



‘ABBĀS B. ḤOSAYN

‘ABBĀS B. ḤOSAYN ŠĪRĀZĪ, ABU’L-FAẒL, Buyid vizier, d. 362/973. He first appears after the death of Mohallabī, the Shi‘i vizier of Mo‘ezz-al-dawla, as chief of the *dīwān al-nafaqāt*, the bureau of expenditures. He was subsequently charged with the functions, but not the title, of the vizierate jointly with Ebn Fasānjos (Abu’l-Faraǰ), another official of the regime. The history of the period is characterized by rivalries among high dignitaries in the administration and their clients, the amassing of considerable fortunes, and maneuvers to force restitution from those who benefited from their positions. ‘Abbās b. Ḥosayn was no exception to this rule. He was the son-in-law of Mohallabī, with whom he had come from Shiraz; though of middle class origins, he was enormously rich and able to offer to his princely patrons banquets that have been remembered in the literature (see Ḥoṣrī, *Dayl zahr al-ādāb*, Cairo, 1353/1934, pp. 275f.).

In 356/987 he was named vizier by Baḳtīār, the successor of Mo‘ezz-al-dawla, who did not have the capacities of his father. Although ‘Abbās had contributed to the quelling of several revolts, he was attacked by the Turkish *ḥāǰeb*, Soboktegīn, and by Ebn Fasānjos, who succeeded in having him dismissed and subjected to enormous reparations. But ‘Abbās succeeded in recapturing the vizierate and subjecting Ebn Fasānjos to the same treatment that he himself had received. He was in turn toppled by the new favorite of Baḳtīār, Ebn Baqīya, an equal master of intrigue, who charged him with extorting money (from, e.g., the *demīs*—those non-Muslims who were allowed to retain their religion and paid a tribute) to pay the troops and make good his promises to



princes. ‘Abbās was imprisoned at Kūfa and soon died there, perhaps from poisoning.

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