



ABŪ 'EKREMA

ABŪ 'EKREMA ZĪĀD B. DERHAM AL-SARRĀJ, otherwise known as **ABŪ MOḤAMMAD AL-ŞĀDEQ**, a freedman of Banū Ḥamdān, regarded as the first 'Abbasid propagandist in Khorasan (Madā'enī quoted by Ṭabarī, II, p. 1501). His activity there in the 'Abbasid cause began shortly after 100/718-19. Earlier Abū 'Ekrema had been a supporter of Abū Hāšem 'Abdallāh b. Moḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīya, whose organization already extended to Khorasan, and he was one of those whose names are said to have been given to Moḥammad b. 'Alī after Abū Hāšem's death as entirely reliable. Summoned from Kūfa by Moḥammad b. 'Alī, he took the oath of allegiance and was given charge of the 'Abbasid mission in Khorasan. Having reached Khorasan, Abū 'Ekrema initiated an active propaganda campaign. His operations coming under suspicion, he was brought before the governor Sa'īd b. 'Abd-al-'Azīz and interrogated. His plea that he was a simple merchant was accepted, and he was dismissed; but he continued to operate until his return to Syria after two years. Abū 'Ekrema later went back to Khorasan to continue his work. The governor was now Asad b. 'Abdallāh al-Qaṣrī, whose vigilance detected something of what was going on. Abū 'Ekrema was summoned and warned to leave the province. He did not do so and was again brought before the governor, who reminded him of the previous injunction and ordered his execution. The account given by Ṭabarī under 109/727-28 suggests the reluctance of Asad b. 'Abdallāh to condemn Abū 'Ekrema.



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