



ĀBĪ, ABŪ SA'ĪD

ĀBĪ, ABŪ SA'ĪD (so Ṭa'ālebī, *Tatemmat al-yatīma*, ed. 'A. Eqbāl, Tehran, 1353/1934, p. 100; the *konya* is given as ABŪ SA'ĪD in Brockelmann, *GAL* I, p. 429; S. I., p. 593) MANṢŪR B. ḤOSAYN (cf. B. AL-ḤASAN in Bākarzī, *Domyat al-qaṣr*, ed. 'Abd-al-Fattāḥ Moḥammad al-Ḥolv, Cairo, 1968, pp. 467-69), vizier and man of letters of the late Buyid period. He served in Ray under Maǰd-al-dawla Rostam b. Faḵr-al-dawla b. Rokn-al-dawla, ruler of Ray, Hamadān, and Isfahan, 387-420/997-1029. He died in 421/1030 (see several variant dates in Zekerlī, *A'lām*² VIII, p. 237).

Yāqūt (I, p. 57) describes Ābī as a protégé of the major Buyid vizier and man of letters Ṣāḥeb b. 'Abbād (936-95 A.D.). This connection no doubt opened doors to Ābī in the administration of the lesser Buyid courts. (His brother, Abū Manṣūr Moḥammad, was a well-known scribe [*kāteb*] and junior minister at the court of the kings of Ṭabarestān.) Ābī's contemporary, Ṭa'ālebī (d. 429/1037-38) refers to him as vizier of Ray "now" and gives his titles as *al-wazīr al-kabīr*, *ḍu'l-ma'ālī*, and *zayn al-kofāt*. He praises Ābī as a compiler of anecdotes. Qommī states that Ābī studied with the leading Eṭnā'ašarī scholar Abū Ja'far Ṭūsī and read religious texts with the celebrated Eṭnā'ašarī theologian Shaikh Mofīd (*Safīnat al-beḥār*, Naǰaf, 1352-55/1933-36, II, p. 592). Zereklī (loc. cit.) was thus led to refer to Ābī as Imami in religious persuasion.

Ābī was known for his poetic ability. His major surviving work, however, is a collection of anecdotes, *Ketāb naṭr al-dorr* (or *dorar*). Its four parts deal with (a) the Qur'ān, Moḥammad, and 'Alī; (b) several early caliphs; (c) sayings and jokes ascribed to various Muslim rulers; (d) stories of eminent people,



including sayings of women. For an example see C. A. Owen, “Arabian Wit and Wisdom from Abū Sa'īd's *Ketāb Nathr al-durar*,” *JAOS* 54, p. 263. Ābī also wrote *Ketāb al-ta'rīk* (of Ray), now lost.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also *al-Darī'a* III, p. 254.

Brockelmann, *GAL* S. I., p. 593 for mss. of *Natr al-dorr*.