



## ĀĠĀJĪ

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**ĀĠĀJĪ** (or *AGĀJĪ*, *ĀĠAJĪ*, *ĀĠĀĈĪ*), title of a court official in the administrations of the Ghaznavids and Saljuqs; it apparently existed as early as the Samanids, judging by the epithet of the poet *Āġāġī Bokārī*. The functions of this position are not specifically defined in the historical literature but only implied. It appears from the *Tārīk-e Bayhaqī* (pp. 169, 344, 472, 511, 595, 648, 650) that the *āġāġī* was the intermediary who delivered important letters and messages to the amir or sultan, especially when the latter was in private audience or not receiving anyone. This function is especially associated with the position of *ḥāġeb* “chamberlain” (and, in Saljuq usage, “chancellor”), and in fact two Saljuq *ḥāġeb*s (of Toġrel Beg and Alp Arslān) are said to have held the post of *āġāġī* (Rāvandī, *Rāḥat al-ṣodūr*, Tehran, 1333 Š./1954, pp. 98, 117).

The title itself is considered to be Turkish (e.g., M. Qazvīnī’s note in ‘Awfī, *Lobāb* [Tehran], p. 241 ), but it does not appear in Turkish lexicons. It remains uncertain whether the word should be derived from Turkish *āġīĉī*, which Kāšġarī (*Dīwān loġāt al-Tork*, Arabic text, ed. B. Atabay, Ankara, 1940-43, pp. 83, 122) derives from *aġī* (silk, brocade) and defines as *kāzen dībaġ* (the keeper of silk fabrics). But the description of an *āġīġī* in a chapter of the Turkish *maṭnawī Qūqā va ġūbīlīk* by Yūsuf Oloġ leaves little doubt that this word meant “treasurer” only. Ḥ. Anwarī suggests that *āġāġī* is a name, not a title (*Āyanda* 8, 1361 Š./1982, pp. 664-69).



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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See also G. Doerfer, *Türkische und mongolische Elemente im Neupersischen II*, Wiesbaden, 1965, p. 72.

Ahmet Caferoğlu, *Uygur sözlüğü*, Istanbul, 1934-38, p. 5.