



ABŪ ŠO'AYB HERAVĪ

ABŪ ŠO'AYB HERAVĪ, ŠĀLEḤ B. MOḤAMMAD, or BŪ ŠO'AYB as he is more commonly known, one of the many poets of the Samanid court which has survived virtually in name only. Hedāyat identifies him in the *Majma' al-foṣaḥā'* (I, p. 139) as having been active during the latter part of Rūdakī's life, but this dating is simply speculation. The earliest reference to him (Ṭa'ālebī, *Yatīma* [Cairo] IV, p. 422) is a mention of the Persian verses (*fāresīyāt*) of "Bū Šo'ayb" along with the poetry of "Abū Zo'ayb" in some Arabic verses of Abu'l-Ḥasan Moḥammad b. Ḥafṣ al-'Alawī Nisābūrī. Unfortunately Abu'l-Ḥasan is a figure we know even less well than Abū Šo'ayb. Manūčehrī Dāmḡānī mentions "Bū Šo'ayb", among other poets from Khorasan, in his eulogy of 'Onṣorī; and 'Awfī says that he was a fine poet (*Lobāb* [Tehran], p. 244); but these scattered references to him exhaust the biographical information available. Of his poetry, only eleven scattered *bayts* and one six-*bayt* fragment of a *tašbīb* have survived, the bulk of the former in Asadī's *Loḡat-e fors*, and the latter in the *Lobāb al-albāb*. 'Awfī suggests that the fragment was composed to praise the beauty of a Christian youth, probably because the opening line begins "Thou art of hellish faith, but paradisial face and form."



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Manūčehrī Dāmġānī, *Dīvān*, ed. M. Dabīrsīāqī, 3rd ed., Tehran, 1347 Š./1968.

Lazard, *Premiers poètes* I, pp. 30-31, 127-28; II, pp. 129-31.

Asadī Ṭūsī, *Loġat-e fors*, ed. Dabīrsīāqī, see index, p. 183.

Şafā, *Adabīyāt* I, p. 395.