore as giving wise advice to Ḥajjār on the eve of his conversion.
- Abū Ḥanbal Jāriyah ibn Murr* (fl. mid-sixth century AD) pre-Islamic poet from the Ṭayyi’ (q.v.).
- Abū Ḥatīm* Sahl ibn Muḥammad al-Sijistānī (d. ca. 255/869) Sunni philologist and specialist of Arabian poetry; teacher of many Iraqi scholars, including Ibn Qutaybah.
- Abū Hurayrah* (d. between 57/678 and 59/680) Companion of the Prophet. One of the most frequently cited authorities of hadith: thousands of hadith are ascribed to him, although the authenticity of many of them is debated.
- Abū Ja‘far al-Manṣūr* see al-Manṣūr.
- Abū Jahḍam ‘Abbād ibn Ḥuṣayn* see ‘Abbād ibn al-Ḥuṣayn.
- Abū Malīl* leader of the Tha‘labah (q.v.) mentioned in pre-Islamic lore; father of Bujayr and ‘Ifāq (q.v.).
- Abū l-Minhāl* (d. 106/724–25) Basran hadith transmitter who settled in Mecca.
- Abū Mūsā l-Ash‘arī* (d. uncertain, possibly 42/662) Companion of the Prophet and prominent military leader during the early Islamic conquests; one of the two arbitrators, alongside ‘Amr ibn al-‘Āṣ (q.v.), tasked with

settling the dispute over the caliphate between ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib and Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.) in 37/657.

Abū Mūsā Shahawāt Umayyad-era client of the Quraysh and poet known best for his lampoon and praise poems and his turbulent relations with members of the Umayyad elite. His given name was Mūsā ibn Yasār; the nickname *Shahawāt* (“Cravings”) was reportedly earned because of his oft-expressed desires for gifts and favors.

Abū Muṣ‘ab al-Zubayrī [*‘Abd Allāh ibn Muṣ‘ab ibn Thābit*] (d. 184/800) Meccan aristocrat of the late Umayyad and early Abbasid era, confidant of the Abbasid caliph al-Mahdī and father and grandfather of Muṣ‘ab al-Zubayrī and Zubayr ibn Bakkār, respectively, two of the most important early historians of the Quraysh.

Abū l-Najm [*al-‘Ijlī*] (d. ca. 120/738) Umayyad-era poet celebrated for *rajaz*-style verse about Bedouin life and praise poems of the Umayyad elite. Also known for his poetic rivalry with al-‘Ajjāj (q.v.), part of a wider political rivalry between the Muḍar (q.v.) and Rabī‘ah factions in the Umayyad era.

Abū Nu‘aym [*al-Faḍl ibn Dukayn ibn Ḥammād*] (d. 219/834) transmitter of hadith from al-A‘mash (q.v.) and al-Thawrī (q.v.).

Abū Nukhaylah (d. 145/762) poet of the late Umayyad and early Abbasid eras; a specialist in the *rajaz* style, he praised the first two Abbasid caliphs, but was reportedly murdered when he composed a poem against ‘Isā ibn Mūsā, the crown prince of al-Manṣūr (q.v.).

Abū Ṣāliḥ see Muslim ibn ‘Amr.

Abū Sufyān [*ibn Ḥarb ibn Umayyah*] (d. ca. 32/653) prominent Meccan merchant of the Qurayshī clan ‘Abd Shams; chief opponent of Muḥammad but converted to Islam just prior to Muḥammad’s conquest of Mecca. Father of Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.), the first Umayyad caliph.

Abū Tammām al-Ṭā‘ī (d. 231/845) celebrated Abbasid court poet and poetry anthologist; originally a Damascene Christian, Abū Tammām converted to Islam and feigned Arab identity by claiming descent from the Ṭayyi’ (q.v.).

Abū ‘Ubaydah [*Ma‘mar ibn al-Muthannā*] (d. 210/825) non-Arab client of the Taym (q.v.); one of the most important early Arabic philologists and scholars of pre-Islamic Arab history, he was among the first to record his scholarship in book form.

- Abū Umayyah* see ‘Amr ibn Sa‘īd.
- Abū ‘Uyaynah* possibly Abū Muḥammad Sufyān ibn ‘Uyaynah (d. 198/814), a revered Kufan traditionist who settled in Mecca. He narrated hadith from prominent scholars and is much cited in later literature.
- Abū l-Yaqzān* Suḥaym ibn Ḥafṣ, or ‘Āmir ibn Ḥafṣ (d. 190/805–6) a genealogist and collector of Arabian lore, he was an important source for early Abbasid historians and litterateurs and is cited frequently by al-Jāḥiẓ and al-Madā’inī.
- Abū Zayd al-Anṣārī* (d. 214 or 215/830–31) grammarian and lexicographer.
- ‘Ād* legendary southeast Arabian people; mentioned in the Qur’an as the people to whom God sent the prophet Hūd; they rejected Hūd’s message and God destroyed them by a violent wind.
- adab* term connoting education, ethics, and culture; byword for the repertoire of general literary knowledge and social etiquette necessary for an educated individual to succeed in Abbasid society and government service.
- ‘Adī* a son of Ḥātīm al-Ṭā’ī (q.v.), Companion of the Prophet, and follower of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.).
- ‘Adī ibn Zayd [ibn Mālik ibn al-Riqā’]* (d. ca. 99–101/717–20) Umayyad-era praise poet.
- al-Aghlab al-Rājiz [ibn ‘Amr al-‘Ijlī]* (fl. early seventh century AD) pre-Islamic poet considered by several Muslim specialists to be one of the foremost composers in the *rajaz* (q.v.) style.
- Aḥmad ibn al-Khalīl* possibly Aḥmad ibn al-Khalīl ibn Maymūn al-Yamānī, who transmitted from al-Aṣma‘ī (q.v.).
- al-Aḥnaf [ibn Qays]* (d. ca. 67/687) a nobleman of the Tamīm (q.v.), he settled in Kufa during the early Umayyad era; proverbial in Arabic literature for his equanimity and leadership.
- al-Ahtam ibn Sumayy al-Tamīmī* (fl. late sixth century AD) a pre-Islamic member of the Tamīm (q.v.); his son, ‘Amr ibn al-Ahtam, was a Companion of the Prophet Muḥammad.
- al-Aḥwaṣ al-Anṣārī* (d. 110/728–29) Umayyad-era Medinese aristocrat and poet famous for his carousing in Medina; his poetry reflects the luxurious and sometimes libertine aspects of his society, as well as the indignant pride of his people.

- Ā'ishah* (d. 58/678) favored wife of the Prophet Muḥammad and daughter of Abū Bakr, the first caliph. Frequently cited as a source of hadiths. She fought the fourth caliph, 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭalib (q.v.), in 36/656 during the early Muslim community's First Civil War.
- Ajam* term connoting non-Arabs; in Ibn Qutaybah's text the word refers to peoples from further east whom we might call "Iranians," though this was not a term Ibn Qutaybah himself would have used since a specifically "Iranian" identity was the product of later times.
- al-'Ajjāj*, *'Abd Allāh ibn Ru'bah* (d. 97/715) celebrated Umayyad-era Iraqi poet famous for composing almost all his poetry in the *rajaz* (q.v.) meter. Also known for his poetic rivalry with Abū l-Najm al-'Ijlī (q.v.).
- 'Ajlān* [*ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn Ka'b ibn Rabī'ah ibn 'Āmir ibn Ṣa'sa'ah*] nomadic central Arabian lineage group.
- al-Akḥṭal* [*Ghiyāth ibn Ghawth ibn al-Ṣalt*] (d. ca. 92/710) Christian Arabic poet of the Taghlib (q.v.) who together with Jarīr and al-Farazdaq formed the famous poetic triad of the Umayyad period; in the poetic jousts between Jarīr and al-Farazdaq (qq.v.), he sided with the latter.
- 'Akk* an Arabian lineage group that lived on the Red Sea coast of south Arabia (Tihāmah) at the dawn of Islam; genealogists disagreed over whether it belonged to the "Northern" or "Southern" Arab lineage.
- Aktham ibn Ṣayfi l-Tamīmī* (d. ca. 8/630) a legendary pre-Islamic Arabian sage whose lifespan is variously reported as between 130 and 300 years, making him one of the celebrated *mu'ammārūn* (long-livers).
- 'Alā' ibn al-Ḥaḍramī* (d. 14/635) a Companion of the Prophet; dispatched to lead the spread of Islam in al-Baḥrayn (q.v.), where he became governor. After the Prophet's death, he defeated apostate groups in al-Baḥrayn and took part in one of the early (and abortive) Muslim invasions of south-west Iran.
- Aldebaran* (Ar. al-Dabaran, also known as Ḥādī l-Najm) a star in the constellation of Taurus, reputed to be a bad omen. It rises near and soon after the Pleiades and is one of the brightest visible stars.
- 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭalīb* (d. 41/661) first cousin of the Prophet, fourth caliph, and husband of the Prophet's daughter Fāṭimah. The Shi'ah regard him as the first Imam.

- ‘Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn ibn ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib* (d. 94/712 or 95/713) great-grandson of the Prophet, regarded as the fourth Imam of the Twelver Shi‘ah; also known as “Adornment of the Worshipers” (Zayn al-‘Ābidīn).
- Allies* (Ar. *Anṣār*) the Medinese clans Aws and Khazraj, who were the first clans to convert to Islam; in 1/622 Muḥammad emigrated to Medina and established the first Muslim polity there.
- ‘Alqamah ibn Hawdhah* (d. early first/seventh century) pre-Islamic Arabian nobleman and leader of the “Sons of the Camel Snout” (q.v.), part of the Sa‘d subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.); he reportedly lived into the Islamic era.
- ‘Alqamah ibn ‘Ulāthah [al-‘Āmirī]* (d. ca. 20/640) pre-Islamic Arabian nobleman-warrior, converted to Islam and became a prominent political figure. Best known in Arabic literature for his acerbic rivalry with his kinsman ‘Āmir ibn al-Ṭufayl (q.v.).
- ‘Amāliq* legendary people; Muslim genealogists linked them to the descendants of Noah and considered them among the first inhabitants of south Arabia.
- al-A‘mash, Sulaymān ibn Mihrān al-Asadī* (d. 148/765) Kufan hadith transmitter and Qur’an reader of Persian descent.
- ‘Āmir* name of several lineage groups in pre-Islamic Arabia, the largest being the ‘Āmir ibn Ṣa‘ṣa‘ah, a powerful clan of the Qays ‘Aylān (q.v.), who settled in central Arabia (Najd) and expanded into al-Ṭā‘if in northwest Arabia (the Hijaz).
- ‘Āmir ibn Hawdhah* (fl. early seventh century AD) pre-Islamic Arabian nobleman; leader of the “Sons of the Camel Snout” (q.v.), part of the Sa‘d subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.).
- ‘Āmir ibn Ṣa‘ṣa‘ah* see ‘Āmir.
- ‘Āmir ibn al-Ṭufayl* (d. ca. 7/628), renowned pre-Islamic warrior and poet; participated in many of the most famous conflicts recorded in pre-Islamic Arabian lore; lived into the first years of the Islamic period, but did not convert and reportedly opposed Islam’s spread into central Arabia.
- ‘Āmir ibn al-Zarīb al-‘Adwānī* (fl. sixth century AD) pre-Islamic Arabian sage. Lore connects him to Mecca and notes a number of his practices, such as abstinence from alcohol, which coincide with later Islamic law.

