



ABU'L-FAẒL TĀJ-AL-DĪN

ABU'L-FAẒL (in Jūzjānī ABU'L-FATH) **TĀJ-AL-DĪN** NAṢR B. ṬĀHER, amir of the line of later Saffarids, sometimes called the third dynasty of Saffarids and, by a historian like Jūzjānī, the “Maleks of Nīmrūz and Sejestān.” He succeeded his father Bahā'-al-dawla Ṭāher b. Moḥammad in about 483/1090-91 and died, a centenarian, in 559/1164. The *Tārīk-e Sīstān* records various internecine struggles between him and his relatives and rivals before he could establish his authority and embark on his long reign. Sīstān had in the middle of the 5th/11th century passed under Saljuq suzerainty, and we hear of Amir Abu'l-FaẒl, as a loyal tributary of the eastern Saljuq ruler Sanjar, sending contingents of troops for the Saljuq campaigns. A conspicuous act of bravery by him against the battleline of Ghaznavid elephants is mentioned in the sources on Sanjar's expedition against Gāzna in 510/1116-17 to dispossess Malek Arslan and place Bahrāmšāh on the throne; he was also one of the princes of the east summoned in 511/1156 by the K̄vārazmšāh Atsīz to free Khorasan from the Oğuz who had captured Sanjar.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Tārīk-e Sīstān, pp. 389ff.

Jūzjānī, *Ṭabaqāt* I, pp. 276-77; tr. Raverty, I, pp. 187-89, to be supplemented by brief mentions in the sources for Saljuq history.

These are utilized by C. E. Bosworth in *Camb. Hist. Iran* V, pp. 94, 146, 158; and idem, *Later Ghaznavids*, chap. 3.