



## 'ALĀ'

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'ALĀ' B. ḤASAN B. 'ALĪ, ABU'L-QĀSEM, vizier of Fārs under the Buyid rulers Šaraf-al-dawla and Šamšām-al-dawla. 'Alā's term of office was situated in a period of disturbances following 'Azod-al-dawla's death in 372/983, when the latter's sons Šaraf-al-dawla (d. 379/989), Šamšām-al-dawla (d. 388/998), and Bahā'-al-dawla (d. 403/1012) were engaged in fierce fighting for succession and supremacy. Šaraf-al-dawla had been appointed governor of Kermān by 'Azod-al-dawla; after his father's death he occupied Šīrāz, while Šamšām-al-dawla was enthroned in Baghdad. Šaraf-al-dawla at once deposed Hārūn b. Naṣr, a survivor of 'Azod-al-dawla's regime, appointing 'Alā' to the office of vizier; the latter's brother Abu'l-Ḥasan was appointed superintendent (*nāẓer*). Although 'Alā' was not much inclined to change Šīrāz for Baghdad, which was Šaraf-al-dawla's ultimate aim, he accompanied the ruler to Kūzestān. Thence he was sent to Bašra where he arrested 'Azod-al-dawla's son Abū Ṭāher. Having established order at Bašra, he returned to Ahwāz and was sent back to Šīrāz, while Šaraf-al-dawla proceeded to Baghdad, deposed and arrested Šamšām-al-dawla, and had him sent as a prisoner to a castle near Sīrāf.

Upon Šaraf-al-dawla's early death in Baghdad Šamšām-al-dawla managed to escape, assuming rule at Šīrāz at 'Alā's invitation. This is remarkable, since it is reported that 'Alā' ordered Šamšām-al-dawla's blinding when Šaraf-al-dawla was already dead. 'Alā' was much favored by Šamšām-al-dawla's mother, Sayyeda, and consequently confirmed in office. His policy was aimed at preserving southern Iran's independence from the Iraḡi branch of the Buyids. On his initiative the governor of Kermān, Tīmūrtāš, who supported Bahā'-al-



dawla’s claim to overall rule, was arrested, brought to Šīrāz and put to death. Shortly afterwards ‘Alā’ was able to defy a plot devised against himself by the Daylamite general Pūlād b. Manāḍar (381/991-92). One year later, however, he fell a victim to the intrigues of the Šīrāzī officials and courtiers. He lost Sayyeda’s confidence, was deposed, and spent a year in prison. In 383/993-94 he was released, cured from diseases in Sayyeda’s house, presented with a robe of honor, and reinstated in the vizierate. Then he proceeded to Ahwāz in Šamšām-al-dawla’s company in order to defend Kūzestān against Bahā’-al-dawla, who had succeeded Šaraf-al-dawla in Baghdad. From Ahwāz he returned to Arrajān to direct the administration of Fārs. When Šamšām-al-dawla, having suffered a defeat by Bahā’-al-dawla, returned to Šīrāz, ‘Alā’ remained in Kūzestān as a lonely bearer of the burden of defense. He continued fighting Bahā’-al-dawla, and following a series of negotiations and skirmishes the latter withdrew to Bašra without having attained his end.

‘Alā’ died in 387/997 far from Šīrāz in ‘Askar Mokram. A year later Šamšām-al-dawla’s fate was also sealed: He was murdered by a Buyid prince, one of Mo‘ezz-al-dawla’s sons, near Isfahan. Abū Šojā’ Rūdrāwarī, Meskawayh’s continuator, makes ‘Alā’ responsible for Šamšām-al-dawla’s failure. As Abū Šojā’ states when reporting his death, the vizier bestowed fiefs (*eqṭā’āt*) generously, granted additional payment without hesitation, diminished the public funds, and granted lavish appointments to the detriment of the welfare of the state (Abū Šojā’, p. 247). From this statement and ‘Alā’’s change in attitude towards Šamšām-al-dawla after his accession to rulership, one may conclude that the vizier’s administration of office was typical for the period when Buyid rule had passed its apex.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Abū Šojā’ Rūdrāwarī, *Dayl taǧāreb al-omam*, ed. H. F. Amedroz, Cairo, 1916 (vol. III of Meskawayh, *Taǧāreb*), pp. 101, 119ff., 123, 149ff., 160, 163, 172ff., 190ff., 200ff., 246ff., 266ff., 294.

For the political history of the period see H. Busse in *Camb. Hist. Iran* IV, pp. 289-96.