



## 'ABD-AL-JABBĀR AZDĪ

'**ABD-AL-JABBĀR B. 'ABD-AL-RAḤMĀN AL-AZDĪ**, governor of Khorasan, executed in 142/759. An 'Abbasid partisan, he was in command at Ṭūs in 130/748. Under the caliphs Saffāḥ and Maṣṣūṣ, he served as chief of police (*ṣāḥeb al-ṣorṭa*); he vacated that office in favor of his brother 'Omar when Maṣṣūṣ appointed him governor of Khorasan in 140/758. Soon after his arrival there (Rabi' I, 141/July, 758), 'Abd-al-Jabbār reported 'Alid activity in Khorasan and obtained some kind of commission from Maṣṣūṣ to deal with it (Baḥ'amī, *Chronique* IV, p. 370). Acting with great harshness, he extracted money from his predecessor's subordinates and killed or imprisoned a number of leading men, including supporters of the 'Abbasids. The caliph, hearing reports of this, took counsel with his Iranian secretary, Abū Ayyūb Kūzī. After an exchange of letters, in which 'Abd-al-Jabbār showed recalcitrance, an army was sent to Khorasan under nominal command of Maḥdī, the caliph's young son. On hearing of the 'Abbasid army's arrival, the people of Marv-al-rūd revolted against 'Abd-al-Jabbār. The governor, having gone into hiding, was pursued, captured, and handed over to the 'Abbasid commander. He was sent in disgrace to Baghdad, accompanied by his sons and close associates, and brought before Maṣṣūṣ. No consideration was shown for his past services. After he and his friends were examined under torture as to the sources of their wealth, he was executed in cruel fashion. His brother 'Obaydallāh risked death by burying his body. The other brother lost his appointment as *ṣāḥeb al-ṣorṭa* but later regained it; he is said to have been in office when Maṣṣūṣ died (Ṭabarī, II, pp. 458-59). The sons were exiled to the Red Sea island of Dahlak. One, 'Abd-al-Raḥmān, survived to be a companion of caliphs (Ṭabarī, III, p.



135) and died in the reign of Hārūn al-Rašīd (170-93/786-809).

One's impression of 'Abd-al-Jabbār's family is that of a competent and compact group (cf. Ṭabarī, III, p. 122). We may well believe that there was an 'Alid party in Khorasan at the time; however, 'Abd-al-Jabbār, though savagely punished for his alleged rebellion, was in no sense a martyr. As is shown by his treatment of 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd, the well-known secretary of Marvān II (Jahšīārī, *Ketāb al-wozarā'*, Cairo, 1938, p. 79), he was a cruel and unscrupulous man.

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Ebn al-Aṭīr, *sub annis* 140 and 141.

Ya'qūbī, II, pp. 445-46, 469.

Ḥamza Eṣfahānī, p. 220 ('Abd-al-Jabbār's arrival in Marv as governor is erroneously placed in Rabī' II, 142).

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