- ‘Amīrah ibn Ju‘al al-Taghlibī* (fl. sixth century AD) obscure pre-Islamic Arabian poet (his name is variously recorded); his surviving poems are mostly lampoons composed against his own Taghlib (q.v.) kinsmen.
- ‘Amr ibn al-Āṣ* Companion of the Prophet, leader of the invasion of Egypt in 19/640, and one of the two arbitrators appointed at Ṣiffin in 37/657 to settle the dispute over the caliphate between ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib and Mu‘āwiyah (qq.v.).
- ‘Amr ibn Hind, “the Burner”* (r. ca. AD 554–70) Lakhmid ruler of al-Ḥīrah, Sasanian vassal, and military leader in the Sasanian-Byzantine frontier conflict. The various explanations for his nickname, “the Burner,” include a story that he avenged the death of one of his brothers by ordering the immolation of ten prisoners from the Ḥanzalah (q.v.).
- ‘Amr ibn Kulthūm* (fl. sixth-century AD) pre-Islamic leader of the Jusham clan of the Taghlib (q.v.); he composed one of the great pre-Islamic odes (*mu‘allaqah*).
- ‘Amr ibn Ma‘dīkarib [Abū Thawr]* (d. after 16/637) poet and leading figure of the Yemeni Zubayd; earned great acclaim in the Muslim victory over the Sasanians at al-Qādisiyyah (14/635 or 16/637).
- ‘Amr ibn Sa‘īd [al-Ashdaq]* (d. 69–70/688–90) Meccan aristocrat of the Umayyad clan, renowned for his eloquence; governor of Mecca during the caliphate of Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.); attempted to become caliph himself during the Second Civil War when he seized Damascus, but was killed by the caliph ‘Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān (q.v.).
- ‘Amr ibn ‘Utbah [ibn Farqad al-Sulamī l-Kūfī]* (d. ca. 29/649–650) martyr credited with a variety of ascetic ideas and practices.
- ‘Amr ibn Wudd [al-‘Āmirī]* pre-Islamic Arab hero reportedly killed by ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.) at the Battle of the Ditch in 5/627 when the pagan Meccans besieged Muḥammad and his followers in Medina.
- ‘Anazah* major branch of the Rabi‘ah, based in northern and central Arabia at the dawn of Islam.
- Anushirvan* Sasanian king, reigned AD 531–79.
- ‘Arafāt* hill outside Mecca where the rituals of the second day of the hajj pilgrimage are held.
- arāk* the tree *Salvadora persica*, still today popularly known as “the tooth-brush tree.”

- Ardashīr [ibn] Bābak* (r. AD 226–41) Arabic name for the founder of the Sasanian dynasty in Iran.
- Aristotle* (Ar. Aristū) considered the outstanding and unique representative of philosophy by most Arabic-language philosophers, who sometimes call him simply “the Philosopher.”
- Arpachshad* (Ar. Arfakhshad) son of the biblical Shem, who was son of Noah. Muslim ethnogenesis made heavy use of Noah’s line.
- Arṭāh ibn Suhayyah* (d. 86/705 or later) early Islamic poet of satire and praise, the latter dedicated to the Umayyad caliph Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.).
- arzan* a tree with a hard wood.
- Asad* a large lineage group of the Muḍar (q.v.); “Northern Arabs” who resided in central Arabia (Najd); featured in numerous tales of pre-Islamic Arabian warring.
- Asad ibn ‘Abd Allāh [al-Qasrī]* (d. 120/738) Umayyad governor of Khurasan (r. 106–9/724–27 and 117–20/735–38).
- al-As‘ar ibn Ḥumrān al-Ju‘fī* an unidentified poet.
- al-A‘shā, Maymūn ibn Qays* (d. after 3/625) one of the most celebrated pre-Islamic poets, known for itinerancy and his interaction with important political groups on the Arabian-Iraqi frontier. He lived into the very early Islamic period, but reportedly did not convert.
- A‘shā Bāhīlah* ‘Āmir ibn al-Ḥārith (fl. sixth century AD) pre-Islamic poet primarily known for his elegies, which Muslim anthologists much esteemed.
- Ash‘ar* lineage group of the “Southern Arabs,” settled near the western coast of Yemen in the pre-Islamic era. They allied with Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.) during the First Civil War, and a number of their members were prominent political figures under the Umayyads.
- Ashbān* a term with multiple interpretations, including the name used for the pre-Islamic rulers of Spain and Italy, or an Iranian people near Isfahan.
- ‘aṣīdah* a porridge made with wheat flour and clarified butter, cooked into a paste thick enough to be chewed.
- ‘Āṣim ibn al-Ḥadathān* (d. ca. early second/eighth century?) an obscure figure reportedly important in certain Kharijite (q.v.) groups and in fighting during the Second Civil War.
- al-Aṣma‘ī* Abū Sa‘īd ‘Abd al-Malik ibn Qurayb (d. 213/828) Basran lexicographer and narrator of anecdotes about Arabia; attended the court of al-Rashīd (q.v.); his teachings, particularly on the specialized vocabulary

- of different fields, were compiled into books by his students and subsequent generations of scholars.
- Aʿsur* branch of the Qays ʿAylān (q.v.) lineage; the Bāhilah (q.v.), are one of their sub-groups.
- al-Aswad ibn Yaʿfur* (d. ca. AD 600) leader of the Tamīm (q.v.) on the Arabian-Iraqi frontier in the generation before Islam; also famed for his eloquence and poetry.
- al-ʿAttābī* Kulthūm ibn ʿAmr (d. 208/823 or 220/835) praise poet, secretary, and courtier, associated with the Barmakids (q.v.) and the caliphs al-Rashīd (q.v.) and al-Maʿmūn (q.v.); a famed prose stylist, he read Persian and composed several books on *adab* (q.v.) and lexicography.
- ʿAwf* a subgroup of the Tamīm lineage group (q.v.), mentioned in Arabic historical sources, including pertaining to Medina.
- Aws* one of the main two lineages of Medina. The other was the Khazraj, and the two constituted the Allies of Muḥammad and his supporters after their relocation to Medina from Mecca.
- Aws ibn ʿAbd Allāh ibn Buraydah* [*al-Marwazī*] transmitter of hadith from Buraydah (q.v.), his grandfather.
- ʿAwsajah ibn Mughīth* [*al-Qāʿif*] Arabian diviner of unknown date whose memory appears to be preserved only in the anecdote Ibn Qutaybah reports about his divination skills.
- Ayyūb ibn Sulaymān* (fl. first half of the second/eighth century) son of the Umayyad caliph Sulaymān ibn ʿAbd al-Malik (q.v.).
- Āzar* Abraham’s father according to the interpretation of Q Anʿām 6:74. Early Muslim exegetes also knew the biblical name of Abraham’s father, Terah (Ar. Tāriḥ), and suggested varied interpretations to reconcile the two names.
- Azd* one of the major subgroups of the Kahlān (q.v.); one of the major branches of the “Southern Arabs,” the Azd were originally from central Yemen; groups claiming kinship to Azd were spread widely across Arabia at the dawn of Islam.
- Babel* (Ar. Bābil) the city of Babylon as well as the country of Babylonia (q.v.), according to ancient Arab writers. The city’s ruins lie some fifty-four miles due south of Baghdad on the Euphrates.
- Babylonia* home to the ancient Babylonian Empire (eighteenth–sixth centuries BC) that at its height stretched from the Persian Gulf to Syria.

- Badr* a North Arabian clan that was part of the wider Banū Fazāra tribe.
- Baghīḍ ibn ʿĀmir* leader of the Tamīm (q.v.) in the early seventh century AD, converted to Islam but remained in Arabia; during the caliphate of ʿUmar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (q.v.), Baghīḍ and another Arabian notable, al-Zibriqān ibn Badr (q.v.), were the subjects of a famous poetic duel between al-Ḥuṭayʿah (q.v.) and Dithār ibn Shaybān.
- Bahdalāh [ibn ʿAwf]* a large subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.).
- Bāhilah [ibn Aʿṣur]* a large subgroup of the Qays ʿAylān (q.v.) who resided in northeastern Arabia at the dawn of Islam.
- Bahrāʾ* a large subgroup of the Quḍāʿah who resided on Arabia’s northern Red Sea coast at the dawn of Islam.
- Bahrām Gūr* (r. AD 420–38) Sasanian king; ascended the throne with the help of the Lakhmid (q.v.) king al-Mundhir I following the assassination of his father Yazdagird I (r. AD 399–420).
- al-Baḥrayn* region in eastern Arabia (much larger than modern-day Bahrain).
- Bakr ibn Wāʿil* ancient confederacy in central, east, and (later) north Arabia, belonging to the Rabīʿah ibn Nizār “Northern Arabs.”
- Balkh* an important city of well-irrigated oases located on major trading routes in northern Afghanistan, and a center of Buddhism and Zoroastrianism. The Barmakids (q.v.) were originally from Balkh.
- Barājim* a lineage group related to the Ḥanzalāh ibn Mālik (q.v.).
- Barīṣ* a source of water near Damascus; either the late antiquity name for Damascus’s main river, al-Baradā, or al-Ghūṭah, the oasis on the south of Damascus, formed by the river.
- Barmakids* originally Buddhists from Balkh (q.v.), they served the first five Abbasid caliphs. For reasons that still remain obscure al-Rashīd (q.v.) deposed the Barmakids in 187/803, imprisoning and executing many of them.
- bashām* a fragrant tree.
- Basra* garrison town and port city near the head of the Persian Gulf founded in 17/638 during the Islamic conquests of southern Iraq. A major intellectual center in early Islamic times.
- Bedouin* nomadic or semi-nomadic Arabic-speaking peoples originating in the Arabian Peninsula. Ibn Qutaybah and his peers romanticized them as the preservers of pure Arab cultural values.

- believers* (Ar. *mu'minūn*) any believers in a monotheistic God, though by Ibn Qutaybah's day, "believer" had become synonymous, as it is in the present-day, with "Muslim." (The distinction between "believer" and "Muslim" in nascent Islam remains the subject of scholarly debate.)
- Biṣṭām ibn Qays* pre-Islamic hero and poet of the Shaybān (q.v.). His family was considered one of the three most noble and aristocratic Bedouin families, and he led his lineage group from the age of twenty.
- Bujayr and 'Ifāq* famous horsemen and sons of Abū Malīl (q.v.) mentioned in pre-Islamic battle poetry. They were reportedly killed by Biṣṭām ibn Qays (q.v.).
- Bukayr ibn al-Akhnas* [*al-Sadūsī*] (fl. late first/seventh century) Kufan hadith transmitter.
- Buraydah* Companion of the Prophet who participated in the conquests in Khurasan and died during the reign of Yazīd ibn Mu'āwiyah (r. 60–64/680–83). His descendants reportedly remained in the area.
- Burning Ember Tribes* (Ar. *Jamarāt al-'Arab*) a set of celebrated militarized lineage groups in pre-Islamic times. The origins of the term are legendary, and the constituent groups were debated by Muslim writers but are generally named as the Numayr (q.v.), 'Abs, and Ḍabbah; sometimes also the Ḥarith ibn Ka'b.
- Buzurgmīhr* (fl. sixth century AD) a minister of the Sasanian king Khosrow Anushirvan. He was of legendary wisdom and virtue and is credited with many wise precepts in Middle Persian (Pahlavi) and Arabic literature.
- caliph* (Ar. *khalīfah*) Qur'anic term indicating "successor, substitute, replacement, deputy," adapted for the political head of the Muslim community after the Prophet's death in 11/632.
- caliphate* the politico-religious institution associated with the caliph.
- the Calumniator* (Ar. *al-kadhḥāb*) epithet for al-Mukhtār al-Thaqafī (d. 67/687) who, under the Umayyads, was leader of a movement partisan to 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.) which controlled Kufa in 66–67/685–87. He claimed to be acting as the representative of 'Alī's son Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥanafīyyah (q.v.), and his movement is often classified as an early manifestation of extremist Shi'ism.
- client(s)* (Ar. *mawlā*, pl. *mawālī*) non-Arab convert(s) to Islam. Converts to Islam notionally had kinship with those who converted them and by extension with their lineage group.

- Companions* Muslims who saw, met, or heard the Prophet Muḥammad personally.
- Copts* pre-Islamic Egyptians. In *The Excellence of the Arabs*, the Egyptians of pharaonic times specifically.
- Ḍabbah* a lineage connoting several Arabian kin groups, including the Ṣarīm ibn Saʿd ibn Ḍabbah, kin of the Umayyad-era poet al-Farazdaq (q.v.).
- Daḥamah* the mother of Yazīd ibn al-Muhallab (q.v.).
- Dārim* a subgroup of the Tamīm, descended from Zayd Manāt. At the dawn of Islam, their lands were located to the northeast of Medina.
- David* (Ar. Dāwūd) the prophet-king of Israel, mentioned in several places in the Qurʾan, sometimes with his son and successor, Solomon.
- Daws* a subgroup of the Azd. In the early seventh century AD, they were widespread in Arabia, but were particularly connected with the Lakhmids (q.v.) and the history of the Arabian-Iraqi frontier.
- Dhū l-Iṣbaʿ al-ʿAdwānī* (fl. sixth century AD) pre-Islamic poet of legendary stature in Muslim literature, particularly celebrated for his wisdom poetry.
- Dhū Qār* a victory of Arabian groups allied to Bakr ibn Wāʿil (q.v.) over the Sasanians in ca. AD 604–11, near al-Ḥīrah (q.v.). It was a blow to Sasanian influence in eastern Arabia and is recalled in Arabic literature as the first “Arab victory” over the Persians, and the precursor to the Islamic conquests.
- Dhū l-Qarnayn* figure mentioned in the Qurʾan (Q Kahf 18:83–101), often equated with Alexander the Great on the basis of similarities with episodes in the Alexander Romance.
- Dhū l-Rummah* Ghaylān ibn ʿUqbah (d. 117/735–36) Umayyad-era Arabian poet, famous for desert descriptions composed in an archaic style.
- Dhū l-Ruqaybah* see Mālik Dhū l-Ruqaybah.
- Dhubyān* a major subgroup of the Ghaṭafān (q.v.), claiming lineage from the Qays ʿAylān (q.v.); they resided to the east of Medina at the dawn of Islam.
- Diʿbil ibn ʿAlī l-Khuzāʿī* (d. 244/859 or 246/860) Abbasid-era poet famous for his pro-Yemeni verses and those praising ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.), as well as for biting satires directed against caliphs and other high-ranking figures of his time.
- dinar* a gold coin originally weighing approximately 4.25 grams; the basis of the caliphate’s monetary system and a symbol of status and wealth.

