



AḤMAD ҶOJESTĀNĪ

AḤMAD B. 'ABDALLĀH ҶOJESTĀNĪ, military commander in 3rd/9th century Khorasan, one of several contenders for authority in the region after the collapse of Taherid rule had left a power vacuum, d. 268/882. He was from Ҷojestān, a small town of Bādġīs (the district northeast of Herat, described by the geographers as the home of warlike people and as a last pocket of the Kharijites in eastern Iran (see, e.g., *Ḥodūd al-'ālam*, tr. Minorsky, p. 104, commentary, p. 327; Yāqūt [Beirut], II, p. 347). Ҷojestānī is the hero of an anecdote in the second *maqāla* of Neẓāmī 'Arūzī Samarqandī's *Čahār maqāla*, which describes how he was formerly a mere ass herd but was stimulated to take up a military career by reading some stirring verses by one of the earliest poets in Persian, Hanzala Bādġīsī; he entered the service of the Saffarid 'Amr b. Layṭ (r. 265-88/879-901) and rose to high command and fame (ed. M. Qazvīnī, Leiden and London, 1910, pp. 26-27; tr. E. G. Browne, London, 1921, pp. 27-29). Ҷojestānī seems actually to have been, for at least one period of his career, in the army of Moḥammad b. Ṭāher, the last Taherid governor of Khorasan. The latter's capital, Nišāpūr, fell to Ya'qūb b. Layṭ in 259/873. Aḥmad, in turn, seized the city from the governor left by Ya'qūb, 'Ozayr b. al-Sarī. He then held the city in the name of the Taherid, who never dared, however, leave Baghdad and reclaim his former capital. Consequently, from 267/880-81, Ҷojestānī began minting dirhams and dinars in his own name (Ṭabarī, III, p. 2009; Ebn al-Aṭīr, VII, p. 253). He held his own in the confused three cornered struggles for control of Khorasan with 'Amr b. Layṭ and Maṣṣūr b. Ṭalḥa, capturing Herat and Ṭoḳārestān in 268/882; but in the same year he was murdered by one of his Turkish slaves.



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