



'ALĪ B. ASAD

'ALĪ B. ASAD B. ḤĀRETĪ (second half of the 5th/11th cent.), the amir of Badaḵšān to whom Nāṣer(-e) Ḳosrow dedicated his *Jāme' al-ḥekmatayn*; his titles, as given by Nāṣer Ḳosrow, were 'Ayn-al-dawla wa'l-dīn, Abu'l-Ma'ālī Malekzāda Zayn-al-mella, and Šams-al-dīn al-A'lā Faḵr-al-omma, or Šams-al-a'ālī Mawlā Amīr-al-mo'menīn. The local dynasty held sway from soon after the Islamic conquests down to the Timurid period, claiming descent from Alexander the Great (*The Book of Marco Polo*, tr. H. Yule, London, 1875, vol. I, p. 157). 'Alī's reign can be placed around 462/1069, the year of the composition of the *Jāme' al-ḥekmatayn*. According to Nāṣer Ḳosrow, he was forced by an incident into temporary exile, but later resumed the governorship; he showed the same concern for his religious as for his worldly responsibilities, and devoted time to studying theology, acquiring insights, and discovering truths (*Jāme' al-ḥekmatayn*, pp. 16, 17, 18, 314). Nāṣer Ḳosrow quotes three short didactic poems by him (*Jāme'*, pp. 16, 100, 315). When [Abu'l-Hayṭam Gorgānī](#) presented 'Alī with an ode (*qaṣīda*) containing a number of questions, 'Alī sent it to Nāṣer Ḳosrow with a request for answers and explanations, and Nāṣer Ḳosrow gave them in *Jāme' al-ḥekmatayn*.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Nāṣer Ḳosrow, *Jāme' al-ḥekmatayn*, ed. M. Mo'īn and H. Corbin, Tehran, 1332 Š./1953.

*ET*² I, p. 852.