



ABU'L-YANBAĠĪ

ABU'L-YANBAĠĪ 'ABBĀS B. TARĶĀN, Iranian poet, d. 230/844. He has occasionally been identified with [Abu'l-'Abbās Marvazī](#) (d. 200/815-16; see W. Barthold, "To the Question of Early Persian Poetry," *BSOS* II, 1923, pp. 836-38). However his usual *nesba* is Samarqandī. His father's *laqab*, TarĶān, indicates a princely descent. Abu'l-Yanbaġī was one of those poets, called *du'l-lesānayn*, who composed in both Arabic and Persian; and he contributed importantly to the birth of classical Persian poetry. A double distich of his is preserved in Ebn Ķordādbeh (p. 26): *Samarqand-e kandmand, bazīnat kī afgand/az Čāč ta bahī, hamīša ta kahī*. (For variant, see S. Nafīsī, *Aḥwāl va aš'ār-e Rūdakī* III, Tehran, 1319 Š./1940, pp. 1149-50.) Šafā (*Adabīyāt* I, p. 149) translates: "O prosperous Samarqand, who has reduced you to this state? You are better than Čāč; you are ever beautiful." Šafā regards this fragment as attesting a syllabic meter, since each *mešrā'* contains six syllables.

Jahšīārī (d. 331/942; in *Ketāb al-wozarā'*, facs., Leipzig, 1926, p. 245.15; Pers. tr., Tehran, 1348 Š./1969, p. 258) relates an encounter between the poet and Yaḥyā b. Ķāled Barmakī, his sons Fażl and Ja'far, and Abu'l-Qāsem al-Zahrī. The poet took the last aside and improvised the Arabic verse: *Šaḥebto 'l-Barāmeke 'asran walā, wa baytī kerā'on wa ḳobzī šerā*; "I have served the Barmakids for ten years, yet still I have to rent my house and buy my bread." The two princes are said to have made up for their father's negligence that same evening, each bestowing on Abu'l-Yanbaġī a house and sending him meals prepared in their kitchens. The poet is said to have been imprisoned in the reign of the caliph Wāteq (227-32/842-47), because he had agreed to compose a panegyric



honoring Fażl b. Marwān (d. 250/864). His curious *konya* is explained by his remark to Abū Haffān, who visited him while in custody: “I am Abu'l-Yanbağī: I have said something unsuitable (*mā la yanbağī*), and so I have been locked up somewhere suitable (*hayt yanbağī*).”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

‘A. Eqbāl in *‘Elm o honar*, Mordād-Bahman, 1307 Š./1928, pp. 32-33.

Idem in *Mehr* 1, 1312 Š./1933, pp. 734-36.

Idem in *Yağmā* 11, 1337 Š./1958, pp. 457f.

M. Zand, *Nūr va ẓolmat dar tāriq-e adabiyāt Īrān*, Tehran, 1351 Š./1972, pp. 37-38.