



'ABD-AL-ḤAMĪD B. AḤMAD

'ABD-AL-ḤAMĪD B. AḤMAD B. MOḤAMMAD B. 'ABD-AL-SAMAD ŠĪRĀZĪ, vizier of the Ghaznavids in the late 5th/11th to early 6th/12th century. He is described as serving Sultan Ebrāhīm b. Mas'ūd (451-92/1059-99) for twenty-two years and then his son Mas'ūd III (492-508/1099-1115) for all sixteen years of his reign, which would mean that he first became Ebrāhīm's vizier in 470/1077-78. He came, as did many of the Ghaznavids' servants, from a family deeply imbued with the traditions of secretarial and official service, with origins as far back as the Samanids; his father, Aḥmad, had been the skillful vizier of Mas'ūd b. Maḥmūd and then of the latter's son Mawdūd for the first years of his reign. On the evidence of verses in *qaṣīdas* of Mas'ūd-e Sa'd-e Salmān and Sayyed Ḥasan addressed to 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd, the family claimed descent from the 'Abbasid caliphs. 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd was certainly famed for his administrative skill and his love of learning. A line often quoted in the sources says that K̲v̲āja 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd Aḥmad-e 'Abd-al-Ṣamad firmly established the rule of excellence, the upholding of religion, and the system of justice. According to Kermānī, he died a martyr, at what must have been an advanced age, at the beginning of Bahrāmšāh b. Mas'ūd's reign (thus shortly after 512/1118); possibly he had been too closely identified with the interests of the previous sultan, Malek Arslān, whom Bahrāmšāh had, with Saljuq help, displaced. It seems possible that the famous composer of an elegant Persian prose version of *Kalīla va Demna*, Naṣrallāh b. Moḥammad b. 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd (d. in the late 6th/12th century), was his grandson.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

The main sources are the specialized biographical works devoted to viziers.

Nāṣer-al-dīn Kermānī, *Nasā’em al-asḥār*, ed. Ormavī, Tehran, 1338 Š./1959, pp. 46-47.

Sayf-al-dīn ‘Oqaylī, *Āṭār al-wozarā’*, ed. Ormavī, Tehran, 1337 Š./1959, pp. 195-96.

Ḳvāndamīr, *Dastūr al-wozarā’*, ed. Sa’īd Nafīsī, Tehran, 1317 Š./1938, p. 147, to be supplemented by references in the *dīvāns* of the poets who praised ‘Abd-al-Ḥamīd (Mas’ūd-e Sa’d, Abu’l-Faraǧ Rūnī, Sayyed Ḥasan).

All these sources are utilized in Bosworth, *Later Ghaznavids*, chap. 2.