



AḤMAD B. ASAD

AḤMAD B. ASAD B. SĀMĀN ḲODĀ (d. 250/864), early member of the Samanid family and governor of Farḡāna under the 'Abbasids and Taherids. Ca. 204/819-20 Aḥmad and his three brothers (Nūḥ, Yaḥyā, and Elyās) were made subordinate governors of various cities of the east by Ġassān b. 'Abbād, the caliph Ma'mūn's governor of Khorasan, as a reward for their part in suppressing Rāfe' b. Layṭ's revolt in Samarqand. Aḥmad was allotted Farḡāna (Naršaḳī, tr. R. N. Frye, *The History of Bukhara*, Cambridge, Mass., 1954, p. 76, erroneously has Marv, *pace* such authorities as Ebn al-Aṭīr and Gardīzī). The Samanids were thus set upon the way to becoming hereditary rulers in Transoxania. Nothing is known about the internal rule of Aḥmad in Farḡāna. When Nūḥ died in 227/842, Aḥmad became the senior member of the family; and in 241/855-56 after Yaḥyā's death he also took over Šāš; he himself remained in Farḡāna but sent his son Naṣr to rule in Samarqand. After Aḥmad's death in 250/864, his sons Naṣr and Esmā'īl became successive rulers in Transoxania, where they consolidated their power so that eventually Esmā'īl was able to succeed to the heritage of the Taherids in Khorasan.



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