



ADĪB ŞĀBER

ADĪB ŞĀBER, ŞARAF-AL-ODABĀ' ŞEHĀB-AL-DĪN B. ESMĀ'ĪL TERMEDĪ, famous poet of the first half of the 6th/12th century. He began his career as a poet in his home town and later lived for a long period in Marv, Balk and K̄vārazm, being chosen as the panegyrist (*maddāh*) of the Saljuqid Sultan Sanjar (511-52/1117-57). Apart from the writing of poetry, he was also entrusted with other official duties at court. Sanjar sent him on a mission to Atsez the K̄vārazmšāh with the aim of ending the dispute between them. While Şāber was in K̄vārazm, Atsez chose two men to make an assassination attempt on Sanjar. Şāber became aware of the plot, wrote a description of the two assassins, and sent it to Marv concealed in an old woman's sock. On receipt of his letter, Sanjar ordered a search to be made and, when the two men were found, put them to death. When Atsez learnt what had happened, he had Şāber drowned in the Oxus (Jovaynī, II, p. 8). This must have occurred after 538/1143-44 and before 542/1147-48 (Şafā, *Adabiyāt* II, p. 644); writers of *taḍkeras*, such as Hedāyat (*Majma' al-foṣaḥā'* II, pp. 821-22) and Dawlatšāh (p. 57), have incorrectly given the date of his death as 546/1151-52.

Apart from Sultan Sanjar, Adīb Şāber panegyricized the K̄vārazmšāh Atsez (521-51/1127-56) during the period of his stay in K̄vārazm. His poetry is simple and fluent and this gave him a standing in his own day similar to that of Farroḳī Sīstānī in the Ghaznavid period. His delicate *gazals* and other lyrics acquired considerable fame in Persian poetry by reason of their clarity of diction, eloquence, and simplicity of language. Şāber stood out among his contemporaries to such a degree that Anwarī, in spite of his own prowess,



regarded himself as of lower rank (Şafā, op. cit., p. 645), while ‘Awfī praised his excellence and his artistic achievement (p. 329). His *divān* has been printed twice (ed. ‘A. Qawīm, Tehran, 1334 Š./1955; ed. M. ‘A. Nāşeḡ, Tehran, 1343 Š./1964).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also ‘Awfī, *Lobāb* (Tehran), pp. 329-34.

Jovaynī, II, p. 8.

Haft eqlīm II, pp. 86-92.

Şafā, *Adabiyāt* II, pp. 643-50.

Ḳwāndamīr, *Ḥabīb al-sīar* (Tehran), II, pp. 518-19.

Jāmī, *Bahārestān*, ed. O. M. von Schlecta-Wssehrd, Vienna, 1846, p. 90.

Brown, *Lit. Hist. Persia* II, pp. 333-35.