



## 'ABD-AL-RAŠĪD, ABŪ MANŠŪR

'**ABD-AL-RAŠĪD, ABŪ MANŠŪR** 'EZZ-AL-DAWLA B. MAḤMŪD B. SEBŪKTIGĪN, Ghaznavid sultan, r. 441-44/1050-53. He succeeded to the amirate after the death of Mawdūd b. Mas'ūd in Raġab, 441/December, 1049 and the brief reigns of the child Mas'ūd b. Mawdūd and of Bahā'-'al-dawla 'Alī b. Mas'ūd. The actual date of 'Abd-al-Rašīd's accession is given by Ebn Bābā Qāšānī in his *Ketāb ra's māl al-nadīm* (Istanbul MS Turhan Valide 234, fol. 208b.) as 27 Ša'bān 441/24 January 1050; he states that the vizier 'Abd-al-Razzāq b. Aḥmad b. Ḥasan Maymandī, seeing the patent incompetence of Mawdūd's two successors, fetched 'Abd-al-Rašīd from the fortress of Mandēš in eastern Ġūr, where Mawdūd had imprisoned him.

Very little is known of his earlier life; Jūzġānī says that he was thirty years old when he died, which would put his birth in 414/1023-24; and *Tārīk-e bayhaqī*, p. 626, states that he was present with his elder brother Mas'ūd at the battle of Dandānqān against the Saljuqs in 431/1040.

'Abd-al-Rašīd's reign lasted for less than three years and ended in violence and assassination. The immediate successors of Mas'ūd, certainly down to Ebrāhīm b. Mas'ūd (451-92/1059-99), still hoped to recover the western provinces of the empire lost to the Saljuqs at the end of Mas'ūd's reign. 'Abd-al-Rašīd appointed as a commander-in-chief of his army (*ḥāġeb-al-ḥoġġāb*) a Turkish *ġolām* or slave commander called Toġrīl, who had already been high in Mawdūd's favour. Toġrīl persuaded 'Abd-al-Rašīd to let him lead a Ghaznavid army against Khorasan, and according to Ebn Bābā, loc. cit., Toġrīl secured a minor victory over Alp Arslan b. Čaġrī Beg in northern Afghanistan. The sultan now



authorized Toḡrīl to attack the Saffarids of Sīstān, vassals of the Saljuqs; and in the autumn of 443/1051, Toḡrīl scored considerable successes there, though he failed to capture the fortress of Ṭāq (*Tārīk-e Sīstān*, pp. 371-72; Ebn al-Aṭīr, year 444/1052-53). Flushed with success, Toḡrīl marched back to Ġazna and decided to depose ‘Abd-al-Rašīd, whom Jūzjānī describes as lacking in firmness of mind and decisiveness. ‘Abd-al-Rašīd was brought out of the citadel of Ġazna and killed, and Toḡrīl inaugurated a bloodbath of all the male members of the Ghaznavid family in the vicinity; eleven princes were slaughtered, and Toḡrīl forcibly married one of Mas‘ūd’s daughters. It was clearly the intention of Toḡrīl—whom the sources stigmatize as *maḷ’ūn* “the accursed” or *kāfer-e ne‘mat* “the ungrateful”—to take over the Ghaznavid empire for himself, though after some forty days’ tyranny, legitimist Ghaznavid feeling in the state reasserted itself, and he was in turn assassinated. Farroḡzād b. Mas‘ūd succeeded the throne.

Because of his short reign, ‘Abd-al-Rašīd is a shadowy figure, but he seems to have carried on the traditions of his forebears in encouraging literature and scholarship at his court. Jūzjānī says that he was able to recount historical and literary material; an Arabic manuscript is extant which bears his *ex libris* (see S. M. Stern, “A Manuscript from the Library of the Ghaznavid Amīr ‘Abd al-Rašīd,” *Paintings from Islamic Lands*, ed. R. Pinder-Wilson, Oxford, 1969, pp. 7-31); and the noted historian Gardīzī named his book, *Zayn al-aḡbār*, after the *laqab* Zayn-al-mella of ‘Abd-al-Rašīd (for the sultan’s honorifics, see C. E. Bosworth, “The Titulature of the Early Ghaznavids,” *Oriens* 15, 1962, pp. 230-31).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The chief historical sources are: *K. Ra’s māl al-nadīm* of Ebn Bābā mentioned above (which seems to utilize material from the lost parts of Bayhaqī; ed. M. S. Badavī, Manchester University Ph. D. thesis, 1975, unpublished; section on the Ghaznavids, tr. with extensive commentary by C. E. Bosworth (forthcoming). Jūzjānī, *Ṭabaqāt* I, pp. 235-36; tr. Raverty, I, pp. 98-100.

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