



ABU'L-'ABBĀS MARVAZĪ

ABU'L-'ABBĀS B. ḤANŪD MARVAZĪ, Sufi, jurist, and traditionist, one of the first poets to write in New Persian. Soyūti (d. 911/1505) and, following him, 'Alā'-al-dīn Dede (d. 1007/1598) date his death to 300/912 (Şafā, *Adabīyāt* I, p. 178); while according to 'Awfī (*Lobāb*, pp. 21f.) and *Majma' al-foṣaḥā'* (I, pp. vii, 131-32), he flourished towards the end of the 2nd/8th-9th century. 'Awfī, who calls him simply 'Abbās, quotes a fragment of a poem and comments that it was composed in praise of Caliph Ma'mūn on the occasion of the latter's arrival at Marv, allegedly in 193/809. In fact, Ma'mūn's caliphate started in 198/813. The fragment's style is very similar to that of 5th-6th century poetry; the verses could not have been written by a third century poet. Perhaps 'Abbās did write poetry in Marv and panegyricize Ma'mūn in a Persian or Arabic poem. His poetry eventually may have been lost, and later a fifth or sixth century poem was attributed to him. Analogous cases are not infrequent in the history of Persian literature.

W. Barthold (*BSOAS* 2, 1923, p. 837), without elaboration, identified Abu'l-'Abbās with "Abu'l-Taqī 'Abbās b. Tarḵān." Read, rather, "[Abu'l-Yanbaḡī](#)" (for the little data on his life and his surviving couplet). Abu'l-'Abbās and Abu'l-Yanbaḡī do show some similarities. They were contemporaries, were called 'Abbās, belonged to the nobility, and wrote poetry in Arabic and Persian. But one was from Marv, the other from Samarqand; and their other names differ. Identification of the two is thus unlikely, but not impossible. One may argue that the biographers confused them. Thus the panegyric attributed to "Abbās" may have replaced a lost poem actually composed by Abu'l-Yanbaḡī, with the



later product being erroneously attributed to Abu'l-'Abbās.

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