In the second/eighth century, one dinar had the value of approximately ten silver dirhams, which increased to twenty-five dirhams by the third/ninth century.

Esau (Ar. ‘Aṣṣaw) son of Isaac and Rebecca, brother of Jacob. Muslim genealogy identifies him as the progenitor of al-Rūm (q.v.).

Euclid (Ar. Iqlīdus) (third century BC) Greek mathematician from Alexandria celebrated as the “Father of Geometry.” His books on geometry and optics were translated into Arabic during the second/eighth century and were extensively studied and developed by Muslim mathematicians.

al-Faḍl ibn Sahl [*ibn Zadhānfarūkh*] (d. 202/818) Zoroastrian convert to Islam, brother of al-Ḥasan ibn Sahl (q.v.), and famed tutor and later vizier to the Abbasid caliph al-Ma’mūn (q.v.).

fālūdh more commonly *fālūdhaj*, from the Persian *pālūdag* (“strained”), a sweet made of flour and honey.

al-Farazdaq Abū Firās Hammām ibn Ghālib (d. ca. 110/728) one of the three most famous Umayyad-era poets (along with Jarīr and al-Akḥṭal [qq.v.]). He composed poetry for and about many high-ranking Muslims and caliphs and is most famous for his lifelong poetic jousts with Jarīr.

Farrāṣ one of the subgroups of the Bāhilah (q.v.).

Fārs a province of southwestern Iran and homeland to the Sasanian kings.

farsakh (from the Persian *parasang*), a distance of about four miles, or six kilometers.

Fāṭimah (d. 11/632) longest-lived daughter of the Prophet Muḥammad, wife of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib, and mother of al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn (qq.v.). The Shi‘ah revere her as the most excellent woman.

Fazzān a tribal group who populated the Sūdān (q.v.) and who figure in Muslim ethnogenesis.

al-Find al-Zimmānī (fl. mid-sixth century AD) pre-Islamic warrior poet who participated in the Basūs War between the northeastern Arabian Taghlib and Shaybān (qq.v.).

Galen (Ar. Jāliyanūs) (AD 129–200 or 206) Greek doctor and philosopher and author of a large corpus of medical treatises that formed the basis of medical practice in late antiquity. His works were translated into Arabic during the second/eighth century, and Muslim physicians cited him extensively.

- Ghanī* [*ibn Aʿṣur*] a lineage group of Northern Arabians related to the Qays ‘Aylān (q.v.). They resided in north and northeastern Arabia in the century before Islam.
- ghassāniyyah* unidentified dish.
- Ghaṭafān* a northern Arabian lineage whose lands lay in Najd between the Hijaz and Shammar Mountains.
- Gog and Magog* figures mentioned in the Hebrew Bible, Revelation, Christian Apocrypha, and the Qur’an in the context of the end of time. Muslim traditions associated them with a mysterious horde of Eastern peoples, kept at bay by a great wall built by Alexander the Great. Their crossing of the wall was to herald the end times.
- Ḥādī l-Najm* see Aldebaran.
- Hadith* the entire corpus of hadiths (q.v.); used to determine the exemplary practice of the Prophet.
- hadith* a report of something the Prophet Muḥammad said or did, including tacit expressions of approval or disapproval, consisting of the report itself as well as a list of those who transmitted it.
- ḥadīth qudsī* a class of Hadith reporting words spoken by God, as distinguished from prophetic Hadith, which report the words of the Prophet. *Ḥadīth qudsī* differ from the Qur’an, as they are not considered to be inimitable, nor revealed through the medium of Gabriel, and they are not recited in the ritual prayers.
- Hagar* (Ar. Hājar) according to Muslim tradition, concubine of Abraham and the mother of Ishmael, the legendary ancestor of the Arabs.
- Hajar* the ancient capital of al-Baḥrayn (q.v.), from *hajar* (“town” in the epigraphic dialects of pre-Islamic south Arabia), and therefore also found in other place-names.
- Ḥājib* [*ibn Zurārah*] (d. early seventh century AD) leader of the Tamīm (q.v.) immediately prior to the rise of Islam. Arabic lore describes how he gave his bow as a pledge to Khosrow Anushirvan (q.v.) in exchange for permission to pasture his clan’s flocks in Sasanian territory.
- hajj* the Muslim annual pilgrimage. It has pre-Islamic origins and incorporates rituals connected with Abraham, his concubine Hagar, and son Ishmael.
- al-Ḥajjāj* [*ibn Yūsuf*] (d. 95/714) famous Umayyad governor of Iraq remembered for his harsh but effective government.

- Ḥajr* historic settlement near modern Hofuf in eastern Saudi Arabia. Reportedly founded by the Ḥanifa ibn Lujaym (q.v.), it was the principal city of al-Baḥrayn (q.v.), an important center of contact between the Sasanian Empire and Arabia before Islam, and a regional capital in the Islamic era.
- Ham* (Ar. Ḥām) son of Noah. Not mentioned by name in the Qur'an but possibly the unbelieving son of Noah who refused to follow his father during the Flood. He features in Muslim genealogy as a forefather of various peoples, though inferior to Noah's sons Shem and Japheth.
- Hamdān* an important lineage of south Arabia, originally from the fertile mountains north of Sanaa in Yemen.
- Hammām ibn Qabiṣah* (d. 64/684) leader of the Numayr (q.v.) and a prominent military commander during the early Umayyad period. During the First Civil War, he fought with Mu'āwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān (q.v.), and during the Second Civil War, he sided with the unsuccessful faction of al-Ḍaḥḥāk ibn Qays and was killed in battle.
- Ḥanīfah [ibn Lujaym]* a powerful subgroup of the Bakr ibn Wā'il (q.v.), resident in the eastern part of central Arabia (al-Yamāmah) in pre-Islamic times.
- Ḥanīs ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn Ḥudhāfah al-Sahmī* Companion of the Prophet. Ibn Qutaybah reports that he delivered Muḥammad's letter to the Sasanian king, but other accounts name different envoys.
- Ḥanzalah ibn Mālik* the largest subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.); resided in central Arabia at the dawn of Islam.
- Haram [ibn Qaṭbah ibn Sinān (or Sayyār) ibn 'Amr al-Fazārī]* (d. after 13/634) a judge from pre-Islamic times known for his eloquence. He reportedly accepted Islam during the Prophet's lifetime.
- Harim ibn Sinān* (d. ca. AD 608) one of the leaders of the Dhubyān (q.v.) in the generation before the Prophet Muḥammad, known for his settling of conflict between the Dhubyān and the 'Abs; famously praised by the poet Zuhayr ibn Abī Sulmā (q.v.).
- harīсах* a thick potage made with pounded grains, minced meat, and a variety of seasonings.
- al-Ḥārīth ibn 'Amr ibn Tamīm* pre-Islamic Arabian, nicknamed al-Ḥabiṭ ("Puffy Tummy"), he was the eponymous ancestor of the Ḥabiṭāt subgroup of the Tamīm.

al-Ḥārith ibn ‘Awf (fl. first/seventh century) a pre-Islamic warrior and leader of the Murrah. He settled two especially prominent tribal disputes and led “the Confederates” (Ar. *al-aḥzāb*) against the Prophet at the Battle of the Trench. He later accepted Islam, and Muḥammad appointed him as a leader of the Murrah.

Hārūn al-Rashīd see al-Rashīd.

Ḥarūrīs the twelve thousand men who gathered in Ḥarūrā’, a place near Kufa, in 37/657 to protest against the decision by ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.) to accept arbitration in his dispute with Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.) over the caliphate. Ḥarūrīs are considered the first Kharijites (q.v.).

al-Ḥasan [ibn ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib] (d. ca. 49/669–70) son of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib and the Prophet’s daughter Fāṭimah, and according to the Shi‘ah, the second Imam, after ‘Alī.

al-Ḥasan ibn Jahwar a member of the household of al-Manṣūr (q.v.), according to Ibn Qutaybah. He is otherwise unknown.

al-Ḥasan ibn Sahl (d. 236/850–51) son of a Zoroastrian convert to Islam, secretary and governor for the Abbasid caliph al-Ma’mūn (q.v.), brother of the vizier al-Faḍl ibn Sahl (q.v.), and father of Būrān, who married al-Ma’mūn.

Hāshim a clan of the Quraysh to which the Prophet and the ancestors of the subsequent Abbasid dynasty belonged.

Ḥassān ibn Thābit (d. 50–54/670–74) a Medinese poet contemporary with Muḥammad; he is considered one of the three leading poets of the first Muslim community, alongside Ka‘b ibn Mālik (q.v.) and ‘Abd Allāh ibn Rawāḥah (q.v.).

Ḥātim ibn al-Nu‘mān (fl. mid-first/seventh century) leader of the Bāhilah (q.v.) during the early Muslim era and a prominent military commander; captured Merv (q.v.) during the caliphate of ‘Uthmān (q.v.) and helped rule Khurasan; backed Mu‘āwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān (q.v.) in the First Civil War and became lord over northern Mesopotamia.

Ḥātim al-Ṭā’i (fl. second half of the sixth century AD) poet proverbial for his generosity and hospitality.

Hawdhah al-Ḥanafī [ibn ‘Alī] (d. ca. 8/630) poet and leader of the Ḥanīfah (q.v.); the Prophet reportedly corresponded with him to convert them.

- ḥaysah* (or *ḥays*) an Arab dish made from dates crushed and kneaded with clarified butter, and mixed with flour, bread crumbs, or skimmed, dried, and crumbled camels' milk cheese.
- Hepthalites* (Ar. Ḥayātilah) a steppe people from Mongolia who formed powerful kingdoms along the Oxus during the fourth or fifth centuries AD.
- Herat* a city and province in western Afghanistan and a part of Greater Khurasan; situated in the fruitful valley of the Hari River.
- Ḥibbān* [or *Abbān*] *ibn Zayd* (mid-first/seventh century) an obscure traditionist of the Shar'ab lineage.
- Hijaz* the birthplace and spiritual center of Islam; area in the northwestern Arabian Peninsula, encompassing Mecca and Medina.
- al-Ḥijr* ancient commercial town in northwestern Arabia where a vast number of inscriptions have been found in Arabic, Aramaic, Thamudic, Nabatean, Minaean, Lihyanite, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.
- Hilāl ibn Mu'āwiyah al-Ṭā'ī* an unidentified poet.
- Ḥimyar* powerful south Arabian kingdom that flourished from *ca.* the first century BC until the early sixth century AD, when most of south Arabia was occupied by Ethiopian armies. In the Muslim era, Ḥimyar was one of the two main divisions of the "Southern Arabs" (the other being Kahlān [q.v.]), and one of the main constituents of the Yemeni faction.
- Hind ibn Abī Hālah* (d. 36/656) the son of Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Muḥammad's wife, by her first husband, Abū Hālah, and a member of the Tamīmī Usayyid clan; reportedly accepted Islam.
- Hippocrates* (Ar. Abqrāt) (*ca.* 460–370 BC) ancient Greek doctor and philosopher, and the symbolic father of Western medicine; various works ascribed to him were translated into Arabic during the second/eighth century.
- Ḥirmāz* a subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.), identified by the ancestor figure Ḥirmāz ibn Mālik ibn 'Amr ibn Tamīm.
- al-Ḥirmāzī* 'Abd Allāh ibn al-A'war, poet in the time of al-Rashīd (r. 170–93/786–809).
- Hishām ibn 'Uqbah* the less-famous brother of Dhū l-Rummah (q.v.).
- Hūd* the earliest of the five "Arab" prophets (Hūd, Ṣāliḥ, Ishmael, Shu'ayb, and Muḥammad) enumerated in Muslim traditions.

