



ABŪ NAṢR FĀRSĪ

ABŪ NAṢR HEBATALLĀH FĀRSĪ, QEWĀM-AL-MOLK NEZĀM-AL-DĪN, official, soldier and poet of the Ghaznavid empire, flourished in the second half of the 5th/11th century during the reigns of the sultans [Ebrāhīm b. Masʿūd I](#) and [Masʿūd III b. Ebrāhīm](#). His antecedents and his dates of birth and death are obscure, but it seems that his family had settled at Lahore and had a background of service to the Ghaznavids. He acted as deputy governor and commander-in-chief of the Ghaznavid army of the Panjab during the last years of Sultan Ebrāhīm, while his son Masʿūd was governor, and then after 492/1099, during the first years of the new ruler Masʿūd III, while the latter's son 'Azod-al-dawla Šīrzād (the future sultan, 508-09/1115-16) was governor. What little we know of his military activities in India has largely to be pieced together from allusions in the verses dedicated to him by the contemporary Ghaznavid poets, such as Abu'l-Faraġ Rūnī and Masʿūd-e Sa'd-e Salmān; the latter was at one time governor of Čālandhar or Jullundur in the northeastern Panjab under Abū Naṣr. However, Abū Naṣr fell into disfavor under Masʿūd III, lost his offices, and died during the reign of the sultan Malek Arslan (509-11/1116-17).

As well as a successful soldier and governor, Abū Naṣr was a fine poet, and his verses are highly praised by 'Awfī (*Lobāb* [Tehran], p. 70) and Neẓāmī 'Arūzī Samarqandī (*Čahār maqāla*, ed. M. M. Qazvīnī, 1910, p. 45; rev. tr. E. G. Browne, London, 1921, p. 51).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bosworth, *Later Ghaznavids*, pp. 64-65, 67-68, 77, gives full references to the poets who praised Abū Naşr.

See also M. M. Qazvīnī, "Mas'ūd-i Sa'd-i Salmān," *JRAS* 1905, pp. 733-39.

I. Husain, *The Early Persian Poets of India (A.H. 421-670)*, Patna, 1937, pp. 37-38, 105ff.