



ABŪ ESHĀQ EBRĀHĪM

ABŪ ESHĀQ EBRĀHĪM B. ALPTIGIN (named in some sources, e.g., Ebn Bābā, as Eshāq b. Alptigin), governor of Ġazna in eastern Afghanistan on behalf of the Samanids, Ša'bān, 352 to Du'l-qa'da, 355/September, 963 to November, 966. Abū Eshāq Ebrāhīm's father Alptigin had been commander-in-chief of the Samanid army in Bokhara; compelled in 350/961 to withdraw from the capital after the failure of an attempt to place his favored candidate, Naṣr b. 'Abd-al-Malek b. Nūḥ, on the Samanid throne, he had established himself in Ġazna on the remote fringes of the Samanid empire.

Alptigin designated his son Abū Eshāq as successor in Ġazna. The latter, on assuming power, made his peace with the Samanids; according to Jūzjānī, he traveled to Bokhara to do allegiance, receiving in exchange an investiture diploma (*manšūr*) for the governorship of Ġazna. Little is known of the events of his brief governorship; many sources (e.g., Gardīzī, Neẓām-al-molk's *Sīāsāt-nāma*, and Ebn al-Aṭīr) omit all mention of him making Sebūktigin the immediate successor of Alptigin. It seems that he was involved in warfare in the Ġazna region with the former local ruler of Ġazna, Abū 'Alī Lavīk or Anūk, from whom Alptigin had wrestled the town, and was at one point driven out of it, returning only with Samanid help. Shortly afterward, Abū Eshāq Ebrāhīm died and was succeeded as governor in Ġazna by a Turkish *golām* commander and former slave of Alptigin's, Bilgetigin, and eventually by Sebūktigin, founder of the Ghaznavid dynasty.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

The primary sources include ‘Otbī, *al-Ta’rīk al-yamīnī* (vague reference only).

Ebn Bābā Qāšānī, *Ketāb ra’s māl al-nadīm*, Istanbul, MS Turhan Valide 234.

Jūzjānī, *Ṭabaqāt* (the latter two are important sources, quoting from the lost parts of Bayhaqī).

Šabānkāra’ī, *Majma’ al-ansāb*, Istanbul MS Yeni Cami 909.

These sources are utilized in the secondary literature: M. Nazim, *The Life and Times of Sulṭān Maḥmūd of Ġazna*, Cambridge, 1931, pp. 26, 175.

Barthold, *Turkestan*³, p. 251. Bosworth, *Ghaznavids*, p. 38.

Idem, “Notes on the Pre-Ghaznavid History of Eastern Afghanistan,” *Islamic Quarterly* 9, 1965, p. 17.

Idem, *Later Ghaznavids*, pp. 134, 144.