



'ABD-AL-RAḤMĀN B. SAMORA

'**ABD-AL-RAḤMĀN B. SAMORA**, ABŪ SA'ĪD, Arab general who campaigned in Sīstān; d. 50/670. He was a Meccan of the clan of 'Abd Šams and a maternal cousin of 'Oṭmān b. 'Affān. Originally called 'Abd-al-Ka'ba, he was renamed 'Abd-al-Raḥmān by Moḥammad when he converted to Islam. His public career began in the caliphate of 'Oṭmān, who relied on solidarity among his own kinsmen in governing the state; and it was tied to the career of 'Abdallāh b. 'Āmer b. Korayz, who was also a cousin of 'Oṭmān. In 33/653-54 'Abdallāh b. 'Āmer, as 'Oṭmān's governor of Baṣra, appointed 'Abd-al-Raḥmān governor of Sīstān to succeed Rabī' b. Zīād who had undertaken the first conquest of Sīstān in 31/651-52. Meanwhile the people of Zaranj rebelled and drove out Rabī's deputy. 'Abd-al-Raḥmān besieged the *marzbān* in his fortress at Zaranj with a force of 8,000 men on a festival day. When the latter submitted, a new treaty with the *marzbān* doubled the former tribute, raising it to 2,000 dirhams and 2,000 slave boys. A number of Muslims with knowledge of the religion arrived in Sīstān with the army and began to teach native converts the elements of Muslim faith and practice.

'Abd-al-Raḥmān began to campaign to the east, conquering the territory between Zaranj and Keš near India and the region between Roḳkaḳ and Zamīndāvar. At Zamīndāvar he cut off the hand of the golden idol of Zūn and took out its two ruby eyes to show the *marzbān* the idol was impotent. Bost and Zābol were taken by treaty before the death of 'Oṭmān in 35/656 halted these campaigns. 'Abd-al-Raḥmān returned to Baṣra to join Ebn 'Āmer but found that 'Alī had dismissed him. After the battle of the Camel in 36/657 'Abd-



al-Raḥmān joined Mo'āvīā in Syria and was one of his envoys to Ḥasan b. 'Alī in 41/661. The same year Mo'āvīā reappointed Ebn 'Āmer governor of Baṣra and its eastern dependencies, and 'Abd-al-Raḥmān returned to Sīstān with a large army as Ebn 'Āmer's subordinate. He introduced the office of *ṣāḥeb al-ṣorṭā* (chief of police) to Sīstān and built the Friday mosque in Zaranj where Ḥasan Baṣrī taught for almost three years. The territories he had conquered under 'Oṭmān had to be retaken by force or by treaty. Zābolestān, Rokkaǰ, and Bost were reconquered, and he took Kabul after besieging it for one month with mangonels. He was then confirmed as governor of Sīstān by Mo'āvīā directly. But in 45/665, disassociating himself from 'Oṭmān's practice of government through clan solidarity, Mo'āvīā dismissed Ebn 'Āmer as governor of Baṣra, and one month afterwards 'Abd-al-Raḥmān was dismissed as governor of Sīstān. He retired to Baṣra, where captive slave boys he brought back from Kabul made a mosque for him in his mansion (*qaṣr*) in the style of Kabul. When he died at Baṣra five years later in 50/670, Abū Bakra rode a mule in his funeral procession and Zīād b. Abīhe prayed over his body. Although he was only governor of Sīstān for a total of six or seven years, he was mainly responsible for the establishment of Arab-Muslim rule there.

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