



## ‘ABD-AL-MALEK B. NŪḤ

‘**ABD-AL-MALEK B. NŪḤ** B. MANŞŪR, ABU’L-FAVĀRES, the penultimate ruler of the Samanid dynasty in Khorasan and Transoxania, r. 389/999. In the decade of the 380s/990s, the Samanid amirate was being subverted internally by the rivalries of ambitious Turkish military commanders and was attacked externally after 382/992 by the Qarakhanid Turkish ruler from beyond the Syr Darya, Boğra Khan Hārūn, and his successors. ‘Abd-al-Malek’s predecessor Abu’l-Ḥāreṭ Manşūr is praised by the Ghaznavid historian Bayhaqī for his good qualities, but during his two years’ reign he was unable to break out from under the control of the Turkish general Fā’eq Kāşsa and the vizier Abu’l-Mozaffar Moḥammad Barġašī. Nor was he able to check the two commanders who coveted the governorship of Khorasan—the incumbent governor in Nīšāpūr, Begtüzūn, and Sebūktigīn’s son Maḥmūd, who had by now defeated his brother and rival Esmā’īl and was in control of Afghanistan. Finally Fā’eq and Begtüzūn joined together and deposed and blinded Abu’l-Ḥāreṭ Manşūr in Khorasan, raising to the throne his younger brother ‘Abd-al-Malek (Şafar, 389/February, 999), and demanding from him a high accession payment.

‘Abd-al-Malek’s reign lasted not much more than eight months. Maḥmūd at the outset proclaimed himself the avenger of the deposed amir Abu’l-Ḥāreṭ Manşūr; after a battle near Marv, he drove Fā’eq (who at this point died), Begtüzūn, and ‘Abd-al-Malek from Khorasan into Transoxania. At this point, also, the Qarakhanid Ilig Naşr b. ‘Alī decided to put an end to the feeble vestiges of Samanid rule in Transoxania, and in Ḍu’l-qa‘da, 389/October, 999 he occupied Bokhara without opposition; he deposed ‘Abd-al-Malek, exiling him



to Uzkent, and incorporated Transoxania within his own dominions. In this way, the rule of the Samanids came virtually to an end, and their lands were partitioned between the Qarakhanids and Maḥmūd of Ġazna. Only a brother of Abu’l-Ḥāreṭ Maṣṣūr and ‘Abd-al-Malek, Esmā’īl al-Montaṣer, remained to carry on a despairing and in the end unsuccessful struggle for five more years.

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