- al-Hudhalī, Mālik ibn al-Ḥārith [ibn Tamīm]* (fl. early seventh century AD) a pre-Islamic warrior and poet of the Hudhayl (q.v.).
- Hudhayl* Arabian lineage group residing in the pre-Islamic Hijaz (q.v.); its members spread across the Middle East during the Muslim conquests.
- al-Hudhayl ibn Zufar [ibn al-Ḥārith al-Kilābī]* (d. after 102/720) a highborn warrior who fought for the Umayyad Caliphate during the revolt of Yazīd ibn al-Muhallab (q.v.) in 101/719 and reportedly succeeded in killing Yazīd.
- Ḥumayd al-Arqaṭ [ibn Mālik]* (fl. late seventh century AD) an Iraqi poet famous for his miserliness and for mocking guests in verse.
- Ḥumayd ibn Thawr [al-Hilālī]* (d. ca. 90/709) a poet born in the pre-Islamic period who died after the coming of Islam, apparently at an advanced age; best known for his animal descriptions.
- Hunaydah bint Ṣaʿsaʿah [ibn Nājiyyah]* (mid-first/seventh century) the paternal aunt of the Umayyad-era poet al-Farazdaq (q.v.) and the wife of al-Ḥuṭayʿah (q.v.).
- al-Ḥusayn [ibn ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib]* grandson of Muḥammad through his daughter Fāṭimah and ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (qq.v.). He is reckoned as the third Imam by the Shiʿah, after ʿAlī and his elder brother, al-Ḥasan (q.v.).
- al-Ḥuṭayʿah* (d. ca. mid-first/seventh century) poet of the Qays (q.v.) whose life spanned the dawn of Islam; an itinerant panegyrist and famous satirist mocked for his avidity, avarice, and venality.
- Ibn ʿAbbās, ʿAbd Allāh* (d. 68/687–88) paternal cousin of Muḥammad and the nominal ancestor of the Abbasid line; often named as a source for hadiths and exegesis of the Qurʿan.
- Ibn Abī Ṭarafah al-Hudhalī* possibly ʿUmārah ibn Abī Ṭarafah, an obscure figure active in Iraq during the second/eighth century; he is cited as a narrator of the poetry of the Hudhayl (q.v.) and was an informant of al-Aṣmaʿī (q.v.).
- Ibn Abī l-Zinād* (fl. second/eighth century) Medinese client who was a hadith transmitter and jurist.
- Ibn al-Aʿrābī, Abū ʿAbd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Ziyād* (d. 231/846) Iraqi grammarian and specialist of Arabic language, poetry, genealogy, and lore; extensively cited by later authors.

- Ibn Dārah, Sālim* (fl. early-mid seventh century AD) poet of the pre-Islamic and early Islamic periods best known for his lampoons, one of which may have led to his death during the caliphate of ‘Uthmān (q.v.).
- Ibn al-It̥nābah al-Khazrajī, ‘Amr* (fl. late sixth century AD) pre-Islamic nobleman and leader of the Khazraj clan in Medina; some fragments of poetry attributed to him are preserved in Muslim collections.
- Ibn Jabalah, ‘Alī l-Akawwak* (d. 213/828) poet of Khurasanian descent whose excessive and semi-blasphemous praise for Abū Dulaf (q.v.) reportedly prompted the caliph al-Ma’mūn (q.v.) to order his execution.
- Ibn al-Kalbī, Abū Mundhir Hishām ibn Muḥammad* (d. 204/819) Iraqi author of over one hundred books on history, genealogy, and poetry, including detailed compendiums of Arab lineages and a work on pre-Islamic idols.
- Ibn Laylā* ‘Abd al-‘Azīz ibn Marwān (d. 86/705) brother of the Umayyad caliph ‘Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān (q.v.) and long-standing governor of Egypt who oversaw the early expansion of al-Fuṣṭāṭ, the precursor of Cairo.
- Ibn Mas‘ūd, ‘Abd Allāh* (d. 32/652–53) a Companion of the Prophet, reportedly of humble origins, known for his expertise on the Qur’an.
- Ibn al-Muqaffā’, ‘Abd Allāh* (d. 139/756) a Persian court secretary to the early Abbasids; celebrated for translating Middle Persian texts into Arabic.
- Ibn Muqbil, Tamīm ibn Ubayy* (fl. first/seventh century) poet of the ‘Ajlān; born in pre-Islamic Arabia, he converted to Islam, but his nostalgic verses about the pre-Islamic period have led some to doubt the sincerity of his conversion. He is also remembered for poetic jousts with al-Najāshī (q.v.).
- Ibn Shihāb* see al-Zuhri.
- Ibn Shubrumah, ‘Abd Allāh ibn Shubrumah al-Ḍabbī* (d. 144/761) a Kufan judge.
- Ibn Thumāmah* see Thumāmah ibn Ashras.
- Ibn al-Zubayr, ‘Abd Allāh* (d. 73/692) nobleman of the ‘Abd al-‘Uzzā clan of the Quraysh; son of the Companion al-Zubayr (q.v.); proclaimed caliph in Mecca in 64/683, but his caliphate was not universally acknowledged, and he was defeated and killed by the Umayyad caliph ‘Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān (q.v.).

- Idrīs* [*ibn Maʿqil al-ʿIjlī*] (fl. early-mid second/eighth century) a nobleman of the ʿIjl ibn Lujaym (q.v.), with political connections to Kufa and lands near Iṣfahān.
- ʿIjl ibn Lujaym* a subgroup of the Bakr ibn Wāʿil (q.v.) who resided in north-eastern Arabia and on the Arabian-Iraqi frontier at the dawn of Islam.
- Ikhshinwāz* the Arabic rendering of the name or title of the Hephthalite (q.v.) king during the reign of Peroz ibn Yazdagird ibn Bahrām (q.v.).
- Imam* from the Arabic *amma*, “to precede, to lead”; a Qurʾānic term for an exemplary religious-social-political leader; it is also used for a prayer leader. Its meaning was theorized heavily in Islamic political thought, including by sectarians.
- imamate* the institution of rule by an imam.
- ʿImrān, family of* the biblical Amram and his sons Aaron and Moses.
- Imruʿ al-Qays* (fl. mid-sixth century AD) a princely descendant of the leaders of the Kindah federation and the most famous pre-Islamic Arabian poet.
- ʿĪsā ibn Mūsā* (d. ca. 167/783–84) nephew of the caliph al-Manṣūr (q.v.) and governor of Kufa. Long presumed the heir apparent, he ceded the succession to al-Manṣūr’s son, al-Mahdī.
- ʿĪsā ibn Yazīd ibn Bakr al-Laythī* (d. 171/787–88) Medinese poetry collector and narrator of Arabian tales and hadith. Though often cited in early collections of Arabic lore, his trustworthiness as a narrator was doubted by several prominent Iraqi specialists.
- Isaac* (Ar. Iṣḥāq) a prophet in Muslim tradition and, as in the biblical tradition, the son of Abraham. Isaac has a genealogical association with Jews and a spiritual association with Christians in Muslim as in Jewish and Christian thought.
- Iṣfahan* major city of the central Iranian plateau, administrative center of the Sasanian region Media and the Muslim al-Jibāl Province, and capital of several dynasties in Muslim times.
- iṣḥal* a type of tamarisk, evergreen and native to drier areas of Eurasia and Africa. Arabic lexicons note its usefulness for toothsticks.
- Iṣḥāq ibn Rāhawayh* (161/777–78 to 238/852–53) a leading scholar of Hadith and Islamic law in Khurasan and the teacher of scholars whose works became canonical, including al-Bukhārī, Muslim, Abū Dāwūd, and al-Nasāʿī.

- Ishmael* (Ar. Ismā‘īl) prophet mentioned in the Qur’an, usually in connection with his father Abraham, brother Isaac, and nephew Jacob; counted by Arab genealogists as the ancestor of the “Arabized Arabs,” also called the “Northern Arabs.”
- Iyās ibn Qatādah* (fl. mid-late seventh century AD) a member of the Tamīm (q.v.) who settled in Basra and reportedly participated in uprisings during the Second Civil War; also narrated a small number of hadiths.
- Jabābirah* the kings of ancient Mesopotamia.
- Jabalah ibn ‘Abd al-Rahmān* (fl. early second/eighth century) client of the Bāhilah (q.v.) and companion of the governor of Khurasan, Muslim ibn Sa‘īd al-Kilābī; appointed governor of Kerman (q.v.) in 104/722–23.
- Jābir [ibn ‘Abd Allāh]* (d. ca. 78/697) a Companion of the Prophet who participated in the Prophet’s campaigns and a source for many hadiths.
- Jābir ibn Tha‘lab al-Tā‘ī* (fl. sixth century AD) a minor pre-Islamic Arabian poet.
- Jacob* (Ar. Ya‘qūb) son of Isaac in the biblical and Muslim tradition, mentioned in the Qur’an.
- Jadd ibn Qays* (fl. first quarter of the first/seventh century) contemporary of the Prophet, remembered as a “hypocrite” disloyal to his fellow Muslims.
- Jadīs* a legendary people that Muslim genealogists linked to the descendants of Noah and considered to be, along with a related group, the Ṭasm (q.v.), the first inhabitants of central and eastern Arabia (al-Yamāmah and al-Baḥrayn).
- Ja‘far ibn Quray‘ ibn ‘Awf ibn Ka‘b* (fl. sixth century AD) pre-Islamic Arabian nobleman nicknamed “the Camel Snout” and progenitor of the eponymous clan.
- Ja‘m* one of the nine ancient Arab lineage groups by Ibn Qutaybah’s reckoning (through Abū Ḥātim [q.v.]). The name does not feature in other traditions about the ancient Arabs.
- Jamī‘* unknown, possibly the son of Abū Ghādir (q.v.).
- Japheth* (Ar. Yāfath) son of Noah. Ibn Qutaybah’s description of his descendants is common to Muslim tradition.
- Jarīr ibn ‘Abd Allāh* (d. 51/671) an early convert to Islam, a tribal noble, unifier, and leader of the Bajīlah.
- Jarīr [ibn ‘Atīyyah ibn Khaṭafā]* (d. 111/729) one of the three most famous Umayyad-era poets (along with al-Farazdaq and al-Akḥṭal [qq.v.]). He is

best known for his love poetry and lifelong poetic flytings with both al-Farazdaq and al-Akḥṭal.

Jarīr ibn Ḥāzīm Abū l-Naḍr al-Azdī (d. ca. 170/786–87) notable and very active Basran hadith transmitter, counted as a reliable source by most Hadith specialists.

Jarīr ibn Yazīd [*al-Bajalī*] (fl. second/eighth century) hadith transmitter and important political figure. Governor of Basra (q.v.) in 126/744. After the fall of the Umayyads in 132/750, he retained official favor with the Abbāsids and served in governorships over Basra and Yemen until the reign of al-Ma'mūn (q.v.).

Jarm [*ibn Rayyān*] a subgroup of the Quḍā'ah lineage residing in northwest Arabia near the Arabian-Syrian frontier at the dawn of Islam.

Jazīrah Arabic term for northern Mesopotamia and the upper reaches of the Tigris and Euphrates in modern Syria, Iraq, and eastern Turkey.

Jesus (Ar. 'Īsā) in the Qur'an, "the Messiah" (*al-Masīḥ*), prophet (*nabī*), messenger (*rasūl*), the son of Mary. Although not regarded by Muslims as the son of God, the Qur'an does refer to him as the Word of God and affirms his virgin birth and miracles.

jinn (sg. *jinnū*) spirits created from fire, believed to possess powers for evil and good.

Jirān [*al-'Awd al-Numayrī*] (fl. sixth century AD) an obscure pre-Islamic Arabian poet; his poetry and stories of his love adventures are often cited in Muslim literature.

John the Baptist in the Qur'an, the prophet who will witness the truth of a word from God. Accounts of the birth, life, and death of John were elaborated in the Muslim tradition.

Jubayr ibn Muṭ'im (d. during the caliphate of Mu'āwiyah, 41–60/661–80) Qurayshī nobleman and Companion of the Prophet.

Judhām [*ibn 'Adī*] major "Southern Arab" subgroup of the Kahlān (q.v.); at the dawn of Islam they resided in the Red Sea coastal region of modern northern Saudi Arabia and Jordan; Judhām comprised the major population of the first Muslim settlers in Egypt.

Juḥdur al-'Uklī (d. ca. 100/718) Umayyad-era Arabian poet. He operated as a bandit in al-Yamāmah before being imprisoned by the lieutenant of al-Ḥajjāj ibn Yusuf (q.v.).

