



## ABŪ MANŠŪR MA‘MARĪ

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**ABŪ MANŠŪR MA‘MARĪ**, minister (*dastūr*) of **Abū Manšūr b. ‘Abd-al-Razzāq** (d. 350/961), a military commander of Khorasan under the Samanids. When the latter decided to have a *Šāh-nāma* composed in New Persian, he instructed his minister to gather in Ṭūs a number of Zoroastrian scholars and *dehqāns*; under Ma‘marī’s direction they translated the Pahlavi *Xwadāy-nāmag* (q.v.), expanding it with material from other sources. The work was completed in Moḥarram, 346/April, 957 and became the major source for Ferdowsī. The work, generally referred to as *Šāh-nāma-ye Abū Manšūrī*, is lost except for the introduction written by Ma‘marī, which provides all that is known about him. Numerous copies of this introduction, usually replete with mistakes, have been preserved in old manuscripts of Ferdowsī’s *Šāh-nāma*. In this introduction Ma‘marī’s family is traced back to a Sasanian *kanārang* (military governor) under Kōsrow II. Although this genealogy is questionable, there can be little doubt that Ma‘marī was one of the Iranian nobles who were trying to preserve the culture of pre-Islamic Iran.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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