



ĀFARĪN-NĀMA

ĀFARĪN-NĀMA, a poem in the *motaqāreb* meter by the 4th/10th century poet [Abū Šakūr Balkī](#). The scattered extant verses, some 320 *bayts* in *tadkeras*, dictionaries, and other books, indicate that in addition to purely didactic and homiletic material, the work probably contained stories as well. Three of the verses make it clear that Abū Šakūr wrote the *Āfarīn-nāma*, which he dedicated to the amir Nūḥ b. Naṣr Sāmānī (r. 331-43/943-54; see Lazard, *Premiers poètes*, line 123), in 333/944 when he was thirty-three years old (*ibid.*, lines 130, 186). ‘Awfī (*Lobāb*, Tehran, p. 258) says that the work was completed in 336/948; Reżā-qolī Khan (*Maǧma al-foṣaḥā* I, p. 138) claims that the poet only began to write poetry in 336/948. The length of the *Āfarīn-nāma* is not known; Deḥkodā’s surmise that it contained nearly two-thirds the number of verses in Ferdawsī’s *Šāh-nāma* is unfounded. The extant verses do, at least, bear witness to Abū Šakūr’s powerful poetic temperament and the purity of his creativity (Deḥkodā, s.v.). The poet’s extant verses make it clear that he wrote four other *maṭnawīs*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Şafā, *Adabīyāt* I, pp. 405-08.



M. Dabīrsīāqī, *Ganĵ-e bāzyāfta*, Tehran, 1334 Š./1955.

Idem, *Pīšahangān-e šeʿr-e fārsī*, Tehran, 1351 Š./1972.