



'ABD-AL-VĀSE' JABALĪ

'ABD-AL-VĀSE' JABALĪ, full name EMĀM BADĪ'AL-ZAMĀN 'ABD-AL-VĀSE' B. 'ABD-AL-JĀME' ĠARJESTĀNĪ JABALĪ, Persian poet, d. 555/1160. He was born to an 'Alid family of Ġarjestān; to judge from his writing, he was well educated, especially in literature. He wrote panegyrics for Toġrel Takīn b. Moḥammad, who in 490/1097 gained control of K̄vārazm, and Bahrāmšāh b. Mas'ūd Ġaznavī (512-47/1118-52) in whose court 'Abd-al-Vāse' spent four years in the beginning of his career. When Bahrāmšāh sought help from Sultan Sanĵar, and Sanĵar brought his army to Ġazna to help him, 'Abd-al-Vāse' joined his entourage. He spent a while in Sanĵar's court, who treated him with respect. 'Abd-al-Vāse' also wrote in praise of other leaders and commanders, e.g. Arslānšāh b. Kermānšāh (494-536/1104-41) of Kermān.

'Abd-al-Vāse' was an important precursor of the change in literary style in the mid-6th/12th century. His Persian poetry approached the common dialect of the time. He used intricate and ornamental phrases and emphasized verbal embellishments at the expense of content. He stressed chiasmus, parallelism, internal rhyme, and similar rhetorical devices. 'Awfī claimed that no one composed poetry in his style and declared some of his *qaṣīdas* to be unparalleled. 'Abd-al-Vāse' also wrote Arabic poetry. In 'Awfī's words he was "master of both styles" (*du'l-balāġatayn*), and his *dīvān* does contain many lines written in a mixture of Persian and Arabic.



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