- Jurhum* a legendary lineage group that Muslim genealogists counted among the “Southern Arabs”; according to the stories, the Jurhum are said to have first settled in Yemen before moving to Mecca, which is where they were living when Abraham and Ishmael migrated south to construct the Kaaba. Ishmael married into Jurhum and his descendants would be identified as the “Northern Arabs.”
- Juwayriyah ibn Asmāʾ* (d. 173/789–90) Basran hadith transmitter and a student of al-Zuhri (q.v.) and Mālik ibn Anas.
- Kaʿb [ibn ʿAwf]* a name referring to one of two minor lineage groups whose descent is related to the “Southern Arabs.”
- Kaʿb ibn Mālik* (d. 50–53/670–73) poet of the Khazraj in Medina and, alongside Ḥassān ibn Thābit (q.v.) and ʿAbd Allāh ibn Rawāḥah (q.v.) one of the three leading poets of Muḥammad’s Muslim community. Kaʿb is perhaps best known for the story of his penance after not participating in one of Muḥammad’s campaigns.
- Kaʿb ibn Māmāh* one of the pre-Islamic leaders of the Iyād, famous in Arabic literature for his generosity.
- Kaʿb ibn Zuhayr* (d. ca. 50/670) son of the pre-Islamic poet Zuhayr; most celebrated for the story of his conversion to Islam, which culminated in his performing the “Mantle Ode” (*qaṣīdat al-burdah*) to Muḥammad.
- Kaaba* God’s ancient, sacred house; in Mecca.
- Kahlān* the name by which genealogists identified one of the two major divisions of the “Southern Arabs,” the other being Ḥimyar (q.v.).
- Kalīlah and Dimnah* a collection of animal fables, likely originating in the Sanskrit *Panchatantra*, transmitted through Middle Persian and into Arabic via a translation ascribed to Ibn al-Muqaffaʾ in the second/eighth century. The set of moralistic stories enjoyed great popularity.
- Kerman* province of southeast Iran between Fārs and Sistan, ancient Carmania. Known for silk and cotton manufacture; Sirjan, Bardasir, Bam, and the port of Hormuz were its main cities in late antiquity. Conquered by Muslims between AD 638 and 650.
- Khadijah* (d. AD 619) first wife of the Prophet, first convert to Islam, and the mother of the Prophet’s daughter Fāṭimah. A businesswoman before her marriage, she supported Muḥammad economically and spiritually, and is esteemed by both Sunni and Shiʿah Muslims.

- al-Khafājī's shears* a metaphor for sharpness. It only appears in the poem by al-A'shā cited by Ibn Qutaybah, and the metaphor's origin is unclear. Khafājah was a subgroup of the 'Āmir (q.v.).
- Khalaf al-Aḥmar* (d. ca. 180/796) poet and transmitter of early poetry.
- Khālīd ibn Barmak* (d. 165/781–82) a leading member of a family of viziers and administrators.
- Khālīd ibn al-Walīd* (d. 21/642) Meccan member of Quraysh who originally warred against the Prophet Muḥammad but later converted to Islam and became one of the most celebrated military commanders of the early Muslim community. Played a key role in the conquests of Iraq and Syria.
- Khālīd ibn Yazīd [ibn Mu'āwiyah]* (d. 85/704) grandson of the caliph Mu'āwiyah (q.v.); a Qurayshī nobleman who withdrew from political activity in favor of scholarly pursuits; later lore ascribes him (perhaps apocryphally) specialist knowledge of medicine and alchemy.
- Khallād al-Arqaṭ* Ibn Yazīd al-Bāhili (d. 120/737–38) an Umayyad-era Basran narrator of Arabian history and Arabic poetry, and a client of the Farrāṣ (q.v.); of non-Arab origins.
- Khāqān* a title applied by Muslim geographers and historians of Ibn Qutaybah's day to the heads of the various Turkish confederations (and also, but not by Ibn Qutaybah, to other non-Muslim rulers such as the emperor of China).
- Kharijites* label used to describe an array of political groups in early Islam who opposed the institution of the caliphate. Their movements often involved violent secession and conflict against provincial or caliphal authorities. Late Muslim writers regard them as a distinct theological sect, though in early Islam they were diffuse and held varied sectarian and political views.
- Khath'am [ibn Anmār]* a major subgroup of the Kahlān (q.v.), whose lineage was traced to the "Southern Arabs." They resided in the area south of Mecca up to the borders of Yemen, where they acquired significant power in the generations before Islam.
- Khaybar* oasis approximately 150 kilometers north of Medina, famous for its wealth of date palms.
- khazīrah* a broth made with flour or bran and water or milk.

- Khindif* a lineage group of the “Northern Arabs” descended from Ilyās ibn Muḍar; they expressed their lineage through their ancestral mother, Khindif.
- khosrow* (Middle Persian *xusrō*) title applied generically to monarchs of the Sasanian royal family who ruled Persia before the conquests.
- Khosrow Anushirvan* see Anushirvan.
- Khosrow Parviz* Sasanian king, reigned AD 590–628. He was the grandson of Khosrow Anushirvan (q.v.).
- Khulayd ibn ‘Aynayn* Umayyad-era minor poet from the ‘Abd al-Qays (q.v.); he is said to have lived in al-Baḥrayn (q.v.), and most stories about him concern his poetic jousts with the famous poet Jarīr (q.v.).
- Khurasan* region comprising present-day northeastern Iran, Afghanistan, and parts of Central Asia; one of the richest provinces of the caliphate. The Abbasids received strong support from Khurasan when they overthrew the Umayyads; its capital, Merv, was initially the base of al-Ma’mūn (q.v.).
- al-Khuraymī, Ishāq ibn Ḥassān* (d. 214/829–30) Abbasid-era poet of Soghdian origin who became famous in Baghdad.
- Kilāb* a major subgroup of the ‘Āmir ibn Ṣa’ṣa’ah (q.v.); initially residing to the east of Medina, they spread to Syria, where they wielded significant power in the Islamic period.
- Kufa* a garrison city founded in 17/638 during the conquests on the western arm of the Euphrates in the alluvial plains of Iraq. The city briefly served as the capital of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.) when he vied for the caliphate, and remained a key center for Shi’i Islam for centuries afterward.
- al-Kumayt [ibn Zayd al-Asadī]* (d. 128/744) Iraqi Umayyad-era poet who mastered Bedouin-style verse and whose praises for partisans of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.) placed him in conflict with Umayyad authorities.
- Kuthayyir [‘Azzah]* (d. 105/723) Arabian Umayyad-era poet, celebrated for his chaste, longing love poetry (a style known as *‘udhrī*) dedicated to his beloved, ‘Azzah.
- Labīd ibn Rabī‘ah* (d. ca. 41/661) famous pre-Islamic Arabian poet and author of one of the great pre-Islamic odes (*mu‘allaqah*); converted to Islam, and several pious poems are ascribed to him.
- lafītah* a porridge-like *‘aṣidah* (q.v.) made with colocynth and flour.

- Lakhmids* semi-nomads on the Arabian-Iraqi frontier who established a dynasty based around al-Ḥīrah; they served as vassals for the Sasanians, guarding the frontier against the Byzantines and spreading Sasanian influence into Arabia.
- Lud* (Ar. Lāwudh) grandson of Noah, through Shem. Mentioned in Genesis 10:22.
- Ma'add* designator for a large number of central and northern Arabians before Islam, as well as their eponymous legendary ancestor; Muslim genealogists organized tribal lineages and used the name to describe the group of "Northern Arabs."
- maḍīrah* a sumptuous meat stew, served at banquets and celebrated in Arabic literature of Ibn Qutaybah's day.
- Madyan* name in the Qur'an and the Bible of the people to whom Shu'ayb (q.v.) was sent as a prophet.
- Mālik Dhū l-Ruqaybah* Ibn Salamat al-Khayr ibn Qushayr (fl. sixth century AD) pre-Islamic warrior of the 'Āmir ibn Ṣa'sa'ah (q.v.); distinguished himself at the Battle of Jabalah, one of the most celebrated battles in pre-Islamic Arabian lore.
- Mālik ibn Dīnār* (d. ca. 130/747) Basran ascetic and traditionist; his family originated from far eastern Iran, possibly Kabul, and his father was brought as a captive to Basra where he became a client of the Sulaym (q.v.).
- Mālik ibn al-Ḥārith* see al-Hudhālī.
- al-Ma'lūṭ [ibn Badal al-Qarya'ī]* (fl. early second/eighth century) minor Umayyad-era Arabian poet; composed chaste, longing love poetry (a style known as 'udhrī).
- al-Ma'mūn* (r. 197–218/813–833) seventh Abbasid caliph.
- Ma'n [ibn Zā'idah al-Shaybānī]* (d. 152/769) aristocrat, commander under the last Umayyads, who went into hiding after the Abbasids came to power, and was pardoned by al-Manṣūr (q.v.); governor of rebellious provinces; generous patron of poets.
- Manāf* a subgroup of the Dārim (q.v.).
- al-Manṣūr, Abū Ja'far* (r. 136–58/754–75) second Abbasid caliph and founder of the new Abbasid capital, Baghdad.
- Marwānids* one of the two major Umayyad clans of the Quraysh (qq.v.), that reigned until the Umayyad collapse in 132/750. Named for the fourth

Umayyad caliph, Marwān ibn al-Ḥakam (r. 64–65/684–85), who is credited with rescuing the Umayyad hold on the caliphate during the disorder of the Second Civil War following the death of Yazīd ibn Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.).

Mash (Ar. Māsh) in the Qur’an, son of Noah’s son Shem; in the Bible he is a grandson of Shem.

al-Mas‘ūdī most likely one of two grandsons of Ibn Mas‘ūd (q.v.), whose descendants Ibn Qutaybah lists in his *al-Ma‘ārif (Book of Knowledge)* as including two “al-Mas‘ūdīs,” the elder being ‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn ‘Utbah and the younger being ‘Abd al-Malik ibn Abī ‘Ubaydah.

Maymūn ibn Mihrān (d. ca. 117/735) a client and leading jurist in the Jazīrah (q.v.), and collector of the *kharāj* tax for the caliph ‘Umar ibn ‘Abd al-‘Azīz (r. 99–101/717–20).

maysir pre-Islamic form of gambling using arrows; players compete for portions of a slaughtered camel, usually divided into ten parts.

Mecca cultic center of the Hijaz in pre-Islamic Arabia and of the Islamic world thereafter; the birthplace of Muḥammad.

Medina the capital for Muḥammad’s polity during the reign of the first three caliphs; situated about 160 kilometers from the Red Sea and 350 kilometers north of Mecca.

Merv city in what is now Turkmenistan; in early Islamic times, the capital of Khurasan (q.v.).

Minā a stopping place in the hills east of Mecca during the hajj pilgrimage; the ritual animal sacrifice is done here.

Miskīn al-Dārimī (first/seventh century) poet from Iraq. His name, *miskīn*, means “destitute,” and reportedly derives from verses in which he describes himself as destitute but also asserts his worth through his personal virtue.

al-Miswar [ibn ‘Abbād] nobleman of the Tamīm (q.v.) and leader of the constabulary (*ṣāḥib al-shurṭah*) in Basra in the late Umayyad era; he was removed from his office during the caliphate of Yazīd ibn al-Walīd (r. 126/744) and participated in major civil disturbances and subsequent factional infighting.

Moses (Ar. Mūsa) the most prominent pre-Islamic prophet in the Qur’an. The Qur’an speaks of the book or scripture of Moses.

