



ABŪ TORĀB NAḶŠABĪ

ABŪ TORĀB NAḶŠABĪ, 'ASKAR B. ḤOSAYN (or B. MOḤAMMAD B. ḤOSAYN), noted 3rd/9th century ascetic. Although apparently born in NaḶšab near Bokhara, he is counted as one of the great shaikhs of Khorasan. His teacher is said to have been Ḥātem al-Aṣamm. Abū Torāb traveled extensively, heard Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal in Baghdad, lived in Syria for a time, and several times made the pilgrimage to Mecca. He died in 245/859 in the desert (some sources say between Mecca and Medina, others say near Baṣra, stating he was torn by lions). He left no literary works, although he is said to have written down Traditions. He was remembered, rather, for exemplifying 'elm "understanding", *fotūwa* "liberality," *tawakkol* "trust in God," *zohd* "asceticism," and *wara'* "temperance." As is also true for some other noted Sufis of his time, the scattered sayings of his which survive in the sources do not permit reconstruction of a distinct personal doctrine.

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