



## ABŪ 'ALĪ DĀMĠĀNĪ

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**ABŪ 'ALĪ MOḤAMMAD B. 'ĪSĀ DĀMĠĀNĪ**, vizier of the Samanids in the last years of their power. The reign of Amīr Nūḥ II b. Maṣṣūr (365-87/976-97) was rent by internal strife among the great military leaders of the state, with the viziers tending to become the creatures of one or other opposing faction in the state. DāmġānĪ's predecessor 'Abdallāh b. Moḥammad b. 'Ozayr ('Azīz?) had been the protégé of the powerful Sīmġūrīs, Abu'l-Ḥasan and his son Abū 'Alī, and of Fā'eḡ, and he was hostile to the 'Otbī family, the influential previous occupants of the vizierate. Nothing is known of DāmġānĪ's antecedents, though the *nesba* indicates a family origin from Dāmġān in Qūmes, but Nūḥ b. Maṣṣūr appointed him vizier on 10 Rabī' II 378/28 July 988. He seems to have had a first vizierate and then to have been briefly replaced by Abū Naṣr Aḡmad b. Moḥammad b. Abī Zayd, previously head of the Samanid chancery; but according to Nāṣer-al-dīn Monṣī Kermānī (*Nasā'em al-ashār*, ed. Jalāl-al-dīn Ormavī, Tehran, 1959, p. 38), Abū Naṣr Aḡmad was killed after six months by the palace *ġolāms*, and DāmġānĪ apparently was reappointed (though Kermānī does not in fact mention him and is very sketchy about the viziers of the last Samanids). Gardīzī records that when the Qarakhanid Boġra Khan Hārūn occupied Bokhara in spring, 382/992, he became ill and retired to Samarġand, carrying off DāmġānĪ with him; and it was there that DāmġānĪ died on 1 Raġab 382/2 September 992, around the time that the Khan also died.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gardīzī, ed. Nazim, p. 52; ed. Ḥabībī, pp. 167-68.

'Otbī, *al-Ta'riḳ al-yamīnī*, ed. Manīnī, Cairo, 1286/1869, I, p. 152 (gives the date of Dāmġānī's appointment to office as Jomādā II, 377/October, 987).

Barthold, *Turkestan*<sup>3</sup>, pp. 253ff., 260.