- Mu'aqqir al-Bāriqī* pre-Islamic Arabian poet esteemed by Muslim collectors, though very little of his poetry survives.
- Mu'āwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān* (r. 41–60/661–80) founder of the Umayyad Caliphate as a hereditary dynasty; previously governor of Damascus and then all of Syria during the reigns of 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb and 'Uthmān (q.q.v.); a shrewd statesman, he rose to the caliphate on the platform of seeking vengeance for the assassinated caliph 'Uthmān (his kinsman).
- Muḍar* one of the two main divisions of the “Northern Arabs,” alongside Rabī'ah. The Prophet and his family descended from Muḍar.
- Mudlij* a subgroup of the Kinānah, residing in northwest Arabia (the Hijaz [q.v.]) at the dawn of Islam. They were known for their augurors in the pre-Islamic period.
- al-Muhallab [ibn Abī Šufrah]* (d. 83/702) general and governor of Khurasan; father of Yazīd ibn al-Muhallab and grandfather of Mukhallad ibn Yazīd ibn al-Muhallab (q.q.v.).
- Muḥammad ibn 'Alī [ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn al-'Abbās]* (d. 125/742–43) great-grandson of the Prophet's uncle al-'Abbās and father of the Abbasid caliphs al-Saffāh and al-Manšūr (q.v.). Muḥammad was an important figure in the establishment of the Abbasid mission in the east.
- Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥanafiyyah* (d. 81/700) a son of the fourth caliph, 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.), through a concubine. Revolts were raised in his name.
- Muḥammad ibn Juḥādah* (d. 131/749) Kufan hadith transmitter, counted as a trustworthy source by a number of Hadith experts such as Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal and Abū Ḥātim al-Rāzī.
- Muḥammad ibn al-Khaṣīb ibn Ḥamzah* unknown hadith transmitter whom Ibn Qutaybah also cites in his *Uyūn al-akhbār (Choice Narratives)* and *Al-Ma'ārif (Book of Knowledge)*.
- Muḥammad ibn Mundhir* (fl. mid-late second/eighth century) literary figure of the early Abbasid era; a companion of poets and a specialist in Arabic language and poetry; Iraḳī client of the Šubayr ibn Yarbū'.
- Muḥammad ibn Šāliḥ al-Ḍabbī* unknown hadith transmitter.
- Muḥammad ibn Sīrīn* Abū Bakr Muḥammad (d. ca. 110/728) Basran scholar and hadith transmitter also renowned for Qur'anic exegesis and dream interpretation.
- Muḥammad ibn 'Ubayd* perhaps Abū 'Abd Allāh al-Hamdāni Muḥammad ibn 'Ubayd ibn 'Abd al-Malik al-Asadī (d. 249/863–64 or 243–244/858),

a reputable transmitter of Kufan origins. He transmitted hadiths directly to Ibn Qutaybah, who mentions him in his *‘Uyūn al-akhbār* (*Choice Narratives*) and *Al-Ma‘ārif* (*Book of Knowledge*).

Muḥammad ibn Uqayṣir al-Sulamī (fl. first/seventh century) early Muslim Arabian horse expert; a source of various anecdotes about horsemanship and horse husbandry.

Muḥammad ibn Ziyād Abū ‘Abd Allāh ibn al-A‘rābī (d. 231/846) genealogist, transmitter of poetry, and lexicographer of the Kufan school who authored many thematic dictionaries.

Mujazzaz [*al-Qā’if*] Ibn al-A‘war ibn Ja‘dah (fl. first/seventh century) Arabian diviner of the Kinānah (q.v.) and contemporary of the Prophet Muḥammad.

Mukhallad ibn Yazīd ibn al-Muhallab (d. ca. 100/718) son of Yazīd ibn al-Muhallab (q.v.); one of the leaders of Basra’s most powerful Umayyad-era families, Mukhallad was famed for exhibiting strong leadership characteristics as a youth and acted as governor of Khurasan on behalf of his father.

al-Mukhtār al-Thaqafī see the Calumniator.

Murrah [*ibn ‘Awf*] a subgroup of the Ghaṭafān (q.v.), residing between Mecca and Medina at the dawn of Islam.

Mūsā ibn Sa‘īd al-Jumaḥī an obscure figure of the Jumaḥ clan of the Quraysh, the only record ascribed to him appears to be the story narrated by Ibn Qutaybah in *Al-Tanbīh*.

Musāwir ibn Hind (d. ca. 75/695) poet and nobleman of the ‘Abs; active in the pre-Islamic period, his alleged survival to the time of al-Ḥajjāj (q.v.) suggests a very long life.

al-Musayyab ibn ‘Alas (fl. sixth century AD) pre-Islamic Arabian poet; Muslim collectors held his verses in high esteem, though few poems survive.

Muslim literally, a person who has “submitted” to God. The term *can* refer to any such believer, not just Muslims, i.e., those who belong to Muḥammad’s community.

Muslim ibn ‘Amr [*ibn Ḥaṣīn al-Bāhili*] (d. 72/691) early Umayyad-era nobleman and close confidant of the caliph Yazīd ibn Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.). He was killed fighting with Muṣ‘ab ibn al-Zubayr during the Second Civil War.

Muslim ibn Bashshār hadith transmitter, otherwise unknown.

- al-Mustawrid ibn Qudāmah* (fl. mid-first/seventh century) a leader of the Bāhilah (q.v.); settled in Iraq following the conquests and was one of the witnesses when the caliph Mu'āwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān (q.v.) infamously “adopted” Ziyād ibn Abī Sufyān (q.v.).
- al-Mutajarridah* (fl. sixth century AD) a wife of King al-Nu'mān ibn al-Mundhir (q.v.); famous in Arabian lore for the scandalous poem about her composed by the poet al-Nābighah al-Dhubyanī (q.v.) when he saw her partially naked.
- Muṭarrif* [*ibn Abī Khuwaylid al-Hudhalī*] identity uncertain.
- al-Muṭṭalib ibn Abī Wadā'ah* (fl. first half of the first/seventh century) rich Qurayshī Meccan merchant and contemporary of the Prophet who embraced Islam after the conquest of Mecca and transmitted a few hadiths.
- Muzarrid* Yazīd ibn Ḍirār (fl. early-mid seventh century AD) warrior poet and convert to Islam; brother of al-Shammākh (q.v.); their poetry and aspects of their biographies are sometimes interchanged in the sources.
- al-Nābighah* [*al-Dhubyanī*] (fl. late sixth century AD) celebrated pre-Islamic poet, active in both the Ghassanid and Lakhmid courts; his poetry was highly esteemed among Muslim collectors.
- al-Nābighah al-Ja'dī* (d. ca. 79/698–99) poet contemporary with the rise of Islam; he converted toward the end of Muḥammad's life and was politically active during the conquests and the subsequent factionalism of the early caliphate.
- Nāfi' ibn al-Azraq* (d. 65/685) a Kharijite (q.v.) leader. During the First Civil War he joined the Ḥarūrīs (q.v.) and was imprisoned; he escaped during the Second Civil War and, until he was killed near Basra, led a notoriously violent Kharijite group that controlled much of southern Iran.
- Nahd* [*ibn Zayd*] a subgroup of the Quḍā'ah residing in Yemen at the dawn of Islam. Another subgroup residing on the Arabian-Syrian frontier also claimed common lineage with them.
- al-Nahīf* (or *al-Nuḥayf*) nickname for the pre-Islamic figure Sa'd ibn Qurṭ of the Judhaymah, known in Arabic literature on account of his mother's disapproval of his marriage and the poetry on this topic.
- Nahik ibn Mālik ibn Mu'āwiyah* (fl. first/seventh century) poet contemporary with Muḥammad; brother of one of the Prophet's Companions, Ubayy.

- Nahshal* [*ibn Dārim*] a subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.) residing in northeastern Arabia at the dawn of Islam.
- Nahshal ibn Ḥarrī* (d. ca. 45/665) a leader of the Arabian Nahshal ibn Dārim (q.v.), warrior, and poet; born in the pre-Islamic-era, he converted to Islam and fought during the First Civil War.
- al-Najāshī*, *Qays ibn ‘Amr ibn Mālik* (d. 49/669) Arabian poet of the Kahlān (q.v.), celebrated for his poetic jousts with Ibn Muqbil during the caliphate of ‘Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (qq.v.); partisan of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.) during the First Civil War. Probably called by the epithet al-Najāshī (from Negus, the title of the emperors of Ethiopia) because of his Ethiopian mother. Famous for his profligacy and bellicose nature.
- Najd* desert plateau in the central Arabian Peninsula and home to several major nomadic groups.
- Najdah al-Ḥarūrī* (d. 72/691–92) leader of the Ḥanīfah (q.v.) who rose to prominence during the instability following the succession crisis after the caliphate of Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.). Wrested control of much of eastern Arabia from the caliphate for almost a decade before internal strife fragmented his following, and he was killed by one of his lieutenants.
- al-Namarī* name usually indicating a lineage to the al-Namir ibn Qāsiṭ, a subgroup of the Rabi‘ah ibn Nizār, though various lineage groups used the name too.
- nasnās/nisnās* strange beings possibly conceived based on sightings of monkeys or apes.
- al-Nasr* can refer to either a star in Lyra or three stars in Aquila.
- Naṣr ibn Khālīd* [*or Khalaf*] *al-Ḍabbī* identity uncertain, possibly an obscure third/ninth-century hadith transmitter.
- ney* an end-blown flute that is a popular wind instrument.
- Nizār* tribal group named, according to Muslim genealogists, for the son of Ma‘add (q.v.), who was hence one of the legendary ancestors of the “Northern Arabs.”
- Noah* (Ar. Nūḥ) Qur’anic prophet and a major figure of Muslim ethnogenesis.
- Nubians* peoples living in the land to the south of Egypt.
- al-Nu‘mān ibn Bashīr* (d. 64/684) poet and political figure from the Khazraj Medinese Companions, killed in the wars following the death of Yazīd ibn Mu‘āwiyah (q.v.).

- al-Nu'mān ibn al-Mundhir* (r. AD 590s–ca. AD 602) pre-Islamic king of the Lakhmids who features prominently in stories of pre-Islamic Arabia and Arab-Persian relations.
- Numayr [ibn 'Āmir]* a major subgroup of the Qays 'Aylān (q.v.) and one of the most renowned pre-Islamic Arabian lineages; resided in northeastern Arabia and the Syrian desert at the dawn of Islam.
- Nushbah ibn Ghayz ibn Murrah ibn 'Awf ibn Sa'd ibn Dhubyān* a subgroup of the Qays 'Aylān (q.v.).
- Peroz ibn Yazdagird ibn Bahrām* (r. AD 459–84) Sasanian king Peroz I. His reign was troubled by his unsuccessful war against the Hephthalites (q.v.), who defeated and captured him in ca. 469, forcing the Sasanian Empire to pay tribute; the Hephthalites defeated Peroz a second time and killed him in 484.
- petty kings, period of* (Ar. *al-ṭawā'if*) in Persian history, the period between Alexander the Great and the Sasanian Empire.
- pharaohs* (Ar. *farā'inah*, sg. *fir'awn*) the ancient rulers of Egypt. The Qur'an refers to the "pharaoh" of Moses.
- Pleiades* (Ar. *al-Thurayyā*) in astronomy, among the star clusters nearest to the earth and most obvious to the naked eye in the night sky.
- Proponents of Equality* (Ar. *ahl al-taswiyah*) an ambiguous term by which Ibn Qutaybah might mean his opponents in general, or possibly a specific group that called itself by this name in opposition to Arab privilege.
- Qaḥṭabah* (d. 132/749) Arab general who was one of the most prominent leaders of the Abbasid movement in Khurasan. He fought against the Umayyads and was killed trying to capture Kufa. His son Aḥmad then took Kufa.
- Qaḥṭān* a legendary ancestor of the "Southern Arabs," and a name synonymous with Yemen in Muslim genealogy.
- al-Qāsīm* a son of Muḥammad and his wife Khadijah who died in infancy.
- al-Qāsīm [ibn Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr al-Ṣiddīq]* (d. ca. 106/724–25) Medinese hadith transmitter numbered among the so-called seven jurists of Medina; grandson of the caliph Abū Bakr (q.v.).
- al-Qāsīm ibn 'Urwah* Abū Muḥammad (fl. late second/eighth century) minor Baghdadi hadith transmitter.
- al-Qaṭāmī* 'Umayr ibn Shuyam (d. ca. 101/719–20) poet of the Taghlib (q.v.); his biography is obscure, but his love poetry and his praises for Umayyad

elites were celebrated, and he was counted among the best Umayyad-era poets.

Qaṭarī ibn al-Fujā'ah (d. 80/699–700) Kharijite (q.v.) warrior and celebrated poet and orator; the last leader of a sect of rebellious Kharijites known as the Azraqīs, he waged numerous successful wars against the Umayyads in Iran and minted coins in his own name as “Commander of the Faithful.” Killed in battle.

Qays [*Aylān*] one of the main branches of the Muḍar (q.v.), connoting a large number of pre-Islamic Arabian groups, including the Ghaṭafān (q.v.), the Sulaym (q.v.), and the Hawāzin. The Qays constituted a politically powerful faction in the Umayyad and early Abbasid eras.

Qays ibn 'Amr ibn Mālik al-Najāshī see al-Najāshī, Qays ibn 'Amr ibn Mālik.

Qays ibn 'Āṣim (fl. sixth century AD), pre-Islamic Arabian of the Tamīm (q.v.) celebrated in many stories for his intelligence and equanimity; also remembered as one of the pre-Islamic figures who abstained from drinking wine. Tamīm traditions stress the role of Qays in the deputation of Tamīm to the Prophet, emphasizing that the Prophet was impressed by him.

