



AḤMAD B. QODĀM

AḤMAD B. QODĀM, a military adventurer who temporarily held power in Sīstān during the confused years following the collapse of the first Saffarid amirate and the military empire of ‘Amr b. LayṭĀ in 287/900. In the ensuing years, various Saffarid princes held power within the limited region of Sīstān itself, until in 298/911 the Samanid general Sīmjūr Dawātī invaded the province on behalf of Amir Aḥmad b. Esmā‘īl and deposed Layṭ b. ‘Alī and his brother Moḥammad. But disorders within the Samanid state consequent upon Aḥmad b. Esmā‘īl’s murder brought about a withdrawal of Samanid forces, a brief interval of reasserted ‘Abbasid caliphal authority, and then the emergence of various *‘ayyār* or vigilante-band leaders as local power holders in Sīstān. One of these leaders, Kaṭīr (or Koṭayyer) b. Aḥmad, was hailed as amir by popular acclamation at Zarang, the capital, in 304/917, but was killed in Šawwāl, 306/April, 919. The new ruler there became Aḥmad b. Qodām, who was presumably also an *‘ayyār* leader; he established himself in the palace of Ya‘qūb b. Layṭ and tried, unsuccessfully at first, to extend his control eastwards to Bost. Much of his brief tenure of power as amir in Sīstān was taken up by unceasing fights against rival contenders for power, including the son-in-law of Kaṭīr b. Aḥmad, Moḥammad b. Qāsem, and the Turkish ruler in Bost, Toḡān. Although Aḥmad b. Qodām managed to subdue and kill these rivals, he was himself driven from Zarang in Jomādā II, 310/October, 922 by ‘Abdallāh b. Aḥmad, and he fled to Bost and Zamīn-dāvar. He was defeated in battle at Nūqān in Ramaḡān, 310/January, 923 and brought back to Zarang a captive; nothing more is heard of him, and he was presumably killed. ‘Abdallāh b. Aḥmad did not, however, enjoy his victory for long; in Moḥarram,



311/May, 923 he was displaced by the Saffarid amir, [Abū Ja‘far Aḥmad b. Moḥammad b. Ḳalaf](#), who began what is sometimes termed the “third Saffarid dynasty.”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The principal, and very detailed, primary source is the anonymous *Tārīk-eSīstān*. For the general background to these events, see C. E. Bosworth, *Camb. Hist. Iran* IV, pp. 121-24, 130-31.