



‘ALAWAYH

‘ALAWAYH (or in Ṭabarī, III, p. 1149) AL-A‘SAR (“the Left-handed”), ABU’L-ḤASAN ‘ALI B. ‘ABDALLĀH B. SAYF, a noted singer at the ‘Abbasid court under Hārūn al-Rašīd and his successors, ca. 184-230/800-54. His grandfather, a captive from Soğd, had been an Omayyad freedman (*mawlā*). ‘Alawayh was a pupil of Ebrāhīm al-Mawṣelī and is often mentioned with the latter’s son, Eshāq, and with Mokāreq, another singer of the time. ‘Alawayh favored the innovating “romanticist” school of Ebrāhīm b. al-Mahdī, and perhaps we are to see in his introduction of Persian elements into the old Arabic music some indication of national preference. But by the next century, according to the *Aḡānī*, the traditionalist views of Eshāq b. Ebrāhīm Mawṣelī held the field.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aḡānī X, pp. 120-32.

I. Guidi, *Tables alphabétiques du Kitāb al-aḡānī*, Leiden, 1895-1900, pp. 493-94, 613-14.

Ṭabarī, III, 1149-51, 1162-63; (Cairo²), VIII, pp. 656-57, 665-66.

Ebn ‘Abd Rabbeh, *al-‘Eqd al-farīd*, ed. Aḡmad Amīn et al., 1368/1949, VI, pp. 31,



33, 37.

Fehrest, p. 96; tr. Dodge, p. 206.

H. G. Farmer, *A History of Arabian Music to the XIIIth Century*, London, 1929, p. 123 and index.