Qays ibn Sā'id unknown poet.

Qays ibn Sā'idah possibly Quss ibn Sā'idah (fl. ca. AD 600), a semi-legendary orator and poet known for his skill in mediation. He is said to have been a monotheist and admired by the Prophet.

quflah a tree indigenous to the uplands of the Hijaz (q.v.), distinguished by its desiccated appearance and fragrant resin. Most Arabic literary descriptions of the tree are derived from the same anecdote reported by Ibn Qutaybah.

Qurād ibn Ḥanash al-Ṣāridī pre-Islamic poet from the Ghaṭafān (q.v.).

Qurayn see 'Umayr ibn Salmā.

Quraysh the lineage of Muḥammad, the prophet of Islam, and the lineage group of both the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties.

Qushayr [*ibn Ka'b*] a subgroup of the 'Āmir ibn Ṣā'ṣā'ah (q.v.) whose lineage is traced to the “Northern Arabs.”

Qutaybah ibn Muslim [*al-Bāhili*] (d. 96/714–15) a military commander for the Umayyads in eastern Iran; he led the major Muslim conquests in Central Asia, but friction with the caliphs and factionalism within his army's ranks led him to an unsuccessful rebellion in which he was killed.

- Rabī'ah* one of the two largest and most powerful combinations of lineage groups in ancient Northern Arabia. The name Rabī'ah is frequent in the nomenclature of Arabian groups.
- rabīkah* an Arab dish resembling *ḥaysah* (q.v.) but softer. One recipe makes it from flour and a sour cheese ground together and then mixed with clarified butter and thickened fruit juice or dates.
- al-Raḥḥāl* (fl. sixth century AD) reportedly a companion of the poet Jirān al-'Awd (q.v.); some poems are variously ascribed to either figure.
- al-Rā'ī* (d. ca. 90/708) an Umayyad-era poet most celebrated for his poetic duels with Jarīr (q.v.), in which he and his people were notoriously lampooned.
- rajaz* Arabic poetic meter, the simplest and generally believed to be the oldest. It is used for short, improvised utterances, for instance at the beginning of a battle.
- al-Rashīd, Hārūn* (r. 170–93/786–809) the most celebrated caliph in Arabic literature, his memory is associated with later nostalgia for an Abbasid “golden age.”
- Rebecca* (Ar. Rifqā) wife of Isaac, mother of Esau and Jacob, and daughter of Abraham's brother Nahor in Ibn Qutaybah's reporting (in contrast to Genesis, where she is the granddaughter of Nahor through a son of his, Bethuel).
- al-Riyāshī* al-'Abbās ibn al-Faraj (d. ca. 257/871) one of the leaders of philological studies in Iraq.
- al-Rūm* an eponym for the Greeks and specifically for the Byzantines, who called themselves Roman.
- Rūmān* the name of two Yemeni groups: the Rūmān ibn Ghānim and Rūmān ibn Ka'b, related to the Dhū l-Kalā' and the Madhḥij lineages, respectively.
- Sacred Precinct(s)* (Ar. ḥaram; literally, “forbidden, sacrosanct”) name for the holy places of Mecca and/or Medina; sometimes also used for Jerusalem.
- Sa'd* the descendants of Sa'd ibn Zayd Manāt ibn Tamīm, and thus a subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.).
- Sa'd ibn Naṣr* unidentified hadith transmitter.
- Sa'd of the Tents* the star Gamma Aquarii in the constellation Aquarius, still known in modern astronomy by a form of its Arabic name, Sadachbia.
- Shaḥbān Wā'il* (fl. late first/seventh–early second/eighth century) an orator and poet of the Wā'il, whose eloquence was proverbial.

- Sahl ibn Muḥammad* see Abū Ḥātim.
- Saʿīd ibn al-Musayyib* (d. ca. 94/712–13) member of the second generation of Muslims who was renowned for his intense piety and great knowledge of Hadith.
- Šakhr al-Ghayy* (d. late seventh century AD) “brigand poet” of the Hudhayl born in the late pre-Islamic period; famed for his daring and raids in Arabia, which he continued during Islamic times.
- Salāmah ibn Jandal* (fl. second half of the sixth century AD) pre-Islamic poet; very little of his poetry survives, but he was esteemed by Muslim collectors, in particular for descriptions of horses.
- Šāliḥ* one of the Arab prophets who, according to the Qur’an, was sent to the people of Thamūd (q.v.).
- Šāliḥ ibn ʿAbd al-Quddūs* (d. ca. 158–75/775–92) early Abbasid-era Basran poet, renowned for wisdom and admonition poems; accused of heresy and executed either during the reign of al-Mahdī or al-Rashīd (q.v.).
- Šāliḥ ibn al-Šaqr* (fl. late second/eighth century) otherwise unknown hadith transmitter.
- Sālim* [*ibn ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿUmar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb*] (d. ca. 106/724) Medinese legal authority, grandson of the caliph ʿUmar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (q.v.).
- Salm ibn ʿAmr al-Khāsir* (d. 186/802) a Basran poet who composed panegyrics, laments, and poems about his lost fortune (which he later recovered).
- Salm ibn Qutaybah* (d. 149/766–67) son of Qutaybah ibn Muslim (q.v.); he held important administrative posts under the Umayyads and Abbasids.
- Salmān* [*al-Fārisī*] (d. 35/655) prominent early Companion of the Prophet Muḥammad, governor of Ctesiphon in Persia, during the caliphate of ʿUmar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (q.v.), and a partisan of ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib (q.v.). Known as “Salmān the Persian” (al-Fārisī).
- Salmān ibn Rabīʿah al-Bāhili* (d. ca. 28–31/648–52) member of the early Muslim elite, participated in the conquests of Iraq and Syria and was appointed judge for Kufa by the caliph ʿUmar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (q.v.), during whose caliphate he campaigned in Armenia.
- Sarah* (Ar. Sārah) in both biblical and Qur’anic traditions, the wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac.

- Sawād* in early Islamic times, the name for the political territory of southern Iraq; used generically, the term refers to the black, arable land in a district.
- Sawwār ibn al-Muḍarrab* (fl. late first/seventh century) minor Umayyad-era poet of the Sa'd, resident in Iraq.
- Sayf ibn Dhī Yazan* (fl. second half of the sixth century AD) the leader of a successful Sasanian-supported revolt around AD 570 against Ethiopian rule in Yemen; he became the subject of an Arabic popular romance (*sīrah*).
- Sayyār ibn 'Amr ibn Jābir al-Fazārī* influential friend of al-Nu'mān III (r. AD 580–602), the pre-Islamic king of al-Ḥīrah.
- Shabīb ibn Gharqadah* [*al-Salamī l-Bāriqī l-Kūfī*] (fl. second half of the first/seventh century), transmitter of hadith and historical reports from the second generation of Muslims.
- Shabīb al-Ḥarurī* [*ibn Yazīd al-Shaybānī*] (d. 77/696–97) a partisan of the Kharijites (q.v.) who staged a rebellion during the reign of the Umayyad caliph 'Abd al-Malik ibn Marwān (q.v.).
- al-Shammākh* [*Ma'qil ibn Ḍirār*] (d. 30/650 or after) early Islamic-era poet and participant in the conquests; his poetry describes the desert and Arabian Bedouin pursuits. Brother of Muzarrid (q.v.).
- Shapur* name of three Sasanian kings: Shapur I (r. AD 240–70) and Shapur II (r. AD 309–79) are the most celebrated, and their memory was frequently cited in Arabic literature as epitomes of Easterner kingship.
- Shaybān* one of the major subgroups of the Bakr ibn Wā'il (q.v.); resided in northeastern Arabia and on the Arabian-Iraqi frontier at the dawn of Islam.
- Shem* (Ar. Sām) son of the biblical Noah.
- Shu'ayb* Arabian prophet mentioned in the Qur'an who, on the basis of Q Tawbah 9:91, was understood to have lived after Hūd (q.v.), Ṣāliḥ (q.v.), and Lot.
- Shu'ayb ibn Wāqid* (fl. early third/ninth century) Basran hadith transmitter.
- Shu'ūbī* pejorative term that in premodern Arabic lexicons signals bias against Arabs and that Ibn Qutaybah uses to refer to his opponents; translated here as "Bigot."
- al-Sijistānī* see Abū Ḥātim.
- Sind* region around the lower course of the Indus (in modern-day Pakistan).

- Solomon* (Ar. Sulaymān) son of David and king of Israel; revered as a prophet and ideal king in the Qur'an and Muslim tradition.
- Sons of the Camel Snout* a clan of the Sa'd subgroup of the Tamīm (q.v.); they trace their genealogy to a pre-Islamic progenitor usually identified as Ja'far ibn Quray' ibn 'Awf ibn Ka'b (q.v.).
- Sūdān* (Ar. *bilād al-Sūdān*; literally, "land of the Blacks") the general name in premodern Arabic sources for the Saharan-Sahelian sector of Africa lying south of the Maghreb, Libya, and Egypt, and stretching across the continent from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea.
- Sufyān ibn 'Uyaynah* (d. 196/811) major Meccan hadith transmitter, legal authority, and Qur'an commentator.
- Sulayk ibn 'Umayr al-Sa'dī [al-Tamīmī]* (d. ca. AD 605) a pre-Islamic foot soldier known for his good sense of direction.
- Sulaym* a large and powerful subgroup of the Qays 'Aylān (q.v.) spread across central Arabia (Najd) at the dawn of Islam.
- Sulaymān [ibn 'Abd al-Malik]* (r. 96–99/715–717) seventh caliph of the Umayyad dynasty.
- Sulaymān ibn 'Alī ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn al-'Abbās ibn 'Abd al-Muṭṭalib* (d. 142/759) early Abbasid prince and uncle of the first Abbasid caliphs al-Saffāh and al-Manṣūr (q.v.); served as governor of Basra.
- Sulaymān ibn Buraydah* hadith transmitter and son of Buraydah (q.v.), a prominent Companion of the Prophet. He was born during the reign of the second caliph, 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (q.v.).
- Surāqah ibn Mālik ibn Ja'sham al-Mudlajī* (d. before 35/656) al-Qā'if leader of the Kinānah, famous for his unsuccessful attempt to track Muḥammad when he emigrated from Mecca to Medina. Tradition asserts that he converted after the conquest of Mecca.
- Susa* ancient site in the southwest Iranian province of Khuzistan.
- Suwayd [ibn al-Ṣāmit]* pre-Islamic poet of the Aws lineage from Medina. Best known for his wisdom poems.
- Taghlib [bint Wā'il]* an important, mostly nomadic, lineage of the Rabī'ah ibn Nizār. Before Islam, the Taghlib were within the Sasanian and Lakhmid (q.v.) sphere of influence. Often their name is written Taghlib ibn Wā'il.
- al-Ṭā'if* fortified town situated high in the mountains, approximately 120 kilometers southeast of Mecca; famous for its orchards and gardens. It was

- dominated by the Thaḳīf (q.v.), who served as guardians of the town's shrine.
- Ṭalḥah* (d. 36/656) prominent Companion of the Prophet, counted among the first eight converts to Islam and among the ten persons for whom Muḥammad said Paradise was promised.
- Ṭalḥah ibn 'Abd Allāh ibn 'Awf* (d. 97/715–16 or 99/717–18) Medinese judge and legal authority.
- Tamīm* one of the most important lineages of “Northern Arabs”; its members inhabited much of northeast and central Arabia (Najd) at the dawn of Islam.
- Ṭarafah [ibn al-'Abd]* (d. mid-sixth century AD) one of the major pre-Islamic Arabian poets and author of one of the great odes (Ar. *mu'allaqah*). He was attached to the court of 'Amr ibn Hind (q.v.) at the Lakhmid (q.v.) capital of al-Ḥīrah.
- Ṭasm* a legendary lineage; Muslim genealogists linked them to descendants of Noah and considered them and a related group, Jadīs (q.v.), to be the first inhabitants of central and eastern Arabia (al-Yamāmah and al-Baḥrayn).
- Ṭayyi'* a major Arabian lineage; genealogists connected them to the “Southern Arabs,” though their lands in the century before Islam were located in northern and nothereastern Arabia. Their name, transliterated into Syriac as *Ṭayyāyē*, became the generic label by which Iraqis and the Sasanian Empire referred to all Arabians in late antiquity.
- Tha'labah* a “Northern Arab” lineage; resided near Medina at the dawn of Islam and engaged in a number of conflicts with the Prophet Muḥammad before submitting in ca. 7/628–29.
- Thamūd* a legendary people of ancient north Arabia, frequently mentioned in the Qur'an as one of the past peoples destroyed by God for disobeying their prophet, Ṣāliḥ (q.v.).
- Thaqīf* a “Northern Arab” lineage; occupied lands between Mecca and al-Ṭā'if (q.v.) at the dawn of Islam. Alongside Quraysh, members of Thaḳīf constituted the most powerful political elites of the Umayyad era.
- al-Thawrī* [*Sufyān ibn Sa'id ibn Masrūḳ Abū 'Abd Allāh al-Kūfī*] (d. 161/778) prominent representative of early Islamic law, tradition, and Qur'an interpretation.
- Thumāmah ibn Ashras* (d. 213/828?) theologian and representative of the religious movement known as *al-mu'tazilah*, which was founded at Basra

in the first half of the second/eighth century and became one of the most important theological schools of Islam. On account of his great learning and intellectual ability he was invited to the court by al-Rashīd (q.v.) and al-Ma'mūn (q.v.).

