



ABU'L-'ANBAS ŞAYMARĪ

ABU'L-'ANBAS AL-ŞAYMARĪ, MOḤAMMAD B. EŞĤĀQ B. ABI'L-'ANBAS B. AL-MAĠĪRA B. MĀHĀN, astrologer and author, born at Kūfa, 213/828; died 275/889. That he was an Iranian is indicated by his knowledge of the Sasanian astrologers Zaradūšt and Bozorjmehr as well as by his great-great-grandfather's name. He served as *qāzī* of Şaymara, the chief town of Mehrjānqadaq district in Jebāl. His fame among his contemporaries rested upon his ability as a poet and author of scurrilously humorous pieces (many are catalogued in *Fehrest*, pp. 151-52), but he was also an erudite astrologer. As such he associated with Abū Bakr Ḥasan b. al-Ḳaṣīb in 230/844-45. He seems to have spent much of his time at the caliphal court from Motawakkel's reign (847-61) to Mo'tamed's (870-92); Mas'ūdī tells an anecdote about his encounter with Boḥtorī in Motawakkel's presence at Sāmarrā' (*Morūj* VII, pp. 202-06), and other stories are recorded by, e.g., Yāqūt (*Odabā'* VI, pp. 401-06).

Ebn al-Nadīm's first notice lists the following works of Abu'l-'Anbas, which are repeated by Yāqūt (*Fehrest*, pp. 151-52; *Odabā'* VI, pp. 402-03): 1. *Ketāb al-radd 'ala'l-monajjemīn* ("Book of the refutation of astrologers"), lost. 2. *Ketāb aḥkām al-nojūm* ("Book of judgements of the stars"), lost. 3. *Ketāb al-madḳal elā ṣanā'at al-tanjīm* ("Book of the introduction to the art of astrology"), perhaps identical with no. 5. Ebn al-Nadīm's second notice is followed by Ebn al-Qeḏfī (*Fehrest*, p. 278; *Tarīḳ al-ḥokamā'*, ed. J. Lippert, Leipzig, 1903, p. 410). 4. *Ketāb al-mawālīd* ("Book of nativities"), lost. 5. *Ketāb al-madḳal elā 'elm al-nojūm* ("Book of the introduction to the science of the stars"). This is probably identical with the extant *Ketāb aṣl al-oṣūl fī ḳawāṣṣ al-nojūm wa aḥkāmehā wa*



aḥkām al-mawālīd (“Book of the foundation of foundations on the characteristics of the stars, their judgments, and the judgments of nativities”). The latter work, sometimes claimed for Abū Ma‘šar (*Fehrest*, p. 277; *Ḥokamā’*, p. 154) is historically quite important; its second section consists of a compendium on catarchic astrology and interrogations derived from numerous (and mostly lost) sources. Two other works are preserved in manuscript: 6. *Ketāb fī'l-ḥesāb al-nojūmī* (“Book on stellar computation”). 7. *al-Zīj* (“Astronomical tables”). For the manuscripts, see Sezgin, *GAS V*, p. 262.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also M. Ullmann, *Die Natur- und Geheimwissenschaften im Islam*, Leiden, 1972, pp. 325-26.

Sezgin, *GAS VII*, pp. 152-53.