



ABU'L-QĀSEM SA'ĪD

ABU'L-QĀSEM SA'ĪD B. EBRĀHĪM B. 'ALAM EBRĀHĪM B. ŠĀLEḤ, 5th/11th century calligrapher, probably a native and resident of Nīšāpūr. His name is preserved in the colophon of a Qur'ān manuscript written in early *naskī* script. The Qur'ān (London, British Library, Add. 7214; [Plate XVI](#)) is dated Jomādā I, 427/March, 1036. D. S. Rice's reading "b. 'Alī" in the colophon differs from R. Ettinghausen's earlier "b. 'Alam." However, one could read "Allām" (i.e., very learned) for "Alam;" since *alef* is several times omitted in this colophon, e.g., in Q(ā)sem, Ebr(ā)hīm, Š(ā)leḤ. D. S. Rice discovered on fols. 2v-3r the signature of the illuminator, Abū Manṣūr Nāje' b. 'Abdallāh, which indicates that the scribe and the illuminator of the richly embellished and gilded manuscript are not identical.

On the basis of style both Ettinghausen and Rice believe the manuscript to have originated in eastern Persia. In the colophon the scribe calls himself the son or grandson of a pupil of Jawharī. That famous Arab lexicographer (originally from Turkestan) after extensive travels, settled in Nīšāpūr to teach, copy books, and pursue a literary career; he is said to have died there between 393-400/1002-10. The pupil in question seems to be Ebrāhīm b. ŠāleḤ Warrāq, who, according to one tradition, completed his master's famous lexicon, *al-Šeḥāḥ*, from notes. This claim is questioned by several historians. Jawharī's script was itself much admired and considered to be equal of that of the renowned Ebn Moqla.

Bibliography : R. Ettinghausen, "Manuscript Illumination," in *Survey of Persian Art*, pp. 1946f., pls. 926, 928. D. S. Rice, *The Unique Ibn al-Bawwāb Manuscript in*



the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, 1955, pp. 25f., 31-33, pl. XIIIa, b. M. Lings and Y. H. Safadi, *The Qur'ān, A British Library Exhibition*, London, 1976, no. 54 and fig. 54. L. Kopf, "Al-Djawharī," *EI*² II, pp. 495-97. D. Sourdél, "Ibn Muḳla," *EI*² II, pp. 886-87.