Tihāmah the area of the Red Sea coastal plain stretching from Aqaba in the north to Bāb al-Mandab in the south of the Arabian Peninsula, and perhaps even further along the southern Indian Ocean coast.

al-Ṭirimmāh (d. 110/728) eloquent poet of the Umayyad middle period who resided in Kufa and was famous for his desert descriptions.

Tubbaʿ, people of an ancient community twice mentioned in the Qur'an (Q Dukhān 44:37 and Q Qāf 50:13) as examples of peoples destroyed for shunning their prophets. *Tubbaʿ* himself is sometimes interpreted as a believer, and the name was regularly associated in Arabic literature with a dynasty of pre-Islamic kings of Yemen.

Ṭufayl [ibn ʿAwf] (d. after AD 608) one of the oldest poets of Qays (q.v.) and famous for his horse descriptions, which earned him the nickname "Ṭufayl of the Horses."

Ṭurayḥ ibn Ismāʿil al-Thaqafī (d. 165/782) poet from al-Ṭāʾif (q.v.).

Turks used by Ibn Qutaybah and his sources as a generic ethnonym designating most if not all of the Turkic-language speaking peoples of Central Asia.

ʿUbayd ibn ʿAqīl (d. 207/822–23) Basran scholar, Qur'an specialist, and transmitter of hadith.

ʿUbayd ibn Thaʿlabah ibn Yarbūʿ pre-Islamic leader of the Banū Ḥanīfah, legendarily connected with the establishment of Hajar (q.v.).

al-ʿUdayl ibn al-Farkh (fl. early second/eighth century) minor Iraqi Umayyad-era poet from the ʿIjl ibn Luyajm (q.v.).

Uhaynah (or ʿUhnīyyah) one of nine ancient Arab lineages (through Abū Ḥātim [q.v.]), according to Ibn Qutaybah. The name does not feature in other popular listings of ancient Arab lineages.

al-ʿUjayr al-Salūlī [ibn ʿAbd Allāh or ibn ʿUbayd Allāh] (fl. early second/eighth century) Umayyad-era poet.

Ukl the descendants of ʿUkl ibn ʿAwf. The ʿUkl belonged to a confederacy called al-Ribāb, which was in alliance with Saʿd ibn Zayd Manāt, the greatest clan of Tamīm (q.v.).

ʿUmar ibn ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz (r. 99–101/717–720) eighth Umayyad caliph.

‘Umar ibn Jilān unknown figure.

‘Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (d. 23/644) Companion of the Prophet and second caliph after Muḥammad (r. 13–23/634–44).

‘Umayr ibn Salmā [l-Ḥanaḥī] (fl. late sixth century AD) pre-Islamic member of the Ḥanīfah (q.v.); celebrated in Arabic literature along with al-Samaw’al ibn ‘Ādiyā’ and al-Ḥārith ibn Zālīm as one of the three “Arab Dependables” (men who kept their oaths notwithstanding any consequences). The best known of several stories about ‘Umayr’s oaths is his killing of his brother Qurayn after Qurayn killed a man whom ‘Umayr had sworn to protect.

Umayyads (r. 41–132/661–750) the first dynasty to rule the Islamic world.

Umayyah [ibn Abī l-Ṣalt] (fl. early seventh century AD) pre-Islamic Arabian poet of the Thaḳīf (q.v.); author of a number of poems with monotheistic messages.

Uqayṣir see Muḥammad ibn Uqayṣir.

Ursa Minor (Ar. Jadī l-Farqad) the Little Bear, or Little Dipper, one of the main constellations of the northern hemisphere.

‘Urwah al-Bāriqī [ibn al-Ja’d ibn Abī l-Ja’d] Companion of the Prophet and transmitter of hadith; the sources disagree on his exact name.

‘Urwah ibn al-Ward (fl. sixth century AD) pre-Islamic “brigand poet”; a Robin Hood-like figure in pre-Islamic lore known for his self-sacrifice, many raids, and untiring generosity to the poor.

‘Urwah [ibn al-Zubayr] (d. 93/711–12 or 94/712–13) son of the Companion al-Zubayr (q.v.); an eminent hadith transmitter, jurist, and pioneer of Muslim historical study.

Usāmah [ibn Zayd] (d. ca. 54/674) a Companion of the Prophet and son of Zayd ibn Ḥārithah (q.v.). He was active in early Muslim armies and was a commander of a force dispatched to Syria at the time of the Prophet’s death, which was reportedly redirected and successfully combatted apostates in northern Arabia.

Usayd ibn al-Ḥalāḥīl (fl. sixth century AD) minor pre-Islamic Arabian poet.

‘Utaybah ibn al-Ḥārith ibn Shihāb [ibn ‘Abd al-Qays ibn al-Kibās ibn Ja’far ibn Tha’labah ibn Yarbū’] a horseman of the Tamīm (q.v.), he was famous in pre-Islamic times for his valor.

al-‘Utbī (d. 228/842) Basran poet, person possessing *adab* (q.v.), genealogist, and historian of the Umayyads who authored several books.

- ‘Uthmān ibn Abī l-Āṣ [al-Thaqafī]* (d. 51/671) a Companion of the Prophet, from al-Ṭā’if (q.v.).
- ‘Uthmān [ibn ‘Affān]* (r. 23–36/644–56) third caliph of Islam who ruled during the important period of the conquests and early organization of the state. He organized the now-canonical Qur’anic codex; his death sparked the First Civil War.
- ‘Uthmān ibn Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Ḥātīb al-Jumaḥī* possibly ‘Uthmān ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Ḥātīb al-Jumaḥī (fl. mid-late first/seventh century) member of the Quraysh; resident in Medina; transmitted hadiths to some Iraqī scholars.
- ‘Uyaynah ibn al-Nahās al-‘Ijlī* a poet from Bakr ibn Wā’il (q.v.) whose life-time straddles the origins of Islam.
- Wabr ibn Mu’ūwiyah al-Asadī* an unknown poet.
- Wahb ibn Munabbih* (ca. 34–110/654–728) Yemeni hadith transmitter of Persian origins; reputed for his knowledge of Christian and Jewish lore.
- Wahriz* (d. before AD 579) a Persian general of Khosrow Anushirvan (q.v.) active in the Yemen.
- Wakī‘ ibn Abī Sūd [al-Tamīmī]* powerful Umayyad-era military commander. He clashed with Qutaybah ibn Muslim (q.v.) in a chaotic period in Khurasan during the short reign of Sulaymān ibn ‘Abd al-Malik (q.v.); he assumed the governorship of Khurasan in 96/715 but within less than a year lost his position.
- Wakī‘ [ibn al-Jarrāḥ ibn Malīḥ al-Ru’āsī]* (d. 197/812) famous Iraqī hadith transmitter.
- Wa‘lah al-Jarmī* pre-Islamic poet.
- washīqah* a traveling provision of meat that is boiled and then cut into strips and dried.
- Yām* son of Noah, the fourth in Muslim tradition, which reports his name also as Canaan (Ar. Kan‘ān), whereas in the Bible, Canaan is a son of Ham. Based on Q Hūd 11:43, some tales relate that Yām refused to enter the ark, claiming that he could save himself from the deluge by climbing to the top of the highest mountain.
- al-Yamāmah* the eastern part of central Arabia, identified at the dawn of Islam as the land to the east of the Najd upland region.

- Ya'rub ibn Qaḥṭān* sometimes called the progenitor of the “Southern Arabs” by Arab genealogists (credit is alternatively given to his father, Qaḥṭān [q.v.]).
- Yazīd ibn Abī Ziyād* [*Abū 'Abd Allāh*] (d. 136/753–54) a client (q.v.) who lived in Kufa.
- Yazīd ibn 'Amr* [*al-Ma'furī l-Miṣrī*] an unknown hadith transmitter often cited by Ibn Qutaybah.
- Yazīd ibn Mu'āwiyah* (r. 60–64/680–83) the second Umayyad caliph, reviled by the Shi'ah for ordering the killing of al-Ḥusayn (q.v.).
- Yazīd ibn al-Muhallab* (d. 102/720) son of the general al-Muhallab and his successor to the governorship of Umayyad Khurasan (q.v.); repeatedly arrested and returned to favor before being killed in a major revolt he organized against the Umayyads in Iraq.
- Yemen* the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Zabbān al-'Adawī* (fl. first/seventh century) a contemporary of the Prophet Muḥammad.
- Zaghāwah* a lineage that populated the Sūdān and that features in Muslim ethnogenesis.
- Zamzam* the sacred well of Mecca, to the east of the Kaaba (q.v.) alongside the wall where the “Black Stone” is enshrined.
- Zawl* a place, otherwise unidentified, mentioned by Ibn Qutaybah as being in Sanaa in Yemen.
- Zayd ibn Akhzam* [*Abū Ṭālib al-Baṣrī al-Ṭā'ī*] (d. 257/870–71) transmitter of prophetic traditions to Ibn Qutaybah.
- Zayd ibn Ḥārithah* (d. 8/629) a member of the Kalb, captured and enslaved in Mecca, he was freed by the Prophet and converted to Islam. He led the first Muslim expedition towards Syria, but was defeated and killed at the Battle of al-Mu'tah.
- Zayd al-Khayl* Abū Zayd al-Ṭā'ī (d. ca. 10/632) pre-Islamic horseman (his name means “Zayd of the Horses”) and poet from the al-Ṭā'ī tribe; a member of his clan's delegation to Muḥammad, he converted to Islam and received a new nickname, Zayd al-Khayr (Zayd of Goodness).
- Zechariah* (Ar. Zakariyyā') the father of John the Baptist (q.v.).
- al-Zibriqān* [*ibn Badr*] tribal leader and poet of the Tamīm (q.v.) and a Companion of the Prophet active in the conquests; three of his sons-in-law were governors under 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (q.v.).

- Ziyād al-Aʿjam* [*Ibn Salmā* or *Ibn Sulaym* or *Ibn Jābir ibn ʿAmr*] (d. ca. 125/742–43) celebrated Umayyad-era poet of the ʿAbd al-Qays (q.v.); known also for his inability to pronounce certain Arabic letters, hence his sobriquet al-Aʿjam (“the mumbler”).
- Ziyād* [*ibn Abī Sufyān*] (d. 53/673) a prominent governor under the Umayyad caliph Muʿāwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān (r. 41–60/661–80). Muʿāwiyah tried to attach Ziyād to his own clan of the Umayyads; often referred to disparagingly as “Ziyād, the son of his [unknown] father.”
- al-Ziyādī* probably Abū l-Ḥasan al-Ziyādī (d. 242/856), a celebrated man of letters who was appointed judge (*qāḍī*) over eastern Baghdad during the caliphate of al-Mutawakkil (r. 232–47/847–61).
- al-Zubayr ibn al-ʿAwwām* (d. 36/656) a prominent member of Muḥammad’s community in Mecca from the ʿAbd al-ʿUzzā clan of Quraysh; competed, along with his sons ʿAbd Allāh (q.v.) and Muṣʿab, for power after Muḥammad’s death.
- Zuhayr* [*ibn Abī Sulmā*] (d. AD 609) a pre-Islamic poet famous for his gnomic sayings and the meticulous composition of his odes, including his great ode (*muʿallaqah*).
- al-Zuhrī* (d. 124/742) a founder of the study of Hadith and transmitter of historical lore. A protégé of the Umayyad caliphs from ʿAbd al-Malik ibn Marwān (q.v.) to Hishām ibn ʿAbd al-Malik. He served at different periods as a judge, tax collector, and police chief.
- Zulaym* a small clan of the Ḥanzalah (q.v.) reportedly descended from the “Northern Arabs.”