



## ABU'L-MO'AYYAD BALKĪ

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**ABU'L-MO'AYYAD BALKĪ**, an early Persian poet and writer of the Samanid period, whose works have almost entirely disappeared. The details of his life are not known, but his works indicate a keen interest in Iranian antiquity, a knowledge of Pahlavi, and good acquaintance with Mazdean tradition. His major work seem to have been a large prose *Šāh-nāma* which is referred to as *Šāh-nāma-ye bozorg*, *Šāh-nāma-ye Mo'ayyadī* or *Šāh-nāma-ye Bu'l-Mo'ayyad* which evidently contained, in great detail, episodes which are not found as such in subsequent epic works (see, for example, *Moǰmal*, p. 2). *Tārīk-e Sīstān* (p. 1) mentions a *Ketāb-e Garšāsp* by him which was, most probably, a part of his great *Šāh-nāma*. The dedication of his other book, *'Aǰā'eb al-boldān*, to the Samanid Nūḥ b. Maṣṣūr (365-87/976-97), establishes the poet's date (the mention of his name in Baḷ'amī belongs to a version of this work that probably dates from the end of the 4th/10th century). A rather late redaction of this book exists (Şafā, *Ganjīna* I, pp. 166-68; Bahār, *Sabk-šenāsī* II, pp. 18-19). Abu'l-Mo'ayyad's verse on the story of Joseph is mentioned in Amānī's *Yūsof o Zolayka* (5th/11th century).

See also: [Abū 'Alī Balkī](#), *'Aǰā'eb al-donyā*.



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