



ABAD

ABAD, Arabic theological term meaning “eternity *a parte post*” (already in early Mu‘tazilite theology); it corresponds to Greek *atéleuton*. It sometimes also serves as a general term for unlimited time (*dahr*). *Abad* and its opposing term, *azal* (“eternity *a parte ante*”) represent different aspects of *qedam*, “eternity.” A suggested derivation is from the Middle Persian **a-pād*, “without foot (i.e., without end).” For a surmise on the Iranian origin of *azal*, see Monnot in bibliography. See also ASAR.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

S. Van den Bergh in *EI*² I, p. 2, with further references. G. Monnot, *Penseurs musulmans et religions iraniennes*, Paris, 1974, p.